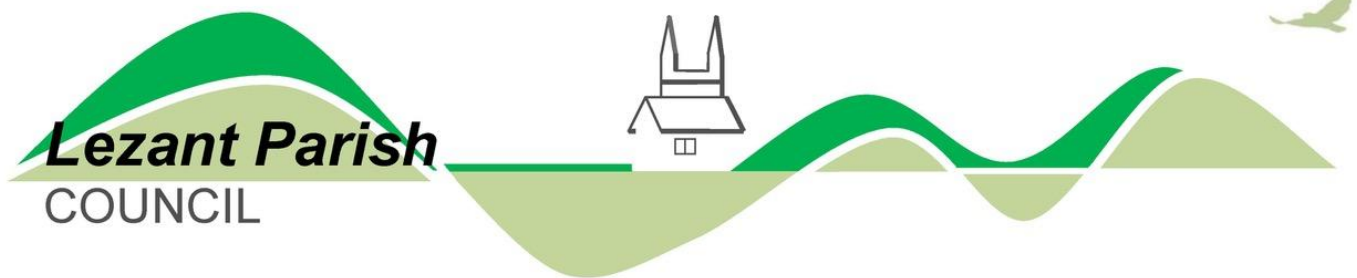


**MINUTES of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held at TREBULLETT METHODIST CHURCH HALL on TUESDAY 11 MARCH 2025 at 7:00PM.**

**Present:** Cllr(s): Neil Burden; Peter J Cairns; Julie Dinnis; Val Hill (Chairperson); Godfrey Holter; Ian Nash; Irene Wood; Steve Simmons

**In attendance:** Sam Inman (Clerk); 2 members of the public

Item No	
1.	<b>The meeting was convened by the Chair at 7:00pm and all welcomed.</b>
2.	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> Received from Cllr(s): Tom Unwin; Tim Minson
3.	<b>CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES</b> The minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 14 May 2024 were approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chair.
4.	<b>PRESENTATION OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 25</b> The Clerk presented the accounts (which have not yet been approved by the internal auditor or Members of the Parish Council). No questions. The accounts were accepted by all present.
5.	<p><b>CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT</b> The Chairperson gave a brief summary of the work/projects Lezant Parish Council had undertaken over a busy 12 months.</p> <p><b>D Day 80 celebrations.</b> Councillor Burden kindly offered the use of his field situated on the highest point of the parish for a celebratory bonfire, built under his supervision. A Community Grant was awarded to Trekenner School to host a ‘war-time’ fish and chip lunch followed by a presentation by the pupils. Several Councillors attended along with many parents and other parishioners.</p> <p><b>Defibrillators.</b> Matched funding enabled Lezant Parish Council to acquire 2 new defibrillators which were placed in Trebulet and Lezant. In addition, the residents of Little Comfort raised the amount needed to purchase another defibrillator for their area. These additions have meant all the hamlets of Lezant parish now have easy access to a defibrillator. Thanks was given to Thomas Steel who kindly offered his installation services free of charge. Furthermore, 2 training sessions were held to give residents confidence to use the equipment, should the need arise.</p> <p><b>Safety issues.</b> An approach was made to the Willow Tree Housing to block off the pedestrian access from the Sportsmans Close development. Councillors felt that given its close proximity to the junction with the A388 and the number of children living in the nearby houses, it was best to remove this access. It took a while for an agreement to be reached but eventually a fence was erected.</p>



**Renovation work.** Thanks to Cllr(s) Simmons and Cairns and resident A Hudson the renovations were completed at the Butterwell at Lower Larrick.

**Liasing with Cornwall Council.** The Parish Council were contacted by Cornwall Council relating to the parcel of land it currently owns behind Sportsmans Close in Treburley. Councillors discussed the possible acquisition of the land but initial discussions with the Landmark Trust for the potential provision of social housing were not fruitful (due to the size of the plot it wasn't considered a viable proposition). Further discussions with Cornwall Council uncovered a restrictive covenant on the land which would not allow it to be used as a community asset e.g. as a play area or allotments.

**Installation of the pedestrian crossing, Treburley.** The Pedestrian refuge at Treburley was installed. Cornwall County Councillor Parsons brought the newly elected MP for North Cornwall, Mr Ben Maguire, to Treburley to see for himself and to consider the Parish Council's request that the speed limit through village be reduced from 40mph to 30mph.

**Elections.** County Council and Parish Council elections were held in May.

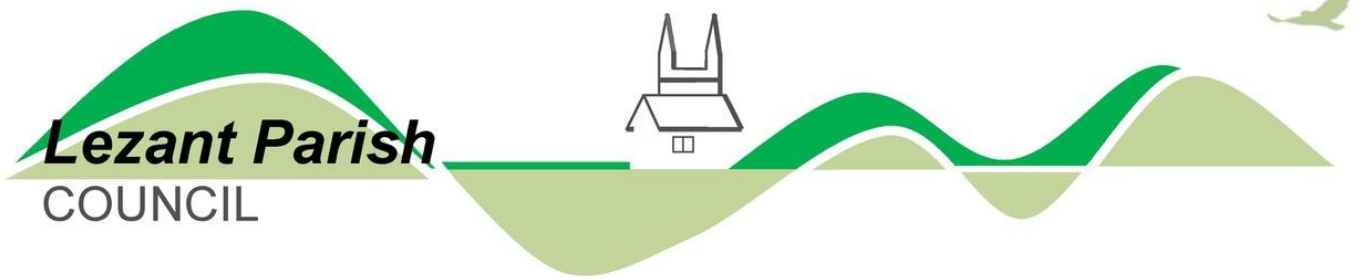
**Councillors.** Councillor Cairns sadly resigned from his post as Councillor due to his re-location. Thanks were given for his hard work, practical skills and insight on the Neighbourhood Development Plan and planning issues. Thanks, were also given to other Councillors including Cllr(s) Nash, Cairns and Unwin who all played their part behind the scenes, attending CAP meetings and carrying out monthly inspections of the play equipment at Jubilee Field and Trebullet play area.

The Lezant Horticultural Society Show was held in August and Councillors & the clerk attended to make themselves available to members of the public to answer questions or field suggestions or issues they wished to discuss.

**Highways.** For some time, the matter of the dangerous junction on the A30 at Plusha where there have tragically been several fatalities has been a hot topic. An action group, SPAG (Safer Plusha Action Group) was set up and following discussions with Cornwall Council progress has been made to alter this particular black-spot. Thanks were given to County Councillor Parsons for keeping Council updated on progress made.

**Planning.** Council were asked to comment on 8 planning applications in the Parish over the previous 12 months.

The Chair ended her report by saying it was her final year as Chair, and thanked her fellow Councillors for their support and hard work over the past 12 months. She also thanked the Parish Clerk who works tirelessly to ensure things run smoothly, keeps us all informed and tries to keep us in order.



6.

**CORNWALL COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORT**

**For the Parish Annual Meeting 2025 from Cornwall Cllr Adrian Parsons**

As the final year of this administration draws to a close, we reflect on another frustrating year in the council calendar. Once again, it feels like power and investment are centralised in Truro, leaving those of us in the East of the Duchy missing out. It's crucial now more than ever to have elected members passionate about their communities and the place they call home!

We continue to push for improvements on the A388 despite funding cuts. The pedestrian safety crossing refuge at Treburley has finally been installed, and public consultations have taken place for improvements at Landue Bridge and Tre, Pol & Pen. These include carriageway widening and new right-turn ghost islands for safer movements at the Lezant junction and into the farm shop. However, with cuts in highway maintenance, our roads are deteriorating, with drainage issues and potholes becoming more prevalent.

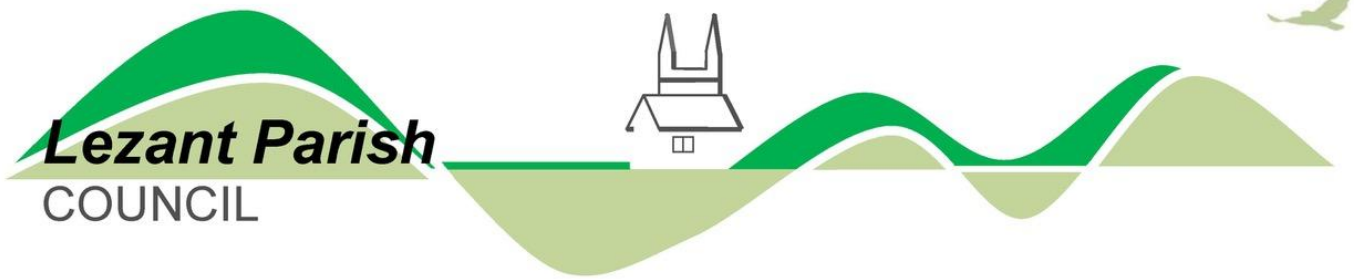
At Plusha, we tragically saw three more fatalities at this junction. This prompted National Highways to take emergency action, closing the right turn at Plusha from the B3257 onto the eastbound A30 and the right turn movements at the Trevell junction. The right turn from the A30 onto the B3257 at Plusha will remain open, with a new 50 mph speed limit. We will continue to lobby for improvements to ensure the road works for all who live locally and pass through here, ensuring those responsible for this road network are held to account.

Following a recent motion which I put forward at Full Council the cabinet at CC had taken on board the importance of the measures which are required to improve highway safety at Plusha and the £250000 that was required to review previous plans for a grade separated junction and to work up a business case were incorporated within the most recent budget which has now been approved. So, the money has been secured and I see this as an important commitment from CC to work with National Highways and the DFT to bring about meaningful change. For those traveling to Plymouth, expect further road disruptions in the New Year as National Highways continue upgrades to the Saltash tunnel to add to the misery of the ever-increasing toll charges!

Recently, Cornwall Council's Conservative cabinet decided to close seven Adult Education Services, mostly in the East, following a devolution deal to take control of our education provision. This shift of services to Bodmin, with poor public transportation links, removes opportunities for those most in need. Thankfully working with J Conway and A Paynter we managed to make them re think the proposal to close Launceston's and that one has been saved for the time being. Additionally, Cornwall Council has upped car parking charges with the additional loss of free parking on Sundays, with plans now to privatise some parking services, inevitably hitting town vitality. Following another review Castle Street and the Pannier Market car parks will most likely be hived off to private operators, the Walk House car park will remain under CC control.



<p>The redevelopment of the Launceston Refuse Transfer Station (RTS) is complete, and the site is fully operational. Launceston will also accept upholstered furniture items following new regulations. However, the new booking system is unpopular, and we will challenge this decision.</p> <p>The new waste and recycling services have had some teething problems but in general have probably bedded in better than I expected! The booking system is still the greatest bone of contention with many unhappy they have to go through this laborious process.</p> <p>Rural bus services remain vital, so it was a relief when Cornwall Council removed the threat of cutting free transport for children in South Petherwin after a lengthy battle. However, bus users will face price rises with the new fare cap of £3 starting January 1, inevitably hitting rural patronage the hardest!</p> <p>The Launceston Health Inequality Hub has opened, providing essential services to residents which is a real positive.</p> <p>The Leisure centre is now on a secure footing with further improvement plans in the pipeline the community have been pivotal in this with also the new Library provision in the town square progressing.</p> <p>The summer saw Labour sweep into office, but their economic policies have quickly caused issues. Cuts to winter fuel payments for pensioners, a budget that harms local businesses and farming, and increased National Insurance contributions have hit confidence. Farming was already struggling with low margins, and now faces additional pressure with the newly introduced IHT and BPR. These are all measures which our elected MPs should be doing all they can to ensure such policies which have a negative impact on our economy are again looked at and over turned.</p> <p>The government pushes ahead with its green agenda, including the support of large-scale solar development and undersea carbon capture projects, which appears to be ill thought out and extremely costly to the tax payer, when there are far more sensible approaches that could be taken!</p> <p>Labour's commitment to 1.5 million new homes will increase Cornwall's housing target, putting pressure on local authorities, Cornwall desperately needs affordable housing, but the current approach will lead to inappropriate development and add further pressure to communities without necessary infrastructure put in place. Despite proposals to save £49 million next year, Cornwall Council still faces a multimillion-pound budget gap. The council operates with an annual spend of over £1.5 billion, delivering a wide range of services to a dispersed rural population. With static funding levels and rising demand, especially in young people and SEND, adult social care, and temporary housing, further challenges lie ahead. As we have just seen our residents will have to pay for another 4.99% rise in council tax. With the council now over a billion pounds in debt and haemorrhaging money it's hard to see where the improvement will come from.</p>
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	<p>With the Conservative administration nearing its end, we are two months away from May's council elections. I would like to thank those involved with Lezant PC for their help over this period along with Adam Paynter, John Conway, Andrew Long, for their efforts in representing our constituents and ensuring your voice is heard. As always thanks for everyone's support!</p>
8.	<p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b></p> <p>There being no further matters raised, the Chair thanked those present for attending and closed the meeting at 7.15pm</p> <p><b>Signed.....Chair Date.....</b></p> <p>A copy of these Minutes can be found on the Parish Council website:  <a href="https://www.lezantparishcouncil.gov.uk/">https://www.lezantparishcouncil.gov.uk/</a></p>