

Linton Parish Council

The Minutes of the Meeting of Linton Parish Council
held in Linton Village Hall on 3rd February 2025 at 7:30PM.

*Councillors present: Bernard Cresswell
Anthony DiMarco
Caroline Richer
Patrick Gerrish
Peter Paterson*

Also: Sherrie Babington, Parish Clerk, MBC Cllr Wales, and members of the public.

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Cresswell.

The Chairman opened the meeting and informed members of the recent passing of Roger Bettle in January and acknowledged his valuable contributions to the community. He expressed the Councillors condolences to Rogers family and friends.

He also reported the sad news of the passing of resident Peter Goodhew earlier that morning, recognising his service to the local community. He extended the Councils condolences to Peters family and friends.

The Chairman informed members that he had circulated the Code of Conduct to all councillors via email ahead of the meeting. He took the opportunity to remind members of the importance of adhering to the principles set out in the Code, particularly in relation to respectful and professional conduct during parish council meetings. He emphasised the need for all members to treat each other with courtesy and to engage in discussions in a constructive and considerate manner.

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 the Parish Councillor Patricia Burden and MBC Councillor Brian Clark.

2. Parish Councillor Vacancy.

To consider any applications for the Parish Councillor vacancy.

No applications to consider.

3. Declaration of Interests.

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 interests were declared.

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

No Dispensations were considered.

4. Minutes of the previous Meeting.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were circulated to all Members.

These were proposed by Cllr Richer as a true record, subject to clarification that Cllr DiMarco had tendered his apologies due to sickness not holiday, these were then seconded by Cllr Cresswell and agreed to by all present.

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

5. Matters arising from the minutes.

To consider any matters arising, not included on the agenda.

CCTV

Financial information regarding the CCTV system was circulated to all present. The Chairman discussed the costings and asked members to consider future actions regarding the system. It was agreed that the Parish Clerk would write to MBC, as the car park fell within their remit, to see whether they would be willing to contribute to the future financial support of the CCTV.

Action: Clerk to progress.

Memorial Plaque

The Chairman stated that it had been agreed the memorial plaque would be placed on the Parish Council noticeboard.

Action: Cllr Gerrish to action.

6. Public Participation.

A resident attended the meeting to speak regarding allotment matters.

7. Clerks Report & Correspondence.

The Clerk's Report was noted.

2025 KALC Community Awards

We are delighted to announce that we have now launched the 2025 KALC Community Awards Scheme, with support from Kent County Council, the High Sheriff of Kent, and the Mayor of Medway. This follows a very successful 2024 Awards Scheme, which was adopted by 85 member Councils.

The Award Winners receive a Framed Certificate. The Council can decide whether to present something extra to their winner.

Please find attached the following documents:

- An outline of the 2025 Awards Scheme.
- A Nomination Form for member Councils to complete and send to KALC.
- A Nomination Form for residents to send to the Council, if the Council decides to seek nominations from the local community.

Members approved the recipient for this award.

Action: Clerk to submit application to KALC.

8. KCC & MBC Ward Councillor Reports.

To received reports from the KCC and Borough Councillors.

MBC Ward Cllr Brian Clark sent his apologies for the meeting.

MBC Cllr Simon Wales was in attendance and provided an update on devolution. He reported that KCC had applied to be fast-tracked in the devolution process; however, this had now been delayed as this was not accepted by central government.

He discussed the Maidstone Borough Councils Democracy and General Purposes Committee meeting, which focused on a Community Governance Review of unparished areas within the Borough. He stated that the review would examine the process of establishing a Maidstone Town Council with a precept.

The Clerk referred to the report for this meeting and highlighted its implications for surrounding parishes. She noted that the report by Ryan OConnell, MBC Officer, had implied that surrounding parishes would be affected by the review. However, this had not been clearly explained, causing concern among affected parishes regarding the potential implications.

A general discussion followed, and it was suggested by the Ward Councillor that MBC Cllr Clive English be invited to a future meeting to speak further on devolution.

This was agreed by all present and Cllr Wales stated that he would liaise with Clive English.

At the conclusion of his report Ward Cllr Simon Wales left the meeting.

9. Financial Matters:

a. Financial Statement.

Financial Statement will be circulated in paperwork at PC meeting.

An additional cheque for £720 for play area maintenance was approved. Members discussed the annual cost of play area maintenance, noting that the expenditure was approximately £2,000 per annum.

The financial statement was circulated and approved by members. Proposed by Cllr Cresswell, seconded by Cllr Richer and agreed by all present.

10. Highways Matters.

To discuss highway related matters.

It was agreed that the speed survey data and analysis results would be forwarded to MBC Cllr Brian Clark to contribute to his overall plan to address speed concerns along the A229.

Action: Clerk to progress.

Public Rights of Way

Cllr Paterson reported that the Greensand Way from Linton Hill to Vanity Lane had collapsed. This issue had been logged on the Kent County Council (KCC) system, and he confirmed that it was scheduled for repair.

It was reported that the cut-through from Linton Hill to Vicarage Field, leading to Cornwallace Avenue, was blocked with debris. The Clerk was asked to report the issue to Kent County Council using the What3Words location: settle/wrong/state.

Action: Clerk to progress.

11. Planning Matters.

a. Planning Applications.

24/505249/FULL - Burford Farm Redwall Lane Linton Kent ME17 4BD

Conversion of agricultural building to create 2(no) 4-bed dwellings and associated works including part demolition of building, creation of gardens and erection of hard boundary treatments.

b. Planning Decisions.

24/504787/LAWPRO

Unit 20 Wares Farm Redwall Lane Linton Kent ME17 4BA

Lawful Development Certificate Proposed - Internal first floor alteration of the warehouse building including the creation of a mezzanine floor for additional storage, meeting rooms, offices and employee facilities including insertion of additional windows on the northwestern elevation.

Application Permitted

24/504463/FULL

3 Cornwallis Cottages Heath Road Linton Kent ME17 4NR

Extension of existing vehicular access onto highway

Application Permitted

24/502990/FULL

Land At Little Paddocks Stilebridge Lane Linton Maidstone Kent ME17 4DE

Creation of a single plot for the stationing of 1no. static mobile home for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation on an existing Gypsy and Traveller Site (granted planning ref: 18/502028/FULL).

Application Permitted

c. Other Planning Matters.

To consider other planning matters.

Beacon Park

The Chairman stated that he had drafted an additional objection letter regarding the Beacon Park development to submit to MBC. He confirmed that he would forward this letter to the Parish Clerk for submission.

Action: Clerk to submit the objection letter to MBC.

Reed Court Farm

The Chairman reported that it had been one year since the Parish Council had submitted comments regarding Reed Court Farm. It was agreed that Cllr Richer would review these comments to determine whether an additional submission was required.

Action: Cllr Richer to review the previous submission and advise on any necessary updates.

12. Other Reports.

To received reports for the following:

a. Allotments.

Cllr Cresswell provided an update on the allotments informing members that the polytunnel had been taken down. However, a formal request had been made to allow the polytunnel to be erected during the months of May, June, July, August, and September, with removal outside of these months. Members were asked to consider this request.

Cllr Gerrish referred to the allotment Tenancy Agreement and confirmed that the request was permitted with prior approval from the Parish Council. It was therefore agreed that the polytunnel could be erected within the specified months in accordance with the Tenancy Agreement.

Cllr Gerrish also stated that new Tenancy Agreements would be issued to all allotment holders to ensure that records were updated and completed. In addition, the Clerk confirmed that she would forward a GDPR consent form for tenancy holders to sign.

Action: Clerk to progress.

b. KALC.

No matters were reported.

c. Playground.

No matters were raised.

d. Website.

To consider any matters relating to the Linton Website.

No matters were reported.

e. Speed Watch.

To receive an update regarding Speed Watch.

Cllr Cresswell confirmed that the Speed Watch system has now been updated with the relevant information.

f. Neighbourhood Watch Report.

To receive a report on NHW.

No matters were raised.

g. Linton Village Hall.

To receive a report regarding the Village Hall.

No matters were raised.

h. Parish Newsletter.

Cllr Gerrish asked for contributions for the next newsletter.

i. Parish Litter pick.

To receive an update re Litter Pick.

Cllr Richer stated that the next litter pick would take place on 3rd March 2025.

13. Other Matters and Items for the next Agenda.

No other matters were raised.

14. Date of next Meeting – Monday 10th March 2025.

The Chairman thanked all members for attending the meeting.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed to the press and public at 9.09pm.

Signed _____ (Chairman)

Date _____