

Linkinhorne Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

Monday 9th March 2026 at 7.30pm at Rilla Mill Village Hall, Rilla Mill

Minutes

Present at the meeting were: Cllr S. Beech, Cllr B. Cox, Cllr J. Gale, Cllr C. Hearn, Cllr C. Hordley, Cllr S. Street, Cllr A. Thomas.

Lena Batten (Clerk).

Five members of the public were present at the meeting.

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed five members of the public.

1) Apologies:

Cllr M. Corfield (Vice Chairman), Cllr K. Wallis (Chairman).

2) Code of Conduct:

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

b) To grant dispensations: The Chairman granted dispensation for Cllr S. Street to remain in the room but not speak.

3) Minutes:

Resolved that the minutes of the previous Meeting of Linkinhorne Parish Council held on the 9th February 2026 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4) Public Participation:

The Chairman invited members of the public to speak. One member of the public introduced himself and stated that he had attended in relation to planning application PA26/01003. He reported that there was currently an application for fourteen dwellings, with half affordable housing. However, since the application there had been planning changes which had resulted in the potential development being too small for larger developers and vice versa hence the application was being changed to a smaller development of five dwellings. It was hoped that a smaller development would be welcomed and he was present to answer any questions. The first question was what would happen to the field north of the development. It was stated that a hedgerow was proposed and the field would continue to be cut for hay. The second question was in relation to the difference between a provisional application and permission in principle. The response was an outline application required additional information compared to permission in principle. The Chairman thanked the member of public for his time.

A second member of the public asked to speak in relation to an alleged breach of planning in the Henwood area, a conservation area, within an area of outstanding natural beauty and a Heritage area. It was reported that trees had been removed and a wall excavated to allow for parking. The member of the public had been in communication with Councillor Jim Gale and wanted to know if there was any update. They were also aware that the matter had been reported to Cornwall Planning enforcement. The Chairman reported that Cllr Jim. Gale had not yet arrived but was due and welcomed the members of the public to stay in order to receive any updates which they agreed to do.

5) Reports from and matters of concern to:

a) Cornwall Councillor Jim Gale: Cllr J. Gale had given apologies via email for late attendance due to him attending a Parish Council Meeting in another Parish and stated he would share his report on arrival.

b) Councillors: Cllr C. Hearn reported that he had attended the latest Commoners Association St Cleer and District meeting held in 2026. He reported that the police would be running initiatives in the area over the Easter break to raise awareness of the dangers of speeding in the area. It was further reported that rural crime in the area had had a significant impact with agricultural machinery being stolen.

6) Finance:

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

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

b) Payments: i) £360.00 (Sheila Street, cleaning of WC's), ii) £35.00 (RMVH, room hire), iii) £142.86 (LPH, utilities for public convenience Jan 2025 – Jan 2026), iv) £507.00 (Gareth Haimes, repair of Minions bench), v) £60.00 (fix to blocked toilet), vi) £366.88 (Corserv, field maintenance, February).

Resolved that the payments were approved.

c) Receipts: i) £151.00 (Minions WC coinage).

7) Planning:

a) Planning applications:

i) PA26/00407 – Land to the west of Upton Cross School, Upton Cross, PL14 5AY – outline application for a nine rural exceptions scheme with all matters reserved – Councillor C. Hearn declared an indirect interest by way of proximity and knowledge of the applicants.

Resolved that in view of the site sitting outside the village settlement boundary on rising land in the open countryside, which is within an area of great landscape value, served by unsatisfactory access on a narrow stretch of road in close proximity to a busy primary school the application be refused.

ii) PA26/01003 – Land North of Gospenheal, Upton Cross, PL14 5AX – Permission in principle for up to 5 dwellings – Considerable debate was held and the general consensus was that it was a good development site. However, there was a proposition that the application was not supported due to it being an exception site which did not provide affordable housing in accordance with the exceptions policy and did not sit within the Neighbourhood Development Plan. The motion was tied with three Councillors for and three Councillors against. The Chairman declined to use a casting vote.

8) Play equipment and recreational areas:

a) Weekly safety inspections:

i) To note for information the weekly safety inspections have taken place with no significant issues identified – This was noted for information.

b) Jubilee Field:

i) To note for information one Councillor has fixed the latch on the gate and the rotten spindle – This was noted for information.

c) Rilla Mill Play Area:

i) No concerns identified – This was noted for information.

9) Public Conveniences:

a) Minions:

i) To note for information the water meter reading on the 16th February 2026 was 885 and on the 26th February 2026 was 886 – This was noted for information.

b) Upton Cross:

No reports of concern.

10) To note for information the Accessibility statement on the website was last updated on 15th December 2025 to ensure compliance with Assertion 10:

This was noted for information.

11) To consider / resolve tenders received for maintenance of both playing fields and footpaths:

Consideration was given to the tenders received for both the Jubilee Field and Parsons Meadow play area and also the public rights of way. The length of contract was also discussed.

Resolved that three year contracts be awarded to the most financially viable, the clerk would inform them and notify the other tenders that they had not been successful.

12) To review / adopt Linkinhorne Parish Council IT policy as required to ensure compliance with Assertion 10:

Resolved that the IT policy was adopted for Linkinhorne Parish Council.

13) To confirm Devon and Cornwall Police will be doing a 15 minute cyber awareness presentation at the beginning of the Annual Parish Meeting to be held on the 11th April 2026:

This was noted for information.

14) To resolve to agree the retrospective decision to submit an application to the Community Highways Improvement Programme for additional signage at Minions:

This was noted for information.

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

15) To consider / resolve any response to the site manager of Orchard Park in relation to the poor state of the lane:

The clerk confirmed she had received an email from Verity Groom, site manager of the Ecological Land coop at Orchard Park, Rilla Mill. The email had expressed concerns about the poor conditions of the lane. A quote had been obtained at a cost of £2835.60 for further repairs. The clerk confirmed some background information to include that the renewable one year lease was to be reviewed in 2026/2027 to align with the farm business tenancy by the land owner. It was also confirmed that the land owners had stated they would not consider a longer lease for the allotment land. One member of the public was asked for further information in relation to the state of the lane and confirmed that there were two bad areas although the allotments access was approximately half way up the lane and did not proceed further up the lane onto the Ecological land.

Resolved that the clerk would respond to state that the Parish Council only had a year left in terms of the lease and felt it would be more appropriate to consider the request when and if the lease was renewed later in the year.

The Chairman welcomed Cllr J. Gale to the meeting and asked him to share his report.

Cllr J. Gale stated that he had several updates to share, firstly, the Community Infrastructure Levy had anticipated approximately one hundred applications however had received close to four hundred. Secondly, the Kit Hill parking charges consultation was ongoing but was unlikely to proceed following a visit to the site. He further detailed the Budget for 2026-2027 which he had

voted against as he stated that Cornwall Council was 1.8 Billion in debt and he did not support further debt. Cllr J. Gale shared that approximately three hundred and eighty seven pot holes were being repaired daily with over four hundred reported daily. He proceeded to detail that two cases of planning enforcement were being investigated in the parish and he was awaiting feedback. Cllr J. Gale concluded stating that he had been asked to obtain a definition of Crown Development – he was now in a position to clarify that Crown Development was defined as “expedited process for significant projects on Crown land or Duchy land”.

16) To note for information a CIL expression of interest was submitted on the 16th February 2026 with an application number of CILF5120:

This was noted for information.

17) To consider / resolve if any Councillors would like to complete the ROSPA training on offer:

The clerk detailed that CALC was asking for initial expressions of interest and no set date was yet arranged. They were looking to offer a routine one day inspection course and a two day operational inspection course. Given that the volunteer was looking to finish the play area checks later in the year this may be of interest.

Resolved that the clerk would obtain further information with regards to the one day course and would put her name forward.

18) To note for information the Information Commissioners Office annual renewal is due on the 27th March 2026 at a cost of £47.00:

This was noted for information and was paid by direct debit.

19) Correspondence as listed:

05/02/2026*	Newsletter	The Rural Services Network
05/02/2026*	Pre Consultation	20mph speed restrictions role out
12/02/2026*	Newsletter	The Rural Services Network
16/02/2026*	Devon and Cornwall Police	Councillor Advocate Seminar
18/02/2026*	Newsletter	The Rural Services Network
18/02/2026*	Chris Sims	Connect North Cornwall Briefing note
25/02/2026*	Newsletter	The Rural Services Network
27/02/2026*	PCSO Steve Edser	Since 30/1/26 to 26/2/26 there has been the following crime - Criminal Damage to motor vehicle

Decisions forwarded by Cornwall Council:

PA25/09700 – Netherhill, Rilla Mill, Callington, PL17 7NT - Works to trees in a Conservation Area, T1 - Oak tree needs pruning, T2 - Oak Tree needs pruning, T3 - 3 Sycamore trees need pruning – Decision not to make a TPO.

Notifications forwarded by Cornwall Council:

PA26/00962 - 1 Princes Row, Minions, Liskeard, PL14 5LP - Works to trees in a conservation area works include remove T1 Fir tree.

20) Close of Business: The meeting closed at 8.48 pm.

