

Jazz, Gospel and a wonderful time had by all

LINTON Free Church was rocking on the evening of Saturday 13 January. A fabulous evening of Jazz, Gospel singing and even some dancing was hugely enjoyed by the 150 people who turned out. It also raised over £1000 for the Beacon Youth Trust, the provider of youth work in the village. The jazz band 440 Jazz entertained everyone with a great repertoire that had everyone tapping their feet. Their generosity enabled the evening to be a fund-raiser for Beacon Youth Trust. Lead Youth Worker, Cynthia Mukoko, then mesmerised all those present with some phenomenal Gospel singing. This was church, but not as many would have recognised it! As people reluctantly filed away at the end of the evening, all the talk was "When will the next event be?" We'll have to see, but for sure there will be a next event. Make sure you are there next time if you missed out on this wonderful evening. And if you were there, well we know you'll be there next time.

Steve Munday, Chair of Trustees, The Beacon Youth Trust



Cynthia and the band in full swing



Linton Community Quilt

CREATING squares for Linton's first community wall-hanging is in full swing. For the first time in Linton's modern history the people who live, work and study here are coming together to create a series of wall-hangings that depict life in our village in the 21st century. Working on a 25cm square of calico, embroiderers, knitters, quilters, painters and those who crochet and sew are creating their favourite images of Linton.

Every generation is represented working both individually and in groups to complete squares. The youngest participants are the 5 and 6 year olds from Rainbows! We invite you or your organisation to use your creative talents to make your individual contribution to our village project. All materials are provided and teaching and support are readily at hand. Monthly workshops are taking place at the Chalklands Community Hall or Carol's home on the following dates:

Thursday 18th January, 2.00-3.30

Wednesday 14th February, 7.00-8.30

Thursday 7th March, 2.00-3.30

Monday 25th March, 7.00-8.30

Contact Carol on 07721 761 550 or email lintoncommunityquilt@gmail.com

Let's Run Girls: Linton's Welcoming Women's Running Group

ESTABLISHED last August, Linton *Let's Run Girls* is a free women's running group that has not only transformed fitness routines but has become a point of connection and camaraderie. The group's relaxed and encouraging atmosphere makes it a welcoming space for runners of diverse ability, and participants have praised the group for its inclusive approach. Fiona, a regular attendee, shared, *I joined in the winter and the group certainly helps me to get out of the door when it's cold and dark, and I always feel so much better for going.*

Sian, who joined the group after a hiatus from running, commented, *It was a brilliant way to get my motivation back as well as meeting new friends. All of the run leaders and runners are friendly and supportive. There is a good mixture of experienced and new runners, so all paces are catered for.* Let's Run Girls welcomes new members every Wednesday at Linton Village College, at 7pm. Sessions are free, and easy to book online. See www.letsrungirls.com/linton for more information, or email lintonlrg@gmail.com.



Linton Fireworks raised over £10,000

THE Linton Fireworks Committee have handed out the profits from the 2023 display – over £10,000 to the four local schools, Linton Scouts and The Beacon Youth Trust! The majority of the money was for the local schools, with £2,400 each given to Linton Village College, The Granta School, Linton Heights Junior School, and Linton CE Infants school. The donation was greatly appreciated by all the schools. James Puxley, Headteacher of Linton Heights, said, *A huge thank you to The Linton Fireworks Committee for their hard work and incredibly generous donation. In times of economic pressure this huge amount of money will go a long way in providing pupils with necessary educational resources.* Helena Marsh, Principal of Linton Village College, said, *We are very grateful for the funds received from the Linton Fireworks display. This money will help to enrich the learning environment at the College by improving social spaces and adding water fountains, as requested by our student Senate.* The remaining profit, £250 each, was given to 1st Linton Scouts and The Beacon Youth Trust as a thank you for all their support on the day. If you'd like to help out this year, there will be an open evening in February advertised on the Linton Fireworks Facebook page. Come on down if you want to find out more and to see a short behind the scenes film!

Linton Fireworks Committee



Cheques being presented to our local schools

Friends of St. Mary's Quiz

THE Friends of St. Mary's are reviving their popular Quiz Night on Saturday, 10th February, after a lengthy break. The renowned David Watts will be the quizmaster and there will be prizes for the winning team. This should be an enjoyable evening and give everyone a chance to see the new lighting in the Church after dark. Baked potatoes with a variety of toppings and salad will be served during the evening. Please bring your own drinks and glasses. Teams can be up to six people. To book tickets (£10 per person) please phone 01223 892160 or contact info@friendsofstmaryslinton.org.uk

The Friends of St. Mary's, Linton was set up in the 1980s to help fund the care of the Church building and its contents. St. Mary's, like every other parish church in the country, receives no funding from national or local government, or from the Diocese of Ely, so the upkeep and repair of the building has to be funded locally. The Friends have recently funded over £80,000 of work on new lighting and re-decoration. New members and donations are always welcome.

www.friendsofstmaryslinton.org.uk

Hello to David

THIS month David takes over the reins of the Linton News. David has lived in Linton since retiring as a schoolteacher.

Many of you will know him from St Mary's Linton, or from Art groups, or as the person walking the large, elderly, fluffy dog. He writes: 'The role of media has changed over the years and whilst digital media like Facebook has its uses, there is nothing to replace a village paper as a record of the life of a community. To the ex-Lintonians scattered about the country and world, nothing gives a better sense of the place they once lived in.

That's why it is important to keep such a record alive, as a living and vital record of our life. To record our successes, the things we take pride in, and even our losses, the things that so often draw us closer to one another. That's why it is a privilege to be the Editor. I am grateful for all the work Jack has done as editor, leading the Linton News team through such difficult times. If I can do as well over the next three years I will feel it has been a job well done.

Linton News Team



David and Freya

Advanced Notice

Concert at St. Mary's Saturday 23rd March at 7.30pm

New Cambridge Singers perform *Chorale: a celebration of melody*

For tickets: events@stmaryslinton.org.uk

Readers Write

Dear Editor,

Joyce Roberts, wife of the late Gilbert Roberts, and family wish to thank everyone who attended and helped with Gilbert's service at Cam Valley in December, and also those who sent them flowers, cards, and messages of sympathy following Gilbert's passing. Your support at this difficult and sad time has been very much appreciated.

Dear Editor

On behalf of my family I would like to thank everyone for their kind messages following the death of my mother, Joy Button. The final 18 months of her life were spent at Symonds House where she received superb care and we especially thank all the staff and volunteers - the village is very lucky to have such a wonderful care home. A Thanksgiving Service for Mum will be held at St Mary's at 12.30 on 4th April - we welcome all friends to that service and please wear colours, no black, as requested by Mum.

Judy Taylor

Dear Editor,

I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge 'Thank You' to the lady and gentleman who came to my rescue when I fell in the car park just before Christmas. Whilst the lady went up to the surgery for help, the gentleman stayed with me, giving me reassurance and care. The episode resulted in four stitches in my head, and, amazingly, no further problems. Thank you so very much.

Name and address supplied

News from St Mary's: Keeping Lent in Linton

THE ancient season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 14th February, and you're most welcome to join us at St Mary's at 7.30pm for a gentle, reflective service of Holy Communion to begin the journey. Our next time of reflection and stillness by candlelight - The Well - is on Sunday, 11th February, 6pm-7pm. All are welcome.

Solidarity with Ukraine

ON Saturday, 24th February it will be the second anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

You are most welcome to join other Lintonians and Ukrainian friends that day in a vigil and service of solidarity with the people of Ukraine at St Mary's, Linton, 6pm. Informal, with music and lighting of candles, this event is open to everyone and an opportunity to reaffirm our support for Ukraine at a very difficult and dangerous time. More info from Revd Paul on rector@stmaryslinton.org.uk or 01223 455098. Thank you.



St. Mary's Linton

Linton IT Club restarting

FOLLOWING a break due to the pandemic, Linton IT Club will be restarting in the village. The group was formed in 2000 by the late Derek Birch to help those in and around the village with computer related problems. This expanded to all things digital as technology evolved. One major change is that the group will meet on Wednesday evenings and not Tuesdays; the time has also changed, and will now be from 5 to 7pm. The venue is again Linton Library computer room but now, as the library will be open, access will be through the front door and not around the rear of the building. We can't claim to fix all hardware problems, but will do our best with software difficulties and advise where to get further assistance if we cannot help. So to recap, every Wednesday from February 7th, Linton Library, 5 to 7pm.

Mike Crofts and George Brooke
893619

THE LINTON NEWS

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Call 893619 for an audio version of the paper

February bin collection dates

Black: Wednesdays 14th, 28th

Blue: Wednesdays 7th, 21st

Green: Wednesday 7th

Village Diary

A round up of dates from this edition

For entries, email: diary.linton.news@gmail.com

FEB		
Sat 3	Jigsaw Challenge, 10.45am	St Mary's Church
Wed 7	IT Club, 5 - 7 pm	Linton Library
Wed 7	Lets Run Girls, 7pm	Linton Village College
Sat 10	Friends Quiz Night, 7.00pm	St Mary's Church
Sun 11	The Well, 6 - 7pm	St Mary's Church
Mon 12	W.Wickham Historical Society, 7pm	W. Wickham Village Hall
Tue 13	Scrabble Club, 10am - 12pm	St Mary's Pavilion
Tue 13	Camsight Meeting, 2pm	Chalklands Comm. Centre
Tue 13	Gardening Club, 7.30pm	Village Hall
Wed 14	IT Club, 5 - 7 pm	Linton Library
Wed 14	Quilt Workshop, 7 - 8.30pm	Chalklands Comm. Centre
Wed 14	Lets Run Girls, 7pm	Linton Village College
Wed 14	Ash Wednesday Eucharist, 7.30	St Mary's Church
Thu 15	ACE, 12.30pm	Rec. Pavilion
Thu 15	Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm	Cathodean Centre
Tue 20	Linton Historical Society, 7.30pm	Village Hall
Wed 21	IT Club, 5 - 7 pm	Linton Library
Wed 21	Lets Run Girls, 7pm	Linton Village College
Sat 24	Vigil for Ukraine, 6pm	St Mary's Church
Sun 25	Free seedlings, 2 - 4pm	14 High Street
Tue 27	Scrabble Club, 10am - 12pm	St Mary's Pavilion
Wed 28	IT Club, 5 - 7 pm	Linton Library
Wed 28	Lets Run Girls, 7pm	Linton Village College
MARCH		
Thur 7	Community Quilt Workshop, 2 - 3pm	Chalklands Comm. Centre

Lent Lunches in Linton 2024

ONCE again, St Mary's Linton are arranging Lent Lunches. Attendees are invited to make donations this year to Water Aid. All are welcome at the lunches. There will be 4 lunches of homemade soup plus bread and cheese on Wednesdays in Lent 12.30-2.30pm. Water Aid's vision "is of a world where everyone, everywhere has safe and sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene." Please Gift Aid your donation if you are able to do so. No booking needed for the lunch, just come along.

Anne Parry-Smith
anne@stmaryslinton.org.uk

Tel: 894715

21 February	Judy & Keith Nightingale	11 Mill Lane
28 February	Jo George	89 High Street
6 March	Margaret and Brian Cox	Richmonds, 65 High Street
13 March	No Lent Lunch	
20 March	Celia & George Fisher	37 Back Road

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Linton Garden Club

AT the January meeting of the Linton Gardening Club, the Head Gardener of Madingley Hall, Richard Gant talked about the history of Madingley Hall gardens and estate from its founding to the challenges of the present day. Located about 3 miles west of Cambridge and part of the University of Cambridge, the walled garden and the wider wooded estate are open to the public and well worth a visit at any time of year.

The next meeting of the Gardening Club is on Tuesday the 13th of February at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Coles Lane, Linton. Tom Cole will give a talk on "Fruit & Vegetables - establishment, maintenance & harvesting". Tom is an experienced lecturer in horticultural and related subjects and contributes to various gardening magazines and BBC Radio Essex.

The club welcomes gardeners, growers and allotment holders of all ages and experience to our friendly meetings. Entry is £3 per meeting or annual membership is £15. There will be a raffle, teas, and a "bring-and-buy" table.

In the garden, it's refreshing to see late winter colour from dwarf irises, aconites, hellebores, and snowdrops. There are lovely areas of snowdrops in the church yard and on the riverbank near the Horn Lane footbridge. Swaths of snowdrops can be seen in the grounds and lanes around Fulbourn church. The seed shelves in the garden centres are already full of little packets of promise. Happy gardening!

Jim, Linton Gardening Club.

lgcsecretary@yahoo.co.uk Tel: 01223 893577



Double Hellebore



Witch Hazel



White Crocus



Dewy Snowdrops



Aconites



Watery Winter Reflections

BARTLOW 3 counties CHARITY WALK

THE Bartlow 3 Counties Charity Walk will this year be held on Sunday May 5th.

Once again raising money for 3 deserving local charities.

Tom's Trust - The only UK charity that provides mental health support to children with brain tumours and their families. Started by a local Cambridge family who lost their son Tom to a brain tumour, Tom's Trust supports 3 clinical psychologists at Addenbrooke's Hospital.

Addenbrooke's new Cancer Hospital. Every day 13 people receive a cancer diagnosis at Addenbrooke's Hospital. This new Cancer hospital will unite NHS, academia, and industry in a powerful collaboration that will pioneer new ways to detect cancer earlier, and treat it in a more personalised way.

Bartlow St Mary's Church: a beautiful little church, one of only 2 round tower churches in Cambridgeshire. Made of flint, field stone and clunch, with 15 century wall paintings and grade 1 listed, it is in urgent need of repair.

Wonderful Linton Jazz band will be playing as usual in the farmyard, where there will be food and refreshments after the walks. There are 3 walks to choose from plus a nature trail for all ages, with children's activities too.

We are always on the lookout for stall holders: if that might be you, please get in touch. Prices held once again from last year, tickets on sale on the website nearer the day. www.bartlow3countieswalk.co.uk

Walk co-ordinator Duncan Ogilvy 01223 893644
Submitted by Hetty Findlay

Linton & District Historical Society

OUR January meeting welcomed Emily Matthews from the Dogs' Trust. After a particularly cold day, those attending were welcomed with a hot drink before settling down to hear the story behind the Trust. Emily's presentation accompanied with some lovely videos of how 'life in the dog house' is not a bad place to be!

With dedicated staff helping these dogs to recover from disturbed or unknown backgrounds, also those dogs who were handed over as their owners were no longer able to care for them.

Finally, it was good to see happy dogs handed over to their equally happy new owners. As always, questions and answers made for some interesting stories and observations.

For those with **sporting interests** why not join us for our next meeting on **Tuesday 20th February with Nigel Fenner speaking on 'A student-led revolution out of Cambridge with global impact' thanks to a local tobaccoist, but no thanks to the University starting 7.30pm Linton Village Hall, Coles Lane** (easy parking in the Health Centre car park opposite).

For further details of the LDHS please email ldhscambs@gmail.com or 'phone 01223 893915 or 01223 678835.

West Wickham and District History Club

DETAILS of the next meeting on Monday 12th February: *A Curse upon the Land? Nineteenth Century Enclosure in West Wickham and Changes to the Landscape*. 7.30pm, West Wickham Village Hall. £2 for non-members. All welcome.

Free seedlings for keen Linton gardeners

WOULD you like free seedlings from a local garden, providing a way to garden that is cheap, friendly to the environment and using plants that are known to grow well in our region?

We are offering excess seedlings from our garden, to anyone in the village or nearby who loves gardening to come and collect some for their own use.

We have primroses, autumn-flowering cyclamen, foxgloves, campanulas, scabious, lady's mantle, rose campion and Lenten roses for February. Some may flower this year, others will take longer and, with seedlings, there is always uncertainty about exactly what will show up!



When: last Sunday of the month between 2pm-4pm, starting 25th February.

Where: 14 High Street, Linton, CB21 4HS (opposite the Crown Inn).

How: Please email us in advance at yxseedlings@gmail.com about the plants and the numbers of seedlings you need, and bring your own pots and compost if you can.

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Balsham Singers

BALSHAM Singers enjoyed a most successful concert on the afternoon of 16th December. It was the first time we've held an afternoon performance and it proved to be very popular. We were disappointed we were not able to sell any tickets on the door this year due to successful advance sales and church capacity. We will be reviewing our options before our next concert in May. We were gifted two lovely hampers to raffle and the proceeds, £450, were donated to Arthur Rank Hospice Charity, presented by Sara Szabo and Valerie Hefford to Yoyo Kunzwa, the charity's fundraising officer. The choir welcomes new members. We rehearse on Thursday evening 7.30-9.30 pm in The Pavilion, near the church, in Balsham. No experience is necessary. The ability to read music is helpful but not needed as rehearsal CD's are available. For more information go to our website at www.choirsites/balshamsingers or contact us at balsham_singers@hotmail.co.uk.

Linton Infants

AS I write this, it is cold, the sun is shining and the sky is blue. Snow may still yet come, (it is only the beginning of January after all) and it will not be long until Spring arrives. I have already noticed the days are getting slightly longer.

Following last term when we were showing prospective new parents around our school, our Year 2 children have been visiting Linton Heights Junior School to start the transition process. Time marches on and it is never felt more than in the school environment. The Admissions window for those children due to start with us in September 2024 has now closed and offers of places will be made on 15th April 2024. Please watch out for information regarding our New Parents Meeting in May and opportunities for the children to spend some time in school before September.

You may be aware that we have two members of staff starting their maternity leave. Good luck to Miss Campbell and Mrs Shipton and welcome to Mrs Cianciola who is joining us. We are all looking forward to news of the new arrivals!

I am also delighted to let you know that we are running a Summer Holiday Club for the first three weeks of the summer holidays. This is open to children due to start with us in September up to children who are currently in Year 4. If you are interested in a space, please do contact the school office (01223 891421)

Student Senate at LVC

AT Linton Village College we are lucky to have a Student Senate that actively contributes to the running of the school.

I am involved in the Senate and, along with Will and Lilian, LVC's Head Students, House Captains and Prefects, I meet regularly and work alongside the College's staff House Leads and Ms Price, Inclusion Lead. LVC has four houses: Voyager, Endeavour, Pioneer and Discovery.

We meet once every two weeks to discuss up-and-coming events and how we can contribute to the school and the wider Linton community. The Senate helps to organise and run regular competitive House Events with input from House Leads. It is also a valuable opportunity for us to voice our opinions and suggestions. We hold forums with the wider student body on topics such as catering, behaviour and the curriculum. We have also recently met with our local Member of Parliament, Lucy Frazer.

In terms of charitable endeavours, we have been involved in fundraising and meeting with the Friends of LVC for our annual sponsored walk which raises valuable funds to enrich our educational experiences and learning environment at LVC. Last term, the Senate was also involved in organising charitable events such as our Christmas jumper day raising money for Tom's Trust, the reverse advent collection for Jimmy's in Cambridge and the 'Bearpee Challenge' for Children in Need.

We are looking forward to 2024 and opportunities to raise further money for worthy causes over the coming year.

Rupert Warden-Hill

Deputy Head Student, Linton Village College



Senate and House Captains

Changing perceptions

LAURENCE Wood recounted his NHS 47-year career history as a senior nurse and senior lecturer. He started training at Chelmsford hospital, the only man in his group, with 24 ladies. He worked hard and played hard. There was a consultant surgeon named Spender, so at the Christmas show, they sang *Hey Big Spender*. When he qualified, he worked as a staff nurse for two years in Casualty, Medical and Surgical. He did a course in intensive care at Brighton and passed. He did another course at Addenbrooke's for neurosurgery and was a charge nurse for three years, after which he had to make a decision – management or teaching. He chose teaching at Ipswich full-time as a qualified clinical tutor, gaining a diploma in education at South Bank University. He became a lecturer at Addenbrooke's focusing on neuromedical and neurosurgery. When Laurence retired in 2008, he was determined to go back to hands-on nursing. He got a degree from Anglia Ruskin University and worked for a couple of years at a Sue Ryder home. He worked at the Hope Nursing Home at Brooklands Avenue in Cambridge for five years, dealing mainly with end of life care. When the home closed, he was made redundant for the first time in his life. He played piano at a care home in Ely and generally mucked in. He has always regarded himself as a *mover and shaker*.

Sally Proberts (891021)

Linton Camsight

THIS year we held our Christmas lunch in January, following the success of last year when our Christmas celebration had to be postponed after a heavy fall of snow in December. A lunch of roast turkey, potatoes and vegetables with wine or juice was followed by fruit trifle, tea or coffee and chocolate mints, all of which proved very popular with our members. The lunch was prepared by our volunteers and the meeting ended with our raffle, with prizes donated by members and volunteers.

Our next meeting will be at the usual time of 2pm on Tuesday, 13th February, at the Chalklands Community Centre, when a member of the Cambridge Camsight team will update us on the advisory and practical services available at Camsight, and the variety of events held for members.

If you or anyone you know would like further information, please contact us at the Cambridge office on 01223 420033, or on the number below.

Jean Mannion

The Cambridgeshire charity for people of all ages with sight impairment and blindness



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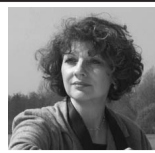
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Country Matters

Text by Oriel O'Loughlin, illustrations by Maureen Williams



Dry stone walls

DRY stone walls are not exactly a feature of Linton, or even East Anglia, but *Country Matters* is allowed occasional license. I was given *A Natural History of Hedgerows, Ditches, Dykes and Dry Stone Walls* (by John Wright, published by Profile Books) for Christmas and got stuck straight in.

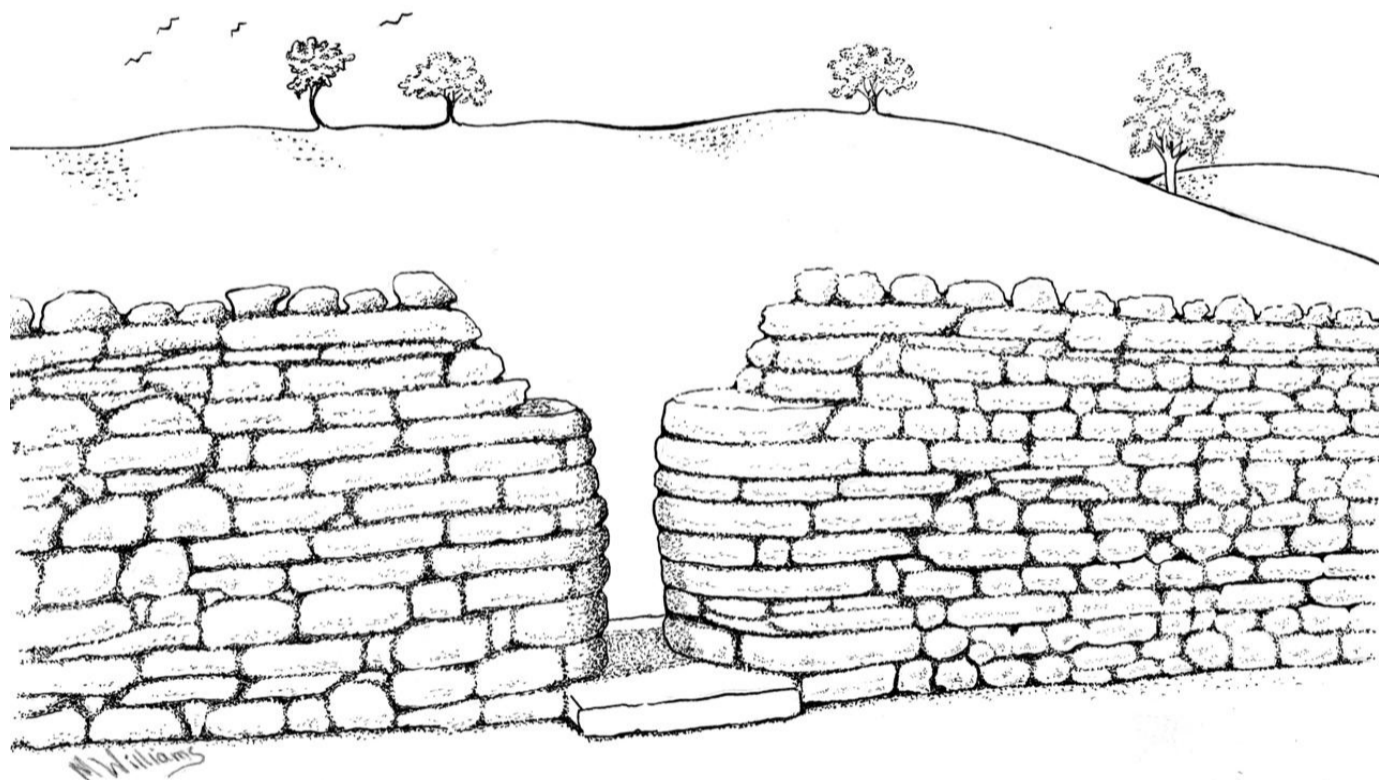
There are apparently 800 different names for DSWs, from the earliest ones found in Ireland dating back to 3800BC. To confuse us flatlanders, in Scotland they are called dykes. They are still the agricultural boundary of choice for the uplands, being such sturdy, beautiful, low maintenance, and wonderfully permanent works of art, in areas where hedges do not thrive.

Originally, walls were made from stones and boulders cleared from fields in preparation for agriculture. The most common stone used is limestone, as it splits easily and is much lighter than granite. The method of construction varies depending on the stone available, its intended use and local tradition. It is an extremely slow process, with every stone examined, chosen and positioned with care. The simplest type is a single wall, a sort of random rubble, the best of a bad job. Much more common is the double wall. This involves two rows of stones along the proposed boundary, the bottom ones being at least 4 inches underground. The two rows of flattish stones diminish in size as the wall rises, with large tie stones, also called through stones,

spanning both sides and enabling the two rows to be connected and leaning towards each other for greatly increased strength. The voids between stones are carefully filled with smaller stones. Many walls are then *capped* with upright thinner stones, with the purpose of preventing the wall from deteriorating from the top down. The capping stones can be vertical, horizontal, or even crenellated with alternate large and small stones. Sometimes the capping stones overhang on one side, apparently making it wolf-proof in former times.

Many walls have holes for badgers to pass, holes large enough for sheep and not cattle, holes for rabbits, and even for beehives. They may include very long through stones to create stiles, and even squeeze stiles to allow humans to pass through. The book included a description of a couple who had undertaken to repair the wall along the Dorset coast path. Progress was glacial – a truly impressive work of dedication. In this case the land was flat – imagine how hard it is to do a decent job when there is a significant slope!

We may not have dry stone walls here in Linton, but we have flint walls. Even more difficult to build and especially to maintain. If you have a young person in the family looking for a career, a fully qualified Master Builder in flint or dry stone walls will be busy forever.



Granta Medical Practices Update

HERE at Granta, we continue to offer a mixture of face to face, telephone and online appointments. I would like to take this opportunity to explain how our appointments system works and what is available to Granta patients.

Firstly, please be reassured that no-one apart from clinicians makes clinical decisions about your care when you first contact us. Our reception teams have clear criteria, set by GPs, covering what can be put straight onto a clinician's urgent list. However, if they or you are unsure, they will take your details and discuss your concerns with the clinical team and then get back to you.

When ringing for an appointment you will be asked if there is a particular clinician you would like to see, either for continuity of your presenting problem or continuity of overall care. It may be that you don't mind who you see – you just need to speak to someone about your current medical problem. Please do help our reception team by providing as much information as possible. All information is treated as confidential and will only be used for triage purposes. They are simply trying to make sure you are seen by the right person, in the right place, at the right time.

If you feel your problem is not urgent, you will be asked if a routine appointment may be more suitable, or perhaps a long term medical conditions appointment, a palliative care appointment, or whether we can help you in any other way.

If your appointment starts with a telephone call then, together with the clinician, it can be decided whether a face to face appointment will be the appropriate next step.

Routine appointments are available a few weeks in advance, all pre-bookable via our reception teams and online. New routine appointments are released daily at 8am and at 2pm to allow for regular availability.

If you ring and there is nothing available, our reception team can send you a link that is valid for seven days (that you can check daily) to pre-book a face to face or telephone appointment, so that you do not need to ring back.

Alternatively, if you would prefer, you could use *Accurx Patient Triage* via our website to have an online consultation with a clinician. We do ask, however, that you only send routine queries as it can take up to 72 hours to respond.

There will always be sickness, annual leave and the perception that clinicians are not seeing patients. However, on average, Granta's doctors and nurses see around 4,000 patients face to face per week, and consult with another 3,500 via the telephone and online. We continue to try and accommodate all of our patients in a way that suits and please be assured that we are continuously reviewing and revising patient access.

Sandra East
Head of Patient Services

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Saturday 24 th	Disco	8pm
Wednesday 28 th	Rock 'n' Roll Bingo	7:30pm

Tuesday - Sunday Happy Kebab Burger van from 6pm

District and County Councillor's Report – January 2024

Solar Farm Application - update

We have previously reported on a potential planning application coming forward in our area for a solar farm. The size of the area being considered is fairly significant, some 900 hectares. If this were to gain planning permission, it would currently make it one of the largest solar farms in Europe. The geographic area being looked at is from the north of Linton/Abington up to Balsham and west, roughly following the route of the Roman Road, across the A11 to the edge of Fulbourn. The promoters of this idea, Kingsway Solar, were due to be going public with their plans on December 14th, but we understand this has been delayed until this month, January.

Stagecoach Updated Timetable

Stagecoach announced some proposed changes to the 13 service back in December, coming into force on March 3rd. On further inspection it only relates to some of the places that the bus will stop at in Haverhill, so won't really affect us in Cambridgeshire. Full detail can be seen at - <https://haverhill-tc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/Stagecoach-East-Haverhill-Network-Overview.pdf>

Uttlesford Local Plan

Some may recall that a few years ago, Uttlesford District Council (our neighbours in north Essex), were proposing a new town of circa 5,000 houses to be built at Great Chesterford. They were told by a government planning inspector that this wasn't sustainable and to think again. They have recently published their next proposal which doesn't include any large-scale developments near to the Cambridgeshire border. So those who were concerned, especially the parishes south of the A1307, can hopefully rest easy!

Budgets

February is always the time when local authorities set their budgets for the forthcoming municipal year. The County Council needs to find around £2m worth of savings whilst maintaining the services they provide. Not an easy task. The District Council is in a much healthier financial position and won't need to make savings this coming year.

Brief A1307 Update

The cones have been removed from the Dean Road junction section of the road, with the new remodelled crossing now finished and operational. The final stages are the completion of the roundabout and associated footpaths. Bartlow Road, Linton is currently scheduled to reopen mid-February, but as with all construction projects, this is subject to weather, etc.

Anaerobic Digestion Plant Proposals

In our area we have not one, but two planning applications submitted to the relevant local authorities for bio energy digestion plants. These are plants that break down agricultural materials and turn them into energy. For reference, there is one on the A505 between Royston and Baldock. The first application is located just over the Suffolk border, outside of Haverhill and off the A1307. The site runs up the Cambridgeshire border and ends at the edge of West Wickham/Weston Colville. You may have seen signs for the anti-lobbying group 'Muck Off Acorn' – this refers to this application. As the application is in Suffolk it will be Suffolk County Council making the decision on, but whilst the time for public comments has closed, you can still look at the plans and write to the case office dealing with the application – andrew.rutter@suffolk.gov.uk

<http://suffolk.planning-register.co.uk/Planning/Display?applicationNumber=SCC%2F0045%2F23SE&fbclid=IwAR0aj4d4JMd9Yr3cP-Etp9rxDR4kKDwvzX0wMyHkfOomG45fCq0khXRbyrE>
The second application is in the parish of Streetly End, West Wickham. This site is smaller than the first and, as it is in Cambridgeshire, will be decided by Cambridgeshire County Council. The council are taking public comments now and this can be done via the website - <https://planning.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=S0BB1JDYKNQ00> The period for public comments on this application closed in early December but you can always contact that planning officer directly, should you want to raise concerns after this time – helen.wass@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Rural Prosperity Fund

There is a new fund, soon to be released by the District Council, called the Rural Prosperity Fund. This is money from the government to aid economic and social activity in rural areas, such as ours. More detail to follow as the Council makes a decision on how to distribute this money, but there is a fairly significant amount available. Watch this space.

LHI Bids

This years round of Local Highway Improvement (LHI) bids are now open for parish councils to submit a proposal for funding for a small highway improvement project in our area. Our parishes have been successful in the past and funding has enabled some small, albeit much needed, improvements to the highway network that wouldn't usually form a part of the Highway budget. Full detail and application forms can be seen here - <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/improving-the-local-highway/local-highway-improvement-funding>

Mobile food hub

There is a mobile food hub that visits Linton Village Hall on Coles Lane every Tuesday between 1pm and 2pm. There is no registration required, just turn up on the day. More information on the scheme can be found on the Hope CIC (the charity running the scheme) website - <https://hopeagainst.org/hope-cic-mobile-food-hub> or on 07474725477.

Contact details

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

Planning Applications

Modification of planning obligations contained in a Section 106 Agreement dated 17 August 2017 made between South Cambridgeshire District Council (1) Cambridgeshire County Council (2), The Master Fellows and Scholars of the College or Hall Valence Mary commonly called Pembroke college in the University of Cambridge (3) and Eileen Mary Barker and Peter William Balaam (4) relating to development of Land to the North and South of Bartlow Road, Linton. Planning Ref: S/1963/15/OL Land To North And South Of And Immediate Linton Cambridgeshire

Ref. No: 24/00278/S106A | Validated: Wed 24 Jan 2024 | Status: Awaiting decision

S19 to vary condition 2 (Approved plans) of listed building consent S/2581/19/LB (Replace windows chimney porch door 2 fireplaces and alter internal layout) for the installation of rooflight and the revision of the position of a door on an approved partition.

12 Symonds Lane Linton Cambridgeshire CB21 4HY Ref. No: 24/00084/S19LB | Validated: Mon 08 Jan 2024 | Status: Awaiting decision

S73 to vary condition 2 (Approved plans) of planning permission S/2580/19/FL (Replace windows chimney porch door 2 fireplaces and alter internal layout. Alter vehicular access and construct garden studio fence and gates) for the installation of rooflight and the revision of the position of a door on an approved partition.

12 Symonds Lane Linton Cambridgeshire CB21 4HY Ref. No: 24/00063/S73 | Validated: Mon 08 Jan 2024 | Status: Awaiting decision

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ACEs, The Mobile Warden and Age Concern UK

AS MANY of you know we have a wonderful little organisation called the ACEs (Activities & Care for the Elderly) in Linton. They organise social events, including lunches, days out etc. It is a registered Charity.

The Parish Council has for many years given a sizable grant to the ACEs, which is then forwarded to Age Concern UK and this contributes to the funding of the Mobile Warden.

Some of you may know our current Mobile Warden, Chrissy Sayer. There are currently 11 people or households that make use of her services.

However, recently, Age Concern have cut down her hours, so now she is only able to make a daily phone call and two fifteen minute home visits, which is supposed to be for running errands e.g. picking up prescriptions. At the moment, anyone using the Mobile Warden service pays £11/week towards the cost.

Therefore we have a problem – if more people don't make use of her service, the hours she is available could be cut even further. This, therefore, calls into question the money the Parish Council is handing over. It should be given to make sure the support is there for Linton residents and if the Mobile Warden is not supporting our residents, the money (your money) is going to support residents elsewhere.

The Parish Council and the ACE's Committee are trying to organise a meeting with Age Concern to discuss this.

The Parish Council would like to request:

1. More people make use of the Mobile Warden service.
2. Anyone using the Mobile Warden service, now or in the past, to let the Parish Council have some feedback as to its merits & usefulness.
3. More people to get involved with the ACEs to ensure it can continue, at least, the social activities.

Please let us know your opinion on this matter.

Cllr Merrie Mannassi

New Councillor: Welcome to Anya

I'M ANYA and I have lived in Linton for 15 years with my three children.

I looked after my disabled son for 20 years and I have so much compassion and understanding that I feel I could help the disabled and elderly in the village.

I started evening classes to learn British sign language (BSL) and have achieved my stage One qualification.

In my spare time I like to support my granddaughter while she plays for the Linton Aztecs Football Club.

I also enjoy crafting, up-cycling and decorating different products for special occasions of the year.

I've helped to support the collection for Ukraine, which I really enjoyed because everyone comes together and Linton has a really good community spirit.

I'm also known as the Halloween lady by the some of the children in the village because of my Halloween displays every year. I enjoy helping others which is why I decided to become part of the Parish Council.

Cllr Anya Sparks

Let's talk! Who knows what we could achieve

MANY GOOD things can happen following a sincere conversation; a shared understanding, a point of connection or even a problem shared is a problem halved.

So what would happen if, as a village, we started having better conversations? Between families, between friends, between different age groups, between organisations?

Just think what we could make happen.

We invite you to be a greater part of the decision making process in the village. If there is something you feel strongly about, I know - parking - we hear you. Come along to a PC meeting, share your piece and join in. We're regularly talking to SCDC and Cambs Constabulary but sometimes it's like talking to the wall. Your voice, your personal email about the situation would show that, as a village, you care.

How about the anti-social behaviour of a tiny minority that is beginning to have an impact on many villagers? Our lost children. How can we help? How can we turn this around? The simplest thing is for it to stop. Please know these incidences are reported and given a crime number. These numbers are mounting up. If you see it, report it. If you know someone involved, have a conversation to change a life.

How about a conversation about LPC plans for the Recreation Ground? The Multi Use Games Area - free for the whole village to use, preferably not at the same time, but you know what I mean. It will be good to see how that develops. The lights are planned and we are securing the funding for them. But what else would you like to see? We have plans for an outdoor gym.....Interested? Come along to the PC when it's on the agenda, join the working group.

To our lovely young people, are we providing a youth club you enjoy? How could we be better? What would you like to see or be part of? What would encourage more of you to come along? Let us know. Message us or send an email or come to a meeting. A nine year old came and talked to us about goal posts and goal posts were purchased! It started with a conversation.

We are living in tumultuous times, wouldn't it be refreshing if village life could be different? I don't see why not, we just need to talk.

Cllr. Helen Lawrence-Foulds

Planning & Meeting Update December 2023

A1307 Bartlow Road Roundabout

The Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) has let us know that they made very good progress through 2023 on the construction of the roundabout. This means that there should be no need for any further complete closures of the A1307.

The remaining work includes finishing the connection of Bartlow Road (Linton) to the roundabout, re-surfacing Bartlow Road (which may be happening or even completed as you read this), landscaping works, any defect corrections and the removal of the construction compound.

The roundabout should then be fully open. It will be interesting to see how (or if) traffic through the village changes once this happens, especially the high volumes of vehicles currently experienced on Horseheath Road.

Horseheath Lodge

Anyone driving towards Haverhill on the A1307 will probably have noticed a number of the large trees have been removed on land owned by Horseheath Lodge. Many of these were in a dangerous condition.

There are plans in place to plant 6,000 new trees as part of a larger programme of environmentally friendly development on the site.

The aim for the Estate is to grow tree crops (e.g. willows), provide educational opportunities (particularly for the young) of the connection between food and the land, to provide small units for rural/artisan crafts and to provide a small meeting place or café.

Planning applications to meet these aims are anticipated in due course with the first expected to be for the provision of an alternative vehicle access from the Dean Road.

Footpath Safety Survey

In December we walked the village with a representative of Cambridgeshire County Council, reviewing footpaths that had been reported to both us and CCC through their official system.

At the time of writing, we are still awaiting the formal report including the agreed actions. Some issues that had been reported to us in detail were immediately obvious: the footpath at the bottom of Chalklands is an example of this where it was clear that pushchairs or wheelchairs would not be able to use the path as intended due to the broken surface, bumps and camber.

For other footpaths it was rather more difficult to identify the particular issue as the complaint to us was very generic.

Footpaths are typically the responsibility of CCC Highways (there are a few exceptions including pathways on unadopted roads) and any safety issues should be reported through their reporting tool in the first instance

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/roadworks-and-faults>

If you also report the issue to the Parish Office, please provide as much detail as possible about the location (including house numbers/names that the problem is near) and pictures if at all possible.

Cllr Kate Kell



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ABBREVIATED minutes of the Linton Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 7th December 2023 at the Cathodeon Centre.

Acceptance of Apologies for Absence.

The Clerk gave valid apologies from Cllr Brian Cox. No apologies received from Cllr Paul Poulter. Cllr Simon Hill proposed the apologies be accepted. Cllr Helen Lawrence-Foulds seconded. **All Agreed.**

Councillor Vacancies.

Consideration for a parishioner to become a member of the Linton Parish Council. **Decision required.**

The Parishioner gave an overview of their reasons for applying to join the Parish Council and ways in which they felt a positive contribution could be made. Cllr Lee Gardner proposed that Anthony Smith be co-opted to the Linton Parish Council. Cllr Karen Sanderson seconded. **All Agreed.**

To approve the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 16th November 2023. Cllr Kate Kell proposed the minutes be approved. Cllr Helen Lawrence-Foulds seconded. 8 in favour with two abstentions. **Agreed.**

Matters Arising/Clerks Report.

Cllr Chris Hine raised that the hedge at the top of Lonsdale had been attended to just prior to the meeting. Cllr Chris Hine also advised the Parish Council that Gigaclear FFTP had been activated in Lonsdale and it was assumed that the activation would continue throughout the village.

Update on the request to CCC Winter Maintenance Team to provide Grit Bins at the two agreed locations in the village. The Clerk advised that despite best efforts, no update had been given on the date of installation of the additional grit bins. The Clerk was requested to report that existing bins require filling prior to adverse weather conditions to CCC Winter Maintenance team.

Update on the ownership of Coles Lane Car Park and permissions required to re-instate the right of way access for 83 High Street. **Decision Required.**

Cllr Chris Hine proposed that in the absence of clarification from SCDC, the Parish Council arrange to temporarily re-instate the right of way access at the rear of 83 High Street. Cllr Helen Lawrence-Foulds seconded. **All Agreed.** Notification of the order submitted to SCDC for Six Free Trees on 24.11.2023, (two Hawthorn and four Rowan), locations to be confirmed with the Tree Warden on receipt. **For Information.**

Consideration of the District and County Councillors Report for December 2023.

Cllr Helen Lawrence-Foulds asked County Cllr Henry Batchelor if a public meeting would be held in relation to the Kingsway Solar Farm. Cllr Batchelor advised that it was expected that engagement with the public would be forthcoming. Cllr Merrie Mannassi queried the update to LED on the CCC streetlights. County Cllr Batchelor advised that this would be for new low energy efficient bulbs only and that disruption should be minimal.

Cllr Merrie Mannassi queried the complaints procedure for SCDC, especially in relation to Enforcement. County Cllr Batchelor offered to investigate and advise on the best direction to take for raising complaints. Cllr Carl Cieluch queried how many villages would be included in the Civil Enforcement scheme and how often CEO would be in attendance in Linton. County Cllr Henry Batchelor advised that in his opinion focus would be on larger villages with acute parking issues. District Cllr John Batchelor advised that a Christmas Holiday Scheme had been put in place by SCDC and shared details with the Clerk to be promoted on notice boards and on social media.

External Meetings

Update on the Civil Enforcement webinar held on Tuesday 7th November 2023. Written report available. **For information. Noted.**

Update on the Making the Planning System work for Local Councils meeting. Verbal update from Cllr Sanderson. Written report available. **For information. Noted.**

Planning

Consideration of the minutes from the Planning Meeting held on 16th November 2023. For information. Noted.

Bartlow Road

Update on the Bartlow Road development site. Cllr Kate Kell advised that no further update was available and that the office were chasing outstanding enforcement issues. Consideration for the revised locations of the ten cycle stands in relation to the S106 from Abbey Developments following new information received. **Open discussion and Decision required.**

The clerk confirmed that the PCC of St Mary's Church, Linton had declined the offer of the installation of cycle stands in the Churchyard at this time, and therefore revised locations were required. Cllr Karen Sanderson proposed that the ten cycle stands be installed as three on the High Street, three at the Cemetery and four on the Recreation Ground and that all stands must be black. Cllr Helen Lawrence-Foulds seconded. **All Agreed.**

Horseheath Road.

Update on the land south of Wheatsheaf Barn, Horseheath Road development site.

Cllr Kate Kell advised that no further update could be given since the expiry of the breach of condition notice. Further information is expected from the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) in due course.

Horseheath Lodge.

Cllrs Merrie Mannassi & Helen Lawrence-Foulds attended the meeting held on Thursday 7th December 2023 at Horseheath Lodge. Cllr Mannassi to provide a written report. Cllr Lawrence-Foulds gave an update to the Parish Council that there is a coherent plan for development of an outdoor learning space, retail units and opportunities for local start-ups with parking available for 40 cars. Access to the site will be situated on the Dean Road. Cllrs advised the Horseheath Lodge about the proposed Anaerobic Digestion site which it was felt may have a detrimental effect on the location. The Clerk queried the removal of trees at Horseheath Lodge adjacent to the A1307. It was explained that this was due to necessary health of the copse and that planning is in place to plant new trees on the land.

Finance, Risk and Compliance (FR&C)

Consideration of the approved minutes from the FRCC Meeting held on 26th October 2023. For information. Noted.

Contracts & Quotes

Consideration for the recommendation from the FR&C Committee in relation to the quotation received from CW Fencing for hydraulic closing mechanism for the gates at the MUGA. **Decision required.**

Cllr Chris Hine proposed to decline the quote. Cllr Lee Gardener seconded. **All Agreed.**

Budgets & Precept 2024-2025

Consideration for the Final Confirmation of the budget and the precept request from LPC for the financial year 2024-2025 and authorisation for the RFO to submit to SCDC. **Decision required.**

Cllr Kate Kell gave an update to the Parish Council that, following new information regarding the S106 funding and match funding considerations in relation to the grant

applications, further discussion would be required prior to the final confirmation of the precept request for the financial year 2024-2025. The deadline for the precept request to be submitted to SCDC is 31st January 2024. It was requested that a Budget Working Group meeting be held in early January, to which all councillors be invited and a revision of the budget be presented to the Full Council meeting scheduled to be held on Thursday 18th January 2024.

Payments for authorisation

Consideration for the Pension calculations from LGSP and authorisation for the RFO to complete the back-payment. **Decision required.** The Clerk confirmed the calculations provided by LGSS Pensions to be correct.

Cllr Helen Lawrence-Foulds proposed that the backdated ER contribution of £6194.52 and EE contribution of £1385.14, total £7579.66 be paid. Cllr K. Sanderson seconded. **Agreed.**

Traffic & Highways

Mobile Speed Indicator Device (MSID)

Notification of the data captured from the Mobile Speed Indicator Device (MSID) between 03.11.2023-17.11.2023. Written report available. **For information. Noted.**

Highways

Consideration of the quotes received to conduct a speed survey for fourteen days on Hadstock Road in relation to the traffic calming measures installed (LHI Bid 2019/20), and proposal of dates if agreed. **Decision required.** Cllr Chris Hine proposed that the quote from Intelligent Data be accepted, and the speed survey be arranged for a fourteen-day period at The Grip. Cllr Carl Cieluch seconded. **All Agreed.**

Notification of the response to comments & revisions on the 20mph scheme received from CCC. **For Information. Noted.**

Recreation Ground

Update on the anti-social behaviour issues at the Recreation Ground including information on the recent vandalism at the MUGA. Verbal update from Cllrs Lawrence-Foulds & Sanderson. **For Information. Noted.**

Cllr Helen Lawrence-Foulds advised that discussions continue with LVC, and assemblies would be planned in due course. Further updates to be provided at future meetings.

Open Spaces

Glebe Land

Cllr Helen Lawrence-Foulds proposed that the Parish Council give notice to the new owner of the Glebe Land to end the tenancy, giving three months' notice as required by the terms of the lease. Cllr Lee Gardner seconded. **All Agreed.**

Youth

Consideration of the monthly report for November 2023 from the Beacon Youth Trust. Written report available on the councillor portal of the website and in the meeting. **For information. Noted.**

Full Minutes are available on the Parish Council website. **Clerk**

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