

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN  
LUPPITT VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY, 3 MAY 2022, AT 7 PM**

Present: Parish Councillors John Thorne (in the chair), Michele Turner, Brian Pulman, Martin Summers, Rosalind Buxton (clerk) and 4 members of the public

**1 Welcome and Apologies**

John Thorne welcomed everyone to the 2022 Annual Parish Meeting for Luppitt. Apologies were received from Parish Councillors Christine Ryder, Beth Hooper and Andrew Tucker, David Key and Colin Brown (East Devon District Council) and Mrs Pat Bussey

**2 Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 10 April 2019**

It was proposed by Brian Pulman, seconded by Barry Hooper and carried unanimously that the Minutes of the meeting held in the Village Hall on Tuesday, 10 April 2019, were signed as a correct record of that meeting.

**3 Annual Report from the Chair of the Parish Council**

This is the first Annual Parish Meeting since 2019.

There have been 36 Parish Council meetings since the last Annual Parish Meeting, 14 of which have been held remotely via Zoom. Parish Councillors have had to wrestle with modern technology and I am proud to say that everyone has risen to the occasion and not one Parish Council meeting has been missed.

The Parish Council worked hard during the pandemic to ensure that isolated properties and residents who might need extra help during the Covid-19 pandemic were identified and arrangements made to ensure that everyone was looked after as far as possible. The Parish Council provided telephone numbers for residents to use if they had any concerns. Members of the community also started other very helpful initiatives to help residents through the crisis. The April 2020 edition of the Luppitt Packet was printed and delivered by post as a combined effort between the editors and the Parish Council.

There have been 31 planning applications, 1 Certificate of Lawfulness and 1 Change of Use applications. An appeal to reverse the decision over the slurry lagoon was not successful.

Roger Hicks has continued to lead the work on Luppitt's Neighbourhood Plan and final amendments were agreed by the Parish Council in February 2021. A 20-page summary document and 4-page leaflet were posted to all households in March 2021 and 3 Zoom meetings were arranged to allow residents to ask questions and make comments. Despite the difficulties caused by lockdowns, East Devon District Council commended Luppitt's efforts to facilitate consultation and discussion of the Neighbourhood Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan has now been submitted to East Devon District Council who are currently carrying out their own consultation under Regulation 16 which will move us nearer to the referendum. Roger Hicks has worked tirelessly to produce a very professional looking document and the Parish Council very much appreciates his efforts.

The condition of our roads remains a priority. Since April 2019, grants totalling £2,341 have been awarded from the Highways Maintenance Community Enhancement Fund towards ditch and drainage clearance throughout the parish and £1,500 from the Locality budget to carry out work at Maple Cross. Cold tar has been provided by Highways which Andrew Tucker has been using to fill potholes that don't meet Highways' criteria for repair. I'd like to thank Andrew for all the work he has carried out throughout the parish.

We are grateful to Chris Tottle who continues to look after the play area at Millrise.

We have been in discussions with Ros Davies, Parish Paths Liaison Officer at Devon County Council, to divert part of Footpath 14 to avoid a very boggy area. The suggestion was well received by Devon County Council but no progress has yet been made.

It was agreed at our January 2020 meeting to increase the precept from £11,000 to £12,000 as it was felt prudent for the Parish Council to carry sufficient reserves to meet any unexpected eventualities. This was the first increase since 2011.

Donations from the precept totalling £705 for 2019/20, £505 for 2020/21 and £380 for 2021/22 were given to the following organisations:

- TRIP
- Devon Freewheelers
- Devon Air Ambulance Trust
- East Devon Citizens Advice Bureau
- Royal British Legion
- Luppitt Children's Christmas Party

- British Heart Foundation

Installation of the play area at the Village Hall has been started. Resident Lucy Murray and her team raised an astounding amount of £23,485 in a very short time through fundraising activities and grants. The Village Hall Management Committee contributed £6,278 to the project. The Parish Council has been pleased to support the project by purchasing the equipment thus enabling the VAT to be reclaimed. It has been a good example of the community, the Parish Council and the Village Hall Management Committee working together to achieve the end result.

Tom Nancarrow resigned from the Parish Council in November 2020 as a result of work commitments and moving away from the parish. His contribution as Vice-Chair and Footpath Warden has been much appreciated. The casual vacancy was advertised and Martin Summers was co-opted onto the Parish Council in March 2021. At our AGM in May 2021, Michele Turner was elected as Vice-Chair and I should like to thank Michele for standing in for me when I have been away.

The Parish Council is arranging a barbecue and firework display to coincide with the Platinum Jubilee celebrations on Thursday, 2 June. Roger Hicks will be playing the pipes, we hope to have a bugler and the beacon will be lit at 9.45 pm. We hope as many people as possible will be able to attend to mark the start of the Jubilee celebrations.

Contact with our PCSO has still not materialised – a point that was raised at our last Annual Parish Meeting in 2019.

I would like to thank our Ward Members, David Key and Colin Brown, our County Councillor representative, Iain Chubb, and all the Parish Councillors for their support over the last 3 years.

## **4 Reports**

### **Report from District Councillor**

I have had great pleasure in representing Luppitt Parish Council over the past twelve months in these very difficult times especially Covid. I hope that I have been helpful and supportive towards the meetings. I am pleased to see that the Neighbourhood plan has progressed and reaching its final decision. I look forward to serving you for the next twelve months.

### **Report from County Councillor**

No report received.

### **Report from Village Hall Committee**

Luppitt Village Hall has been closed for most of the year due to Covid restrictions, but village activities have restarted, with the inclusion of bowls, and the Friday Market and Coffee Morning. We also run a Saturday Coffee Morning once a month and The Hub Pub is open on Wednesday and Friday evenings whilst The Luppitt Inn is closed. Improvements to the toilets have been made during the year, and the entrance hall has been decorated. Bookings have picked up and our accounts are in a healthy state. The minutes of our AGM are published annually in The Luppitt Packet. Going forward we are looking forward to the opening of our new Playground in June, thanks to the hard work and tenacity of young parents in the community.

### **Report from Commoners**

We are now in the 5<sup>th</sup> year of our Natural England Countryside Stewardship agreement for the Commons. As in previous years, we have again topped the bracken and gorse on Hense Moor, and on Hartridge we will shortly be erecting temporary fencing using a 6 month Section 38 exemption under the 2006 Commons Act, to facilitate grazing by cattle. As before, all such works have been undertaken with the full support and knowledge of Natural England. We have continued with our ongoing programme of maintenance around the various Commons, repairing fence lines, installing new gates and undertaking tree works, repairing tracks and ditch clearance where required. Ash dieback continues to be a major problem. We have had two surveys undertaken and many dead trees have already been removed, prioritizing those near roads and footpaths. Western Power have also been active on the Commons over the past winter as part of their 5 year rotation plan for clearing tree growth under power lines. Quite a few environmental projects are being undertaken on the Commons right now. The Westcountry Rivers Trust have just started a 2 year research project on Hensemoor, the SSSI, to understand the impact of different types of land use on water resources. The Hense Moor valley is one of three pilot catchment areas that will be subject to detailed monitoring of flow, groundwater levels, soil moisture and rainfall. Wessex Environmental have recently surveyed Hense Moor again for the rare Small Pearl Bordered Fritillary and Marsh Fritillary butterflies, and the Devon Wildlife Trust have surveyed the upper reaches of the river Love on Hensemoor for further signs of wild beavers. Finally, the circular walk around the top of Hartridge continues to prove very popular, post Covid lockdowns. We have applied for a small amount of regional funding to improve parking and signage for this area of the Commons. We hope to make some progress over the coming 12 months.

### **Report from Police**

No report received.

## **5 Questions**

Roger Hicks, Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Committee, brought the meeting up to date on the progress of East Devon District Council's consultation process which concludes on 6 May 2022. The Neighbourhood Plan will then be forwarded to an independent inspector for comment. Once any amendments have been made, East Devon District Council will organise a referendum when all residents will have a vote on whether or not to accept the Plan. A member of the public present said that they have sent a three-page letter of comments to East Devon District Council but no-one present had seen the letter so a response was not possible. John Thorne said that the aim of the Neighbourhood Plan is to preserve the heritage of the parish as far as possible and for the Parish Council, on behalf of all residents, to have more input over planning applications. Ultimately, all final decisions will rest with East Devon District Council.

There was a general discussion about the play area. Work is progressing well and they are waiting for delivery of a slide and rubber matting. A parishioner suggested that a basketball net could be fixed to a wall of the Village Hall.

There were no further questions. John Thorne thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 7.45 pm.