

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL
ON WEDNESDAY, 3 MAY 2017, AT 8 PM**

Present: Cllrs John Thorne (in the chair), Gavin Brake, Tom Nancarrow, Brian Pulman, Paul Prettejohn, Andrew Tucker, Paul Diviani (EDDC and DCC), Rosalind Buxton (clerk) and 21 members of the public

1 TRIP Community Transport Association

Neil Hurlock, Manager of TRIP Community Transport Association, Honiton, had very kindly agreed to come and give a talk about the many services that TRIP offers the community. He explained about the Ring and Ride service they provide for shopping, days out and group outings. This is a door to door service. They provide disabled-friendly transport for medical and social appointments and a car transport service to medical appointments throughout the area. This is run by volunteer car drivers who provide their time free of charge. There is no age barrier to people who can take advantage of the services provided. TRIP Mobility provides servicing, repairs and hire of powered mobility equipment. They also have a large range of products to make life easier in the home and for getting around. Neil left leaflets outlining their many services and hoped that those present would spread the word. John Thorne thanked Neil for his very interesting and informative talk.

2 Welcome

John Thorne welcomed everyone to the 2017 Annual Parish Meeting for Luppitt. Although the meeting is arranged and chaired by the Parish Council, it is not a Parish Council meeting but a meeting when parish affairs are discussed and everyone present has the opportunity to take part and ask questions.

3 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs David Barlow, David Key (EDDC) and PCSO Phil Anning 30012.

4 Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 12 April 2016

It was proposed by Jean Hooper, seconded by Mr Hoyle and carried unanimously that the Minutes of the meeting held in the Village Hall on Tuesday, 12 April 2016, were signed as a correct record of that meeting.

5 Chairman of the Parish Council's Annual Report

We have had 13 Parish Council meetings since the last Annual Parish Meeting held in April 2016. All Parish Council meetings are open to the public so please do attend if you can.

At the 2016 Annual General Meeting of Luppitt Parish Council, I was proposed and elected as Chairman and Gavin Brake was proposed and elected as Vice-Chairman.

I should like to thank Gavin and David Barlow for chairing meetings in my absence. I am grateful to all the parish councillors for giving up their time throughout the year. It is all on a voluntary basis and we work hard to try to maintain and improve the state of Luppitt's many lanes and roads for the benefit of everyone who lives here.

We have dealt with 9 planning applications in the past year (compared to 12 in 2015/16). The Parish Council continues to state its views in a forthright manner to East Devon District Council especially when local knowledge appears to be ignored.

We continue to be vigilant about possible infringements of planning policy and any concerns are immediately reported to East Devon District Council.

No more progress has been made this year on our Neighbourhood Plan which is proving to be a much more complicated process than first envisaged. Although a large number of parishes in East Devon started their Neighbourhood Plans at the same time as Luppitt, only a very small number have reached their conclusion. We are lucky to have a parishioner, Roger Hicks, who has agreed to guide us and take the lead so we are hopeful that progress will be made in the coming year.

The condition of the roads continues to be a key focus. We have continued to work closely with SW Highways and Devon County Council, and various works have taken place within the Parish. In addition, the ongoing need to fill potholes and clean out ditches has continued, with the Parish Council working hard to ensure we focus the ever-decreasing resources of Devon County Council on the problems we identify in our parish. We have successfully applied for grants totalling £3,350.00 from the Highway Community Enhancement Fund. £2,000.00 of this grant has been put towards the extensive work carried out in Shelf Lane from Antelope Cottage towards Shelves Farm. The balance will be used towards work on Sharcombe path to Hillend.

We were again granted money from the Parishes Together Fund for specific ditch clearing. We were entitled to £1.10 per elector and so qualified for £396.00. We are extremely fortunate to have a local contractor who is a Parish Councillor and who is able to carry out work that improves the safety and condition of our roads. I would like to pass on thanks to Andrew Tucker for all his hard work throughout the whole parish.

We have had two visits from the lengthsman but the Parish Council was very disappointed at how little work was carried out during these visits.

We made a successful bid to British Heart Foundation for a defibrillator and external cabinet. This scheme is funded by the Department of Health. Not knowing whether or not this bid would be successful, we also applied to Devon County Council's Locality budget for money to purchase a defibrillator. We were granted £1,470 which is being used to purchase a second defibrillator and external cabinet. One defibrillator will be located here in the Village Hall and the other at a location yet to be decided to serve Wick and Beacon. The clerk will be arranging training courses for anyone interested.

Donations from the precept were given to the following parish and district organisations during the year:

- National Vintage Tractor run - £50.00
- Fireworks and food for Queen's 90th birthday celebrations - £337.00
- Commemorative coins - £59.70
- Tea to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday held in the Village Hall - £100.00
- East Devon Citizens Advice Bureau - £55.00
- Luppitt Children's Christmas party - £150.00
- British Legion - £20.00
- Repair to tower of St Mary's Church - £1,500.00
- Luppitt Packet – £155.00
- TRIP – £55.00

The total amount given to donations is considerably higher this year. The Queen's 90th birthday was a cause for celebration and money was spent to entertain as many parishioners as possible. The bonfire with firework display and barbecue held at Hartridge last April was very well supported. Our thanks go to a parishioner, Lee Godsall, who organised the fireworks and Jean Hooper and her team of helpers for providing the food.

Through careful budgeting, we were able to make a substantial contribution towards the work carried out at St Mary's Church which provides a central point for the whole community.

Mr Tottle has continued to care for the maintenance of Mill Rise playpark and we thank him for his continued hard work.

The precept has been set at £10,861 (plus Council Tax Support Grant of £139) for the coming year. At the year-end, we hold a reserve appropriate to the size of our precept. The precept allows the Parish Council to continue to take an active role regarding improvements to the roads and the ability to keep the parish moving in periods of extreme weather. We have been fortunate not to have experienced harsh winters lately but we always need to be prepared. With this in mind, the Parish Council purchased a grit spreader that will enable roads to be kept open in bad weather.

A successful litter pick was organised by a parishioner, Roger Hicks, in March. It was encouraging to see so many people turn up and several bags of litter were collected. On behalf of the Parish Council, I should like to thank everyone for their efforts in keeping Luppitt, Wick and Beacon as neat and tidy as possible.

Another parishioner, James Dalgety, kindly donated a projector for use in Parish Council meetings. East Devon District Council has stopped sending out paper copies of planning applications so these now have to be downloaded by the clerk. The projector has proved to be a great asset and has resulted in fewer documents having to be printed out. They can simply be projected onto the screen (well, wall!) for everyone to see.

I would like to thank all the Parish Councillors and our District Councillor, David Key. We have a strong and committed team which is taking an active role in all areas of concern to the parish.

I would like to thank our Beat Manager Clive Vickery and PCSO Phil Anning for their continued support and attendance in our parish and especially at Parish Council meetings.

Finally, I should like to give special thanks to our County Council representative, Paul Diviani, who is not standing for re-election tomorrow. Paul has been our County Councillor since 2009 and has always been more than helpful with any problems we have encountered in Luppitt. I wish him well on behalf of the Parish Council and thank him for his hard work.

6 Reports

Report from District Councillor

David Key's report is copied below and was read out by the clerk.

I apologise for not being able to attend the Annual Parish Meeting. I have done my best in supporting the Parish Council during the past year. There have been several planning applications which have gone mainly the way of the council's decision and satisfaction, and I will certainly do my best to support the parish as a whole in the coming year.

I would like to say that it is a pleasure for me to attend the Luppitt Parish Council meetings and look forward to attending the monthly meetings. I must say that the meetings are run very efficiently and are a credit to the members working hard on behalf of the parishioners. Have a good meeting.

Report from County Councillor

Paul Diviani started by saying that this is his last meeting as County Council representative as he is not standing for re-election. He is Leader of East Devon District Council and will be continuing with his District Council duties. He has been an East Devon District Councillor since 1999 and has been a County Councillor since 2009. He spoke about the adoption of the Local Plan and the development of the new town, Cranbrook. A private sector consortium of developers led the Cranbrook development. The move of the headquarters of EDDC to Honiton (a central location for East Devon) is scheduled for the end of 2018. He thanked the Chairman for his kind words and said that Luppitt Parish Council was one of the best councils that he has represented.

Report from Village Hall Committee

Brian Pulman said that it has been a reasonable year. The Entertainments Committee has had an injection of new blood which is always welcome and it is hoped that parishioners will turn out to support events that are organised. Work has been carried out on the electrics outside which have been revamped. The committee is particularly grateful to Chris Tottle and his staff for keeping the outside tidy. The upgrading of the kitchen is ongoing as is the maintenance of the inside and outside of the Village Hall. They have a good committee and team of helpers. There will be no Summer Madness this year. It is weather dependent and it was decided to have a change. Several new shows will be put on to replace the Summer Madness.

Report from Commoners

David Barlow's report is copied below and was read out by the clerk.

The annual plot draw was held on 22 February this year. There were 9 full and 3 half plots on Luppitt Common, and on Hartridge 10 full and 6 half plots. In addition, 5 part plots were allocated. Notices were placed in the March Packet asking for "rough spot" and "after grass" grazing applications. The resulting applications came in as per last year so that the plot layout can be the same as before. On this basis cattle TB grazing applications have already been submitted to the Ministry. Normal maintenance work has been undertaken to repair fences and gates plus hedge cutting and coppicing. Our 10-year Higher Level Stewardship agreement will come to an end this year. We have already evaluated our follow on options with Natural England and as a result a new "Higher Tier Stewardship" application has already been submitted which if successful will start in January 2018.

Report from Police

PCSO Anning's report is copied below and was read out by the clerk.

There were 9 crimes in 2016/17 compared to 7 crimes in 2015/16, 4 crimes in 2014/15 and 2 crimes in 2013/14.

1 Theft

Ferreting equipment stolen

3 Burglary dwelling

House entered and photos and documents stolen

Entry to insecure house over 2 days and wallet stolen

Male entered house disturbed by neighbours and left

3 Dog incident

Dogs seen in field chasing livestock

2 Rape

Allegation of rape between people known to each other

Our rural area of Honiton (consisting of 15 parishes and 23 villages) excluding the town, has a total of 139 recorded crimes for the year from 01/04/16 to 31/03/17. This compares to 120 for the previous year. Taking this figure into account the Luppitt recorded crime for the year equates to approximately 6.5% of the total recorded rural crimes.

7 Questions

A parishioner said he had come specifically to discuss the problem of the volume of lorry traffic travelling down the lanes to Higher Wick Farm. Several parishioners shared details of their experiences. One parishioner had visited Higher Wick Farm to complain about the amount of traffic. He was assured that there would be fewer lorries the next day but he counted 130 that passed his door. Parishioners gave examples of how this excessive traffic was damaging their businesses particularly those with holiday cottages. The lorries travel together and can be very intimidating and can make normal country pursuits – horse riding or dog walking – almost impossible. Parishioners have had tyres damaged through the stones on the roads and the road surface is suffering from the extra heavyweight traffic. There was a general discussion about who will pay for the damage to the roads. John Thorne said that the precept should certainly not be used to repair any damage. The Parish Council believes that the Environment Agency is at fault in granting the permit to dump 60,000 cu metres of soil in the first place, taken that this would equate to between 3,000 and 4,000 lorry trips. The Enforcement Officer had visited the site this week and said that the conditions of the permit are being adhered to so there is nothing he can do. Mrs Fry had sent a question about the Parish Council's support of the original planning application in 2010. It was explained that the size of the project considered in that application was nothing like the operation that is being carried out at the moment. The Parish Council was not notified by the Environment Agency that a permit for this amount of soil had been granted and the owners of Higher Wick Farm had not informed the Parish Council that the volume of traffic would be escalated to such a degree even though one of the owners is a Parish Councillor. The parishioners felt that it would be helpful to

know how long this operation is likely to continue. Gavin Brake asked whether it would be helpful for the Parish Council to have a meeting with the owners of Higher Wick Farm to try to find a workable solution to the problem. The parishioners agreed that this would be a good idea. A parishioner, Roger Hicks, suggested that the lorries constituted a public nuisance and this was an angle that could be explored by obtaining legal advice. The clerk cautioned that legal advice may be costly and that the Parish Council only has limited resources. Gavin Brake clarified that the Parish Council would only be able to obtain legal advice. Any legal action in future would have to be taken by the individual property owners. After much discussion, it was agreed that the first step should be for the Parish Council to approach the owners of Higher Wick Farm to arrange a meeting to discuss the situation and find some solution. If that failed, a motion was put by a parishioner, Mrs Dalgety, that legal advice should be sought on the basis of public nuisance and that any costs should be paid out of the precept. This was seconded by Roger Hicks. The Chairman asked if the meeting was in favour. One parishioner voted against the motion.

There were no further questions. John Thorne thanked everyone for attending. The meeting closed at 10.00 pm.