

Lawhitton Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the Annual Parishioner and Annual General meeting held at the Village Hall on: Tuesday 19th May 2026 at 7:30pm.

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

01/05/26 Election of Chairman. The current Chairman was unanimously voted in. Proposed by Cllr Bastard Seconded Cllr Hunt.

02/05/26 The chair Welcomed everyone to the meeting, apologies were received from Cllr Perry and Cllr Robinson.

03/05/26 There was no Public Participation.

04/05/26 One Declaration of Interest A minor potential conflict regarding Item 07.01 (Village Hall) was reviewed and deemed non-pecuniary.

05/05/26 Minutes from January 2026 meeting were accepted as a true record and signed.

06/05/26 Reports from CCC Parsons:

Traffic & Infrastructure: Long-standing temporary roadworks have caused travel delays of up to 45 minutes, with queues backing up past Tesco toward Treburley. The project completion date has been extended to July. Items raised including a bottleneck-inducing new curb design and a narrow one-meter sidewalk near the running estate. **Speed Limits:** Network Highways allocated £8,000 annually over three years, primarily to reduce Treburley's speed limit from 40 mph to 30 mph. This requires enforcement via an automated speed camera. A new road sign on the B3326 has been approved.

Housing Aggressive mandatory housing targets for Cornwall have risen from 2,500 to 4,454 homes annually, making rural field developments highly likely to win on appeal. **Economic Stagnation:** Development on the Lansdowne link road remains stalled. **Planning Committee Reforms:** to abolish central planning committees, leaving only consolidated East and West committees. Extensive powers will shift to planning officers via delegated authority; parish councils can no longer call in developments of 9 dwellings or fewer, or sites under 0.5 hectares, to committee.

Finance & Education: The government wrote off Cornwall Council's SEND debt but provided no structural relief for future operational or school transport funding deficits. A task group was established to introduce scrutiny over local academies (such as the Athena trust). **Solar Farms:** The Strategic Planning Committee faces intense pressure to approve a 200-acre (49.9 megawatt) solar farm on Grampian Road. Traditional agricultural/landscape objections are no longer legally valid defence strategies unless within an AONB, exposing the council to massive legal costs if refused.

07/05/26 Parish council - Matters arising:

07.01 Village Hall Management and Governance Structure: A proposal was presented to the parish council to take over as the management committee due to lack of committee members. Hall finances are stable. The clerk will look into the legal requirements of a transition as this. The Chairman will coordinate with clerk and review any documentation before the next meeting on July 21st, when a decision will be made.

The parish council wished to minute a formal expression of thanks to Mike, Lorna, Caroline, Kit, and Geoff for their five years of work running the village hall pool committee.

07.02 Pesticide/Weed Treatment The council voted unanimously to opt in to protect local structures.

07.03 Grass Cutting The resident who volunteered his time for a year to mow the green and church grounds, his services have been vital to our community. The clerk has been in touch to provide support and assistance, a donation will be provided for the costs incurred.

07.04 AGAR:

07.05.1 To Lawhitton Parish Council internal audit was approved

07.05.2 The Certificate of Exemption from limited assurance review was approved

07.05.3 The Summary of Receipts & Payments for the year ended 31/03/26 was approved

07.05.4 The Fixed Asset Register for the year ended 31st March 2026 was approved

07.05.5 The Fixed Asset Risk Assessment for the year ended 31st March 2026 was approved

07.05.6 The Annual Return Explanation of Variances was noted.

08/05/26 Planning: There are no active local planning applications, decisions, or appeals.

09/05/26 Updates on matters from the last meeting: Vas update, Fire Hydrants

09.01 Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) Procurement: The council will fund use the CIL reserves for a solar-powered product and Cornwall Highways have authorised the two installation sites in the village.

09.02 Fire Hydrant Inspection: The council agreed to press emergency services and utility teams to inspect and flush every hydrant in the parish.

10/05/26 Finance:

10.01 Payments approved Hmrc, Paye, Website fees, insurance.

10.02 The Parish Council noted the receipts:- Precept, CIL

10.03 Bank reconciliation was approved for March, April 2026

11/05/26 Matters brought forward by the Chairman

11.01 Camper Van Dispute: The on going situation with the camper van was discussed

11.02 Laburnock Crossroads: Overgrown roadside bushes severely obstruct driver visibility turning off the A388 highway. The Clerk will continue pressing the highways department for enforcement action.

12/05/26 Matters brought forward by the Councillors

12.01 Road Deterioration: The committee logged deep frustration regarding widespread pothole repairs washing out and a lack of regional road resurfacing.

12.02 Underground Culvert Damage: Drainage crews fractured a concrete runaway path at Luccombe Cottage (PL15 9LJ) during an unsuccessful drain jetting attempt. The Clerk will press the highways department to resolve this.

13/05/26 Clerks Report - tree care services from Western Tree Care and administrative grant training packages from NFP were shared. Cornwall Council's new Local Plan documentation updates were noted.

14/05/26 Minor Matters were discussed

15/05/26 Date of next meeting: Tuesday 21th July 2026 at 7.30pm

16/05/26 Meeting Closed at 21.50 hours