

Luxulyan Parish Council Minutes
Ordinary Meeting, THURSDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2024
6.00 pm, at Luxulyan Memorial Institute

PRESENT:

Cllr Dan Cordy (Vice-chair), Cllr Keith Bilston, Cllr Helen Francis, Cllr Michael Grindley, Cllr Bob Hatton, Cllr Margaret Higman, Cllr Francis Payne, Cllr Carl Tonkin.

ALSO PRESENT:

Clerk to the Parish, Mrs Christine Wilson and three Members of the Public.

ABSENT:

Cllr Michaela Linfoot (Chair), Cllr Sarah Kemp, Lockengate Ward Member Cllr Peter Guest, Luxulyan Ward Member Cllr Colin Martin.

ABBREVIATIONS:

Councillors may be abbreviated with their initials; Luxulyan Parish Council (LPC), Cornwall Council (CC), Cornwall Assoc. of Local Councils (CALC), Footpath (FP), Community Land Trust (CLT), *** indicates the Consultee Comments submitted to the Planning Authority; the general points are proposed and decided by LPC; formal submission is delegated to the Clerk.

MINUTES:

The Vice-chair took charge of the meeting which began at 6.00 PM and he welcomed all.

24/98 Apologies

Apologies were received from ML, SK, Ward Member Guest.

24/99 Declarations of interest or requests for dispensation.

None.

24/100 Public Session

A Caroline Stephenson spoke about her vision for the enhancement of the Luxulyan Valley. One goal is to produce hydro power. She has been in conversation with the parish councils in Lanlivery and Tywardreath & Par. She has also contacted the British Hydro Association. She thinks the Valley must include more than the area from Black Hill to Pontois Mill. Since 2006 the Valley has been part of the World Heritage Site called *Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape* and she would like the parish to be consulted by UNESCO about its plans for the valley. See: cornishmining.org.uk/areas. A video of her talk was made by her colleague to send to the Chair.

One member of the public left the meeting

B Two members of the public spoke about new banking charges beginning in January 2025 for community organisations that are not registered with the Charity Commission. In the parish there are many small organisations such as Feast Week, LEGGS, the Allotments Assoc, PALS for the school, the Institute, Indoor Bowls, etc. A bank account is needed to receive grants and to hold public liability insurance. The charges will amount to at least £60 a year and could mean the demise of many small organisations. The paperwork involved to register as a charity is not always costly but requires an expertise unavailable to most of these small community organisations.
ACTION: The Clerk will write to both Ward Members about the problem.

Two members of the public left the meeting

24/101 Meetings and governance

A	The council RESOLVED that the minutes, as read, of the meeting held on 10 October 2024 are a true and correct record (proposed KB, 2nd MG) and they were duly signed.
B	The council RESOLVED (proposed MG, 2nd CT) to approve the new DRAFT of its Standing Orders based on the latest model from the Nat Assoc of Local Councils (NALC) – after removing an order which caused confusion about quorum. The DRAFT will now be posted on the website and RATIFIED at the December ordinary meeting.
C	The council RESOLVED (proposed FP, 2nd HF) to approve the new DRAFT of its Financial Regulations based on <i>NALC’s Model Financial Regulations for England, July 2024</i> . The DRAFT will be posted on the website and RATIFIED at the December ordinary meeting.

24/102 Finance

A	LPC accounts up to Oct’24, <i>Bank Reconciliation, Budget Comparison and Cash Flow</i> were not complete, so they will be sent after the meeting.		
B	The council AUTHORISED payments for November 2024 totalling £4,055.86 (proposed KB, 2nd MG).		
	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount with VAT</u>	<u>VAT</u>
	Clerk's salary and expenses	£1,497.30	-
	HMRC payment	245.31	-
	Clerk's Pension	21.30	-
	Playground inspections	120.00	-
	Public Conveniences, electricity	21.72	£1.03
	Public Convenience Cleaning Oct24	729.00	£121.50
	Toilets, water - estimated	86.33	-
	SLCC membership, annual	142.50	-
	Footpaths, 1 st cut	593.20	-
	Footpaths, 2 nd cut	593.20	-
	Monthly bank service charge	6.00	-

24/103 Reports

A	Report on Actions. The defibrillator signs are not up yet.
B	Chair’s report. None
C	<p>Cornwall Councillor Peter Guest’s report to the Parish (Lockengate Ward)</p> <p>I’d like to start my report with an apology. You will now know that I was unable to attend the Remembrance parades over the weekend and will not be able to join you tonight for health reasons. I have always considered Remembrance Sunday to be one of the most important days of the year when we commemorate and remember those who laid down their lives in the defence of this country. You know my background and I especially remember my relatives and those comrades of mine who didn’t make it home. Thank you so much for laying a wreath on my behalf.</p> <p>For the next week or so, I will be working from home, so I will still be contactable, normal service will carry on, I’m just not able to meet in person.</p> <p>The bulk of my work since my return from honeymoon has been based in County Hall. Focussing mainly on the Children’s and Families area. Within that I was proud that our recent Ofsted inspection that focussed on Children in care went so well. Cornwall Council were rated ‘Good’ in 3 of the 4 areas of the report and we were rated ‘Outstanding’ in the final area. Given</p>

the budgetary and increased demand pressures put on our Service, I was delighted with this outcome.

Two weeks ago I attended a conference in Scorrier hosted by Carefree Cornwall, where the theme was the housing crisis faced by young people leaving care and went straight from there back to Truro for a meeting of the Cornwall Youth Council. It was a long old day, but thoroughly worthwhile and rewarding. I do relish the challenge that our young people put to me and their thoughts and insights are both refreshing and innovative.

I have also recently visited and worked with Whitehead Ross in Newquay who are doing some wonderful work primarily with 16- to 24-year-olds who are not currently in education, employment or training, [NEETS]. They support, coach and mentor these young people with a view to getting them back into the workforce.

Last Thursday, I took my seat as a newly appointed member of the Corporate Parenting Board, which has overall responsibility for children in care and care leavers within Cornwall. The challenges that children leaving foster care and moving into adult independence are many and varied. Our role as Board members is to advocate for them and lobby for change in legislation to support them in this crucial phase of their life.

Children's and Families work is rapidly becoming my specialist subject. It is hard and challenging work but can also be so rewarding.

Regarding budgets in general, we've now had the Chancellors Autumn statement. Local authorities as you know are under increasing pressure, with rising demand and costs to all of our services, particularly in the Childrens and Adult social care sector. We have been lobbying hard for more realistic [and multi-year] settlements to recognise and help pay for these rising costs and will continue to do so. Currently all we have are the bland headline announcements and the 'Devil in the detail' will come in December. We don't actually know how much we are going to get yet, the Chancellor has only announced figures for the Nation as a whole, but from that we have a fair idea of our split. It's not as bad as we feared, but not as good as we hoped.

In order to produce a balanced budget for next year, [which we are required to do by law] we are looking to have to make up a current shortfall of approximately £6.5m. I sit on the Budget Development Committee and we are working hard to try and cover this shortfall.

As for the rest of the national budget, I'm sure you've heard more than enough and I think you know my thoughts and feelings on how Pensioners and Farmers [to name but 2 groups] have been treated. Sadly, it has just been announced that the subsidy for our water bills is to be removed, this will put more pressure on households who will see their water bills rise.

All this is on top of my regular work, but I must admit that I am slightly behind on local matters, but this will soon be caught up with. One concern in the village and indeed throughout the Division is the effectiveness of the 20 M.P.H. rollout. I'm hoping to sit down with the Officers running the project in the following weeks to see what tweaking is required. Once I have a date, I'll be asking you for your thoughts, insights and suggestions on the scheme. On a related matter, I am currently talking to a couple of local horse riders and the campaign group 'Pass wide and slow', they have raised concerns about speeding and inconsiderate drivers that they encounter when they are out and about on horseback, this is an area in which they would like the general public awareness raised through a publicity campaign and some signage. They will be able to offer a different perspective on the traffic situation as a whole.

One piece of good news is that the Bugle Library of Things took delivery of their mobile van last week. Once up and running, it will be used for valuable outreach work in and around our Division, eventually building up to serve the whole of the Clay Country. This project [valued at just under £100k] was funded by the Shared Prosperity Fund. The fund has been extended for a year, but again, we are waiting for the details which along with the breakdown of the other figures is due to be announced in December.

This is just a brief overview of what I've been up to recently and as always, I'm happy to answer any questions that you may have or go into more detail. Please do not wait for the next meeting to get in touch. If something crops up, either call or email me.

D Cornwall Councillor Colin Martin's report to the Parish (Luxulyan Ward). None.

24/104 Considerations

- A Luxulyan CLT. FP reported that it is now important to register the CLT with the Charity Commission in order to avoid bank fees.
- B The council **RESOLVED** (proposed HF, 2nd MH) that the council's website should have an SSL certificate, available from the website host Vision ICT at a cost of £50 per year.
- C The council discussed whether outsourcing the monitoring of the defibrillators at a cost of £190 per year per unit would be value for money. There was no proposal to do this at the present time.
- D The council **RESOLVED** (proposed KB, 2nd MG) that it has NO OBJECTION to the renewal of Street Trading Consent LI24_006887 - D & D Catering, Land off Innis Downs Roundabout, Lanivet, Bodmin. The councillors reported that D&D Catering seems to be unobtrusive and no one has noticed any litter.
- E The council **RESOLVED** (proposed HF, 2nd BH) that the Clerk should respond to the Government consultation on remote attendance to parish council meetings and proxy voting. The pros, cons and risks were discussed and it was agreed that these points would affect Luxulyan PC negatively: 1) the internet capability in the Institute is not sufficient or reliable enough to handle hybrid meetings; 2) the cost of the equipment (hardware and software) would be expensive, including: annual subscriptions to high bandwidth internet, remote meeting hardware and software, and regular renewal of same; 3) proxy voting would be, in effect, predetermination because the proxy vote would not have the benefit of the discussion at the meeting; 4) a person unable to attend meetings, for whatever reason, would often be unable to fulfil their other duties as councillor, such as attend site visits or hold surgeries.

24/105 Planning

- A Of note. Planning decisions are reported in Clerk's Notes.
- B Applications for consultee comments.
- i. **PA24/07491 | Conversion of garage/store to holiday let without compliance with Condition 2 of decision notice C2/08/01527 dated 19.12.2008. | Chynoweth Bodwen Bugle St Austell Cornwall PL26 8RP.**
The council discussed the application, looked at the documents and **RESOLVED** (proposed MG, 2nd KB) to submit the following consultee comments:
*** Luxulyan Parish Council has NO OBJECTION to this application.

24/106 Highways & Flooding

BH explained that he regularly reports potholes and, though the response is good, it is frustrating when Cormac only fills the ones reported and do not fill those nearby.

24/107 Assets – reports and maintenance

- A Playing Field. Playing Field inspections for October 2024 were received and **NOTED**. The Clerk met with a metal worker earlier today who will be sending in quotes for the various jobs to remove and repair the rust on the play equipment.
- B Cemetery. Nothing to report.

C	Defibrillators. The defibrillator cabinet at Gunwen may be faulty. The Clerk and MG will investigate.
D	Footpaths. Cornwall Council has not done anything about the dangerous footpath at bridges, 408/14/1. The council RESOLVED (proposed HF, 2 nd KB) to ask A&A to tidy up the path so it isn't so precarious.
E	Luxulyan Memorial Institute. Nothing to report.
F	Village Toilets. The light in the Ladies is faulty. The Clerk will contact an electrician.

24/108 Parish Matters – reports

A	Luxulyan Parish Community Fund. Nothing to report.
B	Luxulyan Valley Partnership. BH reported that vandalism of signs and information plaques continues in the Valley. Motorbikes have been seen using Valley paths. Section 7.8.1 of the Luxulyan Valley Conservation Management Plan states that “ <i>Off-road motorcycling is an illegal activity in the Luxulyan Valley area. There are no designated byways that provide access either to or through the valley.</i> ” See also the Public Session, Minute 24/100.A.
C	Village Hall Committee. Nothing to report.

24/109 Correspondence & Invitations (complete list in Clerk’s Notes)

A	BH requested that South West Water send one of their officials to an LPC meeting. They replied that they could not attend this meeting. The Clerk will reply with an invitation from the Parish Council to attend a meeting so that they can explain what is happening at the sewage treatment plant at Bridges.
B	The council received a request to financially support the development of a ‘self-driving heritage tour’ through the mining heritage in the parish. The Clerk will reply that no financial support is available and that the council would not support a scheme that increased traffic on its rural roads during peak periods.

24/110 Business for the next meeting

Budget & Precept. Ratification of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.
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24/111 Dates of next meetings.

A	Ordinary Meeting 12 December 2024, 6.00 pm at the Luxulyan Memorial Institute.
B	An extraordinary meeting may be called by the Chair if needed for planning or other business. An agenda would be posted 3 clear days before.

The meeting closed at 19.37 pm and the Chair thanked everyone for attending.

Mrs C Wilson ~ Parish Clerk ~ 18 November 2024

SIGNED:

Chair: _____ Date: _____