

Linkinhorne Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

Monday 11th May 2026 at 7.30pm at Rilla Mill Village Hall, Rilla Mill

Minutes

Present at the meeting were: Cllr Kathy Wallis (Chairman), Cllr Mike Corfield (Vice Chairman), Cllr J. Gale (Ward Councillor), Cllr S. Beech, Cllr B. Cox, Cllr C. Hearn, Cllr C. Hordley, Cllr S. Street, Cllr A. Thomas.

Lena Batten (Clerk).

Four members of the public were in attendance at the meeting.

1) Election of Chairman and signing of the Declaration of Office of Chairman:

The Chairman passed the chair to the Vice Chairman who thanked the Chairman for her work in the past twelve months. Proposed, seconded and upon being put to the vote, it was unanimously resolved to approve the re election of Cllr K. Wallis as Chairman. The Vice Chairman passed the chair back to the Chairman. The Chairman duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office to the role of Chairman, countersigned by the clerk.

2) Election of Vice-Chairman:

The Chairman informed the meeting she would be looking to step down in May 2027 and encouraged other Councillors to complete the available training in preparation. The Chairman proceeded to invite nominations for the Vice Chairman's position. It was proposed and seconded and upon being put to the vote, unanimously resolved to re elect Cllr M. Corfield as Vice Chairman. The Vice - Chairman duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office to the role of Vice - Chairman, counter-signed by the clerk.

3) To receive Standing Orders, Code of Conduct:

It was agreed with all in favour that the Council would accept the current Standing Orders and Code of Conduct.

4) Apologies:

No apologies were received.

5) Code of Conduct:

- a) To receive declarations: Cllr S. Street item 9 b (ii).
- b) To grant dispensations: The Chairman granted dispensation for Cllr S. Street to remain in the room but not speak.

6) Minutes:

Resolved that subject to the amendment of "pubic" to "public" at item (i), page 19 the minutes of the previous Meeting of Linkinhorne Parish Council held on the 13th April 2026 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7) Public Participation:

Four members of the public were in attendance. The Chairman invited members of the public to speak for three minutes. One member of the public wished to raise a concern in relation to the lack of speed management on the road leading down to Upton Cross from Minions. She reported that there were four roads leading out of Upton Cross, three had speed management restrictions in place however on the road up to Minions the speeding restrictions finished by the gate, coupled with this, visibility was difficult coming out of the small estate. It was reported that several cats had been killed and at least one pedestrian knocked with a wing mirror. As a group, the estate was collectively concerned and would like the speed restrictions moved further up the hill. One Councillor felt the move should also incorporate Dunsley which was located slightly further up the road. All were in agreement that this was a logical proposal given the location of the school and the speed restrictions elsewhere in the village.

Resolved that the clerk would contact Dan Rogerson, Portfolio Holder for Transport at Cornwall Council on behalf of Linkinhorne Parish Council to request this and Cllr J. Gale would also speak with him.

A second member of the public wanted to obtain an update in relation to Primrose Vale Cottages and stated that the cottages were now practically inaccessible and despite the housing shortage in Cornwall, no movement had taken place. He was aware a Section 215 notice (The Town and Country Planning Act 1990) had been served but no improvements had taken place. Cllr Jim Gale, Divisional member reported that this is the second Section 215 notice that had been issued. He had asked for an update following the enforcement officer's visit and would feed this back as soon as he had any further information. The Chairman requested that the member of the public forward any relevant emails to the clerk.

A third member of the public wanted to raise the potential purchase of land at Upton Cross as this was going to auction on the 27th May 2027 and any potential update Linkinhorne Parish Council had. The Chairman reported she had information regarding this which would be shared under Councillors reports at item 8. The member of the public thanked her and confirmed he would remain in the room to listen to the update.

The Chairman thanked all members of the public for their contributions.

8) Reports from and matters of concern to:

a) Cornwall Councillor Jim Gale:

Councillor J. Gale reported that he had requested an update from Livewest in relation to Primrose Vale Cottages, Livewest confirmed the Section 106 remained in place and it was not cost effective to bring the cottages back into use for them as a company. They wanted the Section 106 lifted however Cornwall Council had confirmed they would not remove the Section 106. Consequently, he was in the process of trying to arrange a meeting with Livewest, Affordable housing and Cornwall Planning in an attempt to move the situation forward. He would keep Linkinhorne Parish Council and the member of the public updated.

Councillor J. Gale further reported that the proposed use of Glyphosate weed killer by Cornwall Council had been paused pending a consultation period. He would provide updates when available. Highways had been contacted in relation to the blasting of the drain at the Jubilee Field again, they had confirmed they had this on their radar and he would continue to pursue this. Councillor J. Gale shared some updates in relation to the housing waiting list in Cornwall and stated that there were 25,000 currently registered on the waiting list with 900 registered as homeless. He further reported

that many parishioners would have noticed road markings looked sparse, the budget in 2025-2026 for road markings had been £40,000 however for 2026-2027 it had been increased to £225,000 therefore significant improvements should start to be noticed. Following one year in post as a Divisional Councillor he would now be sitting on the Strategic Housing Committee. Finally, Councillor J. Gale reported that there would be a knock on effect from the changes in Legislation for private landlords as rents were expected to increase. Cornwall Council had approved planning for a total of 26,000 homes which was an increase of 68%.

b) Councillors:

The Chairman reported that the clerk had forwarded information which related to an Enhanced Footpath Maintenance Grant for up to £10,000 which was not listed on the agenda but was to be awarded on a first come first served basis. The Chairman invited members to consider any paths that would fit the criteria.

Resolved that the clerk would make an application to re open footpath 614/28/1 which was overgrown and inaccessible.

The Chairman further reported that in relation to the potential purchase of land at Upton Cross, she had again contacted the seller subsequent to the withdrawal of the offer, to confirm that Linkinhorne Parish Council were in a position to increase the amount due to two additional members of the community who were willing to contribute however had not received a response to date.

Resolved that the matter would be listed on June's agenda under confidential items for further updates.

Three members of the public left the room.

9) Finance:

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

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

b) Payments:

i) £936.00 (Martin Hoare, storm gulley replacement), ii) £330.00 (Sheila Street, WC cleaning), iii) £96.00 (Gareth Pollard, internal audit), iv) £232.80 (ROSPA annual inspection), v) £54.00 (Western Web), vi) £102.00 (Western Web), vii) £1,200.00 (Clear Councils Annual insurance).

Resolved that the payments were approved.

c) Receipts:

i) £246.71 (VAT reimbursement), ii) £17,714.09 (1st instalment precept).

The receipts were noted for information.

d) To note for information the CCLA investment stands at £43,289.99 on the 5th April 2026 - This was noted for information.

e) To note for information the employer pension contribution has changed from 19.60% to 19.70% effective from 1st April 2026. April's payment had already been made, the clerk reported that there was a deficit of 80 pence which was agreed as an additional payment in retrospect – This was agreed.

10) Planning:

a) Planning applications:

i) PA26/02245 – East Yolland Farm, Upton Cross – single storey double garage with adjoining personal gym space - Linkinhorne Parish Council discussed the application and agreed that there was no objection subject to the condition that by the nature and design of the proposal, it be tied to the house by means of legal agreement in perpetuity thus preventing it from being separated from the house or occupied as a separate dwelling.

b) Any applications received before the date of this meeting:

None.

11) Play equipment and recreational areas:

a) Weekly safety inspections:

i) Weekly safety inspections have taken place - It was reported that the end of the slide was found and placed near the wood shed. The clerk confirmed she had the end of the slide in her safe keeping, this would be repaired as part of the works required to the play house.

ii) To accept the annual ROSPA inspections and consider any works required - The Chairman thanked the volunteer and Councillors who as a team, regularly attended the play area to ensure equipment was safe and in good condition.

Resolved that Councillors would look at the ROSPA reports and bring any items of concern for discussion to the June meeting.

b) Jubilee Field:

i) To receive feedback quotes for the repair to the spindles on the play house – The clerk reported that only one quote had been received at £112.00.

Resolved that the quote was accepted and the clerk request work commence.

ii) To consider / resolve repairs to the mound as several of the horizontal lengths are going rotten, one has come loose resulting in a rusty screw exposed – one Councillor reported that the uneven surface at the bottom of the slide had been identified by ROSPA however it was agreed that this was general wear due to children landing at the bottom, no work was required. The clerk shared the quote for the replacement / repair required to the rotten wood on the mound at £138.00.

Resolved that the quote was accepted and the clerk request work commence.

c) Rilla Mill Play Area:

i) The Rooster was reported to have been knocked and may not be safe – one Councillor stated that he had looked at this and a general discussion was held as this had been raised before. The clerk has also checked the rooster. The general consensus was that it was supposed to be loose and was perfectly functional for children to use. It would continue to be monitored.

12) Public Conveniences:

a) Minions:

i) To note for information the water meter reading on the 12th April 2026 was 892 and on the 29th April was 895 - This was noted for information.

ii) To consider / resolve whether to add additional signage to the WC's to request members of the public in motorhomes do not use them as chemical waste disposal points or for water top up – it had been reported that a member of the public had been observed to fill up their water tank on a motorhome. The clerk also confirmed that she had contacted South West Water on the 7th May 2026 who had attended due to a blocked toilet, and confirmed that the blockage was on the corner of the waste pipe where the WC's waste runs into the main drains.

Resolved that the clerk would put up notices to request members of the public did not obtain water for motorhomes from the public conveniences and did not empty their motorhome waste cassettes into the public toilets.

b) Upton Cross:

i) The tap has come loose -

The plumber was contacted and had fixed a new tap with flexible connector at a cost of £73.00 which is listed for payment on the June 2026 agenda.

13) Public Rights of Way:

i) To note for information the LMP grant awarded for the year 2026/27 has been confirmed at £2580.92 – This was noted for information.

ii) To note for information the volunteer for the footpaths will be finishing in September 2026 – This was noted for information. The Chairman asked if the volunteers who had been identified to walk the footpaths and provide updated details of the walks. The clerk confirmed she had not heard anything to date.

Resolved that the clerk would contact the three volunteers to obtain any updates and would put an advert in the June 2026 Link to see if any members of the public were willing to volunteer to become the new footpath countryside services volunteer for maintenance of the footpath signs and markers.

14) To consider / resolve any response to the Allotment Association who have sent an email raising concerns about the condition of the lane leading to the allotment site as the increase in size and volume of traffic travelling to Orchard Park has led to significant deterioration in the roadway:

Considerable debate was held as Linkinhorne Parish Council initially entered into a ten year lease which included contribution towards the maintenance of the lane prior to additional traffic on the lane. However, the land owner had now reduced this to a one year rolling lease and the lane now had a substantial increase in traffic. Consequently, the initial fair agreement which was entered into was no longer fair due to the increased expenditure for members of the parish.

Resolved that the clerk would respond to the Allotment Association and explain that whilst Linkinhorne Parish Council contributed to the ongoing maintenance of the lane it was not responsible for the upkeep. The Council remains in discussion with the landowner regarding ongoing maintenance.

15) To respond to a query raised by one Councillor regarding any potential budget for Councillors towards software updates on home computers:

It was agreed that although Councillors use home computers for Council use this is not the primary use for most home computers.

Resolved that there is no additional funding for software updates for Councillors who use their home computers for Council matters.

16) To note for information the CIL funding application was not successful:

This was noted for information.

Councillor Jim Gale gave his apologies and left the room.

17) To consider / approve grant applications for 2026: i) The ARC Theatre Company, ii) Linkinhorne Parochial Church, iii) Allotment Holders Association, iv) Rilla Mill Village Hall, v) The Commoners Association, vi) Stanbear salt bin, vii) Linkinhorne Horticultural Society, viii) LAMC:

The clerk confirmed that a total of eight grant applications were received this year requesting over £2,000.00. Linkinhorne Parish Council felt that the number of applications had exceeded the grant budget of £1,250.00. Debate took place as to the most appropriate way to manage the requests and after considerable discussion agreement was reached.

i) ARC Theatre Company - £100.00 was awarded conditional upon the ARC Theatre Company also obtaining and confirming funding received from the Theatre and Arts 20th Anniversary funding.

ii) Linkinhorne Parochial Church - £250.00 was awarded for graveyard maintenance.

iii) Allotment Holders Association - £100.00 – No amount was awarded due to Linkinhorne Parish Council having contributed towards the upkeep of the lane. One Councillor abstained.

iv) Rilla Mill Village Hall - £500.00 was awarded towards grass cutting and a new roof for the field kitchen.

v) The Commoners Association – no fixed amount – No amount was awarded as it was agreed that it was highly likely the current application with Community Highways Improvement Programme would be successful, it had gone through for further consideration and was awaiting outcome. It was

further agreed that Linkinhorne Parish Council was fully supportive of the CHIP application however much of the signage was required within the St Cleer parish and not Linkinhorne parish. It was not possible to provide adequate highway signage within the grant budget available.

vi) Stanbear salt bin - £200.00 – It was felt that this was a highway hazard and therefore should be resolved by Cornwall Highways and not Linkinhorne Parish Council. It was recommended that as a community group, residents of Stanbear contact Highways with the land owners consent to progress this. No amount was awarded.

vii) Linkinhorne Horticultural Society - £100.00 was awarded towards the encouragement of gardening and craft activities.

viii) Launceston Area Methodist Church - £250.00 was awarded towards the maintenance of graveyards in the area.

Resolved that the clerk would ensure the total budget for grant applications was listed on the advert for 2027-2028. The clerk would write to all grant applicants this year and explain the decisions made.

18) To consider / resolve the arrangement of a date to celebrate the official opening of the refurbished bench with both plaques secured at Minions in memory of a recently deceased parishioner:

The Chairman confirmed she would forward available dates from one member of the public who was a close friend of the parishioner which the clerk would then distribute to all Councillors to request their attendance.

19) To consider / resolve moving / purchasing the salt bin at Higher Stanbear as previously requested by one member of the public:

This item was previously discussed under item 17 and concluded that this is a highways issue. The clerk would inform the applicants to contact highways directly.

20) To accept the quotes received for a replacement bench at Rillaton:

Two quotes for benches were considered for cost and durability, it was agreed that the bench at Rillaton was used regularly and should be replaced.

Resolved that the clerk would proceed and purchase the recycled plastic bench from TDP at a cost of £370.00 plus VAT. The clerk would liaise with a local neighbour to see if they were able to take receipt of the bench as it was heavy and could not be moved far once delivered.

21) To consider / resolve whether to access the offer of a 30 minute presentation from Green Council Biodiversity Solutions:

Resolved that the clerk respond to state that Linkinhorne Parish Council did not require a presentation from Green Council Biodiversity Solutions.

22) To note for information the reintroduction of glyphosate use for weed management has been postponed pending public opinion and consider whether Linkinhorne Parish Council wish to consult with members of the public:

It was noted for information that Cornwall Council was currently in a consultation process for the future use of glyphosate use.

23) To consider / resolve whether to accept the offer from Dennis Rowland, Managing Director of Cornwall Resources Limited, to visit the Kelly Bray Office between the hours of 8am and 6pm:

Resolved that the clerk would forward the email to all and await confirmation of available dates for Councillors to arrange a mutual date to visit the office.

24) To consider election of Member Representatives to outside bodies and note for information a new secretary has been appointed for the Roberts and Jeffery Foundation:

Resolved that The Jubilee Field Working Party would remain with a total of three Councillors with one member of the public as a volunteer in place until September. The Finance / Audit and Insurance / Risk Management Working Group would remain the same including the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Clerk and one Councillor. The Cornwall Association of Local Council Meetings would remain the same Councillor. The Roberts and Jeffery foundation was now at the recommended number of seven Trustees with a new secretary in place and a recently co-opted trustee. One Councillor would continue to represent Linkinhorne Parish Council at the Community Area Partnership Panel. One Councillor would remain in the Commoners group. The Neighbourhood Steering Group would remain dormant and group members identified at the appropriate time.

25) To consider / resolve the production of a Neighbourhood Priorities Statement:

The production of a Neighbourhood Priorities Statement was considered however it was the general consensus that the current Neighbourhood Development Plan remains in place and is not problematic.

Resolved that Neighbourhood Priorities Statement would not be created at this time and would be reviewed upon National Planning Policy being in place.

26) To receive an update from Cllr J. Gale in relation to 6 Primrose Cottages:

This was received at item 8, reports from Cllr J. Gale.

27) To consider any training opportunities available to Councillors forwarded by CALC:

Resolved that the training email would be forwarded to all Councillors by the clerk.

28) To consider / resolve arranging the Annual Parish Meeting as a separate meeting given the amount of time it takes before a monthly meeting:

It was agreed that Linkinhorne Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting had become increasingly popular and that an alternative date should be identified so as not to clash with the monthly meeting.

Resolved that the Annual Parish Meeting would take place a fortnight before the monthly meeting in April 2027 to commence at 7.30pm.

29) Correspondence as listed:

10/04/2026*	Stoke Climsland Parish Council	Neighbourhood Development plan
10/04/2026*	Newsletter	Rural Services network
10/04/2026*	Newsletter	Town and Parish Councils
13/04/2026*	Feedback survey	Belonging in Cornwall
14/04/2026*	Notice of AGM	Linkinhorne Parish Hall
21/04/2026*	Beryl Martin	Cornish Tin information
23/04/2026*	Sterts	Invite to Festival of belonging
23/04/2026*	Newsletter	The Rural Services Network
23/04/2026*	Newsletter	The Rural Services Network
27/04/2026*	Consultation	Caradon 20mph
27/04/2026*	Caradon Community network area	Consultation for 20mph speed limit
29/04/2026*	Chris Sims	Local Climate Adaptation Tool Workshop
29/04/2026*	Cornwall reports	Read all about it
30/04/2026*	Newsletter	Fields in Trust
30/04/2026*	Newsletter	The Rural Services Network
30/04/2026*	Cornwall Council	Preparation of the Cornwall Local Plan
05/05/2026*	Cornwall Council	Newsletter

05/05/2026*	CALC	A letter to Council re public realm
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Decisions forwarded by Cornwall Council:

PA26/00407 - Land To The West Of Upton Cross School, Upton Cross, Liskeard, PL14 5AY - Outline application for a 9 unit rural exceptions scheme with all matters reserved – Refused.

PA26/01570 - Sharptor Farm, Sharptor, Liskeard, PL14 5AT - Works to Trees within a Conservation Area (TCA) - T1 - Fir Trees - 15% reduction to control height and overgrowth blocking light. Fir Tree - 20% Reduction to control height and overgrowth. T2 - Larch Tree - Limb removal - Decided not to make a TPO (TCA apps).

Notifications forwarded by Cornwall Council:

PA26/01961 - Trerefters Farm, Bray Shop, Callington, PL17 8QJ - Prior notification of agricultural or forestry development for a steel framed farm shed with corrugated steel sheet walls and corrugated cement sheet roof – prior approval not required.

PA26/02486 - Downgate House, Downgate, Upton Cross, Liskeard, PL14 5AJ - Works to trees in a conservation area works include T1 Beech tree pollarding and reduction T23 Ash tree Full removal of tree due to ash die back T24 Conifer - Full removal touching Main Power line. T25 Ash tree Full removal of tree due to ash die back T2 - T22 Beech trees pollarding and reduction.

30) Close of Business: The meeting closed at 9.52pm.