

Nature Festival returns

CAMBRIDGE Past, Present & Future is proud to announce the return of the Cambridge Nature Festival, now in its fifth year and bigger than ever. Running from the end of May to Tuesday 30th June, this year's Festival features more than 180 events organised by a wide network of partners across Cambridge and beyond. Many events are free or low cost, and are designed to be accessible to all ages and interests.

Led by Cambridge Past, Present & Future on behalf of the Cambridge Nature Network, the festival is this year part of the River CamCAN Project (Climate Action Through Nature), funded by the National Lottery Community Fund. The River CamCAN initiative aims to raise awareness of the challenges facing the River Cam and its tributaries, and to inspire communities to take action.

The Cambridge Nature Festival is the public expression of a longer-term ambition: a co-ordinated effort to restore and connect nature across the Cambridge area. Behind each event sits a simple but urgent idea: the landscapes that shape this region – fens, meadows, waterways, woodlands, and chalk downland – form a delicate and interdependent system whose future depends on collective attention.

The 2026 Festival spans the breadth of the region's distinctive landscapes, from the chalk streams of Ditton Meadows to the rare orchids of Haslingfield Quarry, the ancient fens of Wicken to the open meadows of Wandlebury Country Park. Highlights from across the programme include:

Outdoor adventures: Boat trips at Wicken Fen National Nature Reserve, pond dipping at Trumpington Meadows, guided bat walks at Cherry Hinton Hall, and litter picks at Ditton Meadows.

Family and children's activities: Bushcraft sessions at Wandlebury for children aged 5 to 14, community gardening days, and hands-on nature discovery activities at parks and green spaces across the city.

Talks and science: The popular *Science on Sundays* series continues at the Cambridge Botanic Gardens. Specialist talks and workshops from ecologists, botanists, and conservationists feature throughout the programme.

Arts, culture and wellbeing: A growing cultural strand includes *Living Water: Poetry, Art and the Fight for Clean Rivers* with an associated exhibition, poetry workshops and Rivers of Film commissions at Pembroke College and the University Library, guided wellbeing walks, and community movement sessions.

Community and volunteer events: Community days at East Barnwell Health Centre Garden, give-it-a-go gardening sessions at community gardens, a volunteering mixer at the Cambridge Conservation Forum and guided Wednesday walks at Wimpole provide opportunities to connect with nature and with neighbours.

"In the last 5 years the Cambridge Nature Festival has grown into something genuinely remarkable. It has become a defining part of the City's environmental calendar; an invitation to step outside, breathe deeply, and connect with nature all around us. With events from partners such as Cambridge Past, Present & Future, the National Trust, Wildlife Trust BCN, as well as Cambridge University and colleges, parishes and grassroots conservation and eco groups, this year's Festival not only demonstrates the well-being benefits of being in and supporting nature but also builds stronger communities and links across the city."

Clara Todd, Cambridge Nature Festival Organiser



The People's Emergency Briefing

LINTON Roots invites you to a special community screening of **The People's Emergency Briefing** on **Thursday 2nd July at 7pm in St Mary's Church**. A powerful 50-minute film bringing the UK's leading climate and nature experts together to explain, in clear and accessible terms, what climate change means for every town and village in the UK, including ours. It highlights what is happening now and what could come within our lifetimes. The film shows evidence presented to MPs in Westminster on topics ranging from food, to health, to national security by experts in each field. It includes responses from the public and well known faces, offering both honesty and hope. For a village like Linton, this screening is an opportunity to come together, learn together, and talk about what matters for our shared future. There will be change in our village and what we do now together will ensure we continue to enjoy living here in the years to come.

Whether you're concerned about climate change confusion in the media, are interested in practical solutions, or you're simply curious, you'll find the film engaging, human and surprisingly uplifting. Many who attended the original briefing said, although the facts are serious, they left feeling more optimistic about what we can achieve together by taking small local actions that add up.

Join us, bring a friend, and be part of a conversation shaping Linton's future.

Please book your **free** ticket: linton-roots@outlook.com or use the QR code above.



Kirsten Newble

FROG at Royal Garden Party

MAY got off to a very merry start for Linton FROG, with a visit to a Buckingham Palace Garden Party for our Chair, Helen, and her husband Jonathan. The once-in-a-lifetime invitation was kindly arranged by the Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, Julie Spence, in recognition of FROG's winning the Green Award in the BBC Radio Cambridgeshire Make a Difference Awards in 2025. It was an honour to represent Linton FROG at this impressive event – if you ever get the opportunity to attend a royal garden party, do go!

We also held our guided tour of the River Shep at RSPB Fowlmere by Rob Mungovan from the Wild Trout Trust. We had a full house of 20 people marvelling at the superb gin-clear chalk stream and the wonderful fauna and flora. We were so fortunate to see many brown trout and even more delighted to see water voles swimming and feeding: they are so difficult to spot elsewhere in the UK and people travel from far and wide to RSPB Fowlmere for this experience. Thank you so much to Rob who has personally restored the River Shep over the last 20 years and has shown us what we as citizens of Linton can be aiming for in our restoration of the River Granta.

On 10th May, we enabled the wider public to take part in our monthly riverfly sampling, an opportunity to see the minibeasts that form a vital part of the ecosystem of our chalk stream, the Granta. Despite the cooler weather over 30 people took part. Several children donned chest waders and got stuck in with kick-sampling then sorting through their finds to identify freshwater shrimp and the numerous larvae of mayflies, caddisflies and olive river flies. Thank you all for coming and participating in some citizen science.

Jonathan Silverman



Musical instrument taster morning at Duxford school

WOULD you (or your child) like to play a musical instrument, but you aren't sure which one? Would you like to try out one or more instruments before making up your mind? If so, Duxford Saturday Workshop Taster Morning is for you! At this event, experienced tutors and players will help you to have hands-on, practical experience of one or more instruments. They will be available to answer your questions and to help you to decide which instrument is for you. This is completely free. There is no need to book in advance, and you do not have to be a current member of the Music Workshop to attend – so just come along and have a go!

Of course, if you decide to join us for the next workshop year (beginning in September) you will be most welcome. If you need an instrument, items can often be borrowed for the year at low cost from our hire stock, meaning that it is possible to gain tuition and experience of playing for a very modest outlay indeed. Instruments included in the taster morning are: violin, Viola, cello, flute, oboe, bassoon, clarinet, cornet, French horn, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, guitar and ukulele. **When? Saturday 20th June, 11 am– 12.30pm Where? Duxford Primary School, St John's Street, Duxford, CB22 4RA. For further information, see: www.duxfordsaturdayworkshop.org.uk.**

Peter Howarth

Cambridge Community Lottery

IN its first year Cambridgeshire Community Lottery has raised over £20,000 for 89 charities, community groups and voluntary organisations across the county, and the momentum is growing! Over 34,000 tickets have been bought by over 600 supporters across the county. For every £1 ticket, 50p goes directly to the player's chosen cause and 10p supports the wider work of Cambridgeshire Community Foundation. Players have a 1 in 50 chance of winning every week, with prizes ranging from £25 to a £25,000 jackpot.

Causes across the county, Parent-Teacher Associations, charities and sports clubs are benefitting from adding the lottery to their fundraising mix, offering a reliable, steady flow of income that's increasingly welcome in a tough climate. Recent research from the Charities Aid Foundation indicates that the number of people donating, and the amounts given, have fallen over the last few years, making it more important than ever for charities to diversify how they raise funds.

Michael O'Toole, CEO of Cambridgeshire Community Foundation, said "When we launched the lottery 12 months ago, we wanted to give causes across the county a practical, low-barrier way to bring in additional income – no setup fees, no minimum sales targets and minimal admin. We were particularly keen to open up lottery fundraising to smaller organisations who may not have had the capacity to set one up on their own; the regulatory requirements and operational burden can be significant barriers. By taking that on, we could give local causes, however small, access to a fundraising tool that genuinely works. Seeing that in action – and knowing we've helped causes across the county raise over £20,000 in year one – makes us incredibly excited about what year 2 holds."

To buy a ticket, sign up as a cause, or find out more, visit: www.cambridgeshirecommunitylottery.co.uk

Julia Cieslak

Readers Write

Dear Editor

I WOULD like to highlight the efforts of an unsung hero in Linton. A local resident has been removing the unsightly graffiti from the major road sign at the entrance to Bartlow Road.

We understand that the graffiti on the other large road sign, near the new roundabout on Bartlow Road, was also cleaned a few weeks ago, and we wonder whether the same person was responsible.

What a hero! She is currently removing graffiti from the main road.

Vivien Wong-Spracklen

Spanish baroque at Hildersham



THE Lowe Ensemble takes us on an intriguing journey through Spanish music of the 17th and 18th centuries – and its influences across Europe – on Sunday 28th June at 7.30pm at Holy Trinity Hildersham. A wide palette of vocal and instrumental works of different styles from courtly refinement to earthy dances and sacred reflection will be performed by a group of five talented plus a guest theorbo player. Tickets £15 including refreshments. From: <https://tinyurl.com/3nyxrsc> or at the door. Contact Athene Hunt: huntcam2015@gmail.com.

Athene Hunt
on behalf of the Friends of Hildersham Church

Singing for fun with Balsham Singers

JOIN us to learn and sing theme tunes from the Bond films, musical theatre – *Grease* and *Les Misérables*, as well as Abba and Queen.

Come along on Thursday nights, 4th, 11th, 25th June; 2nd July between 7.30–9 pm, at Balsham Sports Pavilion. Pay as you go – £5.

No booking required, any questions to Balshamsingers@hotmail.com.

Jo Stinton

Come to the Well

ON Sunday 14th June, St Mary's Church will be open from 6–7pm for The Well: a beautiful, candlelit quiet hour in a peaceful, sacred space.

The Well is a gentle space with time to sit, reflect, breathe, and simply be. A chance to ground yourself, and prepare for the week ahead, with gentle music, a few words, and times of silence. Drop in for a few minutes, or stay for the whole hour.

Everyone is welcome and there is no charge.

Revd Paul

Headscratcher

Number 20

A mathematical spider crawled from one corner of a ceiling to the opposite bottom corner of the room. The spider took the shortest most direct route.

With the ceiling being 3 m x 3 m and the wall opposite being 3 m long x 2.2 m high, what angle did the spider start at, and as it passed the ceiling centre, what was the shortest distance from that centre?

Also find the total distance taken? All angles to be given to the nearest degree.

Answer to 19

The race is over 4 laps, 1,600 m and the winning time is 312 seconds.

Amended Answer to 18

It has been graciously pointed out that the expression x^x has a minimum value at about 0.37 and then rises to either side in the range $1 > x > 0$.

Aspasia

Camsight summer lunch

AT our meeting in May we were delighted to have a return visit from Peter Day, who in his capacity as *Jukebox Legends'* had us laughing, singing and foot tapping to many of our favourite songs from the forties, fifties and sixties. He is especially fond of Elvis songs as he was a very successful Elvis impersonator, with lots of stories to tell. This was followed by a strawberry shortbread cream tea and our raffle.

Our next meeting will be our summer lunch on Tuesday 9th June, at the earlier time of 1pm at the Chalklands Community Centre. Sadly this will be our last meeting at Chalklands, but we shall all be keeping in touch and whenever possible will still help our members with any eyesight issues. If you would like any information about Camsight, please contact us on the Cambridge office number 01223 420033 or on 01223 893595.

Jean Mannion

An ACE ploughman's lunch

Activities and Care for the Elderly (ACE) would like to invite you to join them for a Ploughman's Lunch served at the sports pavilion. We hope to welcome friends old and new from 12.30pm on Thursday 4th June. Cost £7.

Sue Filby

The Darwin family in Cambridge

AT our April meeting, Philip Stott introduced us to the Darwin family and their associations with Cambridge.

It appears that, at first, not all were academically inclined. Nevertheless, they went on to achieve great success and left their mark, the most well known being Charles. Philip recommended reading *Period Piece* written by Gwen (Darwin) Raverat, great grand-daughter of Charles, from which Philip used extracts during the course of his talk. It shows some amusing sketches featuring the Darwin family along with accompanying stories. A highly interesting evening, well presented and thoroughly enjoyable.

For further details of the Linton and District History Society please email ldhscambs@gmail.com.

Margaret Creek

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June bin collection dates

Black: Wednesdays 3rd, 17th
Blue: Wednesdays 10th, 24th
Green: Wednesday 10th, 24th

Village Diary

A round up of dates from this edition
For entries, email: diary.linton.news@gmail.com.
Please check with organisers before attending weekly events.
See <https://www.lintonvillagedirectory.com/events-calendar> for more details of village events.

JUNE		
Tue 2	W.I. Meeting, 7.30pm	Village Hall
Thu 4	ACE Ploughman's Lunch, 12.30pm	Pavilion, Linton Rec.
Thu 4	Linton Roots Meeting, 6–7.30pm	St Mary's Pavilion
Sat 6	Farmers Market, 9–11.30am	Village Hall
Sun 7	FROG Litter Pick, 10–12pm	Village Hall
Mon 8	W. Wickham History Club, 7.30pm	W. Wickham Village Hall
Tue 9	Scrabble Club, 10–12pm	St Mary's Pavilion
Tue 9	Camsight Meeting, 1pm	Chalklands Centre
Wed 10	Coffee Morning 10–12pm	Linton Free Church
Fri 12	Summer Fair, 4–8pm	Linton Infant School
Sun 14	The Well, 6–7pm	St Mary's Church
Fri 19	Daylight Readers, 10.30 & 2.30pm	Library
Fri 19	Mary's Community Kitchen, 12–2pm	St Mary's Church
Sat 20	Coffee Morning, 10–12pm	St Mary's Church
Sat 20	Musical Instrument Taster, 11–12.30pm	Duxford Primary School
Sat 20	Hadstock Village Fête, 2–5pm	Hadstock Village Green
Tue 23	Scrabble Club, 10–12pm	St Mary's Pavilion
Sat 27	FROG Butterfly Flutterby, 10.30–12.30pm	St Mary's churchyard
Sun 28	Lowe Ensemble Concert, 7.30pm	Holy Trinity, Hildersham
JULY		
Thu 2	Linton Roots Film Showing, 7pm	St Mary's Church
Sat 4	Farmers Market, 9–11.30am	Village Hall
Sun 5	FROG Motherama, 11–1pm	14 High St
Tue 7	W.I. Meeting, 7.30pm	Village Hall
Thu 9	Chestnut Playgroup Open Morning, 9.30–11am	Cathodeon Centre
WEEKLY		
Mon	Mini Movers, 10–11.30am	Cathodeon Centre
Tue	Rhythm and Rhyme, 10.30–11am, (term times)	Library
Tue	Granta Bridge Club, 2–4pm	Village Hall
Tue	Knit and Natter, 2–4pm	Library
Tue	Linton Lionesses Kickabout, 7–8pm	LVC
Wed	Tots in Tow, 9.30–11am (term times)	Village Hall
Wed	Warm Hub, 1–4pm	Sports Pavilion
Wed	IT Drop In, 5–7pm	Library
Wed	Let's Run Girls, 7pm	LVC
Thu	Stay and Play, 10–11.30am	Cathodeon Centre
Thu	Baby Group, 1–2.30pm	Cathodeon Centre
Thu	Games Afternoon, 2–4pm	Library
Fri	Lego/Duplo, 10–11am (1st 2nd & 4th Fri)	Library
Fri	Badminton Club, 7–9pm	Comm. Sports Centre, LVC
Sun	Church Service, 8 & 10am	St Mary's Church
Sun	Church Service, 10.30am	Linton Free Church

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News from the Heights

IN response to the growing national crisis in Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision, Linton Heights Junior School has launched a specialist learning base designed to provide targeted early intervention and inclusive support for pupils with additional needs.

The initiative places the school firmly ahead of recent government reforms outlined in the 2026 Schools White Paper, which calls for stronger inclusion, earlier support and greater investment in specialist provision within schools.

Since opening after Easter, the learning base has supported up to eight children each morning in a calm, structured environment tailored to their academic, communication and emotional needs. Pupils receive focused teaching in english, maths, oracy and emotional literacy before returning to their classes later in the day.



The space, formerly known as the art room, has been completely redesigned to create a nurturing and purposeful learning environment. The provision was developed following detailed assessments in reading, writing, spelling, maths, speech and language, and emotional wellbeing, ensuring support is carefully matched to pupils' individual needs.



The learning base was created in partnership with the Trust SEND specialist, Director of Inclusion and a Local Authority SEND practitioner, ensuring the approach reflects current best practice and national priorities.

With increasing pressure on schools nationwide to meet complex SEND needs, Linton Heights' proactive approach demonstrates a strong commitment to inclusion, personalised learning and early intervention. Early indications show the provision has already improved pupils' confidence, engagement and readiness to learn.

Caroline Webb

The Marsh mail

AT LVC, developing independence, one of our core school values, is central to preparing students for life beyond the classroom. Through leadership, mentoring and enrichment opportunities, we empower students to grow in confidence, take responsibility and thrive.

Our highly successful Year 10 Sports Leaders programme enables students to take ownership of sporting events. Following a competitive application process and focused training, students plan and deliver sessions both in school and with local primary pupils. Their impact was evident at a recent tennis tournament for Year 3 and 4 pupils, where their professionalism and leadership were so highly regarded that they have been invited back to support future events.

Supporting younger students is at the heart of our 8M8s mentoring programme. Recently, our current Year 7 students were selected to become Year 8 mentors through an application and interview process. They play a vital role in supporting Year 6 pupils during the transition process this July, helping them feel settled and reassured. This support continues when students start in September. Many mentors draw on their own experiences, developing empathy, confidence and responsibility.



The Duke of Edinburgh Award further strengthens independence. Students build practical skills such as cooking and navigation, volunteer in the local community and take part in expeditions. A practice expedition around Saffron Walden this weekend will prepare them for their Peak District expedition later in the academic year.



Across all programmes, students are supported to lead, contribute and grow together, developing the independence and skills to shape their futures.

Helena Marsh

News from the Infants

AS always, these articles are written well before publication, and in this case, before our May half term. I hope the half term weather is kind to us and that everyone has the chance to recharge before the last half term of the year.

As has become tradition, we supported Purple Day to raise funds for Cancer Research. The children wore purple and raised a fantastic amount for this worthwhile cause. Thank you to all our parents for their support.

We were also lucky enough to have Linton Jazz perform a fundraising event for us! Thank you to them for a fantastic afternoon of music.

If you have applied for a place for your child to join us in September, you will have received an email with details of our New Parents' Evening. We are looking forward to meeting you all, along with welcoming back some familiar faces.

Our PTFA is currently organising our popular summer fair, which takes place on Friday 12th June from 4-8pm. This year's event will be slightly different as the school celebrates its 150th birthday!

We will have our usual summer fair 4-6pm, with all the usual stalls and maypole dancing, then from 6-8pm we will have music, takeaway and a bar. We will also host an exhibition of photos, registers and other artefacts from years gone by. If you attended the school, please do come along and see if you can spot your name in the registers!

These events rely on the support of our wider community, be that through donating raffle prizes, sponsoring a stall or simply by turning up and enjoying the evening! We look forward to seeing you there, everyone is welcome!

Kelly Harries

June at the Library

ARE you ready for the **Summer Reading Challenge**? Aimed at children, you can sign up from Saturday 4th July to enjoy throughout the summer holidays. This year's theme is *Read to the Beat*.

Daylight Readers: Friday 19th at 10.30am and 2.30pm. The morning group would love to welcome new members. Come and check it out!

Rhythm & Rhyme: Tuesdays 10.30-11am for children aged 0-4 (term time only), followed by Duplo. We would love to see you and your little ones there.

Knit and Natter: Every Tuesday, 2-4pm. Bring along any craft project.

IT Drop In: Every Wednesday, 5-7pm. Knowledgeable volunteers can help with IT queries.

Games Afternoon: Thursdays, 2-4pm. Come and meet new people. Board and card games provided, or bring your own.

Lego/Duplo: Fridays, 10-11am (first, second and fourth Friday of the month). Activities for children aged 0-4.

Find us on Facebook and YouTube @CambridgeshireLibraries, and on Instagram (@cambslib). Our opening hours can be viewed at: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library.

Vicky Anandraj and Ann King, Community Library Assistants, Linton Library

Chestnut playgroup

WE are holding an open morning on Thursday 9th July, for all families who are looking for term time childcare and would like to visit the playgroup. This is a drop-in session - please feel free to visit at any point between 9.30-11am. If you are unavailable on the 9th, but would like to visit us, we would be happy to arrange an appointment for you on another day.

We have places and availability for next academic year (September 2026 onwards) - for further details please see our website, or contact our administrator via email: adm.chestnutpg@gmail.com, or using the website contact form: www.chestnutplaygroup.org.uk/Contact-Us/.

Chestnut Playgroup chestnutplaygroup.org.uk

Chestnut Playgroup Open Morning

9th July 9.30-11am

All welcome to our drop-in session for families to visit the playgroup

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The Hundred Parishes Society

ALTHOUGH the Society is not a religious organisation, we encourage visits to parish churches as they are often the oldest and most interesting buildings in any community. Inside, you may find images of angels in some form or another. These winged creatures are considered to be messengers of God. They also represent goodness, with a promise of heaven if you live a good life.

Angels in churches are depicted in paintings, on stained-glass windows, suspended from ceilings, carved into corbels that support roof timbers or on poppyheads at the end of pews.

Clavering church displays several angels in its medieval glass windows as well as a series of wooden angels suspended from the rafters – they have feathers all over, including their legs.

It is easy to miss Clavering's angels, but not those at Furneux Pelham. Their bright colours come from a repaint in the 1960s. Some play a lute and others hold a

shield with a family crest, presumably of their sponsor. Furneux Pelham also has a series of angels on windows that were painted in the 19th century by renowned artists William Morris and Edward Byrne-Jones.

Radwinter has stained-glass windows with angels featuring prominently. At Elmdon, one peeps out from under the lectern from which the vicar preaches. In Linton, one of the carved poppyheads depicts a scribe resting his book on the wings of an angel.

Some churches have carvings on the corbels that support major roof timbers. Hildersham's chancel has especially colourful decoration, including angels on each of its corbels.

Over the last couple of years, I have given an illustrated talk to many local organisations, taking a peek inside some of our parish churches and including photos of angels in many guises.

Ken McDonald
Secretary The Hundred Parishes Society



Angel under the lectern at Elmdon



Linton's poppyhead



Angel on corbel at Hildersham

On Saturday 20th June at 2pm

THE Hadstock Village Fête is once again taking place and we would love you to join us for a wonderful afternoon of traditional entertainment and family fun.

The festivities begin at 2pm with music from the Hadstock Silver Band, who will entertain us throughout the afternoon. Around the village green you'll find a wide variety of stalls and attractions, including plants, cakes and local produce, games, bric-a-brac, field activities, and face painting. Children from Ashdon School will also perform the traditional maypole dancing.

This year, our popular auction is moving online and will open for bids in early June. Keep an eye on Facebook for details of the fête auction site, where you'll find a wide range of exciting prizes — including a tennis lesson with a former Wimbledon star, a spa day, a painting lesson, personal training, rugby tickets, a wine tasting experience and so much more!

Please do bring some cash with you, as many stalls will be cash only and mobile phone signal in Hadstock can sometimes be unreliable.

All profits from the fête will be shared between Hadstock Village Hall and the upkeep of our beautiful Grade I listed, 1,000-year-old church, St Botolph's, which will be open throughout the day.

For auction lots, dog show classes, and full details of everything happening at this year's Fête, please visit our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/hadstockvillagefete.

We very much hope to see you there.

Hadstock Fête Team



Planning applications from 15th April to 13th May

26/01628/HFUL Demolition of existing double garage and erection of a two-storey annex. 21 Cambridge Road Linton Cambridgeshire CB21 4NN. Validated: Tuesday 12th May 2026. Status: Awaiting decision.

26/0452/TTCA Apple tree reduce height by 2.5m. The Old Workshop Horn Lane Linton Cambridgeshire CB21 4HT. Validated: Wednesday 6th May 2026. Status: Awaiting decision.

26/01666/CL2PD Certificate of lawfulness under S192 for the re-roofing of existing roof to include like-for-like replacement of all tiles with the exception of a small vertical section on the south face, replace underlying roofing felt and battens and like-for-like replacement/repair of pedestrian garden gate, ornamental metalwork to be retained. 10 Horn Lane Linton Cambridgeshire CB21 4HT. Validated: Friday 1st May 2026. Status: Awaiting decision.

26/01610/HFUL Demolition of existing garage and link, new single storey front porch, two storey side extension and single storey extensions to front and rear. Internal alterations and new vehicular access and drive. 4 The Furrells Linton Cambridgeshire CB21 4JJ. Validated: Thursday 30th April 2026. Status: Awaiting decision.

26/01603/TELNOT Installation of a 9 m medium wooden pole. Land opposite 76 Chalklands Linton Cambridgeshire CB21 4JH. Validated: Monday 27th April 2026. Status: Awaiting decision.

26/01561/LBC Repairs and reinstatement of dining room chimney. Insert gas burning stove and flue and brick hearth. Reinstatement and repair of sitting room chimney. Lime plaster chimney breast. Insert wood burning stove and flue (stainless steel) and brick hearth. Install cast iron air brick and brass hit and miss vent. Repairs to bedroom chimney. Lime plaster chimney breast and install Victorian fireback. Fulwells 97 High Street Linton Cambridgeshire CB21 4JT. Validated: Friday 24th April 2026. Status: Awaiting decision.

26/01416/LBC and **26/01415/HFUL** First floor rear extension, French doors to existing rear elevation and internal improvements. 5 Coles Lane Linton Cambridgeshire CB21 4JS. Validated: Friday 17th April 2026. Status: Awaiting decision.

Linton WI

IN April Neil and Clare Callan told us how, during their working lives, they had planned their dream garden. Upon retirement, they bought a neglected quarter-acre plot in Fenland. Twenty years later, our members were able to hear what they have achieved, the challenges they faced, and the hard work involved. Even now, the resident wildlife often attempts to undo their work! We were able to view pictures of their gardens, as well as buy some of their surplus plants, including some striking irises. A top tip for dry shady areas was brunnera, with recommended varieties including *Silver Heart*, or *Mr Morse*.

Our May speaker was Tony Smith, whose photographs you may have seen on the village website. He has a large collection of cameras, but acknowledges that most of us, nowadays, take pictures on our mobile phones. There's a difference between 'taking' a snap, or 'making' a picture by deliberately setting up a scene. He recommended that, when photographing children or pets, it is better to get down to their level, and if possible maintain eye contact. Conversely, if the subject is a car, locomotive engine or similar, getting a low viewpoint emphasises the strength of the subject. An interesting, informal talk.

We meet on the first Tuesday of every month, in the Village Hall. New members always welcome. Visitors £5. Our next meeting is on 2nd June. Why not come and give us a try?

Pat Marshall

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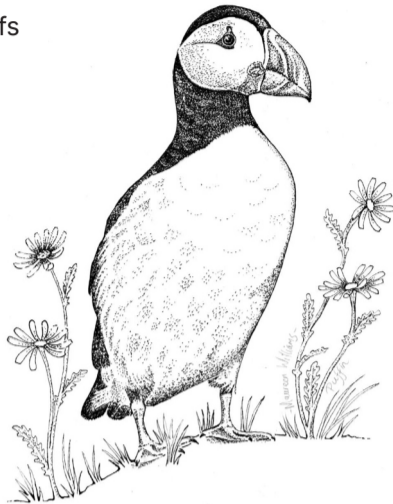
Text by Oriel O'Loughlin, illustrations by Maureen Williams

Nuffin like a Puffin

YEARS ago there was a survey about which species should be our national bird. Competing for the top spot were robins and puffins, and robins won the day. You don't have to move far to see a robin after all. But any effort to see puffins is repaid many times over. I failed to highlight the puffin in our colour edition in April. With an orange or red crayon or felt tip, you can now colour in the eye, the front section of the bill, the hinge of the 'jaw' and the legs and feet. Minutes of fun!

If you can go north or west before the end of June, there are places where you can guarantee to see puffins. Bempton Cliffs in Yorkshire is the easiest, along with the Farne Islands where boat trips leave on the hour from Seahouses in Northumberland. To visit cliffs where seabirds are nesting is one of the great natural world experiences, even if you have absolutely no interest in birds for the rest of the year, and even if the weather is awful. It is not just their breeding season vibrant orange bill and legs, but their comic waddle and their curiosity: the penguins of the north. You can watch them wheeling in from the sea like a heat-seeking missile with their bills stuffed with fish for the young pufflings waiting in the burrows.

Puffins are *Fratercula artica*, the friars of the north in their black and white outfit, also called *parrots of the sea*, and *Tammie Norries* in Shetland and Orkney. They are alone all winter on the sea, but congregate in great rafts offshore before somehow finding their last year's mate. By a combination of magnetic clues, celestial navigation and memory, they



find their way back to the same burrow on the exact same cliff year after year for up to 20 years. It is not just a fun fact, but to me truly astonishing. Also astonishing is their bill. The favourite photo is always the puffin with its bill stuffed with sand eels. This bill has a spiky tongue which shoves fish up into the palate, locking them in place. The upper palate has ridges which grip each fish as it is added. The bill has a hinge joint which allows the puffin to keep its catch secure while adding more fish, each time it dives down, usually to around 30 metres, and sometimes deeper. A sort of puffin shopping trolley.

One of the major causes of the decline in numbers of puffins and other cliff nesting sea birds has been the overfishing of sand eels, their major food supply. After years of negotiation by many different wildlife organisations, there was a ban on sand eel fishing in 2024, a major win for conservation. Constant work is also being done on the position of wind turbines on their flight routes. Not so easy to prevent are the huge storms that cause widespread devastation of seabirds. It is also heartrending to see the larger gulls waiting outside the burrows to grab the poor chicks. But that is nature and gulls need to eat too.

One last thing I have learned is that there are now teams of volunteers who scale the cliffs and scour the burrows for chicks. They then grab the chicks and throw the seemingly helpless critters into the sea, to keep them safe from predators. Instinct kicks in and the pufflings find their wings and set off on their new life far from the cliffs and associated dangers. You have to be cruel to be kind.

Yard sale for the Plesiosaurs!

DO you want to earn some extra cash for the back-to-school rush? Then why not take part in a yard sale I am organising as part of my Extended Project Qualification? It will be held 2nd August, in Linton. There is a £5 entry cost, but all the money that you make is yours to keep. The money raised by you entering is going towards the Etches Collection Museum in Dorset.

On 1st January, 2024, a documentary was released, presented by Sir David Attenborough, on a *Plesiosaurus* skull that had been found on the beach, called *Attenborough and the Giant Sea Monster*. The Etches Collection is now fundraising to retrieve the rest of the animal's skeleton from the cliff, which, if accomplished, would make it the most complete Plesiosaurus skeleton ever found. This is what I am fundraising for.

If you would like to participate, please contact me using HD170519@hrsfc.ac.uk and I will organise maps for everyone taking part. You never know, you might just find that one thing you are looking for! I will also be holding a stall at the Linton Heights Junior School on the day from 10am to 2pm, but you are welcome to have your stall open well past those times. I'll see you there!

Harry Didier Serre

Photo Competition

Open to everyone living in the area and their families



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This year's categories are...
Along the Path
Lovely Leaves
The Sky's the Limit



... all open to interpretation when you're out and about, on holiday or in your garden.

We'd love to see your favourite pictures of the summer, so why not make this the year to give it a shot!!



Closing date 1st September
All entries will be displayed at The Summer Gardening Fair on **Saturday 12th September**



Photos must have been taken after 1st October 2025 up to two entries per category: 50p per entry.

Send your entries and questions to Alice and Andy Mitchell: photo@westwickham.org

Upcoming FROG events in June/July

Butterfly flutterby

LET'S see what's fluttering about us on Saturday 27th June from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Starting point in St Mary's churchyard. The walk will last up to two hours, and it will be led once again by Matt Hayes, from the Zoology Museum. Matt will lead us through the green spaces of Linton and help us find the butterfly species that flutter around us, and talk about butterflies, bumble bees and other insects and their importance to the habitat.

moths to your garden.

FROG is a volunteer group that runs litter picks, conservation and citizen science monitoring tasks, and events to promote a love of our natural world. Everyone is welcome to join. If you're interested, or would like more information, please contact us at lintonfrog@gmail.com or visit us at facebook.com/LintonFROG/?locale=en_GB.

Jonathan Silverman, Co-chair, Linton FROG



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District and county councillors' annual report 2026

County Council

Kingsway Solar Farm

A FEW years ago our area was approached by a solar developer with plans for a very large solar farm in the fields between Balsham, West Wrating and Weston Colville. Were these plans to be granted planning permission it would be one of the largest solar farms in the country and would be larger than Heathrow Airport. Thank you to everyone who engaged with this consultation; we hope you will keep the energy up for the entire process. The next phase will be that the developers submit a formal application to a government planning inspector who will make the final decision.

There is a local action group, Kingsway Solar Community Action - <https://kingswaysolarcommunityaction.co.uk/> - which has done some very good work on putting together detailed comments on the scheme.

Local government reorganisation

In 2024, the government announced that it was going to reduce the number of local councils, merging them into so-called unitary authorities. Our preferred plan is a joint council covering the Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire areas since a lot of the services, such as waste collection, planning and legal, are currently already shared. A case could be made to extend the area to include either Huntingdonshire or East Cambridgeshire areas but the starting point for negotiations will be the Cambridge City/South Cambridgeshire combination.

We now wait to hear what the government's preferred option is in June and this will then be consulted on. The elections to what's called the 'shadow authority' of these new councils will be in May 2027. This shadow authority will spend the year setting up the committees, allocating budgets and appointing senior staff. The council will then come into power in May 2028 when the District and County Councils will cease to exist.

District Council

Cambridge Growth Company

Successive governments have announced that they saw Cambridge as a major area for growth in the country. To facilitate this, the Cambridge Growth Company, which will ultimately become the new DevCo, is going through the process of identifying the area they want to look at and the 'strategic site'. This is the minimum size a development would be for the DevCo to take the planning decision for themselves instead of the local planning authorities.

There was a public consultation on the size and we encouraged people to respond with the highest of the numbers offered - 1,000 houses or over. This will keep as many planning decisions within local government as possible, so controlling what is built in our part of the county. Keep reading the local press to see how this develops.

Local plan

Having said all of that, the District Council still needs to go through the process of submitting its latest version of its 'Local Plan' to government. This is the plan for where they see developments going over the next 30 years.

They are proposing that the South Cambridgeshire/Cambridge area needs more housing and have suggested sites around the district that can take the housing. One of these areas is Grange Farm to the north of Abington. This proposal is a significant settlement of up to 6,000 houses plus other facilities. The District Council consulted on this proposal earlier this year, and thank you to all those who responded. Of course, a scheme of this size will be controversial, as the scale of it would mean a significant disruption and a change in our local landscape.

The next phase of this process is that the District Council will need to make any changes it needs to, following the consultation, and then republish a final version of the plan with a view to submitting it to government in December this year. There will be more opportunities to formally put your views forward, which will likely be at the end of the summer.

Speculative developments

This year we've seen a number of speculative housing proposals in our area, the largest ones being Little Linton, Horseheath Road and Back Road in Linton. There was also a proposal for a scheme on Pampisford Road in Abington. All of these fall outside what's called the 'development framework' which is the boundary of the village that all housing developments are required to sit within (except in exceptional circumstances). It's impossible to say for certainty with planning but our view is that it's very likely that all of these will be refused on this basis just as the application in Abington has been.

The developers will almost certainly appeal that the District Council doesn't have what's called a 'five-year land supply' which is the number of houses, with granted planning permission, to take the predicted growth in the area over the next five years. The District Council has always maintained it has a solid five-year land supply, so, if that is the case, the appeals should also fail.

Food waste collection

It is planned to introduce a separate food waste collection this year. This is a major operation for the District Council requiring an additional 22 vehicles and around 75 new staff. Much of the initial costs are met by government grants, but not all. The extra cost will need to be met out of council resources. The roll out of this scheme has started in South Cambridgeshire and our part of the District will receive the new food bins, around September time.

Local elections

The District Council held its last ever election in May this year, before it is subsumed by local government reorganisation. Both of us were re-elected to represent the villages within the Linton ward, with majorities in all of those villages. We thank everyone for their continued support and, whether you voted for us or not, we will continue to do our best for the area.

More widely the Liberal Democrats had quite a successful day, winning 43 out of the 45 seats on the District Council.

District Council – John Batchelor – johndbatchelor23@gmail.com
District and County Council – Henry Batchelor – henrybatchelor89@gmail.com

Update from Pippa Heylings

FOLLOWING May's local elections, I am looking forward to working closely with the newly elected councillors to serve our community. I would also like to offer my commiserations to all those who stood for election but were unsuccessful, and I would like to thank all councillors, regardless of political party, for their service over the last four years.

Charity Skydive for Arthur Rank Hospice

Some of you will know that Arthur Rank Hospice, which provides truly amazing palliative and end-of-life care for hundreds of patients every year, has had its NHS funding cut. It is therefore imperative for the hospice to urgently raise funds to close this funding gap. In April, along with an extraordinary team of campaigners devoted to raising money for the hospice, I did a tandem skydive to raise vital funds.

It was the scariest thing I've done and yet so exhilarating to jump out of a plane over Cambridgeshire at 15,000 feet! For a full 60 seconds we plummeted to the ground in tandem freefall at 125 mph, and then floated down, under the parachute for five minutes. I am delighted to say that together we raised over £26,000. Thank you to everyone who gave so generously.

Championing our Chalk Streams

I have continued to champion one of South Cambridgeshire's most precious natural assets. Our chalk streams are globally rare, with only 260 in the world and 85% of them in England. They are essential to biodiversity and provide unique habitats for wildlife. They are being damaged by the twin threats of over-abstraction of water and pollution by sewage. I introduced a bill in parliament calling on the government to nominate the UK's chalk streams, including those flowing through our own constituency, such as the Rivers Cam, Granta, Mel, Rhee and Shep, as a UNESCO Natural World Heritage Site. UNESCO designation will help galvanise public engagement and investment in their recovery.

Fighting for SEND Reform

Since becoming your MP, I have heard from countless families struggling to access the support their children need. The delays in obtaining diagnoses, developing Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), and securing funding are causing real distress — and too many parents are being forced into costly complaints and tribunal processes just to get what their children are entitled to.

The SEND system is broken. It is failing children every day and pushing councils to the brink of bankruptcy. That is why I welcome the government's recognition of this crisis and the steps they have set out to address it — though I know many parents have serious concerns about what the reforms will mean in practice. I have written to the minister to convey those concerns, and I am grateful to everyone who responded to the consultation and shared their experiences with me. I will continue to campaign in parliament for greater special needs funding for our area, and to raise individual cases with the local authority. If you are struggling to navigate the SEND system, please do get in touch — I am here to help.

These are just a few of the things I've been working on in recent weeks that I wanted to share with you. If you would like to keep up to date with my work, you can register for my e-newsletter, available at <https://www.pippaheytings.org.uk/newsletter>.


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Parish Council matters



Parish Council matters is written, edited and published by the Parish Council with the support of the Linton News Team

Chairman's annual report 2025-2026

THE 2025/26 year has been as busy a year as I can remember as a councillor with a huge number of additional working group meetings on top of our planned and additional full council, planning, finance and personnel meetings. Our office team has again been incredible not only for managing the agendas, minutes and actions for these meetings; but also for managing the hundreds of additional queries that come through the office each month, and both the regular contractors and additional contractors who we request to carry out specific projects. So an enormous thank you, from all councillors and residents to: Jenny Seaward – our Clerk – for your amazing organisational skills; to Maria French – our assistant Clerk and RFO – for keeping the finances on track and making them so much easier to understand; to Nadine Wilson – our administrative assistant and burials officer – for your careful management of the burial records and your interest in improving Linton for all residents; and to Chris Filby our village custodian – for the hard work (and cheerful chats or waves) while keeping our village tidy. Linton is so lucky to have such a strong team keeping our village running smoothly.

While the usual term of office for a councillor is four years, some join or leave during this time. James Lake and Carl Cieluch stepped down as councillors during the year. Their input to full council meetings, the planning committee, the finance committee and all things traffic related is very much missed – thank you both for your service. We have also welcomed four new councillors who are already making a great contribution to the council – Lee Allen, Rosalie Campbell, Robin Williams and George Leech.

This year has been an election year! At the time of writing, the results of the District and County Council elections are unknown. However, the Parish Council currently has 13 councillors who have been elected to the role unopposed (including our four new councillors). They will serve a term of four years endeavouring to make decisions on behalf of all parishioners. We still have two vacancies on the council, so please do come along and see what our meetings involve if you are interested in serving the community in this way. Our meetings are open to the public and press and we welcome your interaction. As we are unable to debate motions and take decisions on items that are not on an agenda, please do reach out to the office in writing if there is a topic you believe needs addressing.

You may have noticed an annual Environment & Biodiversity Report in the packs this year. The Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has been launched covering the whole of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. It is a strategy for the next three to ten years covering air quality, biodiversity, water and waste. It also sets out areas and species that will receive targeted government support, but is aimed to inspire action rather than dictate what can or can't be done. Under the 2021 Environment Act, parish councils must have regard to the LNRS which means that its plans and policies must be incorporated into our own documents and plans. Linton is lucky to have some very active environmental groups with a growing number of volunteers. The award winning Linton FROGs have arranged many successful events supporting our chalk stream and the biodiversity that lives in and around it. Without repeating the separate report, these events range from river fly sampling to bat walks, moth and mammal trapping to litter picks, presentations and video screenings. If you haven't attended any yet, I would

encourage you to do so. The FROGs have been complemented this year by the Linton Roots who aim to raise awareness of sustainability and environmental matters locally. They have run a successful repair café, started planting wild flower plugs in various locations around the village, built (and sited) bird boxes and are arranging many more events in the coming year. Both groups are encouraged and supported by the Parish Council, and in return we are encouraged and supported by the work that these volunteers do in helping our village and its biodiversity. Many thanks to Helen Brookes, Kirsten Newble and the many other volunteers who are making a difference in Linton.

Linton's trees provide a home to a rich and diverse range of wildlife and our triennial tree survey was carried out successfully this year to monitor their health and ensure the safety of residents. In addition to being a home to wildlife, our trees capture carbon as they grow, provide us with shade and bring variety and structure to our gardens and the village skyline as a whole. All trees in the conservation area are protected, as are a number of other individual trees around the village. Permission from the trees team at the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Authority must be sought before any work to these trees is carried out.

The allotments on the Horseheath Road site have still not been released to the parish. The enforcement action started at the end of 2023 has still not reached a conclusion. We understand that while the surface water network on the site has now been signed off, there is still work to be done to ensure that water entering the site from the east is managed while working with the contours of the land. We have been advised that a variation of condition planning application is the likely next step from Croudace to both manage the water and subsequently allow the management of the allotments to be handed over to the Parish Council.

Work on our neighbourhood plan has slowed this year as we have tried to grapple with the responses from SCDC to our consultation, as well as to the changing landscape in which the plan will sit. This coming year will see a renewed effort to finalise the neighbourhood plan before the new unitary councils come in to place. It must respond to current issues and local strategies, so work will be done to ensure it aligns with the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan, the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and the aims of the current residents. Please keep an eye open for requests for your input as we take these steps – as it is vitally important that the neighbourhood plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our community.

No chair's report would be complete without mention of traffic issues in the village. Potholes, parking and speeding being the main topics raised. The office continues to report all potholes to the County Council when parishioners raise them with us. We encourage you all to report them directly to the website too (<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/roadworks-and-faults>) Following a meeting with the highways team, we know they are aware of the enormous backlog of work and that the root cause of the problem is that our roads seem to have been in a 'managed state of decay' for far too long. The budget required to fix the roads is estimated at an eye-watering £800,000,000 – while the budget that Cambridgeshire County Council has to fix the roads is less than a tenth of that. To bridge the gap, every individual (based on a population of 934,000) in the County would need to pay an additional £855 per year in tax!

Parking remains an issue in the village, although the double yellow lines have finally been fully installed between Coles Lane and Cambridge Road ... without the single car gap! Our Speedwatch team continues to monitor key routes in the village and we are expecting the 20 mph scheme to be installed during the first week of June. Carl and Juliet Cieluch have stepped back from managing the Speedwatch team and we thank them for all the work involved with organising the sessions and the volunteers from June 2023 until July 2025. Thanks too to Ian Williams who has stepped back into the role of coordinator and getting the sessions running again. If anyone is interested in joining the Speedwatch team, please do reach out via the office team.

As with every year, there are so many other topics that we cover during our meetings that are reported in our meeting minutes and reported in the parish matters that I haven't had time to cover! I will finish again with a reminder that it is our role as councillors to reflect the views of all parishioners and to take decisions as your representatives at Council meetings. If you have any suggestions for how we could increase our interactions with all demographics in the village, we would love to hear from you. Again, as a reminder, we have two councillor vacancies for co-option – so if you are interested, please send an email to the parish office or have a chat with a councillor you know to find out more.

Cllr Kate Kell

Cricket Club update



Linton Village Cricket Club (LVCC) has recently started the season for 2026. Match fixtures are played at the recreation ground on Saturdays throughout the summer. National Village Cup matches, which LVCC are competing in for the first time this year, will be played on Sundays.

LVCC is supported by Linton Parish Council with financial grants for 2026-2027. LVCC has been awarded just under £2,000 to cover the cost of new sports equipment, and essential tools for pitch maintenance. Linton Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank the LVCC Grounds Maintenance Team who prepare and maintain the pitch to an extremely high standard, as one of the ground's maintenance contracts awarded for a three-year period by the Parish Council in 2024.

Spectators are always welcome to watch the match and enjoy hospitality in the Sports & Social Pavilion at the recreation ground. LVCC will be opening the pavilion Bar from the start of June through to the end of August with profits from refreshment sales during these months being re-invested in the club. Everyone is welcome – come along and support the teams!

The Dog & Duck Public House sponsors the LVCC teams, after the pavilion closes the team can often be found at the Dog & Duck; why not join the players for a drink or two and for the all-important post-match analysis!

If you are interested in playing or assisting behind the scenes, please contact LVCC via their Facebook page here: Linton Village Cricket Club or via the Play-Cricket.com website here: <https://lintonvillage.play-cricket.com/home>.

Clerk - Linton Parish Council

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Parish Council minutes



Parish Council matters is written, edited and published by the Parish Council with the support of the Linton News Team

ABBREVIATED draft minutes of the Linton Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 16th April 2026 at the Cathodeon Centre.

Chairman's comment

The Chairman raised serious concerns regarding the increase in abuse by parishioners being directed towards councillors and the office team verbally, via social media, and more recently via email. The chairman stated this behaviour is unacceptable and will not be tolerated, adding that the matter will be monitored, highlighted, and addressed in line with the civility and respect pledge.

External and internal meetings

Report of the meeting with Cambridge County Council (CCC) Highways held on 16th March.

Written report available on the Parish Council website. Information following the Cambridge Growth Company Consultation webinar held on 17th March and 24th March. Written report available on the Parish Council website.

Report of the meeting of the Charles & Mary Anderson Trust. Written report available on the Parish Council website.

Report of the meeting of the seniors working group with Age UK on 2nd April. Written report available on the Parish Council website.

Update following the meeting to discuss youth support in Linton on 2nd April. Written report available on the Parish Council website.

Report following the meeting held by the environment working group with Linton FROGs and Linton Roots on 14th April. Written report available on the Parish Council website.

District and County Councillors report for April 2026. Written report available on the Parish Council website. In addition to the written report the following information was shared at the meeting.

Cllr Henry Batchelor added:

Local Government reorganisation – It was advised that the original criteria may change in relation to division of districts, as had been witnessed in areas further along the process than Cambridgeshire. Final decisions are expected by the end of 2026 with 2028 set as the first year of a new unitary authority.

Grange Farm development – SCDC IS in the process of reviewing comments from the public consultation with the intention of further meetings with local communities as the plans develop. CC Henry Batchelor to advise of any meetings to enable members of Linton Parish Council to attend.

Forest City proposal – The Local Planning Authority (LPA) is not minded that the scale of development is feasible. LPA to hold a briefing to update local communities on the proposal. CC Henry Batchelor to advise of any meetings to enable members of Linton Parish Council to attend.

District Councillor John Batchelor added:

The outline planning application for Horseheath Road to go to a delegation committee week commencing 20th April to determine whether the application will go to the planning committee or be delegated to the case officer.

Cllr Hine raised a question in relation to the local government reorganisation and asked what effect this would have on the Grange Farm development and the local plan.

CC Henry Batchelor advised the changes would not be likely to affect the local plan as objections would be raised by the local authority.

Cllr Kell asked about the various options and the effects on the local plan.

CC Henry Batchelor advised that local plans would be merged.

Cllr Kell raised a question regarding the village boundaries of Linton as these had been changed on the local plan to include the relatively new developments on Bartlow Road and Horseheath Road, stressing the need to re-instate the original boundary to preserve the boundary in relation to future development.

Cllr Henry Batchelor advised he would raise the matter on behalf of Linton Parish Council.

Finance

Notification of the payment of office rent to Linton Village Hall at £9,229.50 For information. Noted.

Quotes and contracts

Notification of the fire alarm, emergency lighting and firefighting equipment checks to be completed on 23rd April as a H&S requirement.

Notification of the fire risk assessment scheduled to take place on 7th May to be completed as a H&S requirement.

Consideration of the quotation received from Ian Lorman to conduct a trees ID session for Linton and to include a budget for hospitality. Decision required.

Cllr Sanderson proposed a maximum budget of £200 be delegated to the Clerk to arrange the event. Cllr Gardener seconded. All agreed.

Consideration of the alteration to the relevant contracts following the removal of the leylandii hedges at the MUGA. Supporting documents available in councillor packs. Decision required.

The Clerk advised that the affected contractors had been approached to carry out work at Paynes Meadow as substitution for the work at the MUGA and requested that members take a formal decision to allow the matter to progress for the final year of the grounds maintenance contracts. Cllr Hine proposed the changes be implemented to the end of the current contracts (March 2027). Cllr Singh seconded. All agreed.

Grants and funding

Invitation to apply for grant funding from the Hundred Parishes Society in relation to the restoration of the gate in St Mary's Churchyard. Decision required.

The Clerk advised a quotation was pending in relation to rebuilding the gate and requested that a formal decision in relation to the grant application be considered to meet the deadline to apply.

Cllr Sanderson proposed that a grant to a maximum of £3,000 be applied for towards the proposed restoration/rebuilding of the historically significant gate. Cllr Gardner seconded. All agreed.

Compliance and risk

Risk

Request for an initial budget for the works to perform the required checks and any associated work in relation to the management of memorials risk assessment in the Linton cemetery. Decision required.

Cllr Gardner proposed an initial budget of £600 be approved. Cllr Smith seconded. All agreed.

Traffic and highways

MSID YTD reports. Written report available on the Parish Council website.

Open spaces and environment

Paynes Meadow

Review of the cost of provision, installation and ongoing collection charges for a litter bin at Paynes Meadow. Supporting documents available in councillor packs. Correspondence item 42, 57 and 81 refer. Decision required.

Cllr Singh proposed the bin be purchased from and installed by SCDC at the quoted cost of £417.74.

Cllr Campbell seconded. All agreed.

The recreation ground

Recommendation from the environment working group in relation to a re-planting scheme at the MUGA. Verbal update from the environment working group. Decision required.

No decision was taken on this item.

It was requested the office seek quotations for raised beds for the perimeter of the MUGA and that council approach the Beacon Youth Trust at the quarterly review meeting scheduled to take place on 20th April, to seek involvement with the young people who attend the organisation.

Consideration of the provision of facilities on the recreation ground during the summer holidays and a budget to be delegated to the Clerk to arrange. Decision required.

Cllr Williams offered to open the facilities during the summer holidays on weekdays between the hours of 11am to 4pm on behalf of Linton Parish Council.

Cllr Sanderson requested that all councillors support Cllr Williams with the opening of the pavilion for parishioners. The Clerk offered to create a schedule to enable support to be arranged.

Cllr Gardner proposed the voluntary offer be accepted with further discussion on provision with the office. Cllr Campbell seconded. All agreed.

Community buildings

The pavilion

Approval of the revised terms and conditions of hire for the pavilion amended to include the provision of parking at Linton Village College. Supporting documents in councillor packs. Decision required.

Cllr Smith proposed the revised terms and conditions be approved with the amendment. Cllr Singh seconded. Agreed with two abstentions.

Consideration of the advice and quotation received in relation to the extraction system in the pavilion kitchen. Decision required.

Cllr Gardner proposed the quotation, option B, at a total cost of £1600 be approved. Cllr Sanderson seconded. Agreed with two abstentions.

The Cathodeon Centre

Consideration of the proposal to install parking buffers parallel to the wall in the Cathodeon Centre. Decision required.

Cllr Gardner was asked to present the previously proposed changes to the Cathodeon Centre car park to the Cathodeon Centre Trust to negate the risk of further damage to the wall and improve provision for disabled parking.

Meeting dates

The annual Parish Council meeting will be held on 21st May at the Cathodeon Centre at 7.30pm to which all Councillors are summoned. For information. Noted.

Matters for future consideration

Cllr Smith and Cllr Gardner raised the request for a review of the Parish Council estates be arranged. The Clerk was requested to arrange a community buildings working group meeting.

Clerk

Full minutes and written reports are available on the Linton Parish Council website.

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