

**Minutes of a meeting of Luppitt Parish Council held in the Village Hall
on Tuesday, 4 February 2025 at 8 pm**

Present: Cllrs Michele Turner (Chair), Martin Summers (Vice-Chair), Charles Murray, Paul Prettejohn, Brian Pulman, Andrew Tucker, Yehudi Levine (EDDC) and one member of the public

In attendance: Rosalind Buxton (Parish Clerk)

Apologies: Cllrs Lindsay Hill, Susan Tucker, Colin Brown (EDDC) and Iain Chubb (DCC)

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, 7 January 2025, were unanimously agreed and signed as a correct record of that meeting (proposed by Cllr Pulman and seconded by Cllr Summers).

1.3 Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2.0 PLANNING

2.1 Applications (for comment, support or objection)

There were no applications.

2.1.1 Housing Need Survey

The clerk has forwarded the final report to Parish Councillors and will put it on the Parish Council website – www.luppittparish.gov.uk. The clerk will contact Angela King to arrange a meeting to discuss the next step.

2.1.2 Enforcement at Higher Wick

The clerk had written to Wendy Ormsby at East Devon District Council and had received a prompt reply recognising that mistakes had been made when issuing the enforcement notice which was regrettable. Lessons had been learnt to avoid a repeat in the future.

2.1.3 Decisions

24/2324/FUL – The Barn, Little Shelvin Farm, Luppitt, EX14 4UF – approval with conditions.

2.2 REPORTS

2.2.1 Ward Councillor

- Cllr Levine spoke about the devolution plans of the Government. East Devon District Council will be dissolved in 2027 but there is no clarity yet on what format the Local Authority will take.
- EDDC have planned to build 850 houses this year but the Government have revised this figure to 1188.

2.2.2 County Councillor

There was no report.

3.0 HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC

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

- Despite providing photographs of the damage to the road at Hillend, Devon Highways said that it did not meet their criteria for repair.
- The grit bin at Millrise has been filled. Despite receiving notification that the grit bin at Beacon had been filled, it is still empty and the clerk will report again.

3.2 Parish Maintenance

- The resident at The Mill had raised a couple of issues with the clerk. Cllr Pulman will investigate and the clerk will report back to the resident.

- Cllr Pulman and the clerk have arranged a time to go round the parish marking out potholes that need attention.

The meeting was then suspended to allow the member of the public to speak on the next item.

3.2.1 Water Leak at Millrise

The resident reported that the leak is not coming from the soakaway. The resident has established that Highways have responsibility for pathways and the resident will continue to press for action as the path becomes a safety hazard when it is slippery. Cllr Pulman confirmed that he has spoken to the landowner who cannot shed any light on the cause of the leak. On behalf of the Parish Council, Cllr Turner thanked the resident for their continued efforts on this matter.

The meeting then resumed.

3.2.2 Road Signs

The wording was agreed and the clerk will order two road signs.

4.0 FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS

- Cllr Tucker was asked to replace a stile with a pedestrian gate on the footpath over the top of Hartridge. The work will be funded from the P3 grant.
- Cllr Tucker was asked to replace the bridle path post at Ringborough Cross.

5.0 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY FACILITIES

5.1 Locality Funding

The clerk had submitted a successful application for Locality funding of £500 to be used to upgrade lighting in the Village Hall. Cllr Summers undertook to carry out the work and will invoice the Parish Council accordingly.

5.2 Play Area Inspection

The clerk advised Cllrs Pulman and Summers that both play areas will be inspected during March.

5.3 VE Day – 8 May 2025

It was agreed that VE Day should be celebrated with a barbecue and firework display on Hartridge.

5.4 Annual Parish Meeting

It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 6 May 2025.

6.0 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

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

			£
6.1	Receipts	Locality grant	500.00
	Account balances at last statement	P3 balance	833.28
	As per bank reconciliation end January	Luppitt Parish Council	9,601.38
6.2	Payments by online banking, card or cheque for approval and signing	Luppitt Packet (S137 donation)	175.00
		Information Commissioner's Office – Data Protection renewal	40.00
		Chris Tottle (play area maintenance)	400.00

6.3 Quarterly Check – internal financial controls

Cllr Murray has checked the cash book and reconciliation for the quarter ended 31 December 2024 and confirmed that all is correct.

6.4 Appointment of Internal Auditor

It was agreed to appoint the same auditor as last year.

6.5 Correspondence

- An email about the safety campaign of lithium batteries was noted.
- The clerk has forwarded the draft Management Plan of Blackdown Hills National Landscape to Parish Councillors.
- An email from Membury Parish Council on the intended changes to Inheritance Tax on farms was discussed. The Parish Council supports the initiative but would like to know what is planned.
- The clerk has received letters of thanks from British Heart Foundation, Devon Air Ambulance Trust and Devon Freewheelers for the S137 donations from the Parish Council.
- Alterations to the membership requirements for the Blackdown Hills Parish Network were noted. There will no longer be a membership fee although parishes are asked to consider giving an annual contribution of £25.00.

7.0 CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

- Cllr Turner had attended a webinar organised by EDDC on the Devolution White Paper. It was very well attended with 120 attendees. There is still a lack of clarity from the Government over the exact format devolution will take as far as Devon and the South West are concerned.. Attendees were asked to produce an A4 sheet outlining aspirations for the future and what is important to local councils going forward. Cllr Turner and the clerk will liaise.
- Cllr Turner updated the Parish Council on progress with a new community website.

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 March 2025

Tuesday, 1 April 2025