

Ludgvan Parish Council

Tel: 07928 813 653

Email: clerk@ludgvan.org.uk

Minutes – 13 April 2022

Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Ludgvan Parish Council, held on Wednesday 13 April 2022 at 7.00pm at the Murley Hall, Ludgvan

Present: Councillors R Mann (Chairman), S Elliott (Vice-Chairman)(until 8.34pm), A Branchett, J Mayall, S Miucci, J Munday, M Payne, R Porter, C Price-Jones

Cornwall Councillor attendance: C.Cllr Sheffield-Wong

Officer support: Clerk/RFO to the parish council

AGENDA NO.	AGENDA ITEMS
	Chairman's Announcements
LPC21.22.310	Apologies for absence – were received from Cllrs C Cartwright (ill health), A Segal (holiday).
LPC.21.22.311	<u>Declarations of Interest:</u> Cllr Price-Jones declared an interest in Minute 320 (grants – application by Red River Scouts) as an assistant scout leader, and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item. Cllr Payne declared an interest in Minute 320 (grants – application by the Friends of Ludgvan School) and Minute 319(b) (PA22/01650), as Chairman of Governors of Ludgvan School, and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of these items. Cllr Mayall declared an interest in Minute 320 (grants – application by the Friends of Ludgvan School) and Minute 319(b) (PA22/01650), as Secretary of the Friends of Ludgvan School, and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of these items
LPC.21.22.312	To approve written requests for dispensation - None
LPC.21.22.313	Public Speaking An objector to planning application (f) on the planning schedule raised their concerns (location and site plans inaccurate, change to plans – moved to south-west, concerns at proximity to drainage field, plans do not show the neighbouring property. The Chairman of the trustees of the Ludgvan Community Centre reported that the child's play area is now 25 years old and that the swings need to be replaced, play-house roof replaced. The council was asked to advise on potential grant funding options. The application spoke in relation to planning application (b) on the planning schedule, explaining why the application had been submitted, and answered Members' questions. The applicants for a planning application due to be submitted, re Castle Brea Farm, gave a pre-application presentation to the council, setting out the proposal for a development including an educational centre, and answered Members' questions.
LPC.21.22.314	Cornwall Councillor reports - <i>To note written reports from Cornwall Council Ward Members circulated prior to the meeting, and to receive further update verbally at the meeting.</i>

All minutes are in draft form until approved at the following meeting

	<p><u>Long Rock, Marazion & St Erth / Ludgvan, Madron, Gulval & Heamoor / St Ives East, Lelant & Carbis Bay</u></p> <p>C.Cllr Taylor had sent her apologies and a written update covering: new bus fare trial; the ability for local councils and other groups to bid for CIL funds; Cornwall Council are proceeding with the County Deal, currently at early negotiation stage; another focus on the A30, Derek Thomas MP to meet with transport officers in the next couple of weeks; Ukraine refugees are now starting to enter into Cornwall; the £150 council tax refund payments.</p> <p>C.Cllr George had sent his apologies for the meeting.</p> <p>C.Cllr Sherfield-Wong reported: a site meeting was due to be held for the Long Rock beach public toilets, with potential option for workshops with parishes on devolution matters; Highways investment in Long Rock, going to cabinet after recent meeting with Cllrs Elliott and Cartwright, before going out to public consultation. £6.5million investment for more sidings at Long Rock sidings, works have started and going well.</p> <p>Cllr Elliott reported that he had attended the opening of the Marazion to Penzance cycle path and was concerned that benches had been removed as part of the upgrade, benches which had been funded from the parish council.</p> <p>Agreed – Cllr Sherfield-Wong was asked to find out whether the parish council can have the benches back to use in another location in the parish, or the money, if the benches were not stored.</p>
LPC.21.22.315	<p><u>Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 9 March 2022</u></p> <p>Resolved – that the minutes of the meeting of the council, as above, having been circulated, be taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of the meeting.</p>
LPC.21.22.316	<p>Clerk's update report</p> <p>Members noted the written report circulated prior to the meeting. Matters discussed:</p> <p>Noted that a response was awaited from National Highways on whether the parish council could install safety signs on the A30, and that Cornwall Council had advised against the proposed signs at Ludgvan churchtown in view of other traffic improvements in the pipeline at that location, and so there was a risk that the Vision Zero South West funding might not be able to be utilized.</p> <p>The clerk gave an update on the Long Rock beach public toilets, with the need for Cornwall Council to change the padlocks, and then a site meeting will be arranged.</p> <p>Double yellow lines at Long Rock, the Community Network Panel had voted on the Network Highways Schemes and had included this proposal (note that Lower Quarter and Churchtown were more complex issues and so not included in the Network Highways Scheme).</p>
LPC.21.22.317	<p>Reports from Councillors as representatives on outside bodies</p> <p>The Chairman reported on the meeting with the quarry management, recently attended by the Chairman and the Clerk. Discussion included lorry movements, quarry business during the covid pandemic and now the significant increases in costs of energy, fuel and materials, and the Aggregate Funding available to the parish council, with a move from 2022 onwards for grants to be social/environmental, and so moving away from recent use for these funds to improve the chapel building at Crowlas Cemetery.</p>

LPC.21.22.318	<p>To co-opt to vacancy on the council - Crowlas Ward (1 vacancy)</p> <p>After considering the application received and a brief presentation and questions put by Members, it was</p> <p>Resolved – that Jonathan Mayall be co-opted as Member for the Crowlas Ward, filling the current vacancy.</p> <p>Jonathan Mayall signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as parish councillor, and joined the meeting, having received meeting papers prior to the meeting.</p>
LPC.21.22.319	<p>Planning Applications</p>
	<p>(a) PA22/02018 – Strawberry Fields, Crowlas TR20 8BH – Construction of 5 dwellings and associated works with non compliance of conditions 2,3,4,5 in relation to Decision Notice PA20/05190 dated 18.06.2021.</p> <p>Resolved – that the parish council objects to this application for the following reasons: concerns at the proximity of the proposed development to both the flood plain and the mains sewer; poor access to the development site; the proposals are considered to be an overdevelopment of the site; and the parish council supports the concerns that have been raised with Cornwall Council by local residents regarding this application.</p>
	<p>(b) PA22/01650 – Land North East of Fairfield, Lower Quarter, Ludgvan – Retention of existing storage containers for land maintenance.</p> <p>Councillors Mayall and Payne each declared an interest in this item (as a member of the Friends of Ludgvan School, and as the Chairman of the Governors at Ludgvan School respectively), and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item.</p> <p>Resolved – that the parish council supports the siting of the two storage containers, however as there are concerns at material around the containers and the potential for the containers to be put to other uses, the parish council recommends two conditions should planning permission be granted: for permission to be granted on a temporary basis for five years; and for a condition to require that the storage containers are used only as ancillary storage necessary to the maintenance of the land.</p>
	<p>(c) PA21/11682 – Tremenheere Sculpture Garden, Gulval TR20 8YL – Construction of a two storey, three bedroom, manager’s dwelling</p> <p>Resolved – that the parish council questions the location and design of the proposed manager’s dwelling due to being a sensitive location and visually obtrusive, being a two storey building. The parish council would instead recommend that the manager’s dwelling be sited nearer the entrance to the site, on a lower land level, and to be a single storey building, in keeping with neighbouring properties.</p>
	<p>(d) PA22/01006 – Windrush, Tregender Lane, Crowlas – Domestic extension and alterations including first floor accommodation</p> <p>Resolved – to support the application.</p>
	<p>(e) PA22/03052 – 2 Culham Cottages, Castle Road, Ludgvan – Works to a tree in a conservation area (CA), works include the complete removal of a Copper Beech tree, including the roots This application is for note only – no decision is needed. As the application is for works to trees in a Conservation Area, it will be decided under delegated authority.</p>

		Noted.
	(f)	<p>PA22/02158 – Hannaville, Gilly Lane, Whitecross, Penzance – Construction of new dwelling, garage and installation of septic tank.</p> <p>Resolved – that the parish council objects to this application and supports the concerns raised by Mr Humpleby in his representation submitted to Cornwall Council on 11 April 2022. Further, Gilly Lane is not considered appropriate for any further development. It is noted that there was no reference to the Ludgvan Neighbourhood Plan or the Ludgvan Design Statement in the application documents.</p>
	(g)	<p>PA22/01699 – Woodreeve, 1 Church Hill, Ludgvan – Listed Building Consent to replace three sash windows and one bathroom window on a ‘like for like’ basis.</p> <p>It was noted that this application had been withdrawn.</p>
	(h)	<p>PA22/02903 – Refuse Transfer Station and Household Waste Recycling Centre, Treloweth Lane, St Erth – Proposed redevelopment of St Erth Refuse Transfer Station (RTS) to include an extension to the existing waste transfer building, the provision of new external bays (for glass and clinical waste) and external enclosed base (for wood wastes), associated infrastructure (eg. provision of weighbridge etc), reversing the traffic flow through the RTS facility and changes to operating hours of the RTS and HWRC – (see planning statement for further details). The application site boundary also includes the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) with non compliance with condition 3 and 13 in relation to Decision Notice PA20/05624 dated 16.4.21.</p> <p>Resolved – to support the application.</p>
LPC.21.22.320		<p>Grant Applications</p> <p>Members considered the following grant applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Red River Scout Group</u> [equipment for scout group, tents and tarpaulin] £245 requested. <p>Cllrs Price-Jones and Mayall each declared an interest in this item due to their participation in running the Red River Scout Group, and withdrew from the meeting during its consideration.</p> <p>Resolved – that £200 be awarded to the Red River Scout Group for the purpose set out in their application.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Platinum Jubilee committee</u> [funding to help support the Big Lunch and other community events] <p>Cllrs Mayall and Payne each declared an interest in this item (as Secretary of the Friends of Ludgvan School, and Chairman of the Governors of Ludgvan School respectively), and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item.</p> <p>Resolved – that £200 be granted to the Platinum Jubilee Committee for the purpose set out in their application.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Citizens Advice Cornwall</u> [funding to support the free advice service] £500 requested. <p>Resolved – that £190 be granted to Citizens Advice Cornwall for the purpose set out in their application, and for them to be asked to send a link and a graphic in order that a link to their advice service could be provided from the parish council’s website.</p>

LPC.21.22.321	<p>Ludgvan Community Platinum Jubilee Committee</p> <p>Cllr Mayall reported that there was a group of 20 people organising the Jubilee events, to include a Big Picnic. Links to the event website will be included on the parish council website to help with publicity.</p> <p>Resolved – that Cllr Mayall be appointed as the parish council representative on the organising committee.</p>
LPC.21.22.322	<p>Play area next to Ludgvan Community Centre</p> <p><i>To consider a request for the parish council to support the replacement and repair of play equipment in the play area next to the community centre</i></p> <p>Funding options considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. CIL funds already held by the parish council ii. CIL funds held by Cornwall Council (expressions of interest currently being invited) iii. parish council grant (usually up to £500 maximum) iv. Aggregate Fund <p>Resolved – that</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) the clerk will send the Community Centre trustees the link to information about applying for the CC CIL funding 2) the 2022/23 Aggregate Fund application to be amended, to instead seek funding for play equipment at the Ludgvan Community Centre play area, and possibly also for the Long Rock play area. <p>Cllr Elliott left the meeting at this point.</p>
LPC.21.22.323	<p>The CIL Fund – opportunity to submit an expression of interest</p> <p><i>To consider projects in the parish which could benefit from this funding, and to decide whether to submit an application.</i></p> <p>Resolved – that the parish council would support play area trustees for play areas in the parish, should they submit an application for the Cornwall Council CIL funding, currently open for applications.</p>
LPC.21.22.324	<p>Castle an Dinas Quarry</p> <p>Members noted reports from local residents that quarry lorries are not complying with the 20mph speed limit in Lower Quarters, along with the assurance that the Chairman had been given by the quarry management that if reports are received with evidence and registration numbers of lorries thought to be speeding, they will take action with the relevant drives.</p> <p>Resolved – that information be put on the parish council website on how to complain to the quarry management, and the need for evidence of speeding, and evidence of the vehicle.</p>
LPC.21.22.325	<p>Ludgvan Community Land Trust</p> <p>Cllr Price-Jones reported that the Ludgvan CLT had been set up.</p> <p>Resolved – that the parish council agreed to the holding of a call for land, and will publish on the website and social media information to be provided by Cllr Price-Jones.</p>

LPC.21.22.326	<p>Long Rock traffic survey</p> <p>Cllr Elliott reported that there was no update, other than there had been surveying activity recently. Noted.</p>
LPC.21.22.327	<p>Long Rock public toilets - <i>To receive an update on efforts to transfer the Long Rock public toilets to the parish council, and agree actions to take, if appropriate.</i></p> <p>This item had been covered earlier in the meeting.</p>
LPC.21.22.328	<p>Welcome signs for road entrances to Ludgvan Parish</p> <p>Cllr Mann reported that Cormac had agreed a site for the first sign, to be located on the B3311, and to be jointly installed by Ludgvan and Madron parish councils. There were highways safety concerns with a granite sign at that location, Cormac would advise on a suitable sign and design.</p> <p>Noted.</p>
LPC.21.22.329	<p>Housing development at Long Rock</p> <p>Cllr Branchett flagged up the need to keep a check on the development at Long Rock and to make sure that the community receives the promised community hall, which is due to be transferred freehold to the parish council.</p> <p>Agreed: The clerk was asked to check with the planning officer, that with the change in land ownership and developer, that the s.106 obligation relating to the community building will remain in place.</p>
LPC.21.22.330	<p>Further opportunities for devolution</p> <p>The suggestion was raised that the parish council should start thinking now about potential future devolution opportunities. Noted, with no new projects to be started at this stage.</p>
LPC.21.22.331	<p>Traffic speeding</p> <p>General traffic speeding was noted as a concern. In view of the discussion on the quarry lorries earlier in the meeting, it was agreed that Cllr Price-Jones will supply wording to the clerk to be published on the website, on how to report speeding traffic concerns.</p>
LPC.21.22.332	<p>Allotments update</p> <p>Members noted the written update circulated prior to the meeting.</p>
LPC.21.22.333	<p>Joint working with Marazion Town Council - <i>no joint meetings have been held since the last parish council meeting</i></p>
LPC.21.22.334	<p>Adoption of a Social Media Policy</p> <p><i>To adopt a social media policy to give the framework for the use of council social media.</i></p> <p>Deferred to a later meeting of the council.</p>
LPC.21.22.335	<p>Cemeteries – headstone inspections, expired grave leases, burial records</p> <p>Members considered the update report from the clerk and</p> <p>Resolved – to endorse the proposed way forward, as set out in the report.</p>
LPC.21.22.336	<p>2021/22 CIL Statement</p> <p>Resolved – that the 2021/22 CIL Statement be approved and the clerk is instructed to send the CIL Statement to Cornwall Council.</p>

LPC.21.22.337	<p>Schedule of Payments</p> <p>Resolved - to approve the payments to be made, as set out in the schedule.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="325 311 1407 1771"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="325 311 671 407">Payee</th> <th data-bbox="671 311 1161 407">Purpose</th> <th data-bbox="1161 311 1407 407">Amount (inc VAT)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="3" data-bbox="325 407 1407 461"><i>Payment by online banking</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="325 461 671 515">Ludgvan Parish Council</td> <td data-bbox="671 461 1161 515">Murley Hall Hire (March meeting)</td> <td data-bbox="1161 461 1407 515">£32.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="325 515 671 568">Cornwall ALC Ltd</td> <td data-bbox="671 515 1161 568">Code of conduct training – new cllr</td> <td data-bbox="1161 515 1407 568">£24.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="325 568 671 622">BrightPay</td> <td data-bbox="671 568 1161 622">Payroll licence 2022/23</td> <td data-bbox="1161 568 1407 622">£70.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="325 622 671 676">Food for Families CIC</td> <td data-bbox="671 622 1161 676">Allotment rent refund</td> <td data-bbox="1161 622 1407 676">£77.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="325 676 671 781">Cornwall ALC Ltd</td> <td data-bbox="671 676 1161 781">Annual membership subscription 2022/23</td> <td data-bbox="1161 676 1407 781">£1,138.35</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="325 781 671 875">Allium Environmental Ltd</td> <td data-bbox="671 781 1161 875">Asbestos survey, chapel building at Crowlas Cemetery</td> <td data-bbox="1161 781 1407 875">£414.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="325 875 671 969">MSB Pest Control</td> <td data-bbox="671 875 1161 969">Rat control treatment – Church Hill allotments</td> <td data-bbox="1161 875 1407 969">£200.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="325 969 671 1023">Glasdon UK Ltd</td> <td data-bbox="671 969 1161 1023">Phoenix seat, Long Rock</td> <td data-bbox="1161 969 1407 1023">£670.74</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="325 1023 671 1077">Louise Dowe</td> <td data-bbox="671 1023 1161 1077">Clerk’s salary March 2022</td> <td data-bbox="1161 1023 1407 1077">£1,552.83</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="325 1077 671 1294">HMRC</td> <td data-bbox="671 1077 1161 1294">PAYE/NI month 1 £542.93 approved but not to be paid in the first instance, pending resolution of issue with online HMRC PAYE system</td> <td data-bbox="1161 1077 1407 1294"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="325 1294 671 1348">Louise Dowe</td> <td data-bbox="671 1294 1161 1348">Clerk’s expenses March ‘22</td> <td data-bbox="1161 1294 1407 1348">£82.97</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="325 1348 671 1402">Red River Scout Group</td> <td data-bbox="671 1348 1161 1402">Grant awarded</td> <td data-bbox="1161 1348 1407 1402">£200</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="325 1402 671 1500">Ludgvan Platinum Jubilee Committee</td> <td data-bbox="671 1402 1161 1500">Grant awarded</td> <td data-bbox="1161 1402 1407 1500">£200</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="325 1500 671 1554">Citizens Advice Cornwall</td> <td data-bbox="671 1500 1161 1554">Grant awarded</td> <td data-bbox="1161 1500 1407 1554">£190</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" data-bbox="325 1554 1407 1615"><i>Payments by Direct Debit</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="325 1615 671 1668">NEST pension scheme</td> <td data-bbox="671 1615 1161 1668">Clerk’s pension March 2022</td> <td data-bbox="1161 1615 1407 1668">£101.59</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="325 1668 671 1771">Source for Business</td> <td data-bbox="671 1668 1161 1771">Water, LR allotments 1 Dec 21 to 24 Feb 22</td> <td data-bbox="1161 1668 1407 1771">£28.09</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Payee	Purpose	Amount (inc VAT)	<i>Payment by online banking</i>			Ludgvan Parish Council	Murley Hall Hire (March meeting)	£32.00	Cornwall ALC Ltd	Code of conduct training – new cllr	£24.00	BrightPay	Payroll licence 2022/23	£70.80	Food for Families CIC	Allotment rent refund	£77.00	Cornwall ALC Ltd	Annual membership subscription 2022/23	£1,138.35	Allium Environmental Ltd	Asbestos survey, chapel building at Crowlas Cemetery	£414.00	MSB Pest Control	Rat control treatment – Church Hill allotments	£200.00	Glasdon UK Ltd	Phoenix seat, Long Rock	£670.74	Louise Dowe	Clerk’s salary March 2022	£1,552.83	HMRC	PAYE/NI month 1 £542.93 approved but not to be paid in the first instance, pending resolution of issue with online HMRC PAYE system		Louise Dowe	Clerk’s expenses March ‘22	£82.97	Red River Scout Group	Grant awarded	£200	Ludgvan Platinum Jubilee Committee	Grant awarded	£200	Citizens Advice Cornwall	Grant awarded	£190	<i>Payments by Direct Debit</i>			NEST pension scheme	Clerk’s pension March 2022	£101.59	Source for Business	Water, LR allotments 1 Dec 21 to 24 Feb 22	£28.09
Payee	Purpose	Amount (inc VAT)																																																								
<i>Payment by online banking</i>																																																										
Ludgvan Parish Council	Murley Hall Hire (March meeting)	£32.00																																																								
Cornwall ALC Ltd	Code of conduct training – new cllr	£24.00																																																								
BrightPay	Payroll licence 2022/23	£70.80																																																								
Food for Families CIC	Allotment rent refund	£77.00																																																								
Cornwall ALC Ltd	Annual membership subscription 2022/23	£1,138.35																																																								
Allium Environmental Ltd	Asbestos survey, chapel building at Crowlas Cemetery	£414.00																																																								
MSB Pest Control	Rat control treatment – Church Hill allotments	£200.00																																																								
Glasdon UK Ltd	Phoenix seat, Long Rock	£670.74																																																								
Louise Dowe	Clerk’s salary March 2022	£1,552.83																																																								
HMRC	PAYE/NI month 1 £542.93 approved but not to be paid in the first instance, pending resolution of issue with online HMRC PAYE system																																																									
Louise Dowe	Clerk’s expenses March ‘22	£82.97																																																								
Red River Scout Group	Grant awarded	£200																																																								
Ludgvan Platinum Jubilee Committee	Grant awarded	£200																																																								
Citizens Advice Cornwall	Grant awarded	£190																																																								
<i>Payments by Direct Debit</i>																																																										
NEST pension scheme	Clerk’s pension March 2022	£101.59																																																								
Source for Business	Water, LR allotments 1 Dec 21 to 24 Feb 22	£28.09																																																								
LPC.21.22.338	<p>Finance report and bank reconciliation</p> <p>Resolved – to note the budget monitoring report, bank reconciliation and update on Earmarked Reserves.</p>																																																									
LPC.21.22.339	<p>Correspondence/communications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Traffic, The Square, Ludgvan - Noted ii. St Aubyn Estates Ltd – St Michael’s Mount – Mount Memories Pass - Noted 																																																									

LPC.21.22.340	<p>Agenda items for a future meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>i.</i> Any items deferred from this meeting <i>ii.</i> To co-opt to vacancy on the council – Lelant ward (1 vacancy) <i>iii.</i> Adoption of a Social Media Policy <i>iv.</i> Community Speedwatch Update [<i>Cllr Price-Jones</i>] <i>v.</i> Re-ordering of council agenda [<i>Cllr Munday</i>] <i>vi.</i> Update on Long Rock traffic improvements <i>vii.</i> Update on Crowlas 30mph improvements <i>viii.</i> Update from the A30 Action Group [<i>Cllr Miucci</i>] 	
LPC.21.22.341	<p>Exclusion of the press and public</p> <p>To resolve: that in accordance with s.1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following business owing to the confidential nature of that business.</p>	
LPC.21.22.342	<p>Appointment of contractor for maintenance of rights of way, 2022 season</p> <p><i>To consider the quotes received and to appoint a contractor to carry out the LMP rights of way maintenance work between May 2022 and March 2023</i></p> <p>Members considered the quotes received and</p> <p>Resolved – to appoint Mr E H Rich to carry out the LMP rights of way maintenance for the years 2022/23 and 2023/24.</p>	
LPC.21.22.343	<p>Appointment of contractor to carry out repairs to the wall at Crowlas Cemetery</p> <p>Members considered the update on the quote received for repairing the wall, noting the difficulties in securing quotes from builders in the current climate, with builders in high demand and cost of materials fluctuating wildly.</p> <p>Resolved – to award the contract to Mr EH Rich, in line with the quote he had submitted.</p>	
	Meeting closed: 9.12 pm	Signed by Chairman: