

**Minutes of a meeting of Luppitt Parish Council held in the Village Hall
on Tuesday, 2 September 2025 at 8 pm**

Present: Cllrs Michele Turner (Chair), Charles Murray, Paul Prettejohn, Brian Pulman, Andrew Tucker, Susan Tucker, Colin Brown and Yehudi Levine (EDDC) and one member of the public
In attendance: Rosalind Buxton (Parish Clerk)
Apologies: Cllrs Martin Summers, Lindsay Hill and Cathy Connor (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, 5 August 2025, were unanimously agreed and signed as a correct record of that meeting (proposed by Cllr Pulman and seconded by Cllr Susan Tucker).

1.3 Declaration of Interest

Cllr Andrew Tucker declared an interest in the planning application at Shapcombe Farm as he carries out work there.

1.4 Presentation by Gavin Saunders on behalf of the Luppitt Landscape Partnership

Gavin Saunders gave a presentation updating the Parish Council on the progress of the Luppitt Landscape Partnership. There are 55 members whose land covers 4,300 acres. Emphasis is on ways to improve the land, especially grade 4 land which is poor, and the quality of the River Love. There is a possibility that there could be some re-wetting of land on the springline.

Landscape Recovery is one of DEFRA's three Environmental Land Management (ELM) schemes, alongside the Sustainable Farming Incentive and Higher Tier Countryside Stewardship. Together these form a key part of the Government's Agricultural Transition plan, which is moving farm support away from direct payments and towards 'public money for public goods'. This will mean supporting farmers to enhance the environment and reduce carbon emissions, while producing food within the capacity of the land.

Luppitt Landscape Partnership is moving towards the end of the draft period and their plan will be submitted to Defra in December/January.

The Parish Councillors did not have any questions and Cllr Turner thanked Gavin for his informative presentation.

2.0 PLANNING

2.1 Applications (for comment, support or objection)

2.1.1 25/1354/FUL – Shapcombe Farm, Combe Raleigh, EX14 4UJ – general purpose agricultural building

The Parish Council has no objection to this planning application.

2.2 Decisions

24/0938/AGR – Mohuns Ottery, Luppitt, EX14 4TS – agricultural building – refusal

2.3 REPORTS

2.3.1 Ward Councillors

Cllrs Brown and Levine explained that the English Devolution bill and Local Government reorganisation are taking up most of the time in discussions at East Devon. They agreed that the way forward is no clearer. Cllr Brown mentioned that winter car parking charges are under review.

2.3.2 County Councillor

There was no report as Cllr Connor is away.

2.3.3 EDDC briefing on Local Government reorganisation and Devolution

The clerk had attended an online presentation by EDDC. The Government proposes Statutory Authorities which must each comprise a population of 1.5m whilst Unitary Authorities must comprise a population of 500,000. Exeter has come up with a proposal to be a standalone Unitary Authority. To reach the required number, Exeter must spread to take in 49 parishes, 28 of which are in East Devon. There was concern that the size of population for the various options is not compatible with rural areas.

2.3.4 Honiton Town Council

Honiton Town Council has issued its own proposals which the clerk will forward to Parish Councillors. Cllr Turner advised that Honiton Town Council will be arranging a meeting for all parishes in the area to discuss the options.

3.0 HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC**3.1 Parish Highways programme**

Cllr Pulman reported that the protection around the road deterioration at Butkins is inadequate. The clerk will report to Highways.

3.2 Parish Maintenance

- Cllr Turner has put an article in the Luppitt Packet explaining landowners' responsibilities for keeping ditches clear on their land and adjacent to their property.
- A resident had reported some fly tipping near Ford Bridge.
- Cllr Tucker confirmed that a sufficient stock of sandbags is held.

4.0 FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS**4.1 Pedestrian Gate**

Fencing is being improved on footpath 14 between Hillend and Otter Brewery. A pedestrian gate will need to be installed where the footpath crosses this area and the clerk has written to the Public Rights of Way officer requesting one.

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	DCC – P3 grant	1,040.00
	Account balances at last statement	P3 balance	450.88
	As per bank reconciliation end August	Luppitt Parish Council	6,356.61
6.2	Payments by online banking, card or cheque for approval and signing	PKF Littlejohn LLP (external auditor)	252.00
		Voucher for internal auditor	50.00

6.3 External Audit

The clerk confirmed that the external audit has been completed without any issues. All relevant papers have now been uploaded to the Parish Council website.

The clerk advised that an IT policy will be needed to comply with a new Assertion 10 in the AGAR from 2026. At the very least, all Parish Councillors should have a .gov.uk email address. It is not considered best practice for Councillors in Local Government to use private computers for Council work. The clerk will keep the Parish Council updated.

6.4 Parish Scheme of Allowances

This item will be carried forward to the next meeting.

6.5 NJC Pay Awards 1 April 2025-31 March 2026

NALC has negotiated a 3% rise for staff which is backdated to 1 April 2025. The clerk suggested that this increase should not be backdated but should take effect from 1 April 2026. This was agreed (proposed by Cllr Pulman, seconded by Cllr Turner with all in favour).

6.6 Banking Arrangements

The clerk will liaise with Cllr Turner over arrangements for online payments.

6.7 Councillor email addresses

Cllrs Turner and Murray now have use of .gov.uk email addresses. Cllr Murray reported that he could send but not receive emails. Cllr Turner will liaise with Cllr Murray to make the necessary adjustments. The clerk will organise a .gov.uk email address for Cllr Summers.

6.8 Correspondence

The clerk passed on good wishes from Cllr Hill who is progressing well.

7.0 CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

There were no items.

8.0 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

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

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

Tuesday, 7 October 2025

Tuesday, 4 November 2025

Tuesday, 2 December 2025