

Linton Parish Council

The Minutes of the Meeting of Linton Parish Council held in Linton Village Hall
on Monday 13th July 2026 at 7.30pm

Councillors present: Bernard Cresswell
Caroline Richer
Tony DiMarco

Also present: Mrs. Sherrie Babington (Parish Clerk), MBC Ward Councillors Brain Clark and Simon Wales.

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Cresswell.

1. Apologies.

Members who cannot attend a meeting shall tender their apologies to the Parish Clerk prior to the meetings, under Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. The members present must decide whether the reason(s) for a member's absence shall be accepted.

Apologies were received from:

- Cllr Patricia Burden – Personal reasons.
- Cllr Patrick Gerrish – Work commitments.
- Cllr Peter Paterson – Work commitments.

Resolved: *That the apologies be accepted.*

2. Declarations of Interest.

To receive Declarations of Interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda, in accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 in respect of members and in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 in respect of officers.

No declarations of interest were made.

To consider any Dispensation requests received by the Parish Clerk and not previously considered.

No dispensations were considered.

3. Parish Councillor Vacancy.

No applications had been received for the councillor vacancy.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1st June 2026 were circulated and approved as a true record.

Proposed by Cllr Richer

Seconded by Cllr DiMarco.

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th May 2026 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters Arising.

The Clerk advised that BT had been unable to provide a replacement lock for the telephone kiosk but had instead suggested removal. Members noted that the kiosk is Grade II Listed and agreed that further enquiries should be made before any decision was taken.

Action: Clerk to continue enquiries regarding an appropriate replacement lock for the telephone kiosk.

Members noted that no further information had been received regarding the willow tree near The Bull and the action would be carried forward.

Members also noted that photographs of the allotments had not yet been received and this action would also remain outstanding.

The Clerk confirmed that the basketball hoop and picnic benches had now been ordered. The basketball hoop was expected within approximately six weeks.

6. Public Participation.

No members of the public were present.

7. Clerk's Report & Correspondence.

The Clerk advised that there was nothing further to bring to Members' attention that had not already been circulated by email.

8. Parish Council Policy Review.

a. Review of Existing Policies

Members reviewed the existing Parish Council policies.

The Clerk confirmed that no amendments had been made since the previous review.

Resolved: That the existing Parish Council policies be re-adopted.

b. Adoption of IT Policy

The Clerk explained that a new IT Policy had been produced following changes to AGAR Assertion 10 and current NALC guidance.

Members discussed the policy and agreed that it provided appropriate arrangements for cyber security, information governance and data protection.

Resolved: That the IT Policy be adopted.

c. Adoption of .gov.uk Councillor Email Addresses

Members considered the introduction of official Parish Councillor email addresses.

The Clerk advised that although currently regarded as best practice, .gov.uk email addresses were expected to become mandatory in the near future. Members discussed the associated costs together with the benefits for GDPR compliance, Freedom of Information requests and cyber security.

Members agreed that implementation should proceed now rather than be delayed.

Resolved: That official .gov.uk email addresses be established for all Parish Councillors.

Proposed by: Cllr Cresswell

Seconded by: Cllr DiMarco

Action: Clerk to arrange the creation of the councillor email accounts and circulate instructions.

9. Local Government Reorganisation.

Members noted that an announcement regarding Local Government Reorganisation was expected on 16th July 2026.

10. KCC & MBC Ward Councillor Reports.

Ward Councillors Clark and Wales provided a report to Members.

Members were advised on the Maidstone Local Plan Call for Sites, and they discussed the housing requirements facing the Borough.

Concern was expressed regarding the impact of additional development on existing infrastructure, particularly water supply.

Members noted the withdrawal of the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Development Plan Document following changes to Local Government Reorganisation.

Councillor Wales also updated Members regarding efforts to revitalise the Maidstone and Beauvais Town Twinning arrangements.

Members thanked Councillors Clark and Wales for their attendance and report.

11. Financial Matters.

a. Financial Statement.

Members considered the financial statement.

Members considered the financial position, and no queries were raised.

Resolved:

That the financial statement be approved.

Proposed by: Cllr Cresswell

Seconded by: Cllr Richer

Agreed by all present.

b. Grant Request – Heart of Kent Hospice.

Members considered a grant request from Heart of Kent Hospice.

Whilst recognising the valuable work undertaken by the Hospice, Members noted that the Council had only a very limited grants budget and generally prioritised local organisations directly benefiting parish residents.

Resolved: *That the application be declined.*

Action: Clerk to write to Heart of Kent Hospice advising of the Council's decision.

12. Highways Matters and PROW.

To discuss highway related matters.

Members received an update from Cllr Cresswell following a recent meeting with Kent County Council Highways.

Members were advised that the recent speed survey demonstrated that whilst the 85th percentile speed was above the posted limit, it remained within Kent Highways' normal intervention criteria. However, the Highways Officer had acknowledged that the data did not fully reflect the road layout and topography through the village.

Cllr Cresswell advised that the Highways Officer had provided a number of speed awareness banners and posters for use throughout the village and had also supplied the necessary application forms for a Vehicle Activated Speed Sign.

Members noted that whilst guidance suggested three mounting locations within the 30mph limit, the Highways Officer had advised that a number of potential locations should be identified and submitted for consideration.

Action: *Cllr Cresswell to identify suitable locations for a Vehicle Activated Speed Sign and complete the relevant KCC application forms.*

Action: *Cllr Cresswell to prepare and distribute speed awareness information to residents.*

No further Highways or Public Rights of Way matters were raised.

13. Planning Matters.

a. Planning Applications.

26/502392/FULL - Radcot, Linton Hill, Linton, Kent ME17 4AS

Erection of single storey side and rear extension.

Members considered the application and no objection was raised.

Resolved: *That no objection be submitted in respect of Application 26/502392/FULL.*

b. Planning Decisions

26/501306/FULL

Sycamores Rest, 25 Cornwallis Avenue

Application Permitted

26/500832/FULL

Cuckoo Field House, Linton Park

Application Withdrawn

25/505113/SUB

Land adjacent Greensand Health Centre

Application Permitted

25/504598/SUB

Land adjacent Greensand Health Centre

Application Permitted

c. Other Planning Matters.

Members noted the withdrawal of Maidstone Borough Council's Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Development Plan Document following Local Government Reorganisation.

No further planning matters were raised.

14. Other Reports.

a. Allotments:

No matters were raised under allotments.

Members noted that photographs were still required for the Parish Council website.

Action: Cllr Gerrish to provide photographs of the allotments for the website.

b. KALC:

No updates were received.

c. Playground:

The Clerk confirmed that the basketball hoop and picnic benches had now been ordered.

d. Website:

To consider any matters relating to the Linton Website.

Cllr DiMarco reported that he and Cllr Burden had met to review the website structure and content.

Members agreed that the website had improved significantly but would benefit from additional photographs of the village including the recreation ground, church, allotments, Village Hall and wider views of the parish.

Members also discussed increasing registrations for website updates, particularly by promoting roadworks, emergency notices and parish news.

Cllr DiMarco agreed to speak with representatives from St Nicholas Church regarding the inclusion of church newsletters and community information.

Cllr Cresswell updated Members regarding the digitisation of historic Parish Council minute books and photographs. Once completed these records would be made available through the website.

Action: Members to provide suitable photographs for inclusion on the website.

Action: Cllr DiMarco to liaise with St Nicholas Church regarding information for the website.

Action: Cllr Cresswell to continue monitoring progress of the digitisation project.

e. Speed Watch:

No matters were reported.

f. Neighbourhood Watch:

No matters were reported.

g. Linton Village Hall:

No matters were reported.

h. Parish Annual Report:

Members discussed the Parish Annual Report.

Members noted that the Parish Annual Report remained outstanding pending completion and printing.

It was agreed that, once finalised, the report would also be published on the Parish Council website and circulated to residents registered for website updates.

Cllr Richer advised that she would resend her report contribution to Cllr Gerrish.

Action: Cllr Gerrish to complete and arrange printing of the Annual Parish Report.

i. Parish Litter Pick:

Cllr Richer reported that the recent litter pick had been well supported.

Members discussed the continued discovery of nitrous oxide canisters and associated litter around the Church car park and adjoining woodland.

It was agreed that the area should continue to be monitored to identify any patterns and, if necessary, reported to Maidstone Borough Council.

Action: Members to continue monitoring the area and report further incidents of fly-tipping or nitrous oxide canisters.

15. Other Matters and Items for the Next Agenda.

No additional items were raised.

16. Date of Next Meeting.

The next meeting of Linton Parish Council will be held on Monday 7th September 2026 at 7.30pm in Linton Village Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.18pm.

Signed: _____
(Chairman)

Date: _____