

Linkinhorne Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

Monday 12th January 2026 at 7.30pm at Rilla Mill Village Hall, Rilla Mill

Minutes

Present at the meeting were: Cllr K. Wallis (Chairman), Cllr M. Corfield (Vice Chairman), Cllr S. Beech, Cllr J. Gale, Cllr C. Hearn, Cllr S. Street, Cllr A. Thomas.

Lena Batten (Clerk).

Four members of the public were present at the meeting.

The Chairman welcomed all Councillors and members of the public to the first meeting of 2026.

1) Apologies:

Cllr B. Cox, Cllr J. Gale sent apologies to state that he would be late but would be attending.

2) Code of Conduct:

a) To receive declarations: Chairman K. Wallis, item 6 b(viii), Cllr S. Street, item 6 b(i) and item 18, Cllr A. Thomas, item 18.

b) To grant dispensations: Cllr K. Wallis, Cllr S. Street and Cllr A. Thomas were granted dispensations to remain in the room.

3) Minutes:

Resolved that the minutes of the previous Meeting of Linkinhorne Parish Council held on the 8th December 2026 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4) Public Participation:

Four members of the public were in attendance. The Chairman invited them to speak. Three members of the public introduced themselves as residents of Higher Stanbear and gave a good overview of why an additional salt bin was required outside or in close proximity to their properties. They reported that the salt bin currently in place was half way up the hill which did not facilitate them being able to walk up and get salt for the bottom of the hill which was the worst area for black ice. They confirmed there had been several incidents caused by ice in recent years. The Chairman reported that she would comment during Councillors report at item 5 (b).

The fourth member of the public was asked to speak and reported that he had attended in relation to Primrose Vale Cottages. The recent storm Goretti last week had blown down the adjoining fence to his property from Primrose Vale Cottages and he wanted to start the process of a Section 215 with the aim of forcing Live West to take reasonable steps to maintain the properties whilst they sat empty. He further reported that the overgrowth is so bad that it is not possible to access the fence in order to complete any repairs. The Chairman reported that this information would be passed onto Cllr J. Gale with a view to him progressing the option of a Section 215 Order and the member of the public was welcome to wait in the meeting to speak with Cllr J. Gale direct when he arrived. The member of the public thanked the meeting for their time.

5) Reports from and matters of concern to:

a) Cornwall Councillor Jim Gale:

Resolved that Cllr J. Gale's report would be heard upon his arrival later in the meeting.

b) Councillors:

Cllr K. Wallis reported that there had been major difficulties with driving conditions in the Parish last week caused primarily by black ice and poor weather conditions. She confirmed that it was not the Parish Council's responsibility to keep the salt bins topped up but Cornwall Council's. Cllr K. Wallis suggested that all Councillors collect as much evidence as possible of incidents on the road in order that the clerk could collate this information to forward to Cornwall Council. This may result in increased gritting on the more main roads in the Parish, in particular the bus routes. One Councillor suggested moving the salt bin down the hill at Higher Stanbear, another Councillor confirmed she had recently sent an email to Cornwall Council environmental department to ask for predictive weather information as she was a member of the Flood forum and felt that ice should be included within risk assessments.

Resolved that should Councillors wish to proceed, the clerk would arrange to hold a public meeting in the autumn of 2026 with a view to the public creating a safety plan for next winter. The matter would be listed on the February 2026 agenda for Councillor confirmation.

6) Finance:

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

Resolved that the bank reconciliation / cash book statement for December 2026 was confirmed as an accurate account, and this was signed by the Chairman.

At 8.12pm Cllr M. Corfield, Vice Chairman took the chair for the following item:

b) Payments:

i) £420.00 (Sheila Street, WC cleaning Dec), ii) £366.88 (corsew field maintenance Dec), iii) £30.00 (Room Hire, RMVH, Nov), iv) £74.99 (Lena Batten, reimbursement of Norton Anti Virus subscription), v) £237.00 (Gareth Haimes, Repair of play house), vi) £30.00 (Room hire, RMVH, Dec), vii) £28.40 (Lena Batten, salt for salt bins), viii) £147.14 (Kathy Wallis, salt for salt bins).

Resolved that the following payments were approved. Two Councillors abstained.

c) Receipts:

None.

d) To note for information CCLA investment currently stands at £42,744.57 as at 30th November 2025:

This was noted for information.

The Chairman requested all members of the public left the meeting and were welcome to return following the next discussion. All members of the public left the meeting.

“(Exclusion of Press and Public – to exclude press and public on the grounds that the following item of business involves disclosure of confidential information as defined in Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960” -

The Chairman asked all Councillors if they would be available for a meeting to be held on Monday the 19th January 2026 in order to consider information received from one member of the public.

Resolved that the clerk would book a room, all Councillors were available to attend and the meeting would be held at 7.00pm.

The Chairman invited all members of the public to return to the meeting however three had already left, the fourth decided not to return to the meeting.

7) Planning:

- a) Planning applications: None.
- b) Any applications received before the meeting – None.

8) Play equipment and recreational areas:

- a) Weekly safety inspections:
 - i) To note for information completion of 2025 inspection rota – this was noted for information.
 - b) Jubilee Field:
 - i) To note for information confirmation received from the insurance to clarify that the Scouts are organising the painting of the play house therefore their insurance is responsible – The clerk confirmed that as the scout group were organising the activity, their insurance would cover them. Only the scout leader needed to sign a volunteer form. This was noted for information.
 - ii) To consider / resolve repairs to the wood starting to rot at the top of the slide – consideration was given to whether the wood could be repaired or needed to be replaced.
Resolved that one Councillor would assess this and respond at the next meeting.
 - iii) To note for information the play house has now been fixed – This was noted for information.
 - c) Rilla Mill Play Area:
 - i) To consider / resolve next steps regarding the play slide floor which needs replacement – Two Councillors had visited the area and gave an overview of the work that was needed. It had not been possible to source the tool needed to lift the current flooring. Alternatives were discussed.
Resolved that two Councillors would look to place a new floor on top of the existing floor as it was not possible to remove the existing floor.

9) Public Conveniences:

- a) Minions:
 - i) To note for information the water meter reading on the 10th December was 877 and on the 23rd December was 879 – This was noted for information.
- b) Upton Cross:

No reports of concern.

10) Public Rights of Way:

- i) To consider next steps as footpath 614/18/1 has been reported to Countryside services but they were not happy to contact the land owner direct. Countryside services had asked the clerk to walk it first –
Resolved that the clerk would respond to confirm she was not able to walk the footpath at this time and Linkinhorne Parish Council would appreciate the matter being scheduled to be addressed as soon as practical by Cornwall Council as this was their responsibility.

11) To re consider / resolve the quotes for the bench at Minions as the quotes are significantly different and a further quote of different material has been received:

One Councillor reported that he was unable to confirm why there was such a difference in the quotes for Accoya wood. The clerk then shared a further quote for recycled plastic. Debate took place as although wood was considered more aesthetically pleasing durability was a significant factor given the location of the bench.
Resolved that the majority of the Councillors preferred the recycled plastic, the clerk would inform the contractor that he could proceed and complete the work. The unsuccessful contractor would be contacted to thank him for taking the time to forward the quote. The clerk confirmed that the

plaque has been removed already to ensure the second plaque is a similar size and material. The wording requested had been confirmed and agreed.

12) To agree the adverts for tender for the cutting of the Jubilee Field and Play area at Parsons Meadow, also the public footpaths with a closure date of 2nd February, both due to expire at the end of March 2026:

Both adverts were considered and agreed.

Resolved that the clerk would advertise in the Link, on the website and on the boards with a closing date of 20th February 2026.

13) To consider / resolve Western Web running a WCAG compliance check on the website at a cost of £45.00 plus VAT:

Resolved that the clerk would proceed and request a WCAG compliance check on the website.

14) To consider four requests received from members of the public to submit to the Community Highways Improvement Programme:

The clerk gave a brief overview of the four requests received from members of the public following the advert in the LINK. All four requests were considered, it was concluded that one was not in the Linkinhorne Parish and would be forwarded accordingly to the correct Parish. The remaining three requests were all unlikely to have significant merit with Highways as they did not fall within threshold for expression of interests. A general discussion was held regarding areas of concern in the Parish.

Resolved that following significant consideration of all three requests, no expression of interest would be submitted.

15) To consider / resolve whether to share views of Linkinhorne Parish Council on Cornwall's bus services:

Resolved that the clerk would forward this to the LINK.

16) To consider / resolve one representative attending the rural affordable housing forum on the 21st January 2026:

Resolved that one Councillor would attend the rural affordable housing forum which was to take place on line on the 21st January 2026 and would feed back to full Council.

17) To consider / resolve any response to one member of the public who is seeking Linkinhorne Parish Council's opinion on the proposed plan to build a shepherds hut at Colpit Cottage, Rillaton:

Resolved that the clerk would respond to state that if Cornwall Council planning does not require planning consent then the Council do not have a view to express or any comments to add.

18) To consider / resolve to accept one proposal from two members of the public volunteering to become the guardians of the BT kiosk at Rilla Mill which was previously adopted by Linkinhorne Parish Council but currently does not have a guardian:

Two volunteers shared their proposal.

Resolved that the proposal was agreed. The clerk would compile an Agreement to be signed.

19) To note for information as requested at the July 2025 meeting, the clerk has again contacted Cornish Tin to see if they are able to do a brief presentation prior to the February or March meeting:

No response received to date.

Councillor Jim Gale entered the room and gave apologies for being late.

The Chairman advised Cllr J. Gale that it had been agreed to list on the next agenda, the possibility of a public meeting being held in Autumn of 2026 to look at the public becoming involved in a safety plan to manage the salt bins prior to bad weather next winter. She then invited Cllr J. Gale to share his report. Cllr J. Gale confirmed that East Cornwall and the local Parishes appeared to have missed the worst of storm Goretti in comparison to the West. Cornwall Council had prepared well and had teams in place to address concerns as soon as they were informed during the storm. Cornwall Council was looking for all local Parishes to have Emergency planning procedures in place as the weather was becoming increasingly unpredictable.

In relation to Primrose Vale Cottages he gave an update to confirm that he continues to liaise with Cornwall Council as if the properties cannot be used for local housing then another use needs to be found for them. Cllr J. Gale was updated in relation to the storm damage at Primrose Vale Cottages and confirmed he would be seeking a Section 215 order on the properties. He further confirmed that following discussion with Countryside footpath services, they were only dealing with acute emergencies on the footpaths. In relation to the budget Cllr J. Gale confirmed a full Chamber Meeting was due to take place on the 20th January 2026 and in February the budget would be delivered. Currently Cornwall Council was looking to make savings of 50 million. Finally Cllr J. Gale reported that he had attended a recent planning update meeting at County Hall. This was following a new ruling in 2025 Crown Development. This meant that anything on crown land will have applications go directly to the Secretary of State for a decision and not to the local planning department.

20) To consider / resolve a request from one member of the public to place an additional salt bin at Higher Stanbear:

This item was previously discussed at item 4.

The Chairman left the room at 8.44pm and the Vice Chairman took the Chair.

21) Correspondence as listed:

07/12/2025*	Newsletter	Rural Services Network
07/12/2025*	Cornwall Council	Analysis of Autumn Budget
07/12/2025*	T2M CAP	Survey
07/12/2025*	Cornwall Council	Town and Parish Council newsletter
15/12/2025*	Newsletter	Rural Services Network
15/12/2025*	Autumn Newsletter	Forest for Cornwall
22/12/2025*	Newsletter	Rural Services Network
22/12/2025*	Cornwall Council	Rural Affordable Housing Forum
31/12/2025*	PCSO Steve Edser	Since 2/12/25 to 31/12/25 there has been the no crimes that are disclosable.

Decisions forwarded by Cornwall Council:

PA25/08091 – Riverside, Rilla Mill, Callington, PL17 7NT - Application for tree works within a conservation area: T1- Conifer- Fell – Decided not to make a TPO.

PA25/08368 - Idle Cottage, Sharptor, Liskeard, PL14 5AT - Decided not to make a TPO (TCA apps) Works to trees within Conservation Area - clearance works to groups G1 of 4.5 metres comprising of re pollarding and re coppicing. Where there are a number of Oaks and Hawthorn present minimal clearance of around 2-3m where possible – decision not to make a TPO.

PA25/09134 - Mill House, Rilla Mill, Callington, PL17 7NT - Works to Trees within a Conservation Area (TCA) - T1 - 3 Cherry trees - Cut back by 80%. T2 - Beech - Pollarding and reduction by 15%. T3 -

Beech - 4 lower limbs to be removed. T4 - Ash - Remove 4 lower limbs. T5 - Ash - Full removal of tree.

Notifications forwarded by Cornwall Council:

PA25/09254 - Meadow Brook, Rilla Mill, Callington, PL17 7NT - Works to Tree within a Conservation Area (TCA) - T1 - Beech - Full removal.

PA25/09363 – Nampara, Henwood, Liskeard, PL14 5BP - Works to trees in a Conservation Area, T1- reduce 8 Ash Trees by up to 40% as annotated in photographs.

22) Close of Business: The meeting closed at 8.49pm.