

**Minutes of a meeting of Luppitt Parish Council held in the Village Hall  
on Tuesday, 3 February 2026 at 8 pm**

**Present:** Cllrs Michele Turner (Chair), Martin Summers (Vice-Chair), Charles Murray, Paul Prettejohn, Brian Pulman, Andrew Tucker, Susan Tucker and Yehudi Levine (EDDC)

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

**Apologies:** Cllrs Colin Brown (EDDC) and Cathy Connor (DCC)

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**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 January 2026, were unanimously agreed and signed as a correct record of that meeting (proposed by Cllr Summers and seconded by Cllr Prettejohn).

**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 25/2437/FUL – Agricultural building near Higher Wick Farm, Wick, EX14 4TY – demolition of existing large agricultural buildings and erection of a new dwelling house with access, parking and garden areas**

The Parish Council had requested further information about this planning application but none had been forthcoming. There were several areas of concern that were discussed including:

- non-resolution of the Certificate of Lawfulness for the steel fabrication business;
- when an agricultural building is demolished the land reverts to a greenfield site;
- the size of the house;
- an agriculture tie on the dwelling;
- impact on the landscape;
- reassurance that the dwelling will be for residential use and not holiday accommodation.

The clerk will establish the deadline for comments.

**2.1.2 25/1078/MFUL – Old Spurtham Farm, Otter Falls, New Road, Upottery, EX14 9QD – change of use of field and installation of 20 pitch bases for caravans for holiday use**

The Parish Council had taken a neutral stance on this planning application. Whilst recognising that this is a well-established business that provides local employment and brings business to the area, there are several areas of concern which have been included in comments submitted to EDDC. The clerk had received communications from some Rawridge residents.

**2.1.3 Decisions**

**Appeal Ref 6001090 – Pulmans Farm, Beacon, EX14 4TX**

The appeal was dismissed.

**2.2 REPORTS**

**2.2.1 Ward Councillor**

Cllr Turner welcomed Cllr Levine back. Cllr Levine brought the Parish Council up to date with the difficult financial situation that EDDC will be in as a result of the Government's Fairer Funding Review which has been most beneficial to London, whereas EDDC will lose 50% in the first year.

**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:

- The clerk had written to the Neighbourhood Highway Officer to complain about the state of the road from Jack’s House to Luppitt Cross. The NHO advised that they are aware of the need for repair. Cllr Murray advised that he had seen some repair being carried out in the last few days.
- The clerk will enquire about the availability of planings for local use.
- The clerk will report a blocked drain at Maple Cross.
- The clerk will report the rails at Tapsterwater that have been washed away and need to be replaced.
- Car tyres have been dumped at the roadside. The clerk will report.

**3.2 Parish Maintenance**

- The clerk had been contacted by a resident who had noticed a gas marker pole which appeared to have been swept into a field after the recent flooding.
- The resident had also mentioned a blocked pipe under the road by The Barn, Ford Bridge. Cllrs Pulman and Tucker undertook to investigate.

**4.0 FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS**

**4.1 Annual Survey of Footpaths**

The clerk reported that there have been alterations to the annual survey. The clerk will liaise with the footpath wardens.

**4.2** Cllr Tucker has carried out repair work to footpaths at Wick Green and Turf.

**5.0 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

**5.1 Landmark Tree**

Cllr Tucker confirmed safe receipt of the free hazel tree.

**5.2 Community Policing**

In answer to a blanket email to Parish Clerks from PC Darren England, the clerk had emailed dates of the Parish Council meetings as he was intending to attend all 15 meetings within the first 3 months of the year. Nothing further has been heard from PC England.

**5.3 Play Area Inspection**

Inspection of the play areas are scheduled for March. Cllrs Pulman and Summers have the reports from last year.

**6.0 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

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

<b>6.1</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	None	£
	<b>Account balances at last statement</b>	P3 balance	450.88
	<b>As per bank reconciliation end January</b>	Luppitt Parish Council	8,670.36
<b>6.2</b>	<b>Payments by online banking, card or cheque for approval and signing</b>	Luppitt Village Hall C Tottle Information Commissioner’s Office (by direct debit)	30.00 425.00 52.00

**6.3 Casual Vacancy**

Information about the casual vacancy will appear in the Luppitt Packet.

**6.4 Quarterly Check**

Cllr Murray has checked the cash book and reconciliation for the quarter ended 31 December 2025 and confirmed that all is correct.

**6.5 Appointment of Internal Auditor**

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

**6.6 Banking Arrangements**

The clerk has nearly completed the application.

**6.7 Annual Parish Meeting**

The clerk will make enquiries about the format used by Woodbury Parish Council for their Annual Parish Meeting which had been very successful.

**6.8 Correspondence**

- Letters of thanks for S137 donations had been received from Devon Air Ambulance, Devon Freewheelers, TRIP, British Heart Foundation and Hospiscare.
- An email requesting support for the Blackdown Hills Parish Network was noted.
- An email giving details of a user-friendly software solution for playground inspections was noted.
- An email from DALC requesting nominations for the Royal Garden Party was noted.

**7.0 CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION**

**7.1 Gully Lane**

The resident of Gully Lane Farm had written to Cllr Turner and the letter was discussed in detail. It was agreed that Cllrs Summers and Tucker would arrange a mutually convenient time to call on the resident to discuss the situation.

**7.2 Domestication of field**

Cllr Summers had been advised about concern regarding a field near Pennythorne Cross. Cllr Turner will investigate.

**8.0 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no questions and the meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

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

**Tuesday, 3 March 2026**

**Tuesday, 7 April 2026**