

Linkinhorne Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council

Monday 17th August 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 Steve Beech, Cllr Brian Cox, Cllr Carl Hearn, Cllr Christine Hordley, Cllr Sheila Street, Cllr Ann Thomas. Lena Batten (Clerk).

No members of the public were in attendance at the meeting.

The Chairman welcomed all Councillors to the meeting and thanked them for attending the extraordinary meeting.

1) Apologies: Cllr Jim Gale (Ward Councillor).

2) Code of Conduct:

a) To receive declarations: Cllr C. Hearn item 4.

b) To grant dispensations: The Chairman granted permission for Cllr C. Hearn to leave the meeting at item 4 as requested.

3) Minutes:

Resolved that the minutes of the previous Meeting of Linkinhorne Parish Council held on the 13th July 2026 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4) Exclusion of the Public and Press:

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, and having regard to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted it was –

Resolved that the Press and Public be excluded from the Meeting for the following item of business. Cllr C. Hearn gave a brief statement in relation to a local family who wished to donate in part land at Upton Cross. He detailed two options available for the meeting to consider, both with conditions attached.

Cllr C. Hearn left the meeting.

Option one was for the Parish Council to receive a donation of approximately one and a quarter acres of the land which abutted the Jubilee Field with conditions attached that the Parish Council cover all conveyancing costs.

Option two was for the Parish Council to purchase at £67,400 with reasonably incurred costs by the vendor for purchase and disposal, the whole field at approximately six acres, again with conditions attached.

Both options are contingent upon completion by the 1st April 2027.

Resolved that it was proposed by Cllr M. Corfield, seconded by Cllr S. Beech with all in favour to accept offer two if the funds could be raised.

Consideration was given to the additional costs to be incurred which included legal fees and concluded that the approximate amount required would be £75,762.00 plus any additional costs.

Debate took place as to how to raise the additional funds required and several options were put forward which included a potential Government loan however this was considered to be lengthy, costly and likely to lead to significant time delay. A public meeting to encourage members of the public who were willing to contribute to what would be a community asset was discussed and it was agreed this would be an appropriate first step. Consideration was given to several members of the public who had already recently contacted the clerk with regards to the potential purchase of the land and it was agreed these individuals would be contacted to establish their level of interest. A working group would be appropriate in order to ensure minimum time delay during the process. The Chairman would approach Upton Cross ACE Academy to request their support in engaging members of the community and the Parish of Linkinhorne.

Resolved that the clerk would contact Parnalls Solicitors in the first instance for quotes. The clerk would look to organise a Public Meeting to take place potentially on the 3rd September, adverts would be placed on the notice boards, the website and all listed invites to the Annual Parish Meeting would be invited. The Chairman would compile a further list of invites. The clerk would contact Parishioners who had recently expressed an interest in contributing towards the purchase of the land as a future community asset that would be safeguarded. The working group would consist of four Councillors with a view to potential expansion of the group to include representation from the Allotment Association and other members of the public that expressed interest.

5) Close of business:

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.

The Press and Public were re admitted to the meeting.