

Luxulyan Parish Council **DRAFT** Minutes  
Ordinary Meeting, THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2025  
6.00 pm, at Luxulyan Memorial Institute

**PRESENT:**

Cllr Michaela Linfoot (Chair), 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 12 Members of the Public.

**ABSENT:**

Cllr Dan Cordy (Vice-chair), Cllr Keith Bilston, 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.

**NOTE ON NUMBERING:**

The prefix will follow the Municipal Year which begins in May. January-April will carry the 24/ prefix. In May the first item on the Agenda will be 25/01.

**MINUTES:**

*The meeting began at 6.00 PM and the Chair welcomed all.*

24/140 Apologies

Apologies were received from SK, DC, KB and Lockengate Ward Member Cllr Peter Guest.

24/141 Declarations of interest or requests for dispensation.

None.

24/142 Public Session

South West Water representatives attended. The Local Government Liaison Officer gave a short presentation about their work at the Luxulyan Treatment Plant. The Programme Manager for Cornwall explained the challenges to deliver the very important Storm Overflow Programme. Investment has improved and a new 5-year plan is underway. One of the major challenges is to keep rainwater/stormwater out of the sewage lines because historically this has not been the case.

Members of the public were able to ask questions and further points were made:

- SWW needs to investigate why neighbours of the Treatment Plant did not receive notification about the noisy works. However, the current project is ending, which should mean noise becomes minimal.
- SWW promised to send the council copies of notification letters in future.
- SWW is working with Exeter University to study how to reduce/filter out microplastics.
- SWW is happy to arrange a tour of the Luxulyan Plant for Luxulyan councillors.
- SWW went away with actions:
  - Investigation why the water pressure in the village is high?

- Further investigate on the pitch of the noise coming from the treatment works.
- Are the woks at capacity? Information around this and what consideration is given to new developments.
- Whether we test for microplastics at the treatment works?
- Why is the water at Bridges often yellow?

*10 members of the public left the meeting.*

24/143 Meetings and governance

- A The council **RESOLVED** that the minutes, as read, of the meeting held on 9 January 2025 are a true and correct record (proposed MG, 2nd HF) and they were duly signed.

24/144 Finance

- A After the January meeting, HF completed the internal control check for the third quarter and she reported that all was correct.

- B There were no questions about the accounts and it was **RESOLVED** (proposed FP, 2nd CT) to receive the Clerk's reports, *Bank Reconciliation, Budget Comparison and Cash Flow* to the end of January 2025, as a correct record.

- C The council **DEFERRED** consideration of a grant for the publication costs of the Granite Towers and will request more information.

- D The council **RESOLVED** (proposed ML, 2<sup>nd</sup> FP) to offer a bridging loan to the Luxulyan Memorial Institute Committee for the urgent installation of new heaters in the building; £1,690.40 to be taken from the council's General Building Reserve. Grant money for the heaters was approved by the Luxulyan Parish Community Fund panel and held up by the Cornwall Community Fund.

- E The council **RESOLVED** (proposed ML, 2<sup>nd</sup> FP) to renew the council's corporate subscription to the Friends of Luxulyan Valley (FoLV).

- F The council **RESOLVED** (proposed HF, 2nd FP) to approve the payment schedule for February 2025 totalling £7,025.90.

Description	Amount with VAT	VAT
Clerk's salary and expenses	£1,235.61	-
HMRC payment	136.21	-
Clerk's Pension	53.08	-
Playground inspections	150.00	-
Public Conveniences, electricity	11.44	£ 0.54
Public Convenience Cleaning Jan25	688.50	114.75
Public Conveniences, water (reading)	110.06	-
Granite Towers postage Feb/Mar	49.60	-
Grass, Cemetery & Verges	825.00	-
Grass, Cemetery & Verges + tree pruning	845.00	-
New Parallel Bars in Play Area	1000.00	200.00
FoLV membership 2025	25.00	-
Replacement heaters Institute	1690.40	-
Monthly bank interest	£6.00	-

24/145 Reports

- A Report on Actions. The Clerk reported actions complete other than the ongoing projects

mentioned in these minutes.

**B Chair's report.**

- The Chair is attending the working party meetings for the renewal of Luxulyan Valley Partnership's Terms of Reference.
- Both of Luxulyan's Cornwall Councillors will not be standing for re-election in May. They have served the residents of this parish to the best of their abilities, and we thank Councillors Guest and Martin for their hard work and dedication to local democracy.

**C Cornwall Councillor Peter Guest's report to the Parish (Lockengate Ward)**

Happy New Year everyone, I hope you're all returning rested and refreshed from the Festive Break and Santa brought you what you asked for.

I'm sorry that I cannot join you tonight as I will be in London for a couple of days. Should anything crop up, please give me a call to discuss it as opposed to waiting for our next meeting.

As usual over Christmas, the number of committee meetings held in Truro tailed off, which has tended in the past to give me the opportunity to get out and about more in the Division. It's the time of the year that I always look forward to, visiting and supporting all the Christmas fairs and functions laid on by our various community groups. Sadly, this year due to my temporary health issues, I haven't been able to attend as many of them as I would have liked to but, reassuringly, I'm told that in general, they were well attended and I hope that they raised valuable funds for the groups involved.

We're now back into the full swing of Council business, I've been at all the meetings that I've needed to attend and although I haven't been as visible within the Division recently, I've been able to keep on top of my local work. A few items of note have taken place in Truro, and here's a quick update on what has been going on.

The main debate this month has been on the devolution deal. Although tinged with a certain amount of pragmatism, as in the Government intend to have us swallowed up in a Mayoral authority consisting of ourselves, Plymouth and Devon, a motion to resist this and ask for a stand alone deal for Cornwall was put forward. Although I was broadly supportive, those eagle-eyed amongst you will have noticed that I abstained on this vote. My main objection was Clause 4 which stated that Cornwall commits to never engaging in talks with neighbouring authorities on proposed cross border deals. This, in theory, would constrain us on talking to Plymouth about Derriford Hospital or the Tamar crossing for example, even though we hold joint responsibility for this. The motion was carried, and despite our Labour M.P.s promising a tailor made deal for Cornwall within 100 days of election, [what happened there?] it seems inevitable that we will tagged on to a Devon and Plymouth Mayoral authority at a later date, and I personally would rather be sat at the table thrashing out a fair deal for the Duchy as opposed to being fed scraps as an afterthought once they have agreed a settlement with Devon and Plymouth.

Another point of major concern is this year's budget. We received assurances from Westminster that this year's settlement would be on a par with last year's and we calculated the budget accordingly. Sadly, 2 days before Christmas, we got our settlement figure which was £5.2 million short. A double whammy followed shortly after, when again, despite promises that the extra bill for the increases National Insurance Employer Contributions incurred by Cornwall Council would be covered by the Government, their settlement figure was £1m light. Having calculated our budget on the promised figures from Westminster, we have now suddenly had to find an extra £6.2, yes, I'll repeat that figure, £6.2 million of savings. For savings, read peoples jobs and services.

Newquay airport is still subject to ongoing negotiations. Contrary to what you read in the press and on Facebook, it is not being sold off to have houses built on it! A deal isn't far off, there are still some talks going on about the financing of the deal. As and when a deal is agreed, I will write in more detail on it.

Work is currently underway regarding the new Governments planning reforms. Currently the

detail is vague apart from the threat to impose building targets on Cornwall, massively increasing the number of houses that we will have to build, regardless of the constraints of building materials, workforce and land. There will be implications on planning committees and Neighbourhood plans. There was a meeting/briefing for Parish Councils on the 27th of January, which was be an opportunity for you to ask questions and raise concerns.

On a brighter note, a couple of weeks ago I had the pleasure of attending the quarterly meeting of the Cornwall Youth Council in the main Chamber at New County Hall. The meeting was organised and run very efficiently and professionally by the young people and both I and our local M.P. Noah Law fielded and answered some searching questions from the Council.

The last scheduled meeting of the Children’s and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee of which I am the Vice Chair is being held in March and we have agreed to shorten our statutory agenda and allow the second half of the meeting to be taken over and chaired by the Youth Council. It is heartening to see these young people taking an interest in politics, they are the next generation, they’re keen, astute and certainly keep me on my toes!

Moving on to local matters, I’m glad to see that we are nearly there with our new link road. I’m hoping that the current diversion will be the last major piece of disruption. It’s been a ‘journey’ as they say on the X Factor [no, I don’t watch it!] but I’m confident that the ends will justify the means.

I’m going to finish on a good news story. You should all have received an invitation to the grand launch of the Bugle Library of Things [BLOT] van at the Village Hall on the 12th February. We managed to secure £94,300 towards this project from the Community Levelling Up Fund, which was part of the previous Governments Shared Prosperity Fund. A lot of hard work has gone into this and I’m sure that it will be of great benefit serving not only Bugle but the whole of the Clay Country. I’ve attached BLOT’s business plan which will give you an idea of the good community works that we envisage being carried out as well as the aspirations to extend the service and build on its success. The ‘ribbon cutting’ on the 12th will be a celebration of the start of the project, I’m currently organising press coverage of the event and hope to see as many of you there as possible. There will be food and I promise to keep my speech short!

As always, please don’t wait for our monthly meetings to raise any issues with me, contact me at any time.

Peter | [cllr.peter.guest@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.peter.guest@cornwall.gov.uk) | 07947 826627.

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

24/146 Considerations

A	FP had nothing to report for the Luxulyan CLT.
B	The council <b>RESOLVED</b> (proposed HF, 2nd MH) to delegate to the Clerk its response to the government’s consultation on ‘Strengthening the standards and conduct framework for local authorities in England’ by using the CALC response as its model.
C	The Clerk did not receive the promised quote for the refurbishment of the play equipment and will chase it.
D	The Clerk did not receive the promised quote for the renewal of the woodwork at the public toilets and will chase it.
E	After discussion about the need and the insufficient shelter given by current bus shelter designs (including the Luxulyan village shelter), the council <b>RESOLVED</b> (proposed HF, 2nd FP) to modify the current bus shelter by lowering the walls to protect users from the wind and to place a more comfortable bench in the shelter.

24/147 Planning

A Correspondence. Planning decisions are reported in Clerk’s Notes.

B Applications for consultee comments since the posting of the Agenda.

i. **PA25/00889 | Demolition of conservatory and construction of extension | Marks Cottage Conce Bugle St Austell Cornwall PL26 8RT.**

The council looked at the plans, discussed the application and **RESOLVED** (proposed ML, 2nd FP) to submit the following consultee comments:

\*\*\* Luxulyan Parish Council has NO OBJECTION to this application as long as its design is in keeping with the main cottage and in relation to the adjacent properties.

24/148 Highways & Flooding

There are concerns about the hedges on the lane by the Cemetery which are quite overgrown. The Clerk will write to the residents of the two properties there and request they trim the hedges back to their boundary before the birds start nesting.

24/149 Assets – reports and maintenance

A Playing Field. Playing Field inspections for January 2025 were received and **NOTED**.

B Cemetery. After discussion of pros and cons, the council **RESOLVED** (proposed ML, 2<sup>nd</sup> MG) to pay for the collection of the second bin at the Cemetery.

C Footpaths. Nothing to report.

D Luxulyan Memorial Institute. The Clerk reported that the Institute might receive an offer from Wildanet to make it a Community Hub with Wildanet offering free broadband.

E Village Toilets. See 24/146.D.

24/150 Parish Matters – reports

A Luxulyan Parish Community Fund. Nothing to report.

B Luxulyan Valley Partnership. Nothing to report.

C Village Hall Committee. Nothing to report.

24/151 Correspondence & Invitations (complete list in Clerk’s Notes)

A The Council discussed a letter concerning the collection of rubbish at St Julitta.

B The Clerk will have nomination forms for parish council elections next month.

24/152 Business for the next meeting

No business was requested.

24/153 Dates of next meetings.

A Ordinary Meeting 13 March 2025, 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 8.20 pm and the Chair thanked everyone for attending.*

*Mrs C Wilson ~ Parish Clerk ~ 15 February 2025*

**SIGNED:**

**THESE ARE DRAFT MINUTES.**

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