

Lawhitton Parish Council Meeting

Draft Minutes of the meeting held at the Village Hall on **Tuesday 20th January 2026 at 7:30pm.**

Members Present: Cllr Steven (Chair) Cllr King Cllr Chudleigh
Cllr Bastard Cllr Hunt CCllr Parsons
Cllr Perry Mrs A Clarke (Clerk)
1 Member of the public

01/01/26 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Robinson

02/01/26 There were no declarations of interest for items on the agenda:

03/01/26 Public participation: A member of the public raised concerns regarding damage to grass verges, mud on the road, and farm equipment being left on public (highways) land. Issues were also raised in relation to noise disturbance from farming activity, including late-night operations with lighting left on and dogs barking through out the night.

Councillors explained that responsibility for the first two feet of verge from the road lies with Highways. Mud on the road and verge damage should be reported to Highways and the noise nuisance was confirmed as an Environmental Health matter, requiring residents to keep detailed logs of the incidents. Cornwall Councillor Parsons advised that it is necessary to begin recording incidents and to encourage other affected residents to do the same.

04/01/26 Reports from Cllr Parsons reported on Cornwall Council finances, highways, and transport, questioning the credibility of the council's "balanced" budget due to an additional £13 million in required savings. He opposed introducing charges at formerly free car parks, highlighting likely parking displacement, and confirmed Tamar Bridge toll increases had been dropped. Funding opportunities via the Network Highways Panel were noted, particularly for speed-related schemes. Planned safety measures on the A388, including potential 50 mph limits, were discussed, along with ongoing concerns about road width, hedge encroachment, potholes, drainage issues, and motorbike speeding.

05/01/26 Minutes of the last meeting of Monday 8th December and Tuesday 18th November 2025 were approved and signed.

06/01/26 Matters arising:-

6.1 VAS signage - There was a detailed discussion on permanent Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS). Previous monitoring showed lower speeds in the village centre but higher speeds at the village's lower end. Potential locations, power options, and costs were reviewed, with solar-powered units chosen as the most practical despite higher upfront costs. Estimated cost was £2,400 plus £300 for solar.

6.2 Salt and gritting, The council had received a parishioner enquiry. Responsibility for grit bins is with Highways, unless bins are privately owned by the parish. One privately owned bin near the hall was identified. It was agreed that Highways should be contacted to ensure all public bins are refilled as required.

6.3 Policy amendment – Privacy Notice. A procedural policy amendment linked to Assertion 10 was noted. The amendment was not considered contentious but required formal acknowledgement.

6.4 Abandoned car – Lawhitton Down. The previously reported abandoned car issue was confirmed as resolved. Earlier incidents, including a burnt-out vehicle, were noted as having involved police and council action.

07/01/26 Updates on matters from the last meeting: No progress was reported regarding the playing fields, with no response received from the council or church. It was suggested that escalation to a higher church authority may be necessary.

08/01/26 Planning - There were no new planning matters to report.

09/01/26 Finance

9.1 - The Current Balances, bank reconciliation and budget update was provided and approved.

9.2 - Payments for authorisation, included HMRC and the clerks salary.

10/01/26 No additional matters brought forward by the Chairman:

11/01/26 Matters brought forward by Councillors: Councillors raised serious concerns about road conditions, including severe potholes, failure to grit, blocked and open drains, and abandoned road signs, along with the encroaching bushes at Pecan Barn, obscuring the safe vision on the junction at Bennett's Arms.

A recent incident involving multiple vehicles stranded on an icy hill and a separate accident caused by an exposed drain were discussed. Councillors agreed these issues present significant safety risks and require urgent reporting and follow-up with Highways. Broadband provision within the parish was also discussed. Variable internet speeds were reported across the village. Councillors acknowledged that broadband performance remains inconsistent and poorly communicated, and that further clarification and evidence gathering may be required.

12/01/26 Correspondence received/ report: Correspondence received along with Assertion 10 was discussed. Official parish council email addresses were confirmed as mandatory.

13/01/26 Date of next meeting: Tuesday 17 March 2026.

14/01/26 The Meeting closed at 21:10pm

Signed.....

Dated.....