

**DRAFT** Minutes of Luxulyan's

**PARISH MEETING**

Luxulyan Memorial Institute

7.00 pm, Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023

Chaired by: Parish Council Chair, Michaela Linfoot

**Present:** Chair of Luxulyan Parish Council Michaela Linfoot, 10 members of the public and Christine Wilson, Clerk to the Parish Council, Lockengate Ward Member Cllr Peter Guest, Luxulyan Ward Member Cllr Colin Martin.

**Apologies:** None.

**MINUTES:**

*The Chair welcomed everyone and the meeting began at 7.00 o'clock.*

- 1) It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 12 May 2022 are a true and correct record of the proceedings (proposed M Linfoot, seconded F Payne) and they were duly signed by the Chair.
- 2) Discussion of the devolution deal, called 'The Big Deal'.

First Cllr Peter Guest (Lockengate Ward Member and Conservative Party member) and then Cllr Colin Martin (Luxulyan Ward Member and Liberal Democrat Party member) explained the devolution deal from their perspectives and the everyone was able to ask questions. Different aspects of the deal were discussed in detail. Some concerns were highlighted:

- A Mayor would have "*an effective veto over decisions*" regarding the Cornwall Plan, the Annual Budget and Strategies for Cornwall because it would take a 2/3 majority of the members to amend any proposals made by the Mayor.
- A Mayor may also approve the planning for his own projects.
- The Mayor may chose a cabinet of advisors, but the cabinet has no power other than to advise. One person, the Mayor, would have enormous decision-making power over the budget and future plans & strategies & planning.
- A Mayor is elected using the 'first to the post' method. Therefore, whoever has the most votes will win (even though those votes might represent only 15% of the electorate). The Mayor could be elected by a small minority of people in Cornwall.

- There is no way to remove the Mayor from office. Even if there were a vote of no confidence by Cornwall Council, such a vote has no real power.
- Kate Kennally, Chief Executive of Cornwall Council, has stated that of the £12million per year offered as the 'deal', £8m per year would be used to service the debt for the mayor's projects. The first Mayor could tie up all the devolution deal funds – and more – in the first 5 years.
- The entire consultation process has been very biased toward the Mayor and the deal. It is felt that the Leader Linda Taylor will not accept criticism of the deal. The information generated about the deal by Cornwall Council greatly embellishes the promises made in the deal and exaggerates the powers that the deal devolves to Cornwall.
- The consultation itself is biased toward the deal, however IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU FILL IN THE CONSULTATION — ESPECIALLY QUESTIONS 10 & 11.

The consultation will be used by Cornwall Councillors to judge the opinion of the people of Cornwall and they will vote in July whether to accept the deal or not. A simple majority (44) Cornwall Councillors will decide.

When a straw poll of those present was taken, no one was in favour of the deal, two were undecided and the rest were against.

- 3) There was no proposal for this meeting to suggest how the Parish Council should reply to the consultation. It was generally agreed that each council member should reply individually.
- 4) Referendum. The pros and cons of a Referendum were considered but no proposal was made to call for one. It was again emphasised that everyone should fill in the consultation. QUESTIONS 10 & 11.
- 5) Electors of the Parish were invited to address the meeting on any other topic, but no issues were raised.
- 6) The next scheduled Parish Meeting is the Annual Parish Meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023. Other Parish Meetings may be called in the meantime if needed.

*The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.35 pm.*

*Christine Wilson ~ Clerk to the Parish Council ~ 4 February 2023  
email: clerk@luxulyanpc.co.uk ~ website: luxulyanpc.co.uk*

**SIGNED:**

**THESE ARE DRAFT MINUTES.**

Chair: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_