Minutes of a meeting of Luppitt Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Wednesday, 11 November 2026 at 8 pm

Present: Cllrs Michele Turner (Chair), Martin Summers (Vice-Chair), Eric Clapp, 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: None

1.1 Receive apologies for absence
There were no apologies. The date of the meeting had been rearranged as the clerk had not been well and Cllr Turner thanked everyone for attending on the new date. Cllrs Brown, Levine and Connor joined the meeting at 8.25 pm.

1.2 Minutes of previous meeting
The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 6 October 2026, were unanimously agreed and signed as a correct record of that meeting (proposed by Cllr Summers and seconded by Cllr Susan Tucker) with the following amendments:

- To item 3.1, 4th bullet point (Parish Highways Programme) – Cllr Tucker reported the grit bin has been replaced.
- To item 3.2.1 (Ford Bridge) – *in the river* to replace *in front of the ditch*.

1.3 Declaration of Interest

- Cllr Andrew Tucker declared an interest in the application for the agricultural building at Wick Cross because he has carried out work for the applicant. Cllr Susan Tucker declared an interest in the same application as she and her husband rent a small amount of grass keep from the applicant.
- Cllr Summers declared an interest in the application for agricultural buildings at Windsor Farm as he is related to the applicant.

2.0 PLANNING
2.1 Applications (for comment, support or objection)
2.1.1 26/2080/FUL and 26/2081/LBC – Pulmans Farm, Beacon, EX14 4TX – removal of single storey extension to be replaced with a smaller single storey extension on south east elevation
The Parish Council has no objection to this planning application which is also subject to Listed Building Consent approval.

2.1.2 26/2195/PDR – agricultural building at Wick Cross, Wick – application to determine if prior approval is required for the conversion of agricultural buildings to hotel use (use class C1)
The Parish Council does not believe there are grounds to change the Parish Council's comments made when the last application was made. Pending Cllr Turner's further research, comments will be submitted by 28 November 2026.

2.1.3 26/2204/FUL – Windsor Farm, Luppitt, EX14 4SY – two dual pitch portal framed general purpose agricultural buildings
The Parish Council has no objection to this planning application..

2.1.3 Decisions
26/1771/FUL – Odle Cottage, Upottery, EX14 9QE – approval with conditions

2.2 REPORTS
2.2.1 Ward Councillors

- Cllr Brown reported that East Devon District Council (EDDC) is cutting down on the number of meetings.
- EDDC will hold elections in May 2027 with mayoral elections in May 2028.

- Cllr Levine has been on an AI course and has been advised to use Microsoft Copilot as Chat GPT is not secure for confidential information.

2.2.2 County Councillor

- Cllr Connor had sent her report which the clerk had circulated to Parish Councillors. There is a desperate need for foster carers. Cllr Turner invited Cllr Connor to send information for insertion in the Luppitt Packet.
- There is still great confusion over the Local Government Reorganisation with no clarity on the way ahead for Devon.
- Cllr Connor undertook to follow up the concerns raised over the Road Warden scheme and adequate insurance.

3.0 HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC

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

3.1.1 Road Warden Scheme and Highways Maintenance Community Enhancement Fund (HMCEF) application

The clerk has written to Devon Highways, the Neighbourhood Highway Officer and Cllr Connor outlining the Parish Council's concerns over volunteers' vulnerability when taking part in the Road Warden Scheme. The clerk has submitted an application to HMCEF for funding towards drainage issues at Hillend but has heard nothing further. The clerk will follow up.

3.1.2 Item to report

The verge by Colehill Bridge is breaking away. The clerk will report.

3.2 Parish Maintenance

3.2.1 Ford Bridge

Remedial work to drainage at Ford Bridge to lessen the flooding on the road was discussed. Cllr Andrew Tucker will liaise with the landowner.

3.2.2 Drainage Maintenance Responsibilities and other issues

An article outlining landowners' responsibilities with regard to drainage issues will appear in the next edition of the Luppitt Packet. A watching brief will be kept on drainage problems throughout the parish. Cllr Murray will take photographs if appropriate.

3.2.3 Overhanging Hedges, Branches and Trees

The very large overhanging branch at Stockers Cottage has been removed to enable access.

3.2.4 Grit Bins

Cllr Pulman and the clerk have marked and notated all grit bins in the parish. The clerk will report bins that need to be filled.

4.0 FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS

- The clerk has received no reply from the P3 team regarding the Parish Council's comments on cut bracken.
- The pedestrian gate has not yet been delivered to Cllr Andrew Tucker.

5.0 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY FACILITIES

- The clerk has booked a place on a webinar outlining steps to take for community resilience. The clerk will revisit the Emergency Plan which was updated for Covid.
- The clerk will advise the Village Hall Chair that Cllr Summers has agreed to continue as the Parish Council representative on the Village Hall Management Committee.

6.0 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

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

			£
6.1	**Receipts**	EDDC CIL payment	180.00
		VAT repayment	1,043.48
	Account balances at last statement	P3 balance	199.48
	As per bank reconciliation end October	Luppitt Parish Council	13,927.68
6.2	**Payments by online banking, card or cheque for approval and signing**	Luppitt Village Hall (children's Christmas party)	175.00
		Royal British Legion	25.00
		Luppitt Packet	175.00

6.3 Quarterly Check – internal financial controls

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

6.4 Approve S137 donations for year ending 31.03.2027

S137 donations were approved for payment in January 2027.

6.5 Meeting Dates for 2027

Cllr Tucker suggested changing the day of the Parish Council meetings. After discussion, it was agreed to change the day from the first Tuesday of the month to the first Wednesday of the month. The clerk will check that the Committee Room is available throughout the year.

6.6 Code of Conduct

The clerk has checked the Code of Conduct and it was agreed to retain the present format but to keep it under review, especially if the demographics of the Parish Council change in the future and social media becomes an issue.

6.7 Correspondence

- Information about the Great British Spring Clean in March 2027 was noted.
- The Blackdown Hills Parish Network Newsletter was noted.

7.0 CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

There were no items.

8.0 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

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

Date for next meeting to be held in Luppitt Village Hall at 8 pm: Tuesday, 1 December 2026