

LUPPITT PACKET



JUNE 2021

THE LUPPITT PACKET

This month we have an amusing entry from David Street's tomatoes - which are up in arms about the weather! Vanessa Nancarrow has written an interesting article drawing attention to the existence of our local "rain forest" and we also have a report on the East Devon Ultramarathon which passed through Luppitt recently. This was well supported by local landowners including Mary at Colehill.

We are sad to note the recent death of Nigel Goode, and offer our condolences to Lesley and their family.

Nigel Hurst & Claire Stevens

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MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile library will call at Mount Stephens on Wednesday 23rd June from 10:45am until 11:15am.

The van is now open for you to select books but face coverings must be worn. If you are not a member of the library you can join on the day.



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20TH JUNE 2021

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LUPPITT EVENTS

In the hope that the final stage for the easing of lockdown will be implemented as planned on 21st June, the Entertainments Committee has been giving some thought to planning events at the Village Hall once again.

The first event is to be a 'Luppitt Reunion' on Sunday 4th July, from 3pm. This will be a general get-together at the Village Hall, run jointly with St Mary's Church, giving everyone the opportunity to gather and meet again in a congenial atmosphere. We will be serving cream teas, and the bar will be open. However, we are happy for people to bring their own food if they prefer. Let's hope for good weather so that we can go outside and the children have more space to play!

Looking further ahead, we hope to organise the usual autumn events, namely Autumn Bingo and the Quiz Night, and possibly a further event at the end of August or early in September.

If the end of lockdown is delayed we will obviously have to put back the date of our Reunion, but let's hope it won't be for too long if so.

Watch this space for further details!

**The Village Hall Committee
and St Mary's Church
warmly invite you to a
Luppitt Reunion
at Luppitt Village Hall on
Sunday 4th July from 3 pm**

**An excuse and opportunity to meet up
with local friends again!**

**Complimentary Cream Tea
(Bring your own food if you prefer)
Bar**

GARDEN JOTTINGS

THE TOMATOES WOULD LIKE A WORD

It's charivari in the garden this spring. The tomatoes are ready to riot.

"We're not at all happy. We've just been put out here in the poly. It's pretty chilly for our roots out here this year. Never known an April and May like it. White frost nearly every morning. The best they do is a bit of fleece over us at night. We're so annoyed you'd've thought we'd be having a demo in the lane outside. The Ed would see us then on one of his trips round Luppitt lanes. Or is it Hembury Fort he goes off to? He'd soon let the whole of Luppitt know about our sufferings. Vertebrate pain.



Ned Buckingham

My stomata! What we need is a green plant lobby.

Last week it was so warm and cosy in the new mini greenhouse on the patio. It's alright for the soya beans and chickpeas. They're still there soaking up all the warm sunlight. And don't dare mention Plymouth either. It's even worse there. They've put their tomatoes straight out in the garden with only a bit of cloche over them. It's not all that tropical at Plymouth, you know, even if it is in the deep south. Well anyway, I expect we'll get through in the end. We tomatoes are a tough lot. Let's hope things get better soon. Aubergines are arriving next week, and they do like a bit of warmth.

The other day I heard Agapanthus going on about things - all the frosts she's had to put with. Never seen so much ice so late in all the forty years he's had me. She's had his white cloth stuff thrown over her nearly every night now for weeks. Just what it is she doesn't know. And doesn't think he knows either. Found it in a garage years ago, he says, It's falling to pieces now and has to be stuffed with newspaper to make it frost poof. The arums are just the same. They get covered every night. They don't mind a touch of frost, even when they're in flower - which is more than I do. How are you expected to grow leaves when you're covered over all the time.?

The young sunflowers are alright. They come from this part of the world. The mums are putting a brave face on things. But I feel sorry for last years' bottlebrush cuttings though. It's hard for them without their Antipodean heat. I'd better shut. up. But I have often wondered why these humans are always on about climate change. I can see now just what they mean."

David Street

ENGLAND'S LOST TEMPORATE RAINFOREST FOUND IN LUPPITT?

You may have heard of Wistman's wood on Dartmoor. A famous fragment of the temperate rain forest that once covered England. The disappearance of our native Rainforest began with the iron age axe man and continues to this day. Forest oaks are replaced by fast growing Sitka spruces, over grazing by sheep and draining hill sides finished off nearly every sapling of our precious natural forest. Well, not quite every sapling, in deep undisturbed valleys and gorges, if it is warm and damp, oak, birch, holly, hawthorn, willow and alder can be spotted dripping with mosses, festooned with lichens, liverworts and polypody ferns (photo). Our forgotten rainforests are not only Primeval they take carbon from the air and are the lungs of our countryside. They can also regenerate and expand if left undisturbed. Incentives for farmers to allow these living breathing habitats to flourish and repair in the 21st century may become available through the England Tree Strategy.



Could it be that at the edge of our wildwood is a fragment of rainforest? While I sat listening to the evening chorus on a fallen branch covered in starry moss a deer walked by lifting its head to bark for its mate. Enormous fungi (photo) like huge Cornish pasties were fixed to a tree trunk. The defining characteristic of Rainforest is epiphytes, plants that grow on other plants. The mossy wet ground was thick with velvet green

stars and growing out of fallen trees were young fox gloves and ferns. Saplings forced their way through the natural clearings caused by undisturbed fallen trees and in the tangled roots, wood anemone scallop shaped fungi and the natural beauty of wild orchids shone out. Ferns sprouted from branches high up in the canopy. If left alone this habitat could look after itself for another thousand years. Life is everywhere.



Larger Rainforests are also clinging on along the river Dart, Bovey and Teign. If You think you have a fragment of Temperate Rain Forest or would like to find out more go to, [Lostrainforests of england](#) where Guy Shrubsole is mapping our wildwoods.

Also, some good reads are James Canton *The Hidden life of Trees* and *The Oak Papers*.

V. Nancarrow

EAST DEVON ULTRAMARATHON 2021

The East Devon Round is an annual trail ultramarathon which occurs on the Saturday of the 1st May Bank Holiday each year. It is based out of Offwell Village Hall and comprises of 64 miles (2021 route), 2,901 metres or near 10,000 feet of climbing, and links both the East Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and the Blackdown Hills AONB plus the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site in one incredible day of running. (Fastest time for 2021 11hrs 46mins and last finisher 21 hrs 58 mins).

It has taken many years to devise a route that showcases some of the highlights of East Devon; from the route along the river below Cotleigh at the very beginning, the view from Danes Hill through Dalwood, the forest on the way down to Lyme, the magical Undercliffs between Lyme Regis and Seaton, the climb out of Southleigh to Blackbury Camp, the valley before Sidbury with the steep flint track up, the wee bridge and the bluebell carpeted steps up to East Hill Strips, all before you tackle the Blackdown Hills section of Egland, Pen Point, Hartridge and Dumpdon, and the old green lane taking you high out of Honiton with the vibrant blue woods of Offwell to take you home

Depending whether runners were exposed, or under trees, high up, or in a valley depended on how they fared after being soaked through and pelted with hail. Running for a day gives you all the emotions of life compressed into a short space, but I hadn't predicted the 4 seasons of weather too, with snow covering the trail, and -2 temperatures by midnight. The tail end competitors were completely unwavering and it was a true lesson in having the right gear, and the right attitude to getting the job done.

There are a few performances I want to draw attention to – Patrick Devine Wright (1st place and Axe Valley Runners) and Rachel Fawcett Leighton Buzzard Athletic Club) raced hard all day. For most, the aim is to complete the course, but to genuinely race for 12 plus hours is an intimidating prospect for most. They left everything out there, chopping and changing the lead throughout the day, with Patrick eventually gaining a few minutes to take the win. (11hrs 46 winning time with Rachel 12hrs 4 mins) Patrick has done so much in his running career, whilst also helping many other runners in the process. Rachel will be back, and I struggle to see anyone else out there being able to beat her. Honiton Running Club icon Judy Davey put in a stupendous performance, suitably supported by Steve and family, to come in 3rd lady and 15th overall. Adam Hennessey (3rd in 2019) had both mild hypothermia and a struggle to consume sufficient calories during the day, but still, somehow, got himself home. His grit and tenacity was never in doubt, and he will be back again.



The East Devon Half Round (33 + miles and near 5,000 feet of climbing, finishing at Blackbury camp) had a particularly strong performance from Stuart Maclean (1st and 6hrs 35 mins – Axe Valley Runners) and also Lucy Shipley (Stockland local - 3rd lady and 10th Overall)

The money raised from the event in 2021 has distributed between the Devon branch of Mind Charity, Combe Raleigh playgroup, the fund for a new play park at Offwell Village Hall, with each competitor also having a tree planted by TreesNotTees as a memento of their day at the East Devon Round, plus a £1 from each entry going to the SW Coast Path. We are also a member of the Axe Vale and District Conservation Society.

The event wouldn't take place without the amazing support of 30 marshals, with Honiton Running Club providing a large number, plus the entirety of the Wigram family making the event happen. We are lucky to be supported by a whole host of businesses, including Ganesha Wholefoods, Rod&Bens' Organic Foods, Philip and Rebecca Cooke with Sutton Lucy Dairy, The UltramarathonStore.com, as well as Offwell Village Hall Committee. We are incredibly grateful for all the landowners (Over 25 in total) to make this route possible, as well as the villages and towns of Cotleigh, Dalwood, Axminster, Lyme Regis, Seaton, Sidbury, Honiton, Luppitt and Offwell who may well have noticed some runners go by during the day and night of Saturday 1st of May.

THANKS to the Luppitt commoners for route permission, to Charlie and Lucy Murray for all their support with the race, and Mary at Colehill Farm for both hosting and running an aid station for the race alongside her son in law Charlie!

“Athletics is not so much about the legs. It's about the heart and mind.”
Eliud Kipchoge

Alasdair Moffett



THE LUPPITT BEECH

I do like walking in a beech wood in winter, the ground is bare apart from bronze withered leaves, dead twigs and wrinkled husk and masts. The moss covered trunks and tangled branches look like cathedral cloister. Exeter has the longest cloister in any cathedral in country.

In Spring the buds unfold the familiar delicate lime coloured leaves. As the bluebells form a Spring carpet they contrast with the green leaves. This is

my favourite time of the year. We are fortunate to be able to walk through our own beech wood. And we have many lovely examples of beech trees in the parish.



The beeches in the parish may date from the last Ice Age. Beech trees are native to southern England and the ancestors of our beech trees may well have grown after the melting of the northern glaciers over 10000 years ago.

In 'Devon's Distinctive Hedges' the beech hedge is a particular feature of the Blackdown Hills. Beech was planted as boundary hedges and trees in 18 and 19 century enclosure of the local heathlands and moorlands. Beech was used by plant nurseries as they were able to produce large quantities of young plants from locally available beech mast.

In the parish beeches are highly valued local landmarks. Our most prominent beech clump can be clearly seen and enjoyed on Dumpdon Hill. Beeches were planted to accentuate the natural beauty of the local landscape in the eighteenth century.

The heavy shade cast by beech trees tends to reduce diversity of other plant species. The bluebell enjoys the cool damp and shaded floor of the beech wood. Mosses, lichens and ferns often grow on the banks and on trunks and branches. Rot holes and cavities support rich insect life. The beech mast provides a plentiful supply of food for birds and small mammals especially the dormice.

Pliny the Latin Naturalist gives an accurate description of the beech mast. The beech mast "resembles a nut enclosed in a triangular rind. Hogs fatten on it are lively and their flesh digestible light and wholesome". The beech mast has been used for fattening pigs and poultry for centuries.

On cutting beech the green wood is heavier than other timber trees. It loses a fourth of its weight in drying and makes an excellent fuel. More useful when converted to charcoal. The remains of charcoal burning remain in the landscape. You can see flat areas for the charcoal burners in fields which once were wooded hillside. The archaeological surveys of the Blackdown Hills

identifies our local charcoal burning sites.

In France beech was the preferred wood for making wooden shoes called 'sabots'. A shoemakers shop has been recreated at La Ferme du Chateau in Saint-Fargeau, France. Cleaved beech was used to make pottles, conical baskets for holding strawberries and small fruits. A pottle is a unit of volume equal to 2 quarts or half a gallon.

Beech chips are used for smoking foods particularly herrings. The young lime green leaves can be eaten in a salad. Or you could make beech leaf noyau. Noyau comes from the French for the stones of fruits. It is made from 700ml gin, 350ml brandy, 200g caster sugar and young beech leaves. The liqueur can be drunk just three weeks after preparation or left longer to mature.

Nicholas Culpeper the famous seventeenth century astrologer-physician published the 'Complete Herbal' He says that the beech is a plant 'of Saturn'. I am not sure what this means. "The leaves are cooling and should be applied to hot swellings." The water found in "hollow places of a decaying beech will cure a man and beast of any scurf, scab or running tetters". Tetters being a skin disease such as eczema or ringworm.

The name Beech originates from Saxon Old English 'boc' or 'bece'. 'Buche' being the German name and 'bak' Swedish and Russian. The beech wood can be cleaved into very thin plates. The wood from the tree forming sides of a volume of work and the word 'book' applied to the volume. The beech may be associated with the history of printing too, although this may be just a story. The bark was fashioned into beech bark letters and impressed onto paper in the early days of printing.

In mythology Fagus was the god of beech trees. In British folklore the beech maybe known as the Queen of the Trees (with the king being the Oak) or 'Mother of the woods' for her protective and nurturing nature by giving shade and food.

The Woodland Trust have an ancient tree inventory. They define ancient beech trees as having a large girth of 3m to 6m with major trunk cavities, bark loss and deadwood in the canopy. An ancient beech will have a high number of interdependent wildlife species and epiphytic plants growing in the tree. Due to their age these ancient beech trees will be prominent in the landscape. It seems that we have several ancient trees that fit this description in our wood. So I am going to record these ancient trees on the Woodland Trust website.

And on a different matter ... Give a hedge a few inches...

And you'll be rewarded by a mile! No need to stop cutting your hedges just raise the height of the flail a few inches on a two or three year rotation.

Research shows that cutting every year and raising the height of the flail mower each time by just 10-15cms has real benefits for wildlife. There will be more flowers, more berries and more wildlife – pollinators, birds and dormice.

Hedges cut this way remain thick bushy and manageable. Every three years or so they can be cut back to the starting point or can be allowed to gradually grow thicker and taller in readiness for laying or coppicing. The Devon Hedge group www.devonhedges.org has more information and a forum. Do we have any members in the parish?

JSH

TIME FOR CHANGE

Nigel and Claire will be resigning as editors with effect from the end of August. This gives adequate notice for a new volunteer or volunteers to be found in time to take up the reins for the September edition of the Packet. We are grateful to those of you who have offered their personal support or have made regular or one off contributions during our tenure. We will be happy to offer transitional support to enable the new editor(s) to settle in and would hope that residents would give the future editors their full support with whatever changes they propose to make.

Please indicate your interest via the Packet email address or phone Nigel (899504) or Claire (0777 594 9359) for more information.

ONLINE VERSIONS OF THE LUPPITT PACKET

The website www.luppitt.net, which is hosted by Peter Sage, contains a wealth of information about Luppitt – its history, people, photos, family trees etc.

The site also holds PDF copies of The Packet dating from 2010 up to the current edition. We hope also in due course to have an easily readable electronic copy of the Packet attached to the Luppitt Neighbourhood plan website.



With government restrictions finally beginning to ease, Members of Honiton u3a have been looking forward to meeting the public on National u3a Day on June 2nd, to celebrate the learning, activity and fun that members enjoy, and to encourage new members to join. They have organised a High Street Stall and a 'Spot the u3a Teddies competition'. Details can be found on the group's website. Honiton u3a is a group of 230 like-minded people seeking to go from retired to inspired, to enjoy the freedom that is your third age. Members meet regularly to share educational, creative and leisure activities.

Honiton u3a continues to run a series of monthly talks, presently held on Zoom. Over the next few months, subjects include The Great Axminster Carpets and Beaver Trials on the River Otter. They hope to return to The Beehive soon for these talks, when government guidelines permit.

They also run more than 25 interest groups, covering subjects as diverse as Meteorology, History, Photography, Knitting, Walking and Wine Tasting.

Details of Honiton u3a can be found on their website:
u3asites.org.uk/honiton/home

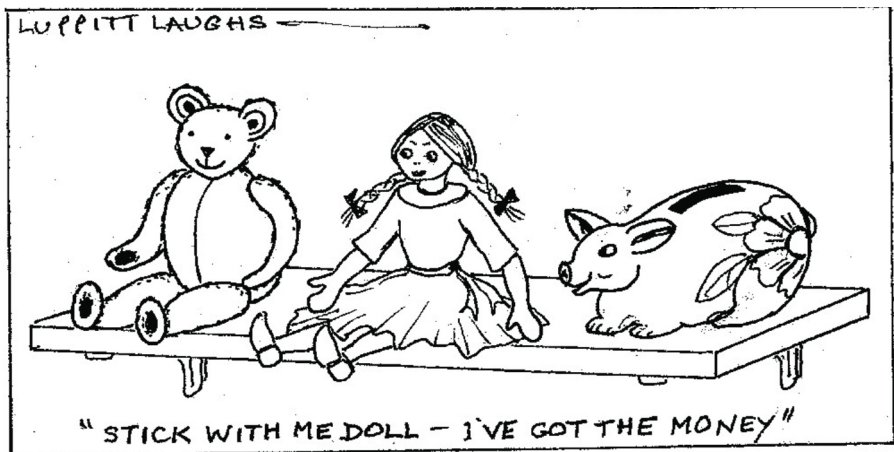
UPOTTERY SCHOOL REPORT



I am sure you are all very aware that Monday 17th May marks Step 3 on the government's road map towards returning to some of the things that we have all missed for so long, such as seeing one another indoors and being able to hug loved ones again. In line with this step, the government has published updated advice for schools. Much of the changes will mainly affect secondary aged pupils, such as the wearing of facemasks. However, many of the measures still remain in place, such as classroom seating, enhance hygiene and the maintenance of 'bubbles' across the school. We have been able to successfully implement these measures and continue with them, while returning to all pupils to working and learning in class across a full curriculum offer. This has been in part due to the way we have been supported in this by our families and school community, and so at the same time as enjoying further freedoms, we must all continue to be vigilant and careful to ensure we maintain safety for pupils, families and staff as we move beyond step 3 and look towards the finally step scheduled for 21st June.

Finally, I am delighted to inform you all that Miss Inkpen returned to school on Monday 17th May. We have all greatly missed her, pupils and staff alike, and we are very pleased that she is well and ready to return. I would like to thank all the pupils, parents and carers over the past few weeks for their support whilst Miss Inkpen has recovered. I would especially like to thank Mrs Gregory and Mrs Leach for stepping in and making sure that both classes had as much continuity as possible. It certainly will be good to have our full staff compliment returned – welcome back Miss Inkpen.

Best wishes, Chris Legg





Services at St. Mary's during June

| | | | |
|------------------|---------|----------------|-----------------|
| 6 th | 09:30AM | Holy Communion | Rev John Hayhoe |
| 13 th | 11:00AM | Family Service | Rev Jane Penn |
| 20 th | 11:00AM | Holy Communion | Rev John Hayhoe |

Songs of Praise in the Churchyard Sunday 27th June at 11:00am

Choose and sing your favourite hymns accompanied by the keyboard.

Weather permitting this will be held at the top of the Churchyard close to the car park

Please bring a chair and a cuppa



John Hayhoe has returned to work after an extended period of sickness absence.

We are very grateful to Rev Jane Penn for her continued support of our Parish.

Visit www.dunkeswell.org.uk and find us on Facebook @sixworshipstogether

Please note!

If you are lonely and would like a friendly chat, are facing hardship, or are in need of any kind, we are here to offer help and support.

Please do not hesitate to contact Rev John Hayhoe 515083, Rev Jane Penn 841523, Brian Pulman 891324 or Sara Gordon 891140



WHO RUNS ST. MARY'S CHURCH?

The running of our Parish is the joint responsibility of the Rector and the Parochial Church Council (PCC), which is made up of the Parish clergy and elected representatives. As such, the PCC is our church's governing body and also the board of trustees which oversees the church's charitable works and money.

The powers and duties of PCCs are laid down in law. Key duties are to co-operate with John Hayhoe and Jane Penn in promoting the mission of the Church in our Parish and to be responsible for the financial affairs of our Church and the care and maintenance of our Church building, its contents and the Churchyard. It also has a voice in the forms of service used by the Church and may make representations to the Bishop and Deanery Synod on matters that affect the welfare and pastoral care of our Parish.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting was held on Sunday 16th May 2021 in St Mary's Church at noon. This is an open meeting to which everyone in the Parish is invited and at which those on the Church electoral may vote.

Mr Brian Pulman continues as Churchwarden. Mrs Wendy Watson agreed to become Churchwarden and her role will be formalised, as is usual, in July.

All current members of the Parochial Church Council agreed to serve for another year but more members are needed. In particular a new Secretary is being sought. If you are interested in learning more about this, or any other PCC role, please contact Wendy Watson on 01404 891959 for more information.

CHURCH CLEANING

With the resumption of Church services Pearl would like to set up a new Church cleaning and flower rota.

The Church is open on Wednesdays so that this can take place.

If you would like to help please can you call **Pearl on 891324**

Many thanks.

FROM REV PENN'S PEN

Our names are incredibly important, they are our unique identifier, and in our baptism we are given the name by which we are known in heaven. Jesus, the good shepherd, says he calls us by name [cf John 10]. Parents often struggle to find just the right name for their child and I know several people who have changed their baby's name at least once after its birth because the first one just didn't suit the new person they were getting to know.

We usually choose names we like the sound of and perhaps check up on their meaning later. It was quite different in the days of Abraham, Isaac and Joseph. The longed for son of Abraham & Sarah's old age was called Isaac, meaning *he laughs*. Isaac's wife Rebekah gave birth to twins '*The first to come out was red, and his whole body was like a hairy garment; so they named him Esau. After this his brother came out, with his hand grasping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob.*' [Gen.5:25-26a] Esau means *hairy*, Esau is also referred to as Edom which means *red*. Jacob means *he grasps the heel* [figuratively, *he deceives*] Reading the stories of these namings again, and even more so with Jacob's children [Gen 29:32-30:24], made me reflect how fortunate we are not be named because of the circumstances of our birth or how well our parents are getting on with each other, otherwise I might have been *flaxen haired angel* or more likely *my disappointment* my mother being desperate for a son. Can you imagine something like that being the unique identifier by which everyone knows you? Of course we do use names in that way and it can be cruel and hurtful; *four eyes* [wears glasses], *bugger lugs* [big ears] and much worse. We need to be careful and mindful in the way we name others.

As well as the interesting names of his children Jacob's naming of other things is also recorded, after his famous dream, often thought of as Jacob's ladder [Gen28]he sets up a stone and calls the place Bethel meaning *house of God*. Later when Jacob is going back to see his brother Esau he has a night when he wrestles with God and calls the place of that struggle *Peniel*, meaning *face of God*, during that encounter he is also told that his name is no longer to be Jacob but *Israel* which means *he struggles with God*. When he has an encounter with God he sets up a stone, an altar, and names the place, in that way it can be remembered and the story told. We would do well to copy this behaviour, when something significant happens, especially if it's an encounter with God we can set up our own altar and name the place. I don't mean lugging huge stones around, but perhaps build the altar in your mind, or find some small item that will remind you. Giving the experience a name will also help you to remember, then if things get tough you can revisit those places times that have nourished you in the past. Litter the landscape of your story with altars.

Another kind of naming is that of naming our fears. When you give something a name, you can talk about it and it becomes less frightening. If you've ever waited for a diagnosis you know how worrying that can be, all sorts of fears and fancies rear their ugly heads and then once you have the diagnosis, once your condition has a name, you can begin to talk about it, to come to terms with whatever it is, to find the help you need. We have all kinds of fears that bind us, money, work, relationships and many others, it's good to face those things, name whatever it is we are fearful of and then for me the next step is to talk it through with God.

So I leave you with those three avenues to explore about names and naming. Mindfulness in the way we name others. Naming and marking particularly important parts of your story. Disarming fear by naming it.

Rev'd Jane

CLERK'S REPORT OF A VIRTUAL MEETING OF LUPPITT PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, 4 MAY 2021 AT 8 PM

Present: Cllrs John Thorne, Beth Hooper, Brian Pulman, Christine Ryder, Martin Summers, Andrew Tucker, Michele Turner, David Key and Colin Brown (EDDC), Rosalind Buxton (Parish Clerk) and one member of the public

Appointment of Chair, Vice-Chair, Planning Committee, Parish Maintenance Committee, Tree Warden, Snow Warden and P3 Co-Ordinator

Cllr Key took the chair and invited nominations for Chair. Cllr Pulman proposed Cllr Thorne and this was seconded by Cllr Ryder with all in favour. Cllr Thorne then took the chair and invited nominations for Vice-Chair. Cllr Tucker proposed Cllr Turner and this was seconded by Cllr Ryder with all in favour. It was agreed unanimously that the whole council would be members of the Planning Committee (with a quorum of three) and that the whole council (excluding Cllr Tucker) would be members of the Parish Maintenance Committee (with a quorum of two). It was agreed unanimously that Cllr Pulman would act as co-ordinator of the Parish Maintenance Committee, that Cllr Tucker would continue as Tree Warden and Cllr Pulman would continue as snow warden (proposed by Cllr Turner, seconded by Cllr Hooper). The clerk will continue to act as point of contact with the three footpath wardens for the P3 scheme.

Receive the Chair's Declaration of Acceptance of Office

The clerk will arrange a face-to-face meeting with Cllr Thorne for him to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Chair.

After the above protocols had been completed, Cllr Thorne welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all the councillors for their hard work, especially during such a difficult year. Cllr Thorne appreciated the Parish Councillors' confidence in re-electing him as Chair and he was happy to continue in this role. Cllr Thorne congratulated Cllr Turner on her appointment as Vice-Chair.

Receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Paul Prettejohn and Iain Chubb (DCC and EDDC)

Minutes of previous meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 7 April 2021, were unanimously agreed as a correct record of that meeting (proposed by Cllr Turner, seconded by Cllr Ryder).

Declaration of Interest There were no declarations of interest.

PLANNING

Applications (for comment, support or objection)

21/0924/FUL and 21/0925/LBC – Higher Shelvin farm, Luppitt, EX14 4UF – extensions and other alterations to existing garage

The Parish Council has no objection to this planning application.

Decisions

20/2546/FUL – Clematis Cottage, Luppitt, EX14 4RT

Despite objections being raised by the Parish Council, this planning application has been passed. Cllr Thorne asked Cllr Key why he had changed his mind and supported the application. Cllr Key said that the applicant had agreed to recommendations put forward by the Planning Officer but did not have the details to hand. Cllr Thorne was concerned that the garage would be knocked down and a new building erected but Cllr Key said that this would breach the conditions attached to the planning approval. The property is for sale and retrospective planning approval would add to the value of the property. Roger Hicks had been invited to the meeting to give his comments. He said that it was a complicated planning application because the applicants had applied for two things at once – for change of use as an annexe and at the same time for use as a holiday home. The garage is detached from the house but the Planning Officer considered it was close enough to the house not to require planning permission. Roger had followed this up with EDDC who, in their minds, have granted planning permission as a holiday let. EDDC are expecting the Parish Council to monitor the situation and advise if the garage is demolished.

Roger advised that the wording of a policy on annexes in the Neighbourhood Plan had been lost during one of the many revisions of the Plan that took place. The inclusion of the omitted policy wording will be considered by the Parish Council, together with other comments that arise from the consultation process.

A resident had spoken to the clerk and Roger Hicks about the planting of 500 trees, mentioned in the March issue of the Luppitt Packet. Angela King at EDDC had confirmed that planning permission is not required as long as the number of trees planted does not create a plantation. However, there is no guidance as to how many trees are needed to make a plantation.

The resident had also mentioned the storage of kegs in a field. This matter had been considered in depth several years before and the Parish Council had approved the car park, turning area and storage. Before the end of the meeting, Cllr Tucker was able to find that this matter was discussed and the decision to support the application was recorded in the Minutes of November 2013. The clerk will speak to the resident.

Neighbourhood Plan and Communications Programme

Cllr Ryder had prepared a report which had been circulated to Parish Councillors. The number of residents wanting to attend one of the Zoom meetings had been disappointing and so a panel consisting of Roger Hicks, Cllrs Turner, Ryder and the clerk had decided to carry out some telephone research to gauge reaction to the Neighbourhood Plan. The panel had been encouraged by the feedback which, on the whole, was very positive. Comments have been recorded and, where necessary, a written explanation given. Feedback will be uploaded to the Neighbourhood Plan website.

Interim Devon Carbon Plan

Cllr Turner had provided the link to the website giving carbon footprint information for comparison and also the document that Nigel Hurst had produced. These had been circulated to Parish Councillors. Cllr Turner will keep the Parish Council updated as information is released.

HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC

Parish Highways programme – update on Items to Report

- Loose kerbstones at Millrise – Cllr Key has been advised that this work should be carried out shortly.
- Ford Bridge to Shaugh – on the left-hand side of the second bend coming from Ford Bridge, one side of the road has sunk – repair has been carried out or is due to be carried out.
- Ringborough Cross to Coombeshead – potholes and subsidence and large pothole mid-way on the left-hand side between Overday and Gully Lane and potholes near Barn Cross – both to be assessed 05.05.21.

Parish Maintenance

The roads from Mathayes Cross to Beacon and Churchlands to Millrise have been surface dressed.

Road Closure

Road past Littletown Farm will be closed Thursday, 29 July, for replacement of BT poles.

FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS

Footpath Wardens' Reports

Nothing to report from the footpath wardens.

Work on Footpath at Hillend

Repairs are needed to the gate by the property. The resident of Hillend can provide 2 posts and a big hunt gate to be used for the repairs. New hangers and a spring will also be needed. Ros Davies had provided details to the resident of a contractor at Farway to carry out the work but the resident had not yet contacted the contractor and it was agreed that Cllr Tucker should carry out the work (proposed by Cllr Pulman, seconded by Cllr Turner).

Modification Orders for Footpaths Nos 60, 61 and 62

Following the quashing by the High Court of the decision dated 17 April 2020, these orders are to be re-determined.

ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Parish Council Meetings

Parish Councils must return to face-to-face meetings from 7 May 2021. All Parish Councillors indicated that they were agreeable to this. The clerk will liaise with the Village Hall Management Committee for their agreement for the Parish Council to hold their June meeting in the main hall. The clerk will keep Parish Councillors up to date with Covid protocol to be followed for the meeting.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Annual Audit

The year-end figures were agreed by the Parish Council without any queries. Papers will be sent to the internal auditor shortly so that the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) may be presented for approval to the Parish Council at next month's meeting. The year-end bank reconciliation will be signed by Cllrs Thorne and Ryder.

Approval of Insurance Renewal

The insurance quote was approved. The clerk will review the cover provided.

VAT Reclaim

The clerk confirmed that a VAT claim for £1,072.43 has been submitted to HMRC.

Correspondence

An email about Community Risk Management Plan for Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service was noted.

CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

- Cllr Thorne asked Cllr Hooper for information about the shepherd's hut that has appeared at Higher Wick. Cllr Hooper explained that this is ancillary accommodation for her parents. Cllr Hooper confirmed that the shepherd's hut is movable and believed this would be used on a temporary basis and was instead of a log cabin that had been considered originally.
- There was discussion about the future of the Luppitt Packet following the resignation of the two editors. The Parish Council regards the Luppitt Packet as an essential form of communication within the parish and would be happy to offer any assistance if needed to find a replacement or replacements. The clerk will follow up.
- A resident had spoken to Cllr Turner about an increase in lights being left on at night. Cllr Turner will investigate further and report back to the Parish Council.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no questions and the meeting ended at 9.20 pm.

PLEASE NOTE:

Remote meeting regulations have now ended and future Parish Council meetings will be held in the Village Hall.

Dates for next meetings to be held at 8 pm:

**Tuesday, 1 June 2021
Tuesday, 6 July 2021
Tuesday, 3 August 2021
Tuesday, 7 September 2021
Tuesday, 5 October 2021
Tuesday, 2 November 2021
Tuesday, 7 December 2021**

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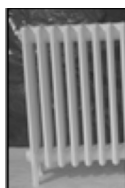
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