

Linkinhorne Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting held Monday 8th April 2024 at 7.00pm at Linkinhorne Parish Hall, Upton Cross.

Minutes

Present at the Meeting were:

Sue Batkins (Roberts and Jeffery Foundation), Lynne Child (St Cleer and district Commoners Association), Andrew Collins (Liskeard Community Speed Watch), Roy Cooper (Linkinhorne PCC), Ursula Crouch (Recycling for Charity), Ali Humphreys (Recycling for Charity), Brian Norris (Linkinhorne PCC), (Dennis Rowland (Cornwall Resources), three members of the public.

Cllr K. Wallis (Chairman), Cllr S. Beech, Cllr R. Hanson, Cllr C. Hearn, Cllr D. Heritage, Cllr C. Hordley. Lena Batten (clerk).

1) Apologies:

Alison LAHA Secretary (Linkinhorne Allotment Association), Andrew Davy Chairman (Rilla Mill Village Hall Committee), PCSO Steve Edser (Devon and Cornwall Police), Luci Edwards (Ecological Land Cooperative), Shaun Ewings (Link), Carol Horsington (Caradon Orchard Group), Michelene Norris (Linkinhorne PCC), PTFA (Upton Cross ACE Academy).

Cllr M. Corfield (Vice Chairman), Cllr B. Martin.

2) Minutes of the Meeting of Monday 13th March 2023:

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 13th March 2023 were confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

3) Chairman's report:

The Chairman introduced herself and Councillor colleagues, and welcomed all those present to the Linkinhorne Annual Parish Meeting which represented an opportunity for electors to come together and discuss parish matters. The Chairman thanked all parish Councillors and the clerk for their work in the year and proceeded to read a report.

“Firstly, I would like to welcome everybody to the annual parish meeting of Linkinhorne Parish Council. Over the last year your parish council has been incredibly busy but, this has not been reflected in the Link magazine articles which predominantly have to be about planning applications. So tonight, I would like to take you through some of the other work your councillors have done on your behalf.

One of the gems of the parish is the Upton Cross Jubilee field playground. Whenever you go there, there are children of all ages, many of whom are not from the parish but to come there because it is clean and safe, and this is very encouraging to see. It does, however, mean everything has to be well

kept up. Have you ever thought of the work that goes on behind the scenes to keep it like this? Have you ever thought who does the work? The reality is that every single week of the year every piece of equipment in both Upton Cross and Rilla Mill playing fields are checked and reported back on to keep them safe for our children and young people. The parish council has a working group who undertake all the day-to-day upkeep and repairs that are needed in both Rilla Mill and Upton Cross playing fields. The ditches are cleared and kept free from debris by parish councillors, the scrubland at the back and bottom is kept under control by parish councillors, and it is the same parish councillors who decide on whether a piece of work can be done by them or needs to be put out to contract. A good example of this is the laying of the hedge right the way down one side of the playing fields and the dead hedge which has been constructed at the bottom of the playing fields. Laying a hedge is a much sought-after traditional craft and we are lucky to have people with that expertise who we were able to employ to lay the hedge and who live reasonably locally. After the hedge had been laid, which was done by an outside contractor, we then had to think about the next five years and in so doing 100 whips have been planted so that in the future there will be a new hedge to lay. If any parishioners would like to join us in the upkeep of the playing fields by coming out with a working party one day, you will be more than welcome. I would like to put on record my thanks to the parish councillors who have given hours and hours of their time to keep the playing fields neat and safe for our children and young people.

The war memorial at Upton Cross, which remembers the fallen from the parish, is again another thing which is kept up by the parish council. In the next few months, the lettering is to be repaired so the names will not be lost but will continue to be remembered. Again, this is something which is done partly by an external contractor and partly by parish councillors.

Many of you will have friends or relatives lying in the graveyard and again this is something else that is kept up by the parish council. There have been a few problems over the last few months with plastics and general litter being left which has had to be removed by the parish councillors and this has had to be taken and put out with their own rubbish. If you are visiting the churchyard, could you please remember to take your litter home with you so that the parish councillors don't have to clean up after you. It's little things like this that make the life of the parish councillor much easier!

Around the parish we have numerous footpaths which are open to the public. Although not necessarily the parish council's responsibility to keep these free from rubbish, cleared of debris and in good order, it is our responsibility to make sure that they are kept clear by the owners of the rights-of-way. If you are following foot paths, please remember many of these go through working farms and through fields where crops have been planted so, please keep to the foot paths don't wander off.

A huge part of our time and a huge part of the public purse goes on the upkeep of the toilets at Minions. Getting contractors in to do work, to keep them clean and safe, takes an enormous amount of the parish clerk's time and the amount of money that comes in goes nowhere near covering the cost. We now have another working group, predominantly made up of the same people who work on the Jubilee fields but with one or two others, and over the coming months will be refurbishing the toilet blocks. The work is well underway but if you fancy giving us a hand painting the walls, making them bright and cheerful again you will be very welcome.

I'm sure that a lot of people think of parish councils as groups of men and women who sit in a village hall talking about things and arguing but not getting our hands dirty. I can assure you Linkinhorne parish council is nothing like that, yes we meet once a month but between times is your parish councillors who are out and about keeping the parish clean tidy and safe. We don't just talk about things we get out there, get our hands dirty, and do things. We do have spaces on the parish council which we have been unable to fill so if you're at all interested in being part of the community and being an active member of the community, why not come along and join us.

I hereby put on record my thanks to the parish council and to the clerk of the parish council for their work in the past year".

4) Other reports:

Ursula Crouch and Ali Humphreys - The Recycling for Charity Project:

"The Recycling for Charity Blue bins project saves items that can be recycled, to raise money for charity. Manufacturers dictate what can be sent to Terracycle to be processed and pay directly to our nominated charity Kicks Count who aim to reduce UK stillbirths. In May 2023 we smashed the £10,000 milestone and currently stand at £13,000 raised, with hopefully another £2,000 to be added next month. Amazing we can raise this sort of money on items usually thrown away, but can be made into new products like plastic benches, garden furniture, water butts, etc thanks to Terracycle.

With the upcoming Cornwall Council new kerbside waste collection service coming into operation, the emphasis is on everyone to recycle even more. With our project we can help people reduce the contents of their new black wheelie bins, so long as it is on our list. Our volunteers have attended some of the local CC drop in roadshows and had a great response from CC, Biffa and Suez representatives and have been able to promote our project. We are on a waiting list to visit the refurbished recycling centre at Bodmin.

Over the Christmas season we collected plastic sweet tubs and plastic milk bottle tops for Devon Contract Waste Polymers, in total we filled 6 builders dumpy bags full. These were recycled into plastic picnic tables and raised funds for Dartmoor Zoo and Life Trust. Our volunteers had the opportunity to visit DCW in Exeter to see the process up close and ask questions.

The project relies on its fantastic volunteers who monitor and empty collection points, sort and box up. We use a lot of parcel tape and printing, labels, posters, updating lists, we raise money to cover our costs by recycling all types of ink cartridges. Plus drinks cans support local projects, So please use the blue bins for all your coke, cider, beer, tonic cans...please flatten them if you can to save space. On her recent litter pick for Keep Britain tidy, Great British Spring Clean Ursula and her team collected 6 black bags full of cans as well as 29 other bags of rubbish from the parish roads and hedges. This included 5 rolls of optical fibre, 2 x 6ft long green pipes, a length of rope and the usual assortment of car parts. Thankyou Ursula for making a real difference.

We also accept brand name toners to raise funds for East Cornwall Search and Rescue Team and support many local charities, schools and good causes including Upton Cross school".

At the end of the presentation Ali Humphreys and Ursula Crouch reported that if for any reason the bins are full, please feel free to deliver direct to Ursula's home as she can then get it picked up. Ursula also kindly offered to litter pick in the burial ground and play area of Upton Cross.

Brian Norris and Roy Cooper -The Parochial Church Council:

"Many may be aware of impending changes in the local church from recent articles in the Link. Our present rector Revd Dr Joe Lannon will be leaving later in the month. His last service in the area is at Stoke Climsland church on Sunday 14th April at 10:30am – all are very welcome (details are in the April Link). This will leave the four parishes overseen by Revd Lannon in a transition period until a new rector (to be known as an oversight minister) is appointed. This position is being advertised during April.

Until a new oversight minister is appointed Linkinhorne Parish and the other three parishes in the group will be under the oversight of Revd Michael Johnson, the recently appointed rural dean. There will be an opportunity to meet Michael on Sunday 21st April at the 9:15am service at St Paul's church. Services in the parish will continue largely as normal led primarily by licenced lay ministers and local worship leaders. When a new oversight minister has been appointed three more parishes from the Tamar Valley group will be combined with the four parishes in our group. Further details about these changes can be found in the 'CHURCH MATTERS An Evolving Church' article in the March Link.

On a more local level, at St Paul's a large tree immediately behind the CrossLink Centre has been felled as part of maintaining the churchyard. Inside the church some of the front pews have been relocated and the floor levelled to provide an area suitable for families and provide a better environment for modern worship. Diocesan approval was obtained for both projects. All Age services and Messy Church continue on the first and third Sundays of the month respectively and the 'Meet and Eat' breakfast service will resume at the CrossLink Centre on the fourth Sunday of the month after a long break. Members of the congregation staff the Drop In café on Thursday afternoons and, along with St Melor's congregation members, visit the school every 2 weeks to present 'Open the Book'.

At St Melor's, work to preserve the ancient wall paintings has progressed during the year and is now complete. There have been Parish Remembrance Day and Good Friday meditation services. The Monday and Wednesday services started during COVID continue and an active bell ringing team ring both at St Melor's and further afield.

The Parochial Church Council (the PCC or trustees) met 4 times during the past 12 months and during that period a new secretary and treasurer have been appointed. The Annual vestry meeting to appoint churchwardens will be held on 24th April followed by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting where the accounts are presented and officers appointed for the coming year. The PCC has also organised a Jumble sale and Christmas fayre in the past year and has been received A Rocha Eco Church awards for both St Paul's and St Melor's".

Dennis Rowland - Manager Cornwall Resources:

"Cornwall Resources are an exploration and resource development company based in Kelly Bray, Cornwall who have since 2016 been focused on the development of the redmoor tungsten-tin-

copper deposit and further exploration for other critical metal deposits that are needed to support the UK's transition to a net zero economy. The Tamar Valley license area is a land package of 64km squared that encompasses mineral rights and owned and held by the Duchy of Cornwall. The license is the first of its kind to be awarded in modern times, to a resource company by the Duchy of Cornwall. The area includes the combined areas of Callington, South Hill, Calstock, Stoke Climsland, and a small area of Linkinhorne Parish".

Mr Rowland confirmed that he would at some stage, like to attend a further meeting to discuss this in more detail.

Lynne Child - St Cleer and districk Commoners Association:

Lynne stated that there had recently been two dog attacks on the Common, she confirmed they now had a new rural policing team which seemed proactive. They were looking to get back to where they were before Covid 19. At that point they had set up awareness days but this was all stopped due to the pandemic so is now in the process of being started again. Dog and human excrement is an ongoing problem. Lynne confirmed that it is now an offence to leave dog poo in a bag on the moorland. They are consistently asking people to put dogs on leads and have had cows abort due to dog faeces being left as this poses a significant risk to cows. There is an ongoing massive problem with rubbish. Lynne also confirmed that the road to Caradon hill is not a right of way, there had been issues with drug use taking place at the top of the hill. Bodmin Moor Commons Council was soon to come to an end. The Commons Council came into effect in 2016. Several questions were raised in the meeting regarding speeding and animals being injured or killed. Lynne confirmed that this was an ongoing problem. One member of the public asked if it was possible to do demonstrations in schools to address this and raise awareness, Lynne however stated that it was difficult to effect change.

Sue Batkin – The Roberts and Jeffery Foundation:

Sue reported that next year see's the foundation reach it's 200 years, dating back to 1714 and 1772. Records have now been transferred to County Hall. The purpose of the Foundation has always been to support health and education for children in the parish. This year they provided eleven grants to children in the parish about to start secondary school. The Foundation also supports swimming, recently giving a grant to one child for a specific reason. There are six trustees and one Chairperson within the Foundation.

Adam Sturtridge - member of the public:

Introduced himself as a member of the public, he reported that he stood as a potential Cornwall Councillor in 2021 and was thinking of doing the same again. He had nothing further to add.

Christine Hordley – Councillor:

Councillor Hordley wanted to thank Linkinhorne Parish Council for their contribution towards the bandstand and cutting the grass in Parsons Meadow, Rilla Mill. She reported that Andrew Davy was working hard to pass Parsons Meadow onto the next generation. The current deputy Chairman was a young father and there were now an increasing amount of events and activities that were child friendly taking place in the field.

Andrew Collins – Community Speed Watch:

Andrew introduced himself as the Group Operator. He gave a brief background stating that the top recorded speed in a traffic survey was 86mph in a built up area. After lock down it was reported that the police had insufficient resources and joining a Community Speed Watch was recommended. Online training was required first which was a short session. He initially joined in June 2022 but the group had been operating for eleven years at that point. Community Speed Watch is highly visible, there to encourage safer driving, reduce accidents and achieve vision zero which meant no deaths. There are currently sixteen sites, including one at Upton Cross, most sites had been covered twice with some five or six times since August 2022. The sites included East Taphouse, Doublebois, Dobwalls, Widegates, Liskeard x four, St Ive x two, Fore Down x two, Pensliva x three and Upton Cross. An overview of the excess speeds was given. Andrew reported that they always needed new volunteers and anyone could contact him if they wanted to participate. The sessions were one hour long at a time. One member of the public asked if under 18's were able to get involved. Andrew reported that he would check and respond with this information.

Other reports were received with apologies:

Shaun Ewings – The Link:

“Each month, 525 copies of The Link magazine are produced by the same printers that we have been working with for around the last 15 years. Of these, around 100 are sold at four different locations in the area, while the vast majority of the remainder being delivered to regular subscribers of the magazine. A small number of copies are retained for editorial and archiving purposes.

Aside from Shaun and Christine Ewings on the editorial team, Zena Jones working with advertisers and Pat Benson, the treasurer, 22 people are involved with the distribution of the magazine to the subscribers and the retail outlets. The team that bring The Link to people's doorsteps every month is much larger than most people realise. Most of those involved in the distribution team are now in their 80s, so it is inevitable that, at some point that we will need some younger people to get involved.

Last year, we achieved a top 20 position in the National Parish Magazine Awards which puts The Link in the top 5% of such magazines produced nationally.

In order to control costs, we are now having the magazine produced on cheaper paper, but this has not had a noticeable effect on the quality of the magazine produced. The current issue of the magazine is the 514th issue, having been produced almost every month since April 1981.

Delivery from the printers each month is 5 large boxes of magazines. At one point we were having problems with delivery by DPD, with boxes getting split up and arriving many days apart, despite paying for a better speed of delivery. To rectify this, we are now using a courier named APC. Between them and the printers, paper copies of the magazine are now received within around 4 days of the printer receiving the electronic copy.

The revamp of the magazine in January of this year has been well received, and the changes have made it easier to put the magazine together each month. It takes 3-4 days per month to pull the magazine together, working through around 80-100 emails. Many of these are from the regular

contributors to the magazine who we are so grateful to for managing to produce high quality and interesting content month after month. Without their input, The Link would be a shadow of what it is. The number of advertisers in the magazine has remained at consistently good levels since a lull during the Covid lockdown when some of our advertising was paused or disappeared.

As editor, I am sometimes asked to produce more journalistic content. Sadly, I do not have time to do that over and above pulling the magazine together each month, but we would look to include that type of content if it were sent to us. We always welcome suggestions and new articles that have some connection to the parish, and whilst we cannot always incorporate everything that we receive (in April, for example we had to leave some content out of a very full magazine), we always endeavour to incorporate everything that we can that we think will be of maximum interest and value to the community of the parish of Linkinhorne”.

Carol Horsington – Caradon Orchard Group:

“This winter we have used the hall for our AGM and a grafting course. We also held a pruning day at a member’s orchard near Liskeard. The courses are always successful and well received.

The hall has been booked for the Apple Day on 5th October this year and our group will start organising this event very soon. We hope that many local organisations will be able to take part as usual. Last year’s Apple Day was a success despite a poor harvest due to the weather. If there is a demand we will hold a Summer pruning session and also hold a mid-summer barbeque for our members”.

Alison – Linkinhorne Allotment Association:

“In 2019 Linkinhorne Parish Allotments, at the request of the landowners, embarked on a journey of informal conversion to organic management practices. Allotment holders have embraced this change despite the challenges of covid and some extreme climatic conditions. Undeterred, we have all found innovative ways to succeed in growing a wide range of quality organic produce, including some old and obscure varieties obtained through the Heritage Seed Library, some new upcoming varieties being bred for quality and to withstand pests and disease, and through saving our own seed from crops that have grown well. The allotments and much of our produce, have been exhibited and been awarded numerous trophies at the annual Linkinhorne Horticultural Show which we continue to support.

As well as reaping the rewards of a wide range of organic fruit, vegetables and flowers throughout the year, we have also seen increasing benefits to the growing environment and surrounding areas. In line with organic practices, the growing of green manures and mulches over winter for example, has helped to retain nutrients in the soil, whilst providing a rich source of food for birds, insects and invertebrate’s when there is little else around. By embracing organic practices allotments holders have created a more balanced, symbiotic ecosystem in which to grow their produce. The allotment site is a beautiful, peaceful site to work on and provides a multitude of health benefits both mental and physical. It does however require a lot of hard work, considerable commitment, a resilience to bounce back from horticultural disappointments and the unknown challenges that every growing season presents. As we share our experiences and knowledge, swap plants and seeds and lend each other a helping hand, the allotment site is a space where friendship flourishes. This extends beyond

our boundaries and into the local community, providing a valuable asset to the Parish of Linkinhorne”.

Andrew Davy – Chairman Rilla Mill Village Hall Committee:

“Many thanks for your invitation to attend the above meeting. Unfortunately, we are not able to send a committee member to be present and so have written the following paragraph for you to read out at the meeting on our behalf. Rilla Mill Village Hall held fund raising events during 2023, the most successful being the fluffy pig race night, summer fair and duck race and our annual firework night together with the very popular family bingo nights. These events have made much needed profit for us to improve and maintain our community facilities at both the hall and in Parsons Meadow. We would like to say thank you to the Parish Council and local businesses without whose support our events would not be as successful”.

Carol – Parent, Teachers and Friends Association:

“We are the PTFA (Parent, teachers and friends association) for Upton Cross Academy. We are a small, friendly group that formed to help develop effective relationships between the staff, parents and others associated with the school.

We also strive to engage in activities and provide facilities or equipment which support the school and advance the education of the pupils. This includes the support of individual families to increase the welfare of individual pupils to enhance their ability to learn (including the providing of desks, beds etc. to families) but this support will never exceed 50% of the total funds raised in the financial year in which it was provided.

We use the village hall for valuable fundraising activities throughout the year, as well as working together with the ‘Drop In Cafe’ to provide the community with an opportunity to obtain second hand uniform and access to the clothes bank (unwanted clothes go to a second hand charity shop in St Blazey and the rest is sold for rags, of which the PTFA receive the money from this”).

Luci Edwards – Site Development Manager Ecological Land Cooperative:

“We are pleased to update you on our progress and future plans at the Ecological Land Cooperative’s Orchard Park site near Rilla Mill. Our aim for the site is to create three low-impact, affordable smallholdings to support new entrants into ecological farming. We have two confirmed tenants for the site, who will be buying plots on multigenerational leaseholds. The first, Trelowen Flowers, plan to grow sustainably produced flowers for direct local sales and sales to local florists. The second, Sharp Tor Organics, will grow ecologically produced vegetables and fruit for the local market. We are currently seeking tenants for the third plot. Business plans for these enterprises have been submitted to Cornwall Council which meets our final planning condition at the site. We hope to commence communal infrastructure work in June 2024. This includes an area hardstanding by the main gate, the construction of a timber frame barn and installation of solar PV and rainwater catchment on the barn roof. A borehole has already been installed.

Work will also be carried out to improve the access track past Netherton Farm and the Rilla Mill allotments, to allow for access of emergency vehicles. This will include scraping out debris from the track, widening a 20-metre section and reinstating the hedgebank, and installing a land drain just

before the main gate to the allotment. Spoils from this work will be used to mark out the route of the permitted footpath around the southern and eastern boundaries of the Orchard Park field, allowing continued access for walkers without disturbing the operations of the smallholding enterprises.

Tenants are expected to move on to the Orchard Park site in early autumn, and will site low-impact temporary dwellings. These will most likely comprise of modular wooden cabins but this is subject to change. Tenants will be asked to agree to a management plan, which will be monitored annually by the Ecological Land Cooperative. This will ensure ecological and site management targets are met, as well as ensuring we are meeting our obligations under our planning conditions. We are really looking forward to our tenants becoming part of the local community, and showcasing the positive impacts small-scale ecological farming can have”.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

5) Meeting closed:

The meeting closed at 8.21pm.