

Luppitt Parish Council Annual Report 2009

LUPPITT PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2009

1 Chairman of the Parish Councils Annual Report – Chairman Cllr Gavin Brake

A full compliment of eight Parish Councillors were appointed at the 2007 uncontested local election. Parish council officers were appointed at the election of Officers held at the Annual General Meeting of The Parish Council on 12th May, 2009 as follows:

Chairman – Gavin Brake

Vice Chairman – Lindsey Dalgety

Tree Warden – Andrew Tucker

Planning Committee: Lindsey Dalgety, Julia Sparks, Gavin Brake

P3 Co-ordinator – Julia Sparks

Other Parish Councillors; Bernard Clapp, Brian Pulman, Paul Prettejohn, Derek Hooper

Parish Council meetings

There have been twelve Parish Council Meetings since the last Annual Parish Meeting held since May 2008.

The parish council meetings are open to the public and we encourage you to attend. As well as being a statutory consultee for planning and tree preservation issues, the parish council have also made representations on several government, district and county council documents in the past year.

Planning

We have dealt with 15 planning applications in the past year (23 in 2005-6, 28 in 2006-7 and 23 in 2007-8). There have been no planning appeals. The planning committee have made several site visits this year and we have also worked with enforcement to resolve un-permitted issues within the parish.

The parish council have made representations to the Boundary Commission on behalf of the parish and also to the Local Development Framework. You may recall we reprinted our submission to the Boundary Commission in full in the Luppitt Packet.

This year is also a special year for the Parish – the year of our Parish plan. Our special thanks go to the dedicated and hardworking Parish Plan team, chaired by Lindsey Dalgety, who has produced a comprehensive parish plan (adopted with much praise by EDDC). The plan is based on in-depth consultation with parishioners, we will have already, and will continue to, use this information to take action and shape our decisions wherever possible. We have already started on various aspects of the Action Plan contained within the Parish Plan.

We intend to achieve Quality Status as a parish, which will give us more control over decisions affecting our community.

Donations

Donations were given to the following parish and district organisations during the year;

Honiton and District ring and Ride	£50.00
East Devon Citizens Advice Bureau	£50.00
Honiton Tourist Information Centre	£50.00
Honiton Library Advice and Information centre	£50.00
The Luppitt Packet	£125.00
Youth Club	£80.00

Footpaths and Bridleways

The parish received £800 P3 footpaths grant from Devon County Council for the coming year and paths are benefiting hugely, we hope this will encourage their regular use for the enjoyment of all. Our thanks to Councillor Sparks for her tireless work as footpaths warden. She really has made a difference this year, and we all owe her a big thank you. Let me give you some highlights of work done,

- This year Devon County have replaced the bridge between Uppottery and Luppitt, and the repair of the bridge between Wick and Combe Raleigh is scheduled for later this year.
- A wooden walkway about 6m long has been reused, brought from the Uppottery to Luppitt bridge site, to span a particularly boggy stretch of the footpath near Turf House.
- We met with the County's contractor and agreed on the seasonal vegetation cutting to be done by them. This was completed by early summer 2008.
- Councillor Sparks has also spent 2 days with the County Rights of Way Warden looking at Footpath 14 (That is the path from Dolish to Jack's House) with a view to diverting the boggiest sections, where possible, to nearby drier ground. This would not only make for a pleasanter walking experience, it would also prevent further damage to these fragile areas. The plans have not yet been published; there will be the usual full public consultation at that stage.
- The proposed diversion at the brewery of footpath 17 is in the consultation stage. This is to re-route the path away from their private garden.
- Using the Parish Paths Partnership (P3) grant, we have fixed 6 loose waymarker posts, and installed 7 new ones; we have repaired 2 bridges and 2 stiles; and fixed anti-slip plates to six of the stiles. We have repaired one gate and erected one new gate.
- As for the persistently muddy lane below the pub, we have now laid a lorry load of stone which we hope will improve the conditions.
- We are very grateful to Phil Smith for his work during the year to try to ease the problem of the muddy lane, and to Dudley Sparks for re-erecting the vandalised signpost

Finally, this year the Ramblers have tried to claim over 20 new footpaths in the Parish. Many farmers and property owners have expressed their strong feelings against these claims, which appear to be founded on little more than old maps. We organised for Mr Michael Martyn, from the Devon County

Council public rights of way team, to explain what was happening. This proved to be a well attended meeting, representing quite clearly the strength of feeling among parishioners. Councillor Sparks has remained in contact with Mr Martyn, and he has yet to begin processing the claims. In addition, the Ramblers have had a very low rate of success in claiming new footpaths in other parishes, but we need to keep very much aware of how things progress.

Roads

The condition of the roads in the Parish continues to frustrate us all. In fact, the Parish Plan survey clearly demonstrated this.

We have tried some different approaches this year.

First, last Summer, we drew up a list of the “top 20” problems in the parish, annotated a map and lobbied DCC Highways to address these as a matter of urgency. It took time and persistence but we did achieve work on a number of important problems.

Second, over the winter, we became increasingly frustrated at the budget constraints of DCC Highways, especially following the exceptional flooding and adverse weather in Ottery St Mary and other parts of East Devon. Funding for road repairs was used up in emergency situations such as storm damage. As our roads continued to deteriorate, and without any prospect of DCC Highways being able to undertake the necessary work, the Parish Council took the unusual step of using funds from its precept to hire a local contractor to undertake certain works such as ditching and unblocking easements. We believed this work was necessary in order to prevent further damage to the roads. We worked with DCC Highways and agreed what areas required attention, and then hired the contractor to undertake the work.

Much has been achieved, but there are still many problem areas which need attention. We continue to lobby DCC Highways for more work, and are also prepared to spend more of our precept this year on further works using our own contractor. We hope this winter we shall see an improvement of our parish roads as a result.

Play Park

Mr Tottle has continued to care for the maintenance of the Millrise playpark and we thank him for his continued good work.

2 EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCILLOR - David Key

The last year under the Chairmanship of Mr Gavin Brake, some progress was made on the Parish Plan.

Applications have not always gone as the council would have hoped. Footpaths were dealt with well. It was encouraging to see Luppitt Parish Council increase their precept to cover the maintenance of drains and ditches to alleviate flooding. This work to be done by a local contractor. There were the same old concerns with potholes and road repairs.

Finally I would like to commend Luppitt Parish Council on their attendance and enthusiasm and am pleased to attend meetings. I apologise for not being able to attend this evenings meeting, but wish you all the best for the forthcoming year.

3 DEVON COUNTY COUNCILLOR - Roger Boote

spoke about the ramblers claims on parish footpaths and urged the parishioners to research the claims thoroughly. Roads have been a problem in the past year for the county, with salting exceeding usual levels by four times and flooding costing a dearly. He commended the parish on their self help actions for the year and thanked them for their work this year.

4 COMMUNITY POLICING – PCSO Anning

crime figures for the year 2007/8 19 crimes and in 2008/9 18 crimes so slightly down for the year.

Five crimes were linked to one dwelling in the village. The main problem in the parish is still non dwelling burglaries with five committed in the past year (three on one night). A new scheme has been initiated with the NFU in partnership with the police to offer the loan of PIR equipment to alert owners to trespassers (similar vibration alert sensors can be fitted to heating oil tanks). PCSO Anning also told the meeting about the rural watch, horse watch, farm watch, neighbourhood watch and numerous other watch schemes which can alert you by phone or email.

In addition there were three thefts(heating oil, house sign and a wallet), four assaults (three at same address juvenile female offenders, and one male work colleagues known to each other). One dog bite, a theft from a motor vehicle and a damage to a motor vehicle.

Honiton has had about 29% overall reduction in crime in the last year. Particular scams to be alert to at present are not disclosing your credit card details to telephone callers – particularly pretending to be from BT asking for small sums in order to prevent disconnection.

Speed detection will continue at Smeatharpe, as a matter of interest, the law no longer requires a camera sign to be in place for monitoring.

5 PARISH PLAN – Cllr Lindsey Dalgety

Our thanks to all of the parish plan committee for their help and the Watsons for their work on the questionnaire results and Gavin brake for producing the action plan

6 LUPPITT VILLAGE HALL – Cllr Brian Pulman

The hall committee and the parish council have finally regularised the signing on the trustee accounts and the hall has a good selection of regular bookings and is financially self sufficient.

Tracey Bell

Clerk to Luppitt Parish Council 26th May 2009

Contact details for your parish council are as follows:

Gavin Brake – **CHAIRMAN**

Overday Farm, Luppitt, EX14 4RZ

email: gavin_brake@msn.com

tel: 01404 892767

Lindsey Dalgety – VICE CHAIRMAN

Whites Plot, Luppitt, EX14 4RZ

tel: 01404 891560

email; thepacket@puzzlemuseum.com

Julia Sparks- Footpaths and Bridleways P3 representative

Honeywells, Luppitt, EX14 4RX

tel: 01404 891659

email: honeywells@btopenworld.com

Andrew Tucker- Tree warden

Fairview, Luppitt, EX14 4RY

tel: 01404 891253

email: andrew.tucker5@tiscali.co.uk

Derek Hooper

Higher Wick Farm, Wick, Luppitt EX14 4TY

tel: 01404 891273

email higherwickfarm@tesco.net

Bernard Clapp

Messhayes Farm, Luppitt EX14 4SB

tel: 01404 891212

Brian Pulman

Oakdell, Luppitt, EX144SJ

tel: 01404 891324

Paul Prettejohn

Coombeshead Farm, Luppitt, EX14 4RZ

tel: 01404 891257

email: paul.prettejohn@btopenworld.com