

**The Minutes of the Meeting of Linton Parish Council
held in Linton Village Hall on 10th April 2017 at 7:30PM.**

Councillors present: *Pat Burden
Ian Firmin
James Smith
Jerry Whitmarsh*

Also, present: *Parish Clerk, Mrs Sherrie Babington, and Ward Councillor Brian Mortimer.*

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Whitmarsh.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Linton Parish Councillors Carpenter, Cresswell, MBC Councillors Webb and Fermor and the Police.

2. Declaration of Interests.

Cllr Firmin – Wares Farm and Vicarage Field planning applications.

3. Minutes of the previous Meeting.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were circulated to all Members. These were proposed by Cllr Firmin as a true record, this was seconded by Cllr Smith and agreed to all present.

The minutes were then signed and dated by the Chairman of the meeting.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes.

Honours Board in Village Hall – Cllr Smith stated that he would arrange to have the Honours Board updated.

Action: Cllr Smith to progress.

5. Parish Councillor Vacancy.

The Chairman stated that one application for the Parish Councillor vacancy had been received and her details had been circulated to all members for consideration.

He introduced Linda Potter to the meeting and asked members to consider her application.

This was discussed and it was proposed by Cllr Whitmarsh to co-opt Linda Potter onto the Parish Council, this was seconded by Cllr Firmin and agreed by all present.

Linda Potter then signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took her place around the table.

6. Police Report.

The Chairman stated that the new PCSO, Jasmine Pay, had given her apologies to the meeting, however she had sent a crime report and he read this to the meeting. There were five crimes, of a relatively minor nature. This was noted by members.

7. Clerks Report and Correspondence.

The Clerks Report and correspondence was noted by members.

8. Conservation Area Management Plan.

The Chairman informed members that the Conservation Area Management Plan was due to go before the MBC Committee on 11th April 2017 and if passed the next stage would be a consultation of residents directly affected.

Cllr Mortimer stated that he would speak on this topic at the Parish Council's Annual Meeting and stated his disappointment at the actions of Maidstone Borough Council. He stated that Deanne Cunningham was the new Conservation Officer.

Cllr Whitmarsh stated that he had also written to MBC to express his concerns about the process of the Conservation Area Report. However he remained optimistic that this long-outstanding matter would finally be dealt with by MBC and he hoped to have an update for the Annual Meeting.

9. Highways Matters.

Cllr Firmin reported on highway matters.

He reported that highway repairs had been undertaken in Redwall Lane and Lacey's Lane.

Cllr Whitmarsh reported that there was a large pothole in need of repair at the top of Westerhill and he would report this on the KCC Website.

Safe Crossing of A229

The Chairman reported on the current situation regarding the safe crossing outside of the village hall and the DHA report and plan.

He stated that the current proposal was to move the bus stop towards the entrance of the car park, fill in the steps from the car park onto the road and have an additional gateway feature at the entrance of the village.

The plans for the scheme were circulated to all members. Cllr Whitmarsh stated that DHA Planning had put the plans to KCC for comment, but to date no feedback had been received.

He stated that he would report on this at the Annual Meeting.

10. Public Comments and Observations.

A resident attended the meeting to speak regarding the safe crossing of the A229. He stated that he had drawn a plan to improve the crossing outside of the village hall and he explained the plans to the meeting.

The Chairman stated that the scheme had been put to DHA Planning and they were considering all options and had distilled them into the current scheme.

The resident spoke regarding the Linton Crossroads and the history of the scheme.

It was reported that the drains and gullies along the A229 on Linton Hill were in need of clearing as they were full of debris.

Action: Clerk to report to Kent Highways.

11. Linton Crossroads.

Cllr Whitmarsh stated that he did not have anything further to report on this subject at present. More than one scheme had been put forward but it was not clear that they would help traffic flows or safety in any material way.

Councillor Mortimer informed members that KCC had now established the ownership of land adjacent to the Linton Crossroads and this would help with future schemes for the Crossroads.

12. Ward Councillors Report.

MBC Ward Councillor Mortimer gave his report to the meeting.

He spoke regarding the new Country Eye App and stated that this was useful for parish councils. He reported on the MBC budget and the problems with the MBC Planning department. He stated that this was in crisis and a review was being undertaken by MBC.

13. KCC Councillors Report.

KCC Councillor Stockell gave her apologies to the meeting.

The Clerk reported that Councillor Stockell had allocated a grant of £466 to the Parish Council for a parish defibrillator. It was noted that further funding may be needed as the cost of a defibrillator was approximately £1500.

14. Financial Matters.**a. Financial Statement.**

The financial statement was circulated and approved by members (Cresswell/Firmin).

Lloyds TSB Account 02332818

Opening Balance on Current Account	£21,245.14
Less/Add Account transfers/deposits	£0.00
Less Accounts for payment	£1037.57
Closing Balance on Current Account	£20,207.57

The Clerk informed members that the 2017/18 Parish Services Scheme grant was £1525.00. The Chairman signed the Parish Services Agreement for MBC.

Action: Clerk to forward to MBC.

PC Audit - The Clerk informed members that the annual audit process would be undertaken in the next month and the accounts would be circulated to members when they had been drawn up.

15. Planning Matters.

The Chairman spoke regarding the planning application for development at Wares Farm and stated that additional details had now been received. It was agreed that this would be discussed at the end of the meeting.

The Chairman spoke regarding the Exclusive Brethren School adjacent to Linton Park and stated that he had received a report that trees were being felled on this land.

He stated that no planning application had been received for this site and he asked members what action they wished to take regarding this issue.

Cllr Mortimer stated that he would report this to MBC Planning Enforcement and he would keep the Parish Council updated. The Chairman thanked Cllr Mortimer.

The Chairman stated that he would make contact with the Headteacher of the school directly to raise Council concerns regarding this matter.

16. Member Reports.

a. Parish Allotments.

Allotments Manager, Mrs Sawyer submitted the following written report to the meeting.

The tenant on plot 2a would like to put up a shed. She was going to write to you in time for the PC meeting, but in case she didn't, I thought I'd mention it so it can be discussed. As before, a wooden shed 6' x 4' to be in keeping with the others.

Three of the new plot holders have needed reminders about working on the plots, especially as weeds are starting to take hold at this time of year. I wrote to them to check that they haven't been ill or had back problems as this has happened before to prevent plot holders gardening and we don't always hear why they are absent. I was hoping to have replies before the meeting, so will send an update if they do get in touch. Most of the plots are looking really good; the grass paths have been mown.

The Chairman spoke regarding the request to erect a shed on the allotment site. He said this was in keeping with the existing shed and the proposal was approved by members.

b. KALC.

Cllr Cresswell gave his apologies to the meeting and a written report was noted in his absence.

c. Playground.

Cllr Whitmarsh stated that Cllr Carpenter had agreed to monitor the playground on a caretaker basis until a new Councillor was appointed, though no report or update had been received. He asked Cllr Potter if she was able to take on the role, and she agreed to this.

d. Parish Website.

Cllr Whitmarsh reported that the website was progressing well and was up-to-date.

e. Speed Watch.

Cllr Cresswell gave his apologies to the meeting and a written report was noted in his absence.

The Chairman informed members that Cllr Cresswell had now taken over this role from Mrs Sawyer. He recorded a vote of thanks to Mrs Sawyer for her work on the Speedwatch Scheme over the years.

f. Neighbourhood watch.

Cllr Burden gave her Neighbourhood Watch report to the meeting.

She stated that she would report on this further at the Annual Meeting of the Parish.

g. Linton Village Hall.

Cllr Burden gave her Village Hall report to the meeting.

She reported that the refurbishment of the small meeting room had now been completed and it was now available to hire, though the fee structure was not yet agreed.

She reported that there was a plan to create a garden to the rear of the hall for the village, the first step was to level the ground and when completed this would be available to use by hall hirers.

She reported that the hall was fully let and progressing well.

h. Community Liaison.

The Chairman reported that the Editor of the Parish News was looking for someone to take over this role.

He stated that this was the only regular publication in the village that was delivered to all residents and as such was a valuable Linton asset. He would mention this again at the Annual Meeting of the Parish.

17. Parish Litter Pick.

Cllr Firmin reported that the equipment for the litter pick was available to use and the event was being progressed.

The Chairman stated that the PC had approximately twelve volunteers for the event that would take place on 29th April 2017.

He stated that the risk assessment and briefing would be completed before the event and would be available to all participants.

Action: Cllrs Firmin and Whitmarsh to action.

18. Annual Meeting of the Parish.

The Chairman stated that the Annual Meeting of the Parish would take place on 18th April 2017.

He reported that the meeting would be attended by the President of the KALC who would give a presentation on defibrillators.

19. Urgent Items.

Cllr Whitmarsh reported that he had attended Linton Park to identify all of the Boundary Marker Posts on their land. He stated that they were now looking after these.

20. Date of next Meeting.

8th May 2017.

Planning Application for Wares Farm

Cllr Firmin declared an interest in the planning application for Wares Farm, and left the meeting.

The Chairman spoke regarding the planning application for Wards Farm and informed members that further documentation had been received from MBC.

He stated that the PC letter of objection had been submitted to the Borough Council.

Cllr Mortimer confirmed that the planning application would have to be heard by the MBC Planning Committee at some point.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed to the press and public at 8.55PM.

Signed _____

(Chairman)

Date _____