

## Linkinhorne Parish Council

### Annual Parish Meeting

# Minutes of the Meeting held Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 7.00pm at Linkinhorne Parish Hall, Upton Cross.

## Minutes

### Present at the Meeting were:

Lynne Child (St Cleer and district Commoners Association), Andrew Collins (Community Speed Watch), Anne Hughes and Simon Humphreys (Friends of Stara Woods), Brian Norris and Roy Cooper (Linkinhorne Parochial Church Council), Sarah Pym (Sterts), Five members of the public.

Cllr K. Wallis (Chairman), Cllr M. Corfield, Cllr S. Beech, Cllr R. Hanson, Cllr C. Hearn, Cllr C. Hordley. Lena Batten (clerk).

### 1) Apologies:

Alison LAHA Secretary ( Linkinhorne Allotment Association), Andrew Davy Chairman (Rilla Mill Village Hall Committee), Shaun Ewings (Link), Carol Horsington (Caradon Orchard Group), Michelene Norris (Linkinhorne PCC), Cllr B. Martin.

### 2) Minutes of the Meeting of Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024:

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024 were confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

### 3) Chairman's report:

Firstly, welcome to you all for the annual parish meeting of Linkinhorne Parish Council. Once more, your parish council has been incredibly busy and tonight, I would like to take you through some of the work your councillors have done on your behalf. If you have any questions I will be prepared to take them at the end of this report.

As I said last year, a huge part of our time and a huge part of the public purse goes on the upkeep of the toilets at Minions and Upton Cross. This year has been no exception. With the help of your councillors and some specialist contractors, the toilets at Minions have had a full overhaul. We have also been able to employ a new cleaner, once the previous contracts ran out, and since then we have noticed a much higher standard of cleanliness. The toilet block has been painted, overhanging trees and bushes cut back, electrics all tested and minor building works done. The water usage is now monitored on a monthly basis and we are able to see immediately if there is a leak, something which we had problems with before. Thanks must go to the team who did all the hard work and to our Clerk who regularly checks the toilets at both Minions and Upton Cross. Thanks also to her husband who has frequently gone out and undertaken minor repairs at no cost to the council other than any parts which had to be bought.

The war memorial at Upton Cross, which remembers the fallen from the parish, is again another thing which is kept up by the parish council. The lettering has been repaired so the names will not be lost and the rails have all been cleaned down and repainted, putting gold tops on 30 of them, one for each of the fallen. Again, this is something which was done partly by an external contractor for the specialist work on the names, and partly by a parish councillor whose idea it was to paint 30 gold tops.

The playing fields in Upton Cross and Rilla Mill have both had weekly checks all year round and, if required, one of the councillors has been out and put things right immediately. At Jubilee Field, Upton Cross, there have also been ongoing major upkeep of the hedges and the ditch. The back fence which borders Sterts has, eventually, been replaced and the 100 whips which were planted along the side, which was laid by a local professional hedge layer last year, have now grown and are infilling the gaps. These will be the shrubbery that will be laid again in a few years' time. The ditch itself has been cleared more than once by your parish councillors and I would like to thank Councillors Steve Beech and Mike Corfield for taking a lead on this and doing all the strenuous work involved. The problem with the ditch is that it fills with debris washed down from the main road, something which we are talking to Cornwall Council about as we see it as their responsibility to make sure their debris doesn't fill our ditch! In the coming weeks we will have a local contractor in who will have to clear the whole run with a digger. Hopefully this will keep the ditch running clear and we will not see the problems we had this year with the fields getting covered in water in the top corner. The gazebo has also had a new roof as we lost part of it in the storms and when it came to repairing it, it became clear that the whole roof needed an overhaul. It is still heartening to know that the Jubilee Field is still used by parents from all over as it is considered to be one of the best kept and safest in this part of Cornwall.

One thing that has been happening recently, and which we are asking everyone to watch out for, is a number of people have taken to using it as a dog walking field and dogs are not permitted on it as it is a children's playground. The Clerk has put up new notices and a piece was put in The Link reminding users that dogs are not permitted on the field.

This year we have seen the purchase and subsequent letting out to interested parties, of post office telephone boxes. Both Minions and Upton Cross have been purchased by the Parish Council and we are just waiting to see them spring back to life with the help of the local community. We are quite excited by the plans for both boxes.

But it isn't all good news. There are still areas of concern that we are working on and which are as frustrating for your council as they are for you. We are fast running out of cemetery space and are looking for further provision so that people who have lived here can be buried here. The Cheesewring Hotel at Minions, once a hive of the community, still remains no more than a burnt-out shell. Rumours abound as to what is happening to it but until the owners do something, all we can do is keep a watchful eye to see it doesn't become a health and safety or an environmental hazard.

Around the parish we have numerous footpaths which are open to the public. Although not necessarily the parish council's responsibility to keep these free from rubbish, cleared of debris and in good order, it is our responsibility to make sure that they are kept clear by the owners of the rights-of-way. If you are following foot paths, please remember many of these go through working farms and through fields where crops have been planted so, please keep to the foot paths don't

wander off and if you see rubbish, pick it up and take yours home with you. Stiles and gates are not the responsibility of the Parish council, but of the County Council and the landowner but if you see one that is damaged, we can refer it on.

We were very disheartened in recent weeks to find a local farmer who had applied for planning permission to widen a road and had it refused, who went ahead and did it anyway, tearing up part of the hedgerow and the banks which, at this time of the year were previously covered in celandine and primroses. It was reported to the parish council by a member of the public and immediately reported to County Planning. In this last week the outcome has been declared. He was in breach of Planning but, as he had only dug out half of the hedge there is nothing we can do. It is at times like this that we have felt hindered by not having had the support of a County Councillor. In recent months we have been able to have some support from a neighbouring councillor but not having a voice representing us at County Hall has been a real difficulty and made our job incredibly difficult at times.

The cottages at Primrose Vale in Rilla Mill are also an ongoing problem, standing empty and deteriorating while local people are desperate for affordable homes. As we could get nothing done at county level and the company who owns them does not seem to want to know, other than to sell them having the Section 106 [local housing need] removed so they could be sold to anyone from anywhere, the Chairman of the Parish Council contacted our new MP, Anna Geldred, and, having had her caseworkers meet with the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk, she is now following up the case and is actively working on it to get it resolved.

Now we are out of Purdah, I am allowed to thank councillors by name for their hard work for without them, this parish would be a lesser place. Vice Chairman Dr Mike Corfield, Steve Beech, Christine Hordley, Russ Hanson, Carl Hearn, whose knowledge of councils and how they work is invaluable and lastly to Beryl Martin. Beryl has served this parish for more years than I can count. Her knowledge of people, places and local goings on, reaching back years and years is something to behold. While we sit wracking our brains trying to remember, Beryl will invariably chip in with 'that was in such and such a date and involved so and so' and then she will produce the minutes of the meeting it was discussed in! She is going to be missed but I do hope she will still allow us to pick her brains.

We have 13 seats on the Parish Council and at this election only 8 people are standing so all are automatically elected to serve for the next 4 years. We welcome our new parish councillors and look forward to working with them. But ... we are desperate for more people to come and help, to serve as a councillor. We would love to have young blood and young ideas. All we ask is attendance at a council meeting once a month. If you want to do more that is entirely up to you. Come and talk to us, we can always coopt you.

Linkinhorne Parish Council Needs You!! It really does.

And finally...We could not function without our Parish Clerk, Lena Batten. Although employed by us on a part time basis, Lena always gives more than the basic. She paints and wood stains and repairs parish council notice boards, collects the money from the toilets, does the odd repair around the parish, far more than is expected of a Clerk. So, from all of us, Lena, Thank you.

And that, Ladies and gentlemen, concludes my Annual Parish Council report for 2025.

#### **4) Other reports:**

##### Ali Humphreys - The Recycling for Charity Project:

Since starting our project in 2019 we have raised over £18, 500 on items normally thrown away. YES chucked out as rubbish. The items we collect must be sorted into programmes which are sponsored by manufacturers, then boxed by our volunteers to send to TERRACYCLE to be recycled. Terracycle work with McVitie's, Warburton, Cathedral cheese, Burts Bee and more, and points are awarded for each box we send. Every 6 months, April and October, these points can be redeemed and money is sent to our nominated charities. We have just redeemed £1820. Hopefully we can double that by October. But we'll need a lot of support to match that amount.

Our list of accepted items changes when the manufacturers make alterations. We can no longer take crisps & snack packets which generated a vast volume and was a great earner. No more sweets and chocolates wrappers and recently all dental items have been stopped and the latest to be struck off the list has been coffee packets and reusable plastic drinks bottles. Our latest success and maybe our biggest success to date, was just before Christmas 2024, when we entered the Playground contest sponsored by SISTEMA. Recycling for Charity were invited to send as many old Tupperware, takeaway and all food containers plus reusable drinks bottles. The group that sent the most, would win a playground made from the recycled plastic for their school of choice. I love a challenge and thought hard about which school to partner with that could generate the sort of volume needed to win this national contest. I reckoned a school in a town with a few takeaway food outlets, charity shops and lots of groups to ask for their support would have a chance. I approached Brunel School in Saltash and they were so enthusiastic. They emptied kitchen cupboards, lockers and store rooms in Saltash and the surrounding area. As well as massive support from our regular collectors. IT WAS CRAZY. We sent over 1 Tonne of plastic... ie. over 100 boxes weighing 10kg each. AND we earned points on every kg sent, which equated to £1148 for KICK COUNT charity who aim to reduce UK stillbirths. AND we won the PLAYGROUND, which is planned to be installed now, over the Easter break.

At the same time, we were also collecting sweet tubs, Roses, Hero's, Quality Street & Celebrations for DCW Polymers at Exeter. Last year we bought a picnic bench made from these sweet tubs and donated it to the PC for anyone to use in the Jubilee Field play area. If you aren't collecting for us yet, I urge you to get onboard... read the list of items we can take, and drop them to a collection point. THE BLUE BINS in the parish hall car park, by the notice board, here in Upton Cross.

Check our web page for more collection points, we are also on FB and NEXTDOOR Not sure how to get started, give me a call. THANK YOU Ali. 07305 044049. [www.south-hill.co.uk/charity-recycling](http://www.south-hill.co.uk/charity-recycling).

##### Anne Hughes and Simon Humphreys (Friends of Stara Woods):

Anne Hughes introduced herself and stated that The Friends of Stara Woods had been going for approximately twenty three years now. They leave it up to all individuals how much time they want to input. The bridge across the river was last funded approximately eleven to twelve years ago and has cost a lot of money recently. Anne reported that they have now received additional funding to repair the bridge. All other works are completed by volunteers. Most of the forestry grants have

dried up now and there is a fine balance to be found between meeting the needs of the wildlife and the residents of the Parish. Anne confirmed they have had to close footpaths where there is ash dieback for safety reasons. Finally, she concluded to state that Stara Woods is one of two areas where the water quality is described as excellent.

Lynne Child - St Cleer and district Commoners Association:

Lynne introduced herself and confirmed that there was now a new rural policing team in the area led by Lee Skinner and that she was having a lot more interaction with them recently. People are generally more likely to keep dogs on leads. The Commons Council has had no Chairman since 2022 and under Section 38 of The Commons Act 2006, she has recently requested to close the Council.

Andrew Collins – Community Speed Watch:

Andrew gave an overview of Community Speed Watch stating that they were asked to take on Upton Cross just over a year ago. They were given a grant of £900.00 and purchased a third gun with the funds. Concerns had also been raised regarding speeding in Minions however due to low volunteer numbers other areas were having to supplement individuals as there was only one volunteer in the Upton Cross area. Community Speed Watch were keen to hear from interested volunteers, who only need to invest one hour sporadically.

Brian Norris and Roy Cooper -The Parochial Church Council:

During the past year an oversight minister referred to in last year's report to the Parish Council has been appointed. Revd Andy Atkins was licenced on 4th September as 'Priest in Charge' of Callington, Linkinhorne, South Hill and Stoke Climsland parishes in the Callington Cluster and Assistant Curate of 3 parishes in the Tamar Valley group. With 11 churches in 7 parishes Andy relies heavily on lay leaders to take services and manage the day to day running of local churches. There is a proposal to combine the Callington Cluster and Tamar Valley parishes into a single benefice with the suggested name of the Kit Hill Benefice. Details of this proposal have been passed to Parochial Church Councils (PCCs, the trustees of each ecclesiastical parish) for comment. Three PCCs (Linkinhorne being one) have met with diocesan representatives to express concerns and seek clarification on a number of issues.

These proposals will shortly be published for public consultation before they are progressed to the next stage and eventually be legally signed off. This whole process is not likely to be completed until the first quarter of 2026 at the earliest. Meanwhile the 7 PCCs involved have met together once and a number from most of the 11 churches involved have met for joint services and/or courses.

On a more local level, at St Paul's, following the removal of a large tree immediately behind the CrossLink Centre, the formerly shaded area has flourished into a riot of colour from spring flowers. The PCC is grateful for the Parish Council Grant to help finance graveyard maintenance. Inside the church, the aisle and newly formed open area at the front of the church has been carpeted.

At St Paul's All Age services and 'Meet and Eat' breakfasts continue on the first and fourth Sundays of the month respectively. Messy Church has been re-scheduled from the afternoons of the third Sunday of the month to the morning on the third Saturday, sessions include breakfast. Members of the congregation staff the Drop In café on Thursday afternoons in the Parish Hall which the Hall

trustees continue to generously provide free of charge. There is no charge for refreshments but donations towards the Liskeard and Looe Food Bank are welcome and during 2024 £697.32 was raised due to the generosity of patrons.

St Paul's has strong links with the school and, along with St Melor's congregation members, visit the school every 2 weeks to present 'Open the Book'. Also during 2024 an 'Experience Harvest' day was held in the church, each class coming in during the day to visit the various displays representing an aspect of the Harvest season. During November wooden poppies were supplied to the school for children to decorate and then 'plant' each side of the church path.

The Parochial Church Council (the PCC or trustees) met 4 times during the past 12 months. One of the recurring agenda items is the work on St Melor's fabric that needs attention. Among these are repairs to stonework and part of the roof for which donations and grants will be required to finance. Readers of The Link will be aware of this and I am pleased to report that one of the trustees is now in a position to investigate possible grants for the work.

The Annual vestry meeting to appoint churchwardens will be held on 29th April at 7:00pm followed by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting where the accounts are presented and officers appointed for the coming year.

Sarah Pym, Trustee, Sterts Arts & Environmental Centre:

First of all Sterts would like to thank Linkinhorne Parish Council for supporting our planning application to Cornwall Council for the re-building of the theatre's covering. As you know in 2022 the old canopy was damaged and our insurance company were unable to continue cover. This was a very serious time for Sterts but happily I can report that the Trustees were able to raise funds from the Community Ownership Fund and Shared Prosperity Fund 2 (Levelling-Up) to re-build our much-loved theatre. It may interest you to know that the planners advised that had we wanted to replace like for like, with a similar canopy, that we would not have had building regulations approval. The increase in the severity and frequency of storms due to climate change required us to re-build a much more robust structure. The new 'barn' theatre, with a life of 100 years, covers the original amphitheatre and creates more space. The solid roof enables a solar array and batteries making the energy use of the theatre sustainable.

We have trained a 50-strong volunteer force. We recently hosted a programme for young men not in education, employment or training from Transferrable Skills Training in St Ive learning building skills on the site. We are a regular venue for Forest School teachers in-training. We are currently awaiting the outcome of a further SPF application. If successful this will enable us to make further improvements outside, increase the number of toilets (and provide 2 dog poo bins, as Sterts is a through-way for dog walkers).

We are keen to re-visit our original heritage and environmental ambitions of 40 years ago and seek interested partners. The Dark Skies Landscape is already on board. We are now open for business and a full programme of theatre, music, dance & comedy is available which we hope local residents will enjoy. There is currently an emphasis of participatory activity for young people. We're currently recruiting new Trustees if anyone here is interested in applying please contact us.

Thank you for your time tonight and for your continuing support of Sterts.

### **Other reports received with apologies:**

#### Dennis Rowland - Manager Cornwall Resources:

Please accept my apologies at the meeting. I had planned to discuss the recent announcement by Cornwall Resources Limited and our parent company of a 12-month project co-funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Scheme, which will include new exploration drilling on our Redmoor tungsten-tin-copper Project in Kelly Bray. The total investment in new activities will be £1.5m. We intend to hold public events in Callington Town Hall before works start, and during the project. I will also seek to attend a meeting at each of the local parish councils, and invite representatives from the councils to visit our project site. Here's a link to the market news release: Strategic Minerals Plc (SML.L) Share Price, Updates & RNS News - Vox Markets.

#### Sue Batkin – The Roberts and Jeffery Foundation:

The Roberts and Jeffery Foundation is a small charity that provides grants to children who are resident in Linkinhorne Parish. The Foundation is a combination of two charities. Those of Charles Roberts who founded a charity in 1714 and George Jeffery who founded a charity in 1772. The Charity is reregistered with the Charity Commission and is managed by 7 Trustees. Full details of the administration for the Trust and the annual financial return can be found on the Charity Commission web site.

Grants are made to assist with the expense of post elementary education and may also be made to improve the health of children attending primary school within Linkinhorne Parish. Examples of these grants being: Grant contribution to Upton Cross Ace Academy to help with the cost of transport to swimming lessons. Grant assistance to a family as a contribution towards the cost of a school trip.

Each year the charity invites applications for assistance towards the cost of school uniform for children who are resident in Linkinhorne and will be moving into secondary education. In 2024 ten grants were made of £120 to each eligible child. Application forms for school uniforms grants are published in the August issue of the Link.

Contact details for enquiries can be found in the Link magazine.

#### Alison – LAHA Allotment Association:

It has been an interesting year for the allotments as we have seen new neighbours move into the adjacent field, Orchard Park, part of the Ecological Land Cooperative Initiative. Our group has begun to forge a good relationship with them, and we watch with interest to see how the site develops.

In August, the allotments hosted a visit from a group of Horticultural Society members who were given a tour of our site along with some light refreshment, during which the mutual exchange of knowledge and the wisdom of experiences were shared. Much work has also been carried out on the allotment site over the past year through a series of Communal Workdays in which members have come together to create new bays for the storage of woodchip and manure. Works have also been carried out to improve our onsite parking areas to enable allotment holders to get closer to

their plots, to improve visitor parking and generally make the site more accessible for all ages and abilities.

We have continued to embrace the growing of an increasing array of organic fruit, flowers and vegetables, with each year throwing up different challenges and as we grapple with changing climatic and environmental conditions. It can truly be said that no growing season is the same, our inevitable successes and failures feeding into a process of ongoing and reflective learning. With long spells of cold, wet weather hampering plant growth this past year, and a dramatic explosion of slug populations, we continually strive to seek out new and innovative ways to succeed and overcome the barriers of pest and disease in an environmentally friendly manner. In so doing, we have enjoyed a wealth of organic produce, some of which could be seen at the Linkinhorne Horticultural Society Annual Show, along with the camaraderie amongst fellow plot holders, and the physical and mental health benefits that allotmenting brings, particularly as we take in the peace and tranquillity of our surroundings with its ever-increasing biodiversity.

We have also enjoyed a wealth of organic produce, examples of which could be seen at the Linkinhorne Horticultural Society Annual Show which we routinely support. In August we also hosted a visit from a group of Horticultural Society members who were given a tour of our site and some light refreshment, during which the mutual exchange of knowledge and wisdom of experiences were shared. Over the past year a number of communal workdays were organised with allotment holders working together to make improvements to the roadway and parking areas on site, as well as creating bays for the storage of woodchip and manure. We have also welcomed new neighbours in the adjacent field, Orchard Park, which is part of the Ecological Land Cooperative Initiative and watch with interest to see how the site develops.

#### Christine Ewings – Linkinhorne Village Hall:

The Past Year: Linkinhorne Parish Hall is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with the objective of ‘The provision and maintenance of a village hall for the use of the inhabitants of the Parish of Linkinhorne without distinction of political, religious or other opinions, including use for: a) meetings, lectures and classes, and b) other forms of recreation and leisure-time occupation, with the object of improving the conditions of life for the inhabitants.’ A significant change in the management team has taken place during the above period, the new leadership team has become well established and ready to continue to move forward.

Overview: Regular, well attended meetings have taken place, these are minuted and actions are generally carried through. Most policies have been updated and all have been revisited by the chair.

Continuing to try to attract additional members to the committee is a vital task, to share the load and ensure continuation of being able to offer such a wide range of activities and promote new ones in order to keep the hall viable. A steady growth in our hall finances has been achieved. Hall hire has remained similar to last year. We start the year with our overall bank balance at a healthy state. The main hall and storeroom were completely repainted during the past year. The monthly Coffee Morning on Tuesday and Craft and Chatter group on Friday afternoons continues along with regular, very successful, quiz nights and Table Top sales and monthly film club. Summer and Christmas craft fairs also took place arranged by Ruth Carthew. Thank you to all involved in this as these contribute



greatly to the hall finances. The micro library is still well supported and Cornwall libraries are keen to continue it's support.

#### Carol Horsington – Caradon Orchard Group:

We have recently held our AGM in the hall and have had a few resignations from the committee but also some new members joining us. This puts the group in a much stronger position going forward into 2025. Last year we held a number of events, from training days and a late summer BBQ to the annual Apple Day in October. This proved to be very popular even though the apple harvest was not so good last year. A number of local businesses and organisations had tables in the hall and the PTA provided refreshments. This year the hall has been booked for Saturday 4th October so we hope to have another successful day for the whole community. Going forward we feel positive, with a steady membership and three new people joining the committee. I am sorry that we were not able to attend the meeting in person.

#### Simon Hordley - Linkinhorne History (and Archive) Group:

Our story – what legacy can we leave behind for future Linkinhorne Parishioners? This is an exciting new project for the whole community. We are fortunate to have an amazing team to help guide us through this project. Simon Parker, journalist and writer, Chris Barnard professional photographer and Jack Harris influencer and film maker. Our vision is to produce a series of twenty five interviews by a cross section of locals who have lived here all their lives. We also record a wider range of thoughts, memories and anecdotes from the wider community of those who have chosen to settle here in Linkinhorne. We will record photographs of meaningful vignettes of our area and have a competition to choose twenty five images that best represent our parish. We thought it would also be fun to produce a twenty five minute film of life in the parish. This will be made up of parishioners videos recording a day in the life of the parish. We will begin the project with three workshops run by each of our team to lead us through the process of interviewing family or friends, how to take the best photo albeit on your Nikon or your phone and give you some tips and hints or recording techniques for the video.

#### Shaun Ewings – The Link:

Here is my contribution for the Annual Parish Meeting. The Link Magazine continues to go from strength to strength. At the time of writing, I am in the middle of preparing the 527<sup>th</sup> issue of the magazine. We are now having a high number of requests for adverts to be placed in the magazine and we continue to offer some of the lowest advertising costs in any printed parish magazine. We have needed to pause some advertising so that there remains some space for content. We are grateful to the regular contributors who provide the varied and interesting content that is vital to keeping the magazine flourishing.

Each month, 525 copies of the Link are received from our long term printers, and nearly all of these sell out with usually only about fifteen left as spare at the end of the month. As soon as they arrive from the printers they are delivered to the team of distributors by either Louise Hopes, Geoff and Sue Maunder, Sally Gisborne or Zena Jones.

We are very grateful to the team of twenty two distributors who get the magazines delivered to our subscribers. We would also like to thank the three shops that sell the magazine – The shop at the

Caradon Inn, The Minions Shop and Trelvalicks. The shop at the Caradon Inn sells twenty, Trelvalicks have forty and most months they sell out, especially in summer. The shop at Minions sells twenty to thirty.

There are no plans at the moment to change the magazine from a print magazine to an online magazine, partly due to the fact that this has not been something that many people have asked for, and partly due to the extra work required and technical limitations of the current software that we are using.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

**5) Meeting closed:**

The meeting closed at 8.28pm.