Linkinhorne Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
Monday 9th November 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 Jim Gale (Ward Councillor), Cllr Christine Hordley, Cllr Sheila Street, Cllr Ann Thomas, Cllr Bethany Towers.

Lena Batten (Clerk).
One member of the public was in attendance at the meeting.
The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

1) Apologies: Apologies were received from Cllr Carl Hearn.

2) Code of Conduct:

a) To receive declarations: i) Cllr S. Street item 6 b (i), ii) Cllr K. Wallis item 7 a (i).

b) To grant dispensations: Cllr S. Street was granted dispensation 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 12th October 2026 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4) Public Participation:

PCSO Steve Edser introduced himself and detailed that since his last report there had been one further incident of criminal damage at Henwood. He gave his apologies for a lack of police attendance at Rilla Mill Bonfire and Fireworks display which took place on the 8th November 2026. He also advised that he was available to attend quarterly drop in surgeries in the parish if anyone knew of an appropriate time for him to do this. Several suggestions were offered however it was concluded that the most appropriate would be during / after the Post Office one hour session held on a Thursday afternoon between 1.15pm and 2.15pm. PCSO Edser informed the meeting that he had been working closely with partner agencies to address common concerns on the Moorland, these included a representative from The Duchy and The Commoners Association. He thanked the meeting for their time and the Chairman thanked him for attending and invited him to remain in the meeting for information.

5) Reports from and matters of concern to:

a) Cornwall Councillor Jim Gale:

Cllr Jim Gale had sent his apologies as he was going to arrive late and would share his report on arrival.

b) Councillors:

One Councillor reported that she had recently attended several events in relation to the risks of climate change, which included a recent flood forum event. She had minimal updates to provide from her last report but was being advised that Parish Council's should be considering the purchase

of some emergency equipment. Poor weather conditions were being forecast in the coming months, also worthy of note was that it was being forecasted that these significant weather events would arrive quicker and earlier than had previously been experienced. Overall there was a general consensus that the public were more aware of the need to have some form of emergency plan in place and if the Parish Council were in agreement she could explore funding which was available to purchase some equipment.
One Councillor reported that he had recently attended part 1 of 3 sessions on General Data Protection Regulations which he had found informative. The significant theme which had been highlighted during Part 1 was the importance of Councillors using only the .gov email address and not personal email addresses for any Parish Council business. He would report back further information following completion of parts 2 and 3.
The Chairman reported that she had recently been appointed as a Commissioner on the Devolution of Cornwall to sit on the heritage and education panels.

6) Finance:

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

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

b) Payments: i) £300.00 (Sheila Street, WC cleaning), ii) £3.99 (Simon Hordley, Hazard tape), iii) £7.00 (Lena Batten, stationary), iv) £45.00 (Lena Batten, Wreath), v) £520.00 (Stuart Burton, cemetery maintenance), vi) £12.45 (Lena Batten, stationary), vii) £10.08 (Lena Batten, signage for Jubilee Field), viii) £1700.00 (Martin Budge, footpath maintenance), ix) £280.00 (Justin Clifford, laying of hedge).

Resolved that the payments were approved.

c) Receipts: i) £200.00 (Meadow donation), ii) £595.47 (Meadow GoFundMe donation), iii) £15.00 (Meadow donation), iv) £211.76 (HMRC VAT rebate), v) £1000 (Meadow donation).

The receipts were noted for information.

d) To agree the budget proposals and precept amount for submission for 2027-2028 in preparation for the 31st December 2025 deadline with an increase of 15% which equates to £8.74 per band D property per annum:

One Councillor gave further detail in relation to the increase in precept amount agreed for submission.

Resolved that Linkinhorne Parish Council were in agreement with the budget proposals for 2027-2028 and the precept amount be submitted at £40,742.40.

e) To agree Linkinhorne Parish Council Risk Assessment and Management Policy reviewed at the Finance Committee Meeting held on the 28th October 2026:

Resolved that Linkinhorne Parish Council Risk Assessment and Management Policy was agreed.

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

Resolved that Linkinhorne Parish Council Financial Regulations was 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 was 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 was agreed.

i) To agree a one increment increase from April 2027 for clerk as recommended at the Finance Committee Meeting:

Resolved that following successful appraisal a one increment increase from April 2027 was agreed.

Councillor Jim Gale entered the room.

7) Planning:

a) Planning applications:

The Chairman left the meeting at this point. In accordance with Standing Orders, the Vice-Chairman took the chair.

i) PA26/06960 – Higher Rillaton Farm, Rillaton, Callington - New Livestock Shed – external footprint (gross external floor area) of 254m2):

One Councillor shared information to confirm that the biodiversity report evidenced significant wildlife within the location which was also a swift nesting site. The site previously housed Rillaton Manor and could therefore hold valuable history.

Resolved that Linkinhorne Parish Council would recommend that prior to approval, the archaeological unit were consulted for further recommendations and information and a full bio diversity impact report was completed.

The Chairman returned to the meeting and resumed the chair.

ii) PA26/07205 – Yolland Farm, Upton Cross, Liskeard – Construction of a three bay Oak fronted garage:

Resolved that Linkinhorne Parish Council had no objection to the application.

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

i) PA26/06666 – Yolland Farm, Upton Cross, Liskeard – Planning permission is sought for the construction of a new single storey, three bay horse stable building with an enclosed storage area for private equine use:

Resolved that Linkinhorne Parish Council had no objection to the application.

Councillor Jim Gale was welcomed to the meeting and asked to share his report.

Cllr J. Gale stated that he had several matters to report, firstly the Cornwall Local Plan consultation which was open until the 16th November 2026. He encouraged all to take a look and participate with comments. Also Lets Talk Cornwall, which was still asking for views on anti social behaviour. Secondly, the number 78 bus which ran in the area and had been raised as an ongoing issue, being unreliable on several occasions. He confirmed that all complaints made by members of the public were reported onto the Cornwall Liaison Officer. Cllr J. Gale confirmed that Highways had now fitted a new lid to the drain in the Jubilee Field, this was a lid which allowed for overflow thus should stop the lid from being pushed off in poor weather conditions. On another matter Cllr J. Gale had now received correspondence from Live West to state that they were willing to sell Primrose Vale Cottages but wanted the Section 106 lifted in order to do this. He would continue to liaise with Live West to move this matter forward. Cllr J. Gale reported that Cornwall Council's CEO, director of services and chief finance officer had all recently resigned. He attended an extraordinary meeting last week to ensure interim officers were voted in. On the 24th November 2026 a motion was going to full Council regarding the financial affairs of Cornwall Council. Cornwall Council is currently 1.7 billion in debt. It was currently costing £170,000 to £180,000 per day to service the debt. He further confirmed Cornwall was likely to remain on a hosepipe ban until spring. Finally, he concluded to state that Highways would soon be offering Expressions of Interest to come forward and suggested that Linkinhorne Parish Council request the move of the 30mph signage at Upton Cross be moved further up the road as previously requested.

8) Play equipment and recreational areas:

a) Weekly safety inspections:

Weekly safety inspections had taken place. A panel had been removed from the hut which one Councillor confirmed he had fixed. The clerk reported that the football net had been damaged and would need repair.

Resolved that one Councillor would look to see what repair was required.

b) Jubilee Field:

i) To confirm one Councillor with the help of one member of the public had fixed the gate:
This was noted for information.

ii) To receive an update from the Chairman in relation to the potential laying of the hedge at the bottom of the field:
The Chairman confirmed that this had now been completed.

iii) To consider / resolve next steps as the swing is currently taped of due to the shackle coming undone:
The clerk reported that she had obtained a quote for a pair of replacements at £352.80 inclusive of VAT. One Councillor confirmed it had snapped and needed to be replaced.

Resolved that the clerk purchase a new pair of locking nuts and one Councillor would fit them.

c) Rilla Mill Play Area:

i) To accept the offer of one volunteer to check Rilla Mill Play area and complete inspections once a week:
The clerk confirmed that the current volunteer was still checking the play areas regularly however had suffered some ill health and was looking to move in the near future.

Resolved that the clerk would speak with the volunteer who was offering and explain that Linkinhorne Parish Council would welcome his offer in the future as a stand in if the current volunteer was unable to complete the checks for any reason.

ii) To receive an update from two Councillors in relation to the slide platform being fixed:
One Councillor reported that despite there being tape on the slide to stop the children from climbing it, the tape was consistently being removed.

Resolved that two Councillors would prioritise this repair as soon as possible.

9) Public Conveniences:

a) Minions:

i) To note for information the water meter reading on the 15th October 2026 was 039:

b) Upton Cross:

No reports of concern.

10) Public Rights of Way:

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i) To note that one member of the public volunteered to walk the footpaths and has sent through detailed descriptions of each footpath to the West of the river Lynher:
The stile in need of repair on footpath 614/3/1 was raised as this had not yet been fixed. The clerk confirmed that this had been reported to countryside services.

Resolved that the clerk would contact countryside services again and emphasize the urgency as it was dangerous to members of the public.

The detailed descriptions had been distributed for all to read. The clerk confirmed that one member of the public with historical knowledge of the area had taken them to add some background context to the descriptions.

Resolved that once these had been received back and any information with regards to maintenance had been removed, these would be placed on the website.

ii) To note for information a further volunteer has been sent the Cormac agreement to help with maintenance of the footpaths:

This was noted for information.

11) To review / update Linkinhorne Parish Council's Pension Discretion Policy:
Linkinhorne Parish Council's Pension Discretion Policy had been previously distributed and the Chairman requested confirmation that all Councillors had read this.
Resolved that Linkinhorne Parish Council's Pension Discretion Policy had been reviewed and was agreed.

12) To consider / resolve any next steps in relation to one member of the public who would like to see the adopted Minions Phone Box and bus shelter put to use:
One Councillor confirmed that volunteers had now been identified to complete the work on the phone box and this would be commencing in the next couple of weeks.
The bus shelter was discussed in more detail and consideration was given to unlocking the gate to see if was then utilised as a bus stop in bad weather. Suggestions included allowing the primary school to paint it as a project.
Resolved that Cllr J. Gale would research any potential funding avenues to update or maintain bus stops and feed back to the next meeting. The matter would be listed on the next agenda for further discussion.

13) To review / update Linkinhorne Parish Council's i) Communications and Social Media Policy, ii) Records Management and Retention Policy, iii) Privacy Notice, iv) Data Protection Policy, v) Freedom of Information Publication Scheme, vi) IT policy:
Linkinhorne Parish Council's i) Communications and Social Media Policy, ii) Records Management and Retention Policy, iii) Privacy Notice, iv) Data Protection Policy, v) Freedom of Information Publication Scheme, vi) IT policy had been previously distributed and the Chairman requested confirmation that all Councillors had read them.
Resolved that Linkinhorne Parish Council's i) Communications and Social Media Policy, ii) Records Management and Retention Policy, iii) Privacy Notice, iv) Data Protection Policy, v) Freedom of Information Publication Scheme, vi) IT policy had been reviewed and were agreed.

14) To consider / resolve whether to purchase the new 2026 Edition of The Clerks' Manual now released:
Resolved that the clerk proceed and purchase the 2026 Edition of the Clerks' Manual.

15) To consider / resolve if any Councillors would like to attend the Chairing Skills training taking place on Wednesday 11th November 2026 at 6.30pm in Helston:
Resolved that there were no Councillors who wished to attend.

16) To agree / resolve the formal signing of terms of business with Parnalls Solicitors:
This was noted for information.

17) To consider / resolve whether to support Weymouth Town Council's campaign on Dependents Carers Allowance:
Consideration was given to this request and it was agreed that anything that encourages individuals to participate in the democratic process should be supported.
Resolved that the clerk respond to confirm that Linkinhorne Parish Council was supportive of their campaign.

The Chairman raised one final question in relation to the difficulties with the email. The clerk confirmed that she was currently using thunderbird due to ongoing difficulties with outlook however

the preferred solution was to purchase and update with Microsoft 2024. The clerk confirmed there were no other problems with the laptop other than the email kept crashing.
Resolved that the clerk proceed and arrange for the purchase and Microsoft 2024 to be loaded onto the laptop.

18) Correspondence as listed:

11/10/2026*	Newsletter	The Rural Services Network
11/10/2026*	Cornwall Council	Scoping consultation for the Cornwall Local Plan
11/10/2026*	Newsletter	NALC
11/10/2026*	Action Notes	Tamar to Moor CAP
11/10/2026*	Newsletter	Town and Parish Council
14/10/2026*	Newsletter	Vision Zero
15/10/2026*	Newsletter	The Rural Services Network
15/10/2026*	Strategy consultation	Cornwall's safer Cornwall Partnership
21/10/2026*	NALC	Newsletter
21/10/2026*	Newsletter	Parish online
22/10/2026*	NALC	Chief Executive Bulletin
22/10/2026*	Devon and Cornwall Police	Councillor Advocate Scheme
22/10/2026*	Newsletter	Cornwall Council
24/10/2026*	Newsletter	The Rural Services Network
28/10/2026*	Devon and Cornwall Police	Councillor Advocate Scheme
30/10/2026*	Newsletter	The Rural News Summary
30/10/2026*	Cornwall Council	Winter Preparedness and Community Resilience Building
02/11/2026*	PCSO Steve Edser	Since 1/10/26 to 30/10/26 there has been the following crime - Threats of violence
02/11/2026*	Cornwall ALC	Budget Analysis and Response

Decisions forwarded by Cornwall Council:
PA26/06120 - Rosemary Cottage, Henwood, Liskeard, PL14 5BP - Works to trees in a conservation area works include Sycamore tree, T1 on the plan. Reduce the height of the crown overall and remove one or two lower branches to reduce windage as the tree is growing out of the bank and is close to the house - Decided not to make a TPO (TCA apps).
PA26/06061 - The Old House, Rilla Mill, Callington, PL17 7NT - Application for tree works within a Conservation Area: 1- Mulberry. Cobra cable brace currently in situ. Crown reduction of 1-1.5m. Prune away from neighbouring property to achieve approx 2m clearance and reduce overhang. 10% thin to reduce overall weight. T2- Holly. Fell to low stump. T3- Cypress. Evidence of root heave on driveway. Sectional fell to leave low stump - - Decided not to make a TPO (TCA apps).
PA26/00966 - 2 Woodland Cottages, Upton Cross, Liskeard, PL14 5BB - Request for a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) to protect 1x Laurel tree on the boundary line – Closed advice given.
PA26/06225 - Beech Cottage, Hillifields, Upton Cross, Liskeard, PL14 5BE - Works to Tree within a Conservation Area (TCA) - Fir - Pruning and reshaping – Decided not to make a TPO.
Notifications forwarded by Cornwall Council:
None.

19) Close of Business: The meeting closed at 8.54pm.