

**Minutes of a meeting of Luppitt Parish Council held in the Village Hall
on Tuesday, 3 June 2025 at 8 pm**

Present: Cllrs Charles Murray, Paul Prettejohn, Brian Pulman, Andrew Tucker, Susan Tucker, Colin Brown and Yehudi Levine (EDDC), Cathy Connor (DCC)
In attendance: Rosalind Buxton (Parish Clerk)
Apologies: Cllrs Michele Turner, Martin Summers and Lindsay Hill

In the absence of Cllrs Turner and Summers, Cllr Pulman took the chair for the meeting. Cllr Pulman welcomed the new Devon County Councillor, Cathy Connor, to the meeting. Cathy introduced herself and gave some details of her background. She is also a District Councillor for Mid-Devon. Cathy hopes to attend as many meetings as she is able to going forward. Cathy then left the meeting.

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, 6 May 2025, were unanimously agreed and signed as a correct record of that meeting (proposed by Cllr Murray and seconded by Cllr Susan Tucker).

1.3 Declaration of Interest

Cllrs Andrew Tucker and Susan Tucker declared an interest in the planning application at Mohuns Ottery as they carry out work there.

2.0 PLANNING

2.1 Applications (for comment, support or objection)

2.1.1 24/0938/AGR – Mohuns Ottery, Luppitt, EX14 4TS – a steel portal framed agricultural building (amended plans)

The Parish Council has no objection to this planning application.

2.1.2 25/0840/LBC – Antelope Cottage, Luppitt, EX14 4SN – replace 2 no windows on side elevation; 4 no windows at first floor and 5 no windows at ground floor front elevation and 1 no window on side elevation and 1 no door on front elevation

The Parish Council has no objection to this planning application.

2.1.3 25/0950/FUL – Pulmans Farm, Beacon, EX14 4TX – replacement of extension to rear (retrospective)

The Parish Council objects to this retrospective planning application as the extension is not in keeping with the existing listed building and contravenes several Neighbourhood Plan policies.

2.2 Decisions

None.

2.3 REPORTS

2.3.1 Ward Councillors

Cllrs Brown and Levine brought the Parish Council up to date on strategic planning, taxi fares and general morale at EDDC in view of the Local Government reorganisation.

2.3.2 County Councillor

Cllr Connor had spoken before the meeting started.

3.0 HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC

3.1 Parish Highways programme

- The clerk has reported the subsidence at Hillend to Highways again.
- Road subsidence below Messhayes and the river, on the right-hand side going uphill.
- Pothole by the well above Antelope Cottage.

3.2 Parish Maintenance

3.2.1 Cllr Hill has arranged for the school sign at Millrise to be cleaned. The Parish Council appreciated that this had been done.

3.2.2 When the clerk had reported potholes between Dove Cottage and Lower Moorlands on the Devon Highways website, the comment from Devon Highways was that this was private land and this had appeared in the Minutes of 4 March 2025. This is not accurate as the road from Dove Cottage to the gateway of a field belonging to Little Fields is not private land. Landowners are responsible for making sure that ditches bordering their land are kept clear.

3.2.3 Road Signs

Cllr Tucker will erect the road signs when time allows.

4.0 FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS

4.1 Bridge at Otter Falls

Cllr Tucker will be carrying out the repair work imminently.

4.2 The clerk had received an email from Luppitt Landscape Recovery concerning enhancements to existing footpaths. The clerk was advised to pass the email to the three Footpath Wardens.

5.0 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY FACILITIES

5.1 VE Day Event

The Parish Council would like to pass on thanks to all the volunteers who worked hard to make the evening a success. Cllr Pulman remarked especially on the magnificent bonfire built by Cllr Tucker. The clerk will finalise figures and circulate to Parish Councillors.

5.2 BT Telephone Kiosk

It would appear that only the telephone will be removed, leaving the kiosk.

5.3 Defibrillator

When carrying out a routine check of the defibrillator at the Village Hall, the clerk noticed that there was an indication that the battery will need to be replaced within the next few months. No action is needed at the moment but the clerk will follow up as this battery has lasted a shorter time than expected.

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	363.88
	As per bank reconciliation end May	Luppitt Parish Council	8,371.82
6.2	Payments by online banking, card or cheque for approval and signing	Luppitt Village Hall Community Insurance VE Day event: Otter Brewery Barleymows M R Turner R Buxton	20.00 383.70 211.89 259.40 188.74 23.60

6.3 Review of Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Internal Controls, Risk Assessment and Management Register

All these, with the exception of Financial Regulations, were reviewed and agreed unanimously. The clerk is finalising the Financial Regulations which will be forwarded to Cllrs Turner and Murray for scrutiny before being brought before the Parish Council.

6.4 Internal Audit Report

The internal auditor was satisfied that the financial systems and controls had been properly carried out and that the final bank reconciliation accurately reflected the year-end balance held in Luppitt Parish Council's bank account.

6.5 Approval of Annual Governance Statement

It was resolved unanimously to accept and approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2024/25. It was signed by Cllr Pulman as Chair of the meeting (proposed by Cllr Murray, seconded by Cllr Susan Tucker).

6.6 Approval of Accounting Statements

It was resolved unanimously to accept and approve the Accounting Statements for 2024/25. It was signed by Cllr Pulman as Chair of the meeting (proposed by Cllr Murray, seconded by Cllr Susan Tucker).

6.7 Insurance Renewal

The clerk had reviewed the insurance cover. It was agreed to accept the insurance quote and renew the cover.

6.8 Correspondence

- An email introducing an independent planning consultancy, Rose Planning, was noted.
- A notice giving details of the Blackdown Hills Parish Network AGM was noted.
- An email from Devon and Cornwall alert giving details of someone cold calling and trying to buy gold, silver and other items in Dunkeswell was noted. The clerk had also put details on the Luppitt WhatsApp group.

6.9 CONFIDENTIAL ITEM IN CLOSED SESSION

Leave of Absence

The matter was discussed and agreed.

7.0 CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

Cllr Murray had been approached by a resident suggesting that cattle grids could be numbered as a way of solving a problem which seems to have arisen over parcels being delivered to the wrong address or just dumped anywhere. The Parish Councillors did not think that numbering cattle grids would help the problem. It was felt it would be more beneficial for property owners to put the name of their property on their cattle grid.

8.0 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no questions and the meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

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

Tuesday, 1 July 2025

Tuesday, 5 August 2025

Tuesday, 2 September 2025