

Linkinhorne Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

Monday 10th November 2025 at 7.30pm at Rilla Mill Village Hall, Rilla Mill
Minutes

Present at the meeting were: Cllr K. Wallis (Chairman), Cllr S. Beech, Cllr B. Cox, Cllr J. Gale, Cllr C. Hordley, Cllr S. Street, Cllr A. Thomas.

Lena Batten (Clerk).

One member of the public was present at the meeting.

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and introduced herself to all present.

1) Apologies:

Cllr M. Corfield (Vice Chairman).

2) Code of Conduct:

a) To receive declarations: Cllr S. Street, item 6b(i).

b) To grant dispensations: Cllr S. Street was granted dispensation due to late declaration.

3) Minutes:

Resolved that subject to the amendment of the incorrect spelling of “stationery” at item 6, page 54, the minutes of the previous Meeting of Linkinhorne Parish Council held on the 13th October 2025 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4) Public Participation:

The Chairman invited one member of the public to speak. The member of the public introduced himself as PCSO Steve Edser and confirmed that there were no crime’s reported in the Linkinhorne Parish over the past six weeks. PCSO Edser reported that he was currently working with St Cleer and District Commoners Association to improve safety for livestock on the moorland. He clarified that it was illegal to drive or park on the moorland and warnings and letters of advice had been issued to several members of the public. The next step if warnings were ignored was to issue a Section 59 warning. PCSO Edser had attended a recent meeting and they were currently undergoing exercises regarding dogs worrying livestock which was an ongoing difficulty. The Chairman asked about the two cherry picking vans consistently parked at Upton Cross along the B3254. He reported that they were not parked illegally and that if it was parents who were complaining, Sterts did allow all parents to park in their car park during drop off and collection times and parents should utilise this offer. The Chairman further reported the hazardous driving in and around Rilla Mill due to the ongoing diversion signs for various roadworks. PCSO Edser advised that if there were areas of particular difficulties, these could be reported to Highways who would come out to assess. Finally, brief feedback was given regarding the improvements to parking during bonfire night due in part to police presence and assured the meeting that the police would attend again next year and they had also given advice to Rilla Mill Village Hall Committee regarding advising members of the public to wear bright and highly visible clothing given the village was so dark.

The Chairman thanked PCSO Steve Edser for his time.

5) Reports from and matters of concern to:

a) Cornwall Councillor Jim Gale:

Cllr J. Gale informed the meeting that Houseman's mine at Minions was now owned by Cornwall Council who was working with Cornwall Heritage Trust to potentially re open Minions Heritage Centre. There was a meeting due to take place on the 17th November 2025 to further progress this. Cllr J. Gale further reported that he was also liaising with Cornwall Council with regards to the derelict building that used to be the Cheesewring Hotel due to it being an eyesore in a World Heritage Site. He provided an update in relation to Primrose Vale Cottages to confirm that he had opened a new case assist and asked for a consultation with the current owners. Cllr J. Gale described how he found it hard to understand how Cornwall Council felt it acceptable to place families in emergency accommodation in Travel Lodges with rooms that did not have a footprint of 50sq meters and yet the cottages were deemed to be too small to be used for the same purpose. He concluded his argument to state that there were 23,000 names on the homechoice waiting list whilst these six empty properties fell into disrepair. Finally, Cllr J. Gale reported that he was also working with Cornwall Council regarding recent transport uses in the wider area, primarily affected were SEND children's transport and the elder community who were paying excessive taxi costs for health appointments.

b) Councillors:

Cllr C. Hordley fed back information following her attendance at the Cornwall Community Flood Forum Conference which took place on the 7th November 2025. She reported that one of the pressing concerns was how to contact the more vulnerable members of the parish in an emergency. Cornwall Community Flood Forum was a charitable organisation backed by Cornwall Council and the environment agency among other organisations. The lead professionals involved came from various areas and backgrounds however as she had attended the conference in the past, felt that the professionalism within the forum had improved dramatically. Cllr C. Hordley informed the meeting that flooding was now within the top four national risks and sea levels were evidenced to be rising at 3mm per year with a significant increase in the past few years. Ignoring the risk was not a solution to the problem and there were several properties in the Linkinhorne Parish that were considered to be at risk. The Government's philosophy was to encourage and promote community resilience especially in rural areas as funds were being diverted to more urban locations. Cllr C. Hordley was going to put a small article in the LINK to share the information obtained and questioned whether a robust emergency plan was required.

Cllr C. Hearn reported that a recent St Cleer and District Commoners Association meeting had taken place where the focus had been upon the safety of livestock on the moors and ways to educate the public on the hazards of harming animals due to inappropriate and unsafe driving. He confirmed additional signage was being explored to support safety. Cllr C. Hearn further advised that Cornwall Council were looking at emergency planning in more detail.

6) Finance:

a) To receive/approve cash flow of accounts/bank reconciliation:

Resolved that the bank reconciliation / cash book statement for October 2025 was confirmed as an accurate account, and this was signed by the Chairman.

b) Payments:

i) £330.00 (WC cleaning Oct), ii) £366.88 (Corserv, Field maintenance, October), iii) £30.00 (Lena Batten, signage), iv) £2.00 (SLCC membership top up), v) £580.00 (burial ground maintenance 2025), vi) £36.00 (Western Web, creation of new profile on laptop), vii) £20.00 (RMVH room rent).

Resolved that the following payments were approved, one Councillor abstained.

c) Receipts: i) £150.00 (erection of tablet in burial ground), ii) £501.61 (VAT reimbursement).

This was noted for information.

d) To agree the budget proposals and precept amount for submission for 2026-2027 in preparation for the 31st December 2025 deadline:

Resolved that the precept amount be submitted at £35,428.17 following agreement at the Finance Committee held on the 27th October 2025.

e) To agree Linkinhorne Parish Council Risk Assessment and Management Policy reviewed at the Finance Committee Meeting held on the 27th October 2025:

Resolved that Linkinhorne Parish Council Risk Assessment and Management Police be agreed.

f) To agree Linkinhorne Parish Council Financial Regulations reviewed at the Finance Committee Meeting:

Resolved that Linkinhorne Parish Council Financial Regulations be agreed.

g) To agree Linkinhorne Parish Council Asset Register, Asset Policy and Asset Disposal form reviewed at the Finance Committee Meeting:

Resolved that Linkinhorne Parish Council Asset Register, Asset Policy and Asset Disposal form be agreed.

h) To agree Linkinhorne Parish Council Statement of Internal Control reviewed at the Finance Committee Meeting:

Resolved that Linkinhorne Parish Council Statement of Internal Control be agreed.

i) To agree a one increment increase from April 2026 for clerk as recommended at the Finance Committee Meeting held on the 27th October 2025:

Resolved that following successful appraisal a one increment increase from April 2026 be agreed.

7) Planning:

a) Planning applications: None.

b) Any applications received before the meeting –

i) PA25/07804 – Treverbyn, Bray Shop, Callington – proposed farm managers dwelling and garage - Linkinhorne Parish Council made the following recommendations:

Linkinhorne Parish Council had no objections subject to a) county land agent conducting an assessment of the financial viability of the proposed unit, b) to confirm that the building is essential for the purposes of animal husbandry and the needs cannot be met other than by living on site and c) there is a Section 106 planning agreement to tie the section of land to the ownership of the property.

8) Play equipment and recreational areas:

a) Weekly safety inspections: i) To note regular safety inspections have taken place by the volunteer, cover is needed for weeks commencing the 5th and 12th January, and the 16th February 2026.

Resolved that two Councillors will look to cover the three weeks between them.

b) Jubilee Field:

i) To consider / resolve treating all wooden play equipment with a waterproof protector:

A brief debate took place, it was agreed that the treatment was weather dependent and probably would not be able to be undertaken until spring 2026. Sections of the play area would need to be closed off whilst the treatment took place.

Resolved that in principle it was agreed the play area would require a treatment next spring, one Councillor would research appropriate treatments and the clerk would return the item in March 2026.

ii) To consider next actions as there are 7 / 8 upright posts missing on the play house:

There were several upright posts missing from the play house and consideration was given to the age of the house and how many repairs could be undertaken. It was agreed that if structural repairs were needed, it could be time to replace it rather than repair.

Resolved that two Councillors would assess the playhouse and look at the potential life span left. The clerk would contact FD Hall and request a quote for replacement as they made the last one.

iii) To consider / accept the additional fee to cut the hedge in full rather than just around the chicanes.

The clerk advised that she had contacted the contractor who was going to cut around the chicanes and the car park and ask for the additional costs involved. As the additional costs were within the agreed additional amount the contractor would aim to proceed within November weather dependent.

c) Rilla Mill play area:

i) To note for information two signs were placed in the play area in time for the bonfire night:

The clerk confirmed two signs had been erected prior to bonfire night taking place. It was agreed that this had helped, one Councillor reported two fourteen year old children had been sat on top of the tunnel and should the age limit be lowered in the park for that night only. The Chairman confirmed that there had only been one complaint about parking and thanked PCSO Steve Edser and the police for their attendance. PCSO Steve Edser reiterated that the only concern evident on the evening was members of the public in dark clothing. He advised that next year the advert include the importance of individuals wearing high visibility jackets or clothing that could be seen with a comment such as "please be seen".

9) Public Conveniences:

a) Minions:

i) To note for information the water meter reading on the 27th October at 863 and on the 30th at 868, a higher than usual usage but no obvious leaks:

The clerk advised that since the 30th October her husband had noted a sticky cistern and the plumber had been informed and rectified the problem. The Chairman requested he be thanked for his time in identifying the leak.

b) Upton Cross:

No reports of concern however it was raised that there was no information as to when the hall was likely to reopen.

Resolved that the clerk would contact Linkinhorne Parish Hall and request an update.

10) Public Rights of Way:

i) To note for information the volunteer is planning to fit a waymarker at the top of the lane by the stile at Upton Cross:

This was noted for information.

ii) To note for information two volunteers have offered to walk the footpaths:

This was noted for information.

11) To consider / resolve the purchase of some form of ID for Linkinhorne Parish Councillors and clerk:

Debate took place regarding the need for ID for Councillors, specifically when doing checks in the lay areas and toilets.

Resolved that the clerk would purchase six high visibility vests and give one to the volunteer who checked the play areas. The clerk would purchase lanyards and identification cards for all Councillors to include photos. Photos of the Councillors would also be updated on the website.

12) To note for information the bus shelter at Minions has been cleaned by several members of the public and they have suggested a sign to state “Public toilets are located in the village on the track opposite the Pub”:

The Chairman thanked the members of the public for cleaning out the bus shelter and consideration was given to a sign however it was not felt that this was required as there was now a locked gate.

Resolved that should there be any evidence that members of the public had used the bus shelter as a public convenience now that the gate was padlocked, the clerk would proceed and purchase a sign directing them to the public facilities across the road.

13) To consider / resolve any response to Cornwall’s application survey to become an Age Friendly Community:

Resolved that all Councillors had the link and could respond to this as individual Councillors.

14) To consider / resolve any response to the email regarding Understanding Cornish Places:

Resolved that all Councillors had the link and could respond to this as individual Councillors.

15) To consider / resolve any steps as Community Speed Watch have reported Upton Cross to be the highest percentage of vehicles exceeding the limit, in the Group area and are looking for two further volunteers:

Resolved that the clerk would put an advert in the Link to confirm that Linkinhorne Parish Council were supportive of Community Speed watch and keen to identify new volunteers. The clerk could provide contact details for any members of the community who were keen to become involved.

One Councillor requested a brief discussion regarding the bench located at Minions in Commemoration of the Jubilee. He reported that this was in a poor condition and would require works beyond what he was able to provide. It had been previously resolved at the July 2025 meeting, item 6, that the bench be repaired and an additional plaque unscripted in memory of a local parishioner who had recently passed away and donated £1000 to the Parish Council.

Resolved that the clerk would obtain quotes for the repair of the bench and purchase an additional plaque once the wording had been confirmed.

16) Correspondence as listed:

07/10/2025*	CALC	Vacancies on the board of CALC at AGM
09/10/2025*	Newsletter	Rural services network
24/10/2025*	Weekly newsletter	Rural services network
24/10/2025*	Weekly newsletter	Rural services network
30/10/2025*	Weekly newsletter	Rural services network
30/10/2025*	Cornwall Local Plan	Advert for drop in session
30/10/2025*	Planning news	Positive planning
03/11/2025*	PCSO Steve Edser	Since 2/10/25 to 30/10/25 were no crimes in the Linkinhorne area that are disclosable

Decisions forwarded by Cornwall Council:

PA25/06903 - The Old Dry, Minions, Liskeard, PL14 5LJ - Works to Trees within a Conservation Area (TCA) - A to D - Lodge pole Pines - Fell five trees. Replanting is underway using a mixture of conifer and deciduous species already present on site. F - Dying Hawthorn - Fell tree - Decided not to make a TPO (TCA apps).

PA25/06730 - Alma Cottage, Rilla Mill, Callington, PL17 7NT - Works to trees in a conservation area (TCA) works include removal of four small conifers, two located directly on gable end of property, two directly in front - Decided not to make a TPO (TCA apps).

Notifications forwarded by Cornwall Council:

PA25/01013 - Colpitt Cottage, Rilla Mill, Callington, PL17 7PD - Pre-application advice for the siting of a Shepherd's hut or similar temporary mobile structure for holiday letting, year-round as indicated on the attached block plan, in a field formerly used for agriculture but recently (5 years) used for domestic leisure purposes.

PA25/08091 – Riverside, Rilla Mill, Callington, PL17 7NT - Application for tree works within a conservation area: T1- Conifer- Fell.

17) Close of Business: The meeting closed at 8.55pm.