

**Minutes of a meeting of Luppitt Parish Council held in the Village Hall
on Tuesday, 4 August 2026 at 8 pm**

Present: Cllrs Martin Summers (Vice-Chair), Eric Clapp, Charles Murray, Paul Prettejohn, Brian Pulman, Andrew Tucker, Susan Tucker, Yehudi Levine (EDDC) and Cathy Connor (DCC)

In attendance: Rosalind Buxton (Parish Clerk)

Apologies: Cllrs Michele Turner (Chair) and Colin Brown (EDDC)

1.1 Receive apologies for absence

Cllr Summers chaired the meeting in Cllr Turner's absence. Apologies were received as above.

1.2 Minutes of previous meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 7 July 2026, were unanimously agreed and signed as a correct record of that meeting (proposed by Cllr Pulman and seconded by Cllr Clapp).

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 26/1306/LBC – Pulshays, Combe Raleigh, EX14 4UJ** – install vent in rear door on north elevation; installation of Ecco Stove and flue in living room/bedroom 1; create opening in existing stone cap chimney for flue and install clay pot on western chimney stack on western elevation

The Parish Council has no objection to this planning application.

2.1.2 Decisions

- 2.1.3 26/0849/FUL and 26/0850/LBC – Pulmans Farm, Beacon, EX14 4TX** – approval with conditions
26/1108/LBC – Pulshays, Combe Raleigh, EX14 4UJ – approval with conditions
26/1054/PDR – Agricultural building near Higher Wick Farm, EX14 4TY – prior approval refused
25/1078/MFUL – Otter Falls, New Road, Upottery, EX14 9QD - refusal

2.2 Campsite at Whippens

The clerk had received emails from two residents raising concerns. The clerk will follow up.

2.3 REPORTS

2.3.1 Ward Councillor

2.3.2 County Councillor

Cllr Connor explained the outcome of the Government's decision concerning the Local Government reorganisation. There will be 4 unitaries:

- A new expanded Exeter authority which will include 15 parishes from Teignbridge, 28 parishes from within East Devon and 6 parishes from within Mid Devon.
- A new expanded Plymouth City Council which will include 13 parishes from South Hams.
- A new expanded Torbay council which will include 22 parishes from Teignbridge and South Hams.
- A rural and coastal authority covering the Rest of Devon.
- East Devon is being divided in two with Exeter taking the most prosperous areas. There will be 103 councillors in the new Devon authority (name to be confirmed). Decision is yet to be taken where these councillors will meet. The Government timetable for compliance with the new structure is extremely tight.

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

The Parish Councillors took the opportunity to speak to Cllr Connor about their experience of identifying and reporting potholes and serious road deterioration, and the lack of action from Highways which seemed to contradict information contained in Cllr Connor's monthly reports. Areas requiring most urgent attention are as follows:

- Barn Cross to Beacon – some piecemeal repairs have been carried out but there are still areas needing urgent repair. The clerk has advised Cllr Connor and the Neighbourhood Highway Officer that TRIP have carried out their own inspection and decided that the road is unsuitable for their vehicles. This leaves vulnerable residents at a severe disadvantage and the Parish Council would urge Cllr Connor and the Neighbourhood Highway Officer to find a speedy solution.
- Severe road deterioration at Jack's House – although there have been repairs on this stretch of road, the most dangerous areas have been left untouched. Information has emerged about the surface of the road and plans are in place to carry out repairs in March 2027. The Parish Council pointed out that the state of the road can only get worse over the winter months and feels strongly that some temporary repairs should be put in place before March 2027. Cllr Connor will follow up.
- A resident has advised the clerk of damage to Ford Bridge by a large lorry. The clerk will report to Highways.

3.2 Parish Maintenance

Cllr Pulman reported that work is being carried out in a field north of Millrise.

3.2.1 Road Warden Scheme

Cllr Summers has completed the Highways and Safety Awareness online training but this has raised many questions that he finds concerning. It was agreed not to proceed at the present time.

3.2.2 Overhanging Tree**3.2.3 Estimate for Drainage Work**

These items will be carried forward to the next meeting.

4.0 FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS**4.1 Pedestrian Gate**

The clerk continues to follow this up but has received no reply from the P3 team.

4.2 Bracken on Footpath 14

The clerk will advise the P3 team that cut bracken should be removed, or at least advise the farmer when bracken cutting has taken place, as this is poisonous to cattle.

5.0 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY FACILITIES**5.1 Neighbourhood Watch**

During Covid, a plan was put in place to be mindful of all vulnerable residents of Luppitt parish. This is particularly important during the recent very hot weather.

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 annual maintenance grant	£ 240.00
	Account balances at last statement	P3 balance	199.48
	As per bank reconciliation end July	Luppitt Parish Council	7,755.11

6.2	Payments by online banking, card or cheque for approval and signing		
		Devon Communities Together (subscription)	50.00
		Luppitt Village Hall	40.00
		Vision ICT Ltd	78.00

6.3 Quarterly Check – internal financial controls

Cllr Murray has checked the cash book and reconciliation for the quarter ending 30 June 2026 and confirmed that all is correct.

6.4 Banking Arrangements

The clerk has been advised by the Co-Operative Bank (which has been taken over by the Coventry Building Society) that Luppitt Parish Council's account is being reviewed. The clerk has submitted completed forms from all signatories.

6.5 Correspondence

- An explanatory email from the Community Ranger of East Devon & Blackdown Hills regarding Forestry England's operations in Blackborough woodland was noted. The clerk has uploaded the email to the Parish Council website.
- NALC has generated a survey aimed at councils which have a Neighbourhood Plan. The clerk will complete the survey.

7.0 CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

There were no items.

8.0 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no questions and the meeting closed at 9.25 pm.

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

Tuesday, 1 September 2026

Tuesday, 6 October 2026

Tuesday, 3 November 2026

Tuesday, 1 December 2026