

Linton Parish Council

The Minutes of the Annual Statutory Meeting of Linton Parish Council

held in Linton Village Hall on 13th May 2024 at 7:30PM.

*Councillor's present: Pat Burden
Bernard Cresswell
Antony DiMarco
Caroline Richer
Patrick Gerrish*

Also: Parish Clerk, Sherrie Babington.

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Cresswell.

1. To receive the Declaration of Acceptance of Office for Elected Councillors.

All elected councillors signed their Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

2. To elect a chairman.

Cllr Cresswell was nominated as Chairman, proposed by Cllr Richer, seconded by Cllr Burden and agreed by all present.

Cllr Cresswell accepted this position and took the chair.

3. Elected Chairman to sign Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Cllr Cresswell signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

4. 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 Paterson.

5. Election of Vice Chairman.

Cllr Gerrish was elected Vice Chairman, proposed by Cllr Cresswell, seconded by Cllr DiMarco and agreed by all present.

6. Appointment of Committees, Representatives and Outside Bodies.

The following Committees, Representatives and Outside Bodies were approved, (Cresswell/Gerrish)

Representatives for Outside Bodies

Responsible Finance Officer – Parish Clerk

Footpaths Officer – Cllr Paterson

Village Hall Representative – Councillor Burden

Tree Warden – Cllr Gerrish

Highways – All Councillors

KALC – All Councillors

Webmaster – Parish Clerk & Cllr Gerrish
Maidstone Police – All Councillors
Allotments Manager – Cllr Gerrish
Playground – All Councillors
Community Liaison – All Councillors
Neighbourhood Watch – All Councillors (Cllr Paterson – Lead Councillor)
Speed Watch – Cllr Gerrish
Planning – All Councillors
Linton Archivist – David Sendles
Litter Picks – Cllr Richer

Appointment of:-

Internal Auditor – Martin Thomas & Co
Bankers - Lloyds TSB
External Auditors – Mazars LLP
Insurers - Gallagher
Solicitors – Gullands

Memberships:-

Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC)
Information Commissioners Office (ICO)

7. 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.

8. Minutes of the previous Meeting.

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

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

9. Matters arising from the minutes.

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

Traffic Survey – further details requested.

Action: Clerk to action.

Highways Improvement Plan – Arrange site meeting with Greg McNicolls.

Action: Clerk to action.

10. Public Participation.

To discuss any questions received by members of the public.

No matters were raised.

11. Clerks Report & Correspondence.

The Clerk's Report was noted.

MAIDSTONE'S CIVIC PARADE AND SERVICE

SATURDAY, 18 MAY 2024

Maidstone's Civic parade and service will be held on Saturday 18 May. The parade will provide the opportunity to welcome the mayor-elect into office and for 36 Engineer Regiment to exercise their Honorary Freedom of the Borough by marching through the town with bayonets fixed. The parade will pass the Town Hall at 11.30 on its way to All Saints Church for the civic service, which commences at 12.00.

The mayor-elect is pleased to invite your Parish Chairman to attend the civic service and join him for refreshments in the Holy Named Chapel following the service.

12. KCC & MBC Ward Councillor Reports.

To received reports from the KCC and Borough Councillors.

The Chairman stated that Linton now had two new Borough Councillors, Brian Clark, and Simon Wales. He stated that he had tried to make contact with both, but neither had responded to his emails. He asked the Clerk to establish their correct contact details and forward to him.

Action: Clerk to action.

13. Financial Matters:

a. Financial Statement.

Financial Statement will be circulated in paperwork at PC meeting.

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

An additional cheque for the litter pick costs was also approved for the sum of £45.30.

b. 2023/2024 Accounts and AGAR.

To receive and agree the 2023/2024 Accounts, Internal Controls and AGAR.

i. To approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2023/24, Section 1 of the Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2024. The Chair of the meeting and the Clerk to sign.

ii. To approve the Statement of Internal Control in support of the Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements for 2023/24, Section 2 of the Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2024 and the supporting Bank Reconciliation as of 31 March 2024 and if necessary, the explanation of the significant variations from last year (2022/23) to this year (2023/24) and the explanation of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8 on Section 2 to be sent to the External Auditor. The Chair of the meeting to sign.

The Clerk stated that the accounts, internal control statement and AGAR would be presented to the next meeting, following the internal audit.

14. Highways Matters.

To discuss highway related matters.

The Chairman reported on an incident with a vehicle on the A229 Linton Hill which had resulted in damage of the vegetation. The police were called to the incident.

CLlr Gerrish spoke regarding the poor repairs and remedial works carried out along Wheelers Lane by Clancy Docwra following a water leak.

Action: Clerk to report to KCC.

15. Planning Matters.

a. Planning Applications.

24/501503/LBC - Court Lodge Vanity Lane Linton Kent ME17 4BP

Listed Building Consent for internal and external alterations including insertion of lining to walls and floors to store A and Boiler room B, Levelling of floor to dining room and removal of concrete floor area, replace existing fireplace with a woodburning stove with associated flue, lining and terminal. Replacement decayed sole plate and repairs to partition walls and removal of secondary step and associated works (Works Commenced).

No comments.

24/501440/FULL - Burford Farm Redwall Lane Linton Maidstone Kent ME17

Construction of concrete access track for tray field and concrete yard area.

No objections.

24/501740/TPOA - Linton Park Heath Road Linton Kent ME17 4AB

Tree Preservation Order Application: T001 Sycamore - Remove branch at 5m East. T004 Sycamore - Fell tree. T010 Elm - Fell tree. T013 Common hawthorn - Clear fallen tree. T014 Goat willow - Fell tree. T015 - Goat willow - Remove 4 limbs overhanging road. T026 Common ash - Fell tree. T027 Common ash - Fell E stem. T033 Horse Chestnut - Remove major deadwood. T040 Sycamore x1 and Elm x3 - Fell dead trees (x4). T041 - Sycamore - Historic monolith. Fell tree. Dead. T042 - Elm - Fell tree. T048 Sweet Chestnut - Reduce tree to 8m snag (monolith) - Top 30% dead. Primary ascending stems: Dead. T057 Common Holly - Remove W stem. T062 Sycamore - Fell tree. T067 Sweet Chestnut - Remove major deadwood greater than 25 mm, and overhanging branches.

No objections.

b. Planning Decisions.

24/500436/FULL

Burford Farm Redwall Lane Linton Maidstone Kent ME17 4BD

Conversion of former agricultural building to 3(no) residential dwellings, with associated access, parking and landscaping.

Application Withdrawn

c. Other Planning Matters.

Notification of Appeal Lodged with the Planning Inspectorate

Proposal: Change of use of land to 4(no) plots for Gypsy and Traveller use, including siting of 8(no) static mobile homes and erection of 4(no) brick-built day rooms, with associated access track and parking.

Location: Five Oak Stables Stilebridge Lane Linton

An appeal has been lodged in relation to the above for the following reason:

The Council has refused permission for this application.

The Planning Inspectorate/Secretary of State has decided that the appeal will be determined on the basis of Written Representations.

The Council has been asked to give notice of the appeal to owners and occupiers of properties near the site as well as other interested parties. Any comments and/or representations received in relation to this application have already been forwarded to the Planning Inspectorate and will be considered by the Inspector when deciding the appeal. If you wish to make comments, or modify/withdraw your previous representation, you can do so online at <https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk>. If you do not have access to the internet, you can send your comments to:

Neil Devereux, Zone 3C, Eagle Wing, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Bristol, quoting reference(s) APP/U2235/W/24/3338929.

Please note you must do this by 28 May 2024.

You can get a copy of one of the Planning Inspectorate's "Guide to taking part in planning appeals" booklets free of charge from the Planning Portal at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-appeals-proceduralguide/proceduralguide-planning-appeals-england>

You may view the application online at www.maidstone.gov.uk/planningsearch - please use the planning application reference.

When determined a copy of The Planning Inspectorate's appeal decision notice will be available to view on our public website. Please search quoting the original planning application reference number. <https://pa.midkent.gov.uk/online-applications>

Action: PC Objections submitted to Planning Inspectorate.

16. Annual Meeting of the Parish.

21st May 2024 at 7.30pm – The Chairman confirmed the arrangements for the Annual Meeting of the Parish.

17. Other Reports.

To received reports for the following:

a. Allotments.

No matters were reported.

b. KALC.

No matters were reported.

c. Playground.

To receive an update on the Playground.

Cllr Gerrish spoke regarding the playground work undertaken by Safeplay. He stated that in his opinion this had not been done to a satisfactory standard and he raised concerns about several matters.

It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the contractor and arrange a site meeting to discuss this further.

Action: Clerk to action.

- d. Website.
To consider any matters relating to the Linton Website.

Cllr Gerrish reported that he was currently in the process of updating the website. He suggested that having the upgraded silver package with the planning option for the website may attract more to sign up to the website. This was discussed and it was agreed that this would be considered further at a future meeting.

- e. Speed Watch.
To receive an update regarding Speed Watch.

Cllr Gerrish gave members an update on the Speed Watch, he stated that this was now active, and volunteers were needed.

- f. Neighbourhood Watch Report.
To receive a report on NHW.

It was agreed that Cllr Gerrish would liaise with Cllr Burden regarding the email account password for NHW.

- g. Linton Village Hall.
To receive a report regarding the Village Hall.

Cllr Burden reported that the hall roof had now been repaired. The. Omitted had no Chairman at present and they had agreed to share the workload for the time being.

- h. Parish Litter pick.
To receive an update re Litter Pick.

Next litter pick to be arranged for June 2024.

18. Other Matters and Items for the next Agenda.

19. Date of next Meeting – Monday 10th June 2024

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 9.45pm.

Signed _____

(Chairman)

Date _____