

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of **Beaworthy Parish Council** held at 1930 hours on **Thursday 16th Oct 2025** in Beaworthy Parish Hall.

Councillors present: Cllr Rendell (Chairman), Cllr Wonnacott, Cllr Sanders, Cllr Balsdon, Cllr Darling.

Also present: A. Braidwood (Clerk), Cllr Southcott (WDBC), Cllr Mott (WDBC), Cllr Davies (DCC) and 3 other members of public

1. **Chairman's welcome.** Cllr Rendell welcomed attendees to the meeting.
2. **Apologies for absence.** Cllr Johnstone
3. **Public Forum** – a member of the public spoke for 5 minutes on the flooding at the old railway bridge at Halwill and advised that this had now been cleared.
4. **Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda** – Nil
5. **Minutes of the previous meeting.** It was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the **18th Sep 2025** were a true record and were signed by the Chairman. It was agreed that reports would be added to the minutes as an annex going forwards
6. **Co-option** – The council considered an application from one candidate for the position of councillor for Beaworthy East Ward. Cllr Sanders proposed and seconded by Cllr Balsdon and unanimously **RESOLVED** to co-opt Nicholas Hayes to the position of member. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed and he joined the meeting.
7. **Clerk's report** – received. **Annex A**
8. **Policy Review** – The following policies were reviewed, and it was **resolved** to approve all with the following:
 - 8.1 Accessible Documents Policy – It was approved with no amendments
 - 8.2 Communications Policy – It was approved with amendments to remove reference page numbers and amend New Parish Hall to Parish Hall at Patchacott
9. **Planning. The following planning applications were noted: no decision required**
 - 9.1 **2752/25/PDM** - Proposal: Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed change of use of agricultural building to 1No dwellinghouse (class C3) & for associated development (Class Q (a+b)) Location: Barn 1 at High Hayne Patchacott - **INFORMATION ONLY**
 - 9.2 **2751/25/PDM** - Proposal: Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed change of use of agricultural building to 1No dwellinghouse (class C3) & for associated development (Class Q (a+b)) Location: Barn 2 at High Hayne Patchacott – **INFORMATION ONLY**
10. **Councillors Reports – reports on meetings attended and matters brought to the attention of councillors.**
 - 10.1 Highways – Cllr not present
 - 10.2 Parish Hall – Received. Noted that the new notice board had been installed.
 - 10.3 Crime commissioners – NTR
11. **DCC and West Devon borough Council Updates:** Received – **Annex B**
12. **BT Phone Box** – The council discussed the future use of the BT phone box which is now owned by the PC. Cllr Sanders to seek opinions of residents and report at the next meeting, no public meeting required. Clerk to put a document together with anticipated costs of installation and upkeep of a defibrillator in the phone box.
13. **Finance:**
 - 13.1 **The RFO** presented the bank rec and budget update to **30 Sep 2025. Annex C**
 - 13.2 It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments:

- 13.3 **Training** – It was **RESOLVED** Cllr Hayes would attend the DALC Being a good councillor training – Clerk to contact Northlew PC to arrange and obtain final cost.
- 13.4 **Draft budget** - It was noted that Cllrs Hayes and Sanders declared an interest in the donations line of the budget. The draft budget was discussed, and it was agreed the RFO would have the final budget ready for the November meeting for approval.

Cllr Wonnacott departed the meeting at 2100 hours.

The public were excluded at **2106 hours**. The Council **RESOLVED** to agree to continue the meeting in **confidential session**, Cllr Southcott and Cllr Mott were invited to remain.

14. WDBC Enforcement – Updates received.

The confidential session closed at **2122 hours**

15. Items for the agenda for next meeting – BT phone box use, consideration of defib, budget, Cllr training costs

16. Date of next meeting – 20 Nov 2025

17. Meeting closed at: 2125 hours.

Annex A - Clerk Report Oct 2025

Finance:

The precept has been received into the bank account.

A complaint has been submitted to Nat West relating to the Signatory Mandate which was completed at the end of July to add Cllr Johnstone and Cllr Wonnacott to the mandate. Although all signatories had completed and returned their online forms to Nat West, Nat West had failed to progress it to the next stage of completion. Nat West also have a record of all signatories having completed their details but still requested we start the process all over again. I have submitted the complaint in the hope that they can sort this error without us having to go through the whole process again. I will keep the council updated.

Appraisal:

Forms are still outstanding – please can Councillors send these on to Cllr Sanders as soon as possible. Thank you.

Planning

Decisions received: **Nil**

Resolutions - All resolutions from the Sept meeting have been actioned. All planning submissions have been sent and recorded.

Expenses policy – This will be added to the November agenda to allow some research into allowances for councillors.

Outstanding issues are:

- Emergency plan meeting to be arranged.
- Clerks' appraisal meeting to be confirmed.
- Nat West complaint – partially completed – ongoing
- Second Nat West complaint submitted re Mandate
- MOU

Correspondence – all correspondence has been forwarded to councillors via email

To note:

CPRE has sent out an invitation to attend a meeting on the 2700 acre Mega Solar Site planned for Holsworthy – Oct 31st at 11.30 am in Holsworthy Memorial Hall EX22 6DJ

Electoral services have confirmed we are free to co-opt after the Vacancy Notice period ended on 10 Oct.

DALC new councillor training Nov 2025 – awaiting new councillor

Annex B – DCC councillor report Oct 2025

Report from Devon County Council –Beaworthy Parish Council 16 th October 2025

Local Government Reorganisation

The local consultation has now finished. The scheme preferred by DCC is called “New Devon” or 9-1-1. It is comprised of the two current unitary councils Plymouth and Torbay, and then 9 separate areas within Devon county. The final proposal to be submitted will be voted on at a full council meeting on 14 th November, with the deadline for submitting 28 th November. All district and borough councils across Devon will also submit their preferences for reorganisation. West Devon Borough council has a scheme called 1-4-5 which appears to be their preference and likely to be submitted. (you can view the details of the scheme on WDBC website). The government will review the proposals and will decide on how the local authorities are organised. They are due to announce findings next summer.

Link attached below.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/news/a-stronger-future-shaped-by-communities-devon-unveils-leading-option-for-local-government-change/>

Pothole Repair Trial

On 15th September a Devon Highways trial was launched to fill all potholes within a 500metre range whilst workmen, materials and equipment is on site and not only those potholes with safety defect markings. Two Devon sites have been chosen including parts of our division of Hatherleigh and Chagford. The trial runs until the end of October. Here's my regular reminder to always report potholes, blocked drains, etc. on the 'report a problem' web page. Link attached below.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/news/pothole-repair-trial-starts-in-devon/>

Fire Service – Co-Responder Scheme

Discussions continue regarding the cancellation of the fire service co-responder scheme and a possible solution in favour of a voluntary community responder scheme. Link attached below.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/news/scrutiny-urges-ambulance-service-to-stop-plans-to-replace-fire-co-responders-with-volunteers/>

Okehampton Interchange – On 30th September I visited the site of the new station to see first-hand the progress being made. This will be a major improvement in local rail travel options in West Devon. The schedule for opening next summer is on track. Bus routes to stop at the new station are being planned/discussed.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/news/okehampton-interchange-taking-shape-with-lift-shaft-and-footbridge-installed/>

Cllr Sue Davies, Devon County Councillor for Hatherleigh and Chagford

Email: sue.davies@devon.gov

Annex C – Finance Report and Bank Rec to 30 Sep 2025

Receipts

Total	Precept	Grant	Bank Interest	VAT Refund	Misc		
5,448.11	5,401.00	-	-	47.11	-	-	-

Payments

Total	Clerk's Salary	Grants and Donations	Admin and training	Office Costs	Insurance	Asset Maint	Election Costs	VAT
2,409.93	1,445.60	300.00	-	319.99	125.26	166.83	-	52.25

Bank Summary

Cashbook

Balance at	01/04/24	5,791.86
Receipts	to date	5,448.11
Payments	to date	2,409.93
Balance at	30/09/25	8,830.04

Current
Acc

Bank Reconciliation

Balance per statement 30 Sep 2025	8,830.04
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Current
Acc

Outstanding cheques	Chq No	Amount
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Total Outstanding cheques/DD

-

8,830.04

Difference

-

of which is earmarked reserves 3895.97

balance remaining after reserves 4,934.07

expected additional income 0

expected additional expenditure 2291.07

estimated y/e balance 2,643.00

total in working reserves (should equal 1-year costs) 5034.68

Budget Update to 30 Sep 25

BUDGET	FY Apr 25 to Apr 26				
Category	Sub category	Budget	Totals	To date	over/under spend
Clerk salary		3016.00	3,016.00	1445.6	
Donations			300.00	300	0.00
	other requests	150.00		150	
	St Albans	150.00		150	
Administration and training			250.00		250.00
	Admin expenses/mileage	50			
	Training	200			
Input Vat to be recovered				52.25	
Office costs			665.00	319.99	345.01
	Printer toner/stationery	60			60
	Go daddy domain renewal	30		18.99	11.01
	Go Daddy website renewal	150			150
	Village Hall Hire	200			200
	Subscriptions DALC	120		100	20
	Subscriptions ICO	40		47	-7
	Subscription to CPRE	0		84	-84
	Audit	65		70	-5
Insurance		170	170.00	125.26	44.74
Grants		300	300.00		300.00
Election Costs reserves		100	100.00	100	
Working reserves		400	400.00	400	
Asset Maint reserves			200.00	166.83	
	2 noticeboards	50			
	laptop and printer	150		165.83	
	BT Phone Bo			1.00	
		5401.00	5,401.00	2909.93	
totals less contingencies		4701.00	4,701.00	2409.93	