

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL
ON WEDNESDAY, 10 APRIL 2019, AT 8 PM**

Present: Cllr John Thorne (in the chair), Rosalind Buxton (clerk) and 8 members of the public

1 Devon Freewheelers

Daniel Lavery and his wife started Devon Freewheelers in 2009 and financed the project by selling their house. In 2005 whilst giving birth to their son by caesarean operation, Mrs Lavery suffered severe complications which resulted in her having to have seven blood transfusions and a fight for her life. She was a patient in the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, and the blood was brought to the hospital by a volunteer blood biker. Blood bikers have been running for 50 years. At that time, Devon was the only county in the country without a blood bike service which was when Daniel and his wife decided to start Devon Freewheelers. They have 82 volunteers and are wholly financed by public donations. They now have 5 staff in their offices in Honiton. Daniel explained that as well as transporting blood, they also support hospices, Devon Air Ambulance, take breast milk to neo-natal units and transport human organs. Daniel ensures that all his volunteers are suitably trained. They have carried out over 5,000 emergency calls.

They are part of the GP improved access scheme. They collect blood samples from every surgery in the evening and deliver to the Pathology laboratories. This is funded by the Clinical Commissioning Group to the extent of providing fuel expenses. All bikes are serviced every six weeks and it costs £250,000 per annum to run the service. They do not charge for their services and because the NHS is funded, Devon Freewheelers cannot apply for funding. Without their services, the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital could spend up to £1,000 per day on taxis. Even though they are saving this amount, the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital is not allowed to subsidise Devon Freewheelers but has given them a commendation. Everyone present felt this simply didn't make sense and a parishioner asked was there anything to be done about it. The MP for Tiverton & Honiton, Neil Parish, is actively working to change the legislation and Daniel suggested that people could write to Neil Parish to express their support for funding for the future.

John Thorne thanked Daniel for his interesting talk which was both moving and often very amusing. He had certainly given all those present something to think about and illustrated what a useful service Devon Freewheelers provides.

2 Welcome and Apologies

John Thorne welcomed everyone to the 2019 Annual Parish Meeting for Luppitt. Apologies were received from Cllrs David Barlow, Paul Prettejohn, Christine Ryder, Mrs A Fry, Beth Hooper.

3 Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 17 April 2018

It was proposed by Lindsey Dalgety, seconded by Jean Hooper and carried unanimously that the Minutes of the meeting held in the Village Hall on Tuesday, 17 April 2018, were signed as a correct record of that meeting.

4 Chairman of the Parish Council's Annual Report

There have been 12 Parish Council meetings since the last Annual Parish Meeting in April last year. Our meetings are very informal and are open to the public and it would be nice to see more residents attending.

At last year's AGM of the Parish Council, I was elected as Chairman and Tom Nancarrow as Vice-Chairman. I would like to thank Tom for chairing meetings in my absence.

There have been 4 Certificates of Lawfulness applications and 9 planning applications, including the resubmission to seek planning approval for the construction of a slurry lagoon at Higher Wick (the last application having been refused). This continues to be a very contentious issue within the parish. The Parish Council continues to object to this application and has outlined in detail the many concerns it has over the viability of the project, the possibility of an environmental catastrophe and the safety of the structure. The Parish Council will not reconsider its recommendation to refuse this application until such time as the applicant provides a structural engineer's design and report that can be studied in detail and provide evidence that the project is viable.

Roger Hicks has continued to lead the work on Luppitt's Neighbourhood Plan and a questionnaire was hand-delivered to every property in the parish. 256 residents completed the questionnaire either online or a hard copy. (This compared to 77 replies to the 2014 questionnaire.) An independent company in Exeter, Transform Research, was responsible for inputting and collating all the data and produced a very detailed report. The Steering Group as a whole is now considering the findings of the report to ensure that they are reflected in the Neighbourhood Plan. Work to date has been financed by grants (not the precept) and I should like to thank Roger and all the volunteers in the Steering Group for their hard work.

The condition of our roads remains a priority. We have joined the Road Warden scheme and Cllr Brian Pulman attended a two-day training course. Amongst other things, this enables us to repair potholes in the parish that do not meet the Highways' intervention criteria.

We were granted just over £400 from the Parishes Together Fund which has been used towards the extensive ditch clearing work that has been carried out throughout the parish. We also applied for and were granted £2,000 from the Highway Community Maintenance Enhancement Fund towards lengthsman's work.

We successfully applied for funding from Locality and purchased two grit bins which were placed at Moorlands Lane and Millrise.

I'd like to thank Andrew Tucker for all his hard work throughout the parish and for going out and clearing the roads to make it safer and easier to move throughout the parish during the snowfall in early February.

Chris Tottle continues to look after the play area at Millrise and we are grateful to him for his efforts.

We have been granted £1,500 from the P3 fund to provide a walkway across the deep bog at footpath 14. This work will be carried out in the next few months.

The precept remained unchanged at £11,000. EDDC no longer provides the Council Tax Discount Grant which last year amounted to £106.

Donations from the precept totalling £620.00 were given as follows:

- TRIP – £55.00
- Luppitt Children's Christmas Party - £150.00
- East Devon Citizens Advice Bureau - £55.00
- Royal British Legion - £20.00 plus £80.00 raised at the BBQ on 11 November
- Devon Air Ambulance - £100.00
- Luppitt Packet - £160.00

We held a commemoration event on Hartridge on Sunday, 11 November 2018, to mark 100 years since the end of the First World War. It was very well attended and the successful barbecue made a profit of £80.00 which was sent to the Royal British Legion. A parishioner again organised a spectacular firework display and the Parish Council is very grateful to all the volunteers involved for their hard work.

This year has marked the end of the four-year term for Parish Councillors. Gavin Brake and David Barlow have stood down from the Parish Council and I should like to thank them both for their hard work and the contribution they have made over the years, especially Gavin who was Chairman from 2008 until 2014 and then Vice-Chairman. Despite much publicity, only two residents applied to become Parish Councillors so that means there will be an uncontested election. We are looking forward to welcoming Michele Turner and Beth Hooper to their first Parish Council meeting on **Wednesday, 8 May (change of date)**.

Finally, I'd like to thank our District Councillor, David Key, and all the Parish Councillors for their support over the past year.

5 Reports

Report from District Councillor

There was no report.

Report from County Councillor

There was no report.

Report from Village Hall Committee

There was no report.

Report from Commoners

There was no report.

Report from Police

There was no report but the Parish Clerk gave the following details that have appeared in the Parish Council Minutes since the last Annual Parish Meeting.

- Communication of offensive nature – social media posting regarding the victim by known person.
- Breach of a non-molestation order – Family Law act 1996.
- Theft – other – including theft by finding – filed as no lines of enquiry.
- One assault - offender know to victim.
- There were 4 crimes committed compared to 6 in 2017/18 but the Parish Clerk pointed out that the Parish Council does not always receive monthly reports.

7 Questions

There was a general discussion about police presence in rural areas. It is true that Luppitt has a very low crime rate but because of the PCSO's heavy workload, he has not been able to attend a Parish Council meeting since he took over in early 2018. It was agreed that it is important just to see a PCSO every now and then to build up a relationship which in turn provides reassurance to those living in the parish.

There were no further questions. John Thorne thanked everyone for attending although he was very disappointed at the low turnout. The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.