

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

**Present:** Cllrs Michele Turner (Chair), Charles Murray, Paul Prettejohn, Brian Pulman, Andrew Tucker, Yehudi Levine (EDDC) and Iain Chubb (DCC) and 5 members of the public

**In attendance:** Rosalind Buxton (Parish Clerk)

**Apologies:** Cllrs Martin Summers, Lindsay Hill, Susan Tucker and Colin Brown (EDDC)

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**1.1 Receive apologies for absence**

Apologies were received as above. Cllr Turner welcomed the members of the public to the meeting.

**1.2 Minutes of previous meeting**

The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 4 February 2025, were unanimously agreed and signed as a correct record of that meeting (proposed by Cllr Tucker and seconded by Cllr Pulman).

**1.3 Declaration of Interest**

Cllr Tucker declared an interest in item 2.1.1 the Certificate of Lawfulness (Existing) Application at Wick Cross because he carries out work there.

**2.0 PLANNING**

**2.1 Applications (for comment, support or objection)**

**2.1.1 24/1631/CPE – Certificate of Lawfulness (Existing) Application at barns north of Wick Cross**

The Parish Council's comments concerning this application were discussed at length. It was agreed that mention would be made that farm traffic comprising tractors and lorries have had regular access to the site.

**2.2 Decisions**

**2.2.1 23/1770/AGR – Blackenfields Farm - Refused**

**24/0283/AGR – Stockers Cottage – Decided – AGR planning application required**

**24/2433/LBC – Woodhayes Cottage – Approval with conditions**

**2.3 Housing Need Survey**

The clerk had written to Angela King at EDDC to discuss possible next steps and had received a detailed reply from her. The clerk will forward this to Parish Councillors.

**2.4 REPORTS**

**2.4.1 Ward Councillor**

Cllr Levine gave an overview of the situation regarding devolution. He pointed out that it has been made clear that the Government will not be responsible for debts that have been incurred by defunct councils and that Town and Parish Councils should be aware. EDDC will now be dissolved in 2028 – a year later than originally thought. It is recognised that this interim period will be extremely difficult with staff leaving, morale low and projects not being completed.

**2.4.2 County Councillor**

- Cllr Chubb also spoke about devolution. The Government has rejected the request to postpone County Council elections and these will take place as originally planned in May 2025.
- Devon County Council has produced a balanced budget. 79% goes to adult and children services alone which does not leave much to fund other areas that are important to residents – eg roads and public transport.

**3.0 HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC**

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

Cllr Pulman and the clerk had gone round the parish and identified potholes that the clerk then reported to Devon Highways. The table below shows the results.

**3.1.1**

<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>REFERENCE</b>	<b>COMMENT RECEIVED</b>
Valley Heights	W251829215	Out for repair/repared
Further up the road from Valley Heights – on left one pothole and subsidence	W251829220	No action
Robins Bungalow – several potholes	W251829224	Repaired – these had not been repaired so clerk will report again
Approaching Ford Hill Cottages – big pothole surrounded by road deterioration	W251829225	Passed to contractor – repaired. Not repaired so clerk will report again.
The Barn, Ford Bridge – 3 potholes	W251829226	Out for repair/repared
Approaching Woodhayes entrance – severe road deterioration – also just past Woodhayes entrance	Already reported – references W251829221 W251829216 W251829223	Out for repair/repair Repaired Repaired
Butkins – halfway between Higher Wick and Barn Farm	W251829230	Passed to contractors
Just past New Barn Farm towards Beacon and one just before right bend	W251829231 W251829232	No action Out for repair/repared
Just before Greenlands on the bridge	W251829235	Passed to contractors → repaired
From Dove Cottage towards Lower Moorlands – numerous potholes	W251829236	Private land
Coombeshead – round first bend several potholes	W2518292237	No action
School Lane		Road not supported by Devon County Council

The clerk will report the following:

- Robins Bungalow
- Approaching Ford Hill Cottages
- Hillend – pothole
- Hillend – severe edge of road deterioration

Cllr Pulman advised that the culvert past Littleton Farm has been repaired.

- A parishioner had raised the issue of blocked drains with Cllr Turner. The clerk will send the correct link to Cllr Turner for reporting this to Devon Highways so that she may pass this on to the parishioner.

**3.1.2 Highway Maintenance Community Enhancement Fund**

The clerk had applied for a grant towards the drainage and ditch clearance work that Cllr Tucker has been asked to carry out. The clerk had received a disappointing response from Devon Highways to say that, due to limited funding, they have had to tighten their policies to align with the original purpose of the fund which was to fund tools and materials, not contractors or sub-contractors. Cllr Chubb was unaware of this decision.

**3.2 Parish Maintenance**

**3.2.1 Grit Bin at Beacon**

The clerk has again reported the grit bin at Beacon (by Walleys Place) that needs filling.

**3.2.2 Road Signs**

The clerk has ordered two road signs warning drivers to slow down. These will be placed at Mount Stephen Cross and Barn Cross.

**3.2.3 The Mill**

The clerk has written to the resident of The Mill on behalf of the Parish Council.

**3.2.4 Landslides**

Cllr Tucker was asked to deal with the landslides between Maple Cross and Halsden.

**4.0 FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS**

**4.1 Work on Footpaths**

Cllr Tucker has replaced the last remaining stile with a new gate at Hartridge. There are now pedestrian gates all the way round which is a great improvement for public access.

**4.1.1** The Chairman of Luppitt Commons Ltd (Gavin Brake) has advised that the footpath sign has broken off the rotten post further down the same footpath towards the monastery. Cllr Tucker was asked to install a new post. Gavin Brake has volunteered to fix the sign to the new post.

**4.1.2** The second Platinum Jubilee tree has died despite Cllr Pulman's valiant efforts to keep it alive. Instead of trying with a third tree, Gavin suggested adopting a young oak tree on the opposite side of the road. It was agreed that this was a sensible solution. Cllr Pulman undertook to move the sign.

**4.2 Footpath 14 – boggy area**

The clerk had contacted the new P3 Public Rights of Way Officer – Jon Boyd – who was looking into the possible diversion that had been agreed in 2021. However, Cllr Tucker advised that the diversion has itself become waterlogged due to the actions of the beavers.

**4.3 Bridge at Otter Falls**

The clerk had been sent details of deterioration of the bridge at Otter Falls. The clerk will ask our Footpath Warden to investigate and report back.

**5.0 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

**5.1 Arrangements for VE Day – 8 May 2025**

John Thorne has contacted the fireworks supplier and also the resident who very kindly organises the display.

**5.2 Community Website**

Cllr Turner confirmed that the Neighbourhood Plan website will be used for the community going forward.

**5.3 Litter Pick**

A volunteer to organise a litter pick is needed. Cllr Turner will publicise it in the Luppitt Packet and on the parish WhatsApp group.

**5.4 Grass Cutting at Millrise**

It was agreed to increase the annual payment from £400 to £425.

**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 February	Luppitt Parish Council	8,787.42
6.2	Payments by online banking, card or cheque for approval and signing	Luppitt Village Hall (Nov-Mar) Road Signs Direct Cloud Next (Councillor email package) Vision ICT	30.00 178.98 59.98 161.26

**6.3 Bank Signatories**

The clerk has submitted the forms for bank signatories but has heard nothing to date.

**6.4 Correspondence**

- The clerk responded to Membury Parish Council's communication supporting their concern about proposed changes to Inheritance Tax on farms but has heard nothing further.
- The editors of the Luppitt Packet have thanked the Parish Council for the S137 donation of £175.
- An email from the Planning Officer of the Blackdown Hills National Landscape extending the consultation period for the draft Management Plan was noted.

**7.0 CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION**

There were no items.

**8.0 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

- The member of the public from Millrise brought the Parish Council up to date on progress with the water leak. Devon County Council have undertaken to keep the path clean so that it does not cause a safety hazard to pedestrians. Discussions are ongoing. Cllr Turner thanked the resident for continuing to keep the Parish Council up to date.
- The clerk confirmed to a member of the public present that she had secured an extension to the date for submission of the Parish Council's comments concerning the Certificate of Lawfulness at Wick Cross until 5 March.
- A couple of clarification questions regarding the Certificate of Lawfulness were answered.

There were no further questions and the meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

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

**Tuesday, 1 April 2025**

**Tuesday, 6 May 2025 – Annual Parish Meeting at 7 pm**

**Tuesday, 6 May 2025 – Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council at 8 pm**