

**Minutes of a meeting of Luppitt Parish Council held in the Village Hall
on Tuesday, 7 January 2025 at 8 pm**

Present: Cllrs Michele Turner (Chair), Martin Summers (Vice-Chair), Lindsay Hill, Charles Murray, Paul Prettejohn, Brian Pulman, Andrew Tucker, Iain Chubb (DCC) and one member of the public

In attendance: Rosalind Buxton (Parish Clerk)

Apologies: Cllrs Colin Brown and Yehudi Levine (EDDC)

1.1 Receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received as above.

1.2 Minutes of previous meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 3 December 2024, were unanimously agreed and signed as a correct record of that meeting (proposed by Cllr Murray and seconded by Cllr Pulman).

1.3 Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2.0 PLANNING

2.1 Applications (for comment, support or objection)

2.1.1 24/2433/LBC – Woodhayes Cottage, Luppitt, EX14 4TP – remove existing render and re-render on all external walls

The Parish Council has no objection to this planning application.

2.2 Decisions

There were no decisions.

2.3 Housing Need Survey

The final report has not yet been issued but Cllr Turner and the clerk have been sent the draft report. There was a very good response rate of 53% with the conclusion that there is a need for 4 units of affordable housing within the next 5 years. However, the report pointed out that the Housing Need Survey represents a snapshot in time and personal circumstances are constantly evolving.

The meeting was suspended to allow a member of the public to speak.

Water Leak at Millrise

The resident explained that the leak only occurs when it rains and has become worse with time even though South West Water have investigated and reported that the leak has been fixed.. Samples of water from the leak have been tested with no negative results. The resident has contacted EDDC on several occasions to ask for their help in resolving the situation but, to date, has had no success. The Parish Council agrees with the resident that the responsibility for the state of the pavement where the water leaks lies firmly with EDDC. Cllr Pulman undertook to speak to the landowner. The Parish Council was very grateful to the resident for taking the time to come and explain the situation.

The meeting then resumed.

2.4 REPORTS

2.4.1 Ward Councillor

Cllr Levine had sent a report in his absence which the clerk will forward to Parish Councillors.

- The Scrutiny Committee has been tasked with investigating the effects of the Inheritance Tax changes on farmers in East Devon.
- The relaxation of protection of Green Belt areas and Green Field sites from large scale housing developments, outlined in the National Planning Policy Framework, is causing concern.
- The White Paper on English Devolution proposes the abolition of District Councils and the establishment of unitary authorities headed by a Mayor.

2.4.2 County Councillor

Cllr Chubb reported that:

- He had attended a meeting that day discussing the White Paper on English Devolution. He believes that it is possible that the May County Council elections will be postponed for a year.
- Devon has been allocated £83.6m from the government funding for Highway repairs. This is broken down as £61.7m in 2025/26 and £22.5m in 2026/27. (Figures as quoted in the County Council report.) This will have a significant impact on the quality of the highways network, but is not just for fixing potholes. Plans will be drawn up to maximise best use of the funding using local knowledge, circumstances and priorities.
- Information is available to encourage people to stop smoking.
- It is important for people to keep warm in the cold weather.

3.0 HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC

3.1 Parish Highways programme - update on Items to Report as follows:

- A resident had reported the deteriorating state of the road from Barn Cross towards Beacon. The clerk will add these potholes to the list to be reported.
- The clerk has written to the Neighbourhood Highway Officer but has not yet received a reply.
- Cllr Pulman and the clerk will go round the parish identifying potholes to report when weather permits.

3.2 Parish Maintenance

Cllr Pulman thanked Cllr Tucker for the excellent work on the ditch and drain clearance work he has carried out.

3.2.1 Road Signs

It was agreed that a sign at Mount Stephen and one at Barn Cross warning drivers to slow down for children, horse riders and livestock was a good idea. The clerk will progress.

Cllr Hill and the member of the public left the meeting.

4.0 FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS

4.1 Annual Survey of Footpaths

The Annual Survey must be completed by 28 March. The clerk will liaise with the Footpath Wardens.

5.0 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY FACILITIES

There were no items.

6.0 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The following payments were authorised at the meeting. The clerk updated the figures as follows:

			£
6.1	Receipts	None	
	Account balances at last statement	P3 balance	833.28
	As per bank reconciliation end December	Luppitt Parish Council	11,094.98
6.2	Payments by online banking, card or cheque for approval and signing	S137 Donations for 2024/25	
		TRIP	55.00
		Devon Air Ambulance	100.00
		Devon Freewheelers	100.00
		British Heart Foundation	50.00
		Clerk's Remuneration (Oct-Dec)	1,509.70
		HMRC – PAYE	38.60
		Clerk's Expenses (Oct-Dec)	105.30
		Luppitt Village Hall (hire of room)	60.00

6.3 Casual Vacancy

Susan Tucker had applied for the casual vacancy on the Parish Council and had attended a meeting as a member of the public to see what was involved in becoming a Parish Councillor. It was agreed unanimously to co-opt Susan onto the Parish Council.

6.4 Approval of Projected Budget and agree precept for 2025/26

The projected budget was discussed and agreed. Cllr Tucker agreed to invoice the Parish Council quarterly going forward.

There was a detailed discussion on the amount of precept to be set. It was agreed that costs generally are rising and this will be inevitable with the changes made to the Employer National Insurance contributions and the Minimum Wage being introduced in April 2025 which will have an effect on all businesses. It is also possible that, with the changes being made to Local Government, there will be less support for communities (especially rural ones) and that more responsibility will fall to Town and Parish Councils. Taking this into account, it was agreed that the precept should be raised. Various figures were discussed and it was agreed that the precept should be raised to £14,000 (proposed by Cllr Summers, seconded by Cllr Murray). Cllr Hill was not present for the vote. Five Parish Councillors voted in favour and there was one abstention. For the current year (2024/25), a Band D property is paying £58.45 and this will increase to £60.61 for 2025/26.

7.0 CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

There were no items.

8.0 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no questions and the meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

Dates for next meetings to be held in Luppitt Village Hall at 8 pm:

Tuesday, 4 February 2025

Tuesday, 4 March 2025

Tuesday, 1 April 2025