

**Minutes of a meeting of Luppitt Parish Council held in the Village Hall
on Tuesday, 2 January 2024 at 8 pm**

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

In attendance: Rosalind Buxton (Parish Clerk)

Apologies:

1.1 Receive apologies for absence

No apologies were received.

1.2 Minutes of previous meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 5 December 2023, were unanimously agreed and signed as a correct record of that meeting (proposed by Cllr Thorne and seconded by Cllr Murray).

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 23/2229/FUL – Fieldhead, Luppitt, EX14 4RX – demolition of the existing residential bungalow and the new build of a 2-storey, pitched roof residential dwelling on the same footprint as the existing, with a small extension to the east accommodating extra living space and a garage

Cllrs Turner, Thorne, Pulman and Murray together with the clerk had attended a site visit on Friday, 15 December 2023. The Parish Council is pleased to welcome a young family into the parish and supports the planning application in principle. However, the Parish Council does have several concerns about what is proposed with reference to the Neighbourhood Plan. These concerns included visibility, design, external lighting, possible damage to the lane during the build and prevention of contamination to the stream which borders the property. These concerns were submitted to Planning at EDDC.

2.1.3 Decisions

Approval has been given to planning application 23/2133/FUL at Primrose Farm and planning application 23/2301/FUL at Yarde Lodge.

2.2 REPORTS

2.2.1 Ward Councillor

Cllr Levine reported that with the departure of Mark Williams, three officers are jointly undertaking the responsibilities of Chief Executive whilst a replacement is appointed.

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 has been advised by Devon Highways that the 'Invalid Location' message that comes up for potholes in certain locations in the parish may be a computer glitch. The clerk will try to establish how many locations are affected in Luppitt and report to Devon Highways for investigation. The clerk has established that there are no plans to make more funding available to parishes that wish to undertake maintenance of roads and ditches. The clerk will see whether grants are still available under the Highways Maintenance Community Enhancement Fund.
- The culvert at Maple Cross had been reported again – investigation to be carried out by 11 January.
- Maple Cross to Halsdon – large pothole – washed out because the culvert was blocked.
- Clerk to report serious road deterioration at Higher Wick.
- Ringborough Cross to Coombeshead – several potholes on both sides of the road.
- Pothole at the junction of Penny Thorne Cross.

Signed:

Date:

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3.2 Parish Maintenance

Cllr Tucker has filled some potholes using the cold tar supplied under the Road Warden scheme.

3.2.1 Overhanging Hedges

- The clerk had written to the Devon Wildlife Trust suggesting that Cllr Tucker carries out the work on the overhanging hedge. Someone from the Trust had left a message for the clerk to say that they were trying to establish who at Devon Wildlife Trust had given authority for this in the past. The clerk has heard nothing further and will follow up.
- Cllr Thorne will establish the ownership of the fields at Penny Thorne Cross.

4.0 FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS

4.1 Ros Davies, the Public Rights of Way officer at Devon County Council, has been transferred to a different role. Recruitment for a new officer is in hand. No information has been received regarding the annual survey.

4.2 A gate post on Footpath 14 towards Jack’s House has rotted. Cllr Tucker was asked to deal with this.

5.0 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY FACILITIES

5.1 Play Area Inspections

The clerk has registered with RoSPA for inspections for both play areas. The clerk has forwarded an email from a parishioner to Cllr Summers regarding a loose screw on a piece of fencing near the slide. Cllr Summers undertook to deal with it.

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	1,312.28
	As per bank reconciliation end December	Luppitt Parish Council	11,434.98
6.2	Payments by online banking and cheque for approval	S137 Donations for 2023/24	
		TRIP	55.00
		Devon Air Ambulance	100.00
		Devon Freewheelers	100.00
		British Heart Foundation	50.00
		Clerk’s remuneration (Oct-Dec)	1,334.10
		HMRC - PAYE	214.20
		Clerk’s expenses (Oct-Dec)	126.45

6.3 Casual Vacancy

The resignation of Christine Ryder has created a casual vacancy on Luppitt Parish Council. The clerk has advised East Devon District Council so that the casual vacancy process can begin. The clerk will put a notice on the notice boards at the Village Hall and Beacon and will put information in the Luppitt Packet.

6.4 Approval of Projected Budget and agree Precept for 2024/25

The clerk had prepared the Projected Budget for 2024/25 and this was unanimously accepted.

There was a detailed discussion on the amount of precept to be collected. It is becoming increasingly difficult to get potholes repaired and it was felt that, going forward, more responsibility for parish maintenance will fall to the Parish Council. There are areas of road deterioration within the parish that cause problems to residents but which would not be considered a priority by Devon Highways. Taking this into account, it was unanimously agreed that the precept should be raised. Various figures were discussed and it was agreed that the increase should be kept as low as possible yet realistic. Cllr Tucker proposed an increase of £800 to £12,800 and this was seconded by Cllr Turner. Five Parish Councillors voted in favour and two were against so the proposal was carried.

6.5 Correspondence

- An email from the Chair of the Devon Association of Local Councils explaining the reasons for the increase in subscription charges was noted.
- Information on the Community Library Support Fund set up as a result of the decommissioning of the mobile library fleet was noted.

7.0 CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

Cllr Turner would like to review and prioritise the Community Actions agreed in the Neighbourhood Plan. The clerk will circulate them again to refresh memories before discussion at the February meeting.

8.0 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no questions and the meeting closed at 9.50 pm.

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

Tuesday, 6 February 2024
Tuesday, 5 March 2024
Tuesday, 2 April 2024
Tuesday, 7 May 2024 (AGM)