

## Minutes of the Meeting of Pyworthy Parish Council – Thursday 23 January 2025

Present: Cllrs. R. Skinner (Chair), A. Beavan, N. Lock, R. Moores, A. Skinner.  
Parish Clerk in attendance  
Cllr. Morrish (DCC), Cllr. Hepple (TDC)  
6 members of the public.

### 1694. Welcome

Cllr. R. Skinner welcomed all to the meeting.

### 1695. Apologies

Cllr. Brennan, Cllr. Parrish

### 1696. Minutes of the last meeting

Minutes of the last meeting on Thursday 21 November 2024 were agreed and signed.

### 1697. Matters arising

Defibrillator in Derril: Cllr Lock has checked registration of the defibrillator. It is confirmed that the defibrillator has just been inspected. This is needed every year. The defibrillator is attached to the side of a private property and the owners are happy that it remains in place. The paperwork has been handed over to Cllr Lock. Cllr R Skinner proposed that the defibrillator be formally transferred to PPC and this was unanimously agreed. *Clerk to pass over PPC bank account details so the defibrillator funds can be transferred to PPC.*

Footpaths: It was confirmed that responsibility for trimming the hedge at the rear of the parish hall lies with the landowner whose property backs onto the path. Cutting the top of this hedge will need specialist equipment.

PCSO attending PPC meetings: Clerk has contacted the relevant team at Devon & Cornwall Police. The team is understaffed and they are not attending separate parish meetings due to the large number of parishes they cover.

TDC Planning: Helen Smith (TDC) was not able to attend the November PPC meeting due to the poor weather. Helen has not responded to emails re attending a future meeting.

Bench & path improvements: *Cllr Moores will contact John Weighall re improvements to the paving at this location.*

### 1698. Public open question time

Cllr Hepple (TDC) updated on works on the solar site. The speed limit for solar lorries has been reduced to 20mph. He is pressing for a road sweeper to be present on site for the full duration of works.

Cllr Morrish (DCC) updated on the Devon response to Government plans to merge District and County Councils to create new unitary councils, each with a population of at least 500,000. The Government will shortly select the first English Counties to create new unitary authorities. For the areas selected, May 2025 elections will be postponed in lieu of elections to a Shadow Board in 2026 to oversee transfer to new unitary

authority in 2027. A decision is expected imminently whether the Government will allow May 2025 elections in Devon be postponed to 2026. The current Devon unitary authorities, Exeter and Plymouth would like to remain as unitaries in their own right, but both are too small under current Government plans and could need to assimilate additional surrounding areas to reach the minimum size stipulated by Government. A decision is expected shortly on whether Devon will be selected the Government as one of the first areas to become unitary in 2027. If so, Torridge Council and Devon CC will be abolished and replaced by one or more unitary authorities. Pyworthy will likely become part of a rural unitary authority covering a larger area than the current Torridge District Council.

Cllr Morrish (DCC) updated on a PPC request for speed limit signs for Derril. He said there was no appetite at DCC for similar schemes in other parts of Devon, but he (and Cllr Hepple, TDC) would support PPC in pursuing this scheme with DCC. He recommending speaking to Cllr Stewart Hughes at DCC.

Cllr Morrish (DCC) updated on support for Pyworthy parish on DCC matters over the last few months. He has assisted on three matters within Pyworthy – 1 farm issue, 1 complaint re MP and 1 child services support – and signposted numerous contacts on issues not covered by DCC.

#### 1699. Correspondence

Parish website – A resident has set up a new Pyworthy Parish website and was seeking views on the structure and layout of the site. Residents are urged to view the new site and make comments. PPC would like to pass on their thanks to Mark Marriott for setting up the website.

Large vehicles in the village: A resident highlighted issues with heavy vehicles and loose dogs at the top of the village by the old school; there had been similar issues raised here in 2023. There was recent damage to a wall from a large vehicle reversing around the corner. Residents are urged to ensure they park considerately in this area and ensure there is sufficient space for fire engines etc to pass safely through. There had nearly been an accident in the same area from dogs being walked whilst not on leads. Residents are urged to keep dogs on leads whilst walking in the village.

Ruby County Medical Group Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 20 Feb 7pm at the Holsworthy Medical Centre.

Devon & Cornwall Alert: Councillors completed the "Let's Talk Devon & Cornwall Priority Survey " survey in consultation with all those present at the meeting.

#### 1700. Planning

There were no new planning applications to discuss.

1/1004/2024/FUL – retrospective re stables and hardstanding. Councillors had previously objected to this application. The application has been refused by TDC.

1/0956/2024/REM – Proposal: Reserved matters application for appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for 3no dwellings pursuant to application 1/0059/2022/OUT.

Location: Land at grid reference 230582 103637 Derril.

Councillors had objected to this application at the November 2024 meeting. However, additional information had come to light suggesting that additional works re drainage were now planned. On condition that sufficient works are undertaken to prevent water run off onto neighbouring properties, PPC will support the application. This information has already been passed to TDC.

1701. Footpaths

Cllr Lock has started annual inspections on footpaths.

1702. Accounts

Accounts for November 2024 to January 2025 were agreed.

| Pyworthy Parish Council - Nov 24 - Jan 25 |                        |         |                   |            |            |                  |
|---|------------------------|---------|-------------------|------------|------------|------------------|
| Available funds at 21 November 2024       |                        |         |                   |            |            | £19,720.30       |
| <b>PAYMENTS</b>                           |                        |         |                   |            |            |                  |
| Date                                      | To                     | Cq. No. | Amount            | Net        | VAT        | Reason           |
| 21.11.24                                  | RBL Poppy Appeal       | 912     | £ 20.00           |            |            | Wreaths          |
| 21.11.24                                  | R Skinner              | 913     | £ 6.95            |            |            | Expenses         |
| 30.11.24                                  | C Withall              | 914     | £ 1,695.95        |            |            | Salary           |
| 30.11.24                                  | S Davies               | 915     | £ 205.43          |            |            | Salary           |
| 22.12.24                                  | Clawton Primary School | 916     | £ 1,000.00        |            |            | PTA - Solar Fund |
| 31.12.24                                  | S Davies               | 917     | £ 204.53          |            |            | Salary           |
| 13.1.25                                   | HMRC                   | 919     | £ 742.75          |            |            | PAYE             |
|   | <b>TOTAL</b>           |         | <b>£ 3,875.61</b> | <b>£ -</b> | <b>£ -</b> |                  |
| <b>RECEIPTS</b>                           |                        |         |                   |            |            |                  |
| Date                                      | From                   | Ref     | Amount            | Net        | VAT        | Reason           |
|   |                        |         |                   |            |            |                  |
|   |                        |         |                   |            |            |                  |
|   | <b>TOTAL</b>           |         | <b>£ -</b>        |            |            |                  |
| <b>PETTY CASH</b>                         |                        |         |                   |            |            |                  |
| Date                                      | Item                   |         | Amount            | Net        | VAT        |                  |
|   | <b>TOTAL</b>           |         | <b>£ -</b>        |            |            |                  |
|   | Balance                |         |                   |            |            |                  |
| Available funds at 21st November 2024     |                        |         |                   |            |            | £15,844.69       |
| Solar spend 2023/24                       |                        |         |                   |            |            |                  |
|   |                        |         | £ 7,324.91        |            |            |                  |
| Solar spend 2022/23                       |                        |         | £ 9,336.00        |            |            |                  |
| Solar spend 2020/21                       |                        |         | £ 1,024.99        |            |            |                  |
| Solar spend 2019/20                       |                        |         | £ 7,718.00        |            |            |                  |
| Solar spend 2018/19                       |                        |         | £ 5,231.00        |            |            |                  |
| Solar spend 2017/18                       |                        |         | £ 15,880.33       |            |            |                  |
| Solar spend 2016/17                       |                        |         | £ 7,457.94        |            |            |                  |
| Solar spend 2015/16                       |                        |         | £ 700.51          |            |            |                  |
| Solar spend 2014/15                       |                        |         | £ 10,735.70       |            |            |                  |
| Solar spend 2013/14                       |                        |         | £ 1,004.00        |            |            |                  |
| Total                                     |                        |         | £ 66,413.38       |            |            |                  |
| Solar VAT recoverable                     |                        |         | £ 8,262.54        |            |            |                  |

1703. To discuss applications for Solar Community Benefit fund.

Two applications for the Solar Community Benefit fund were received.

St Swithun Church - Application for £150 + VAT (total £180) for works carried out to damaged window on

North Side of Chancel. This work was in addition to that previously agreed in May 2024 (total £ 984 inc VAT). It was agreed to fund this additional work.

St Swithun Church – Application for repairs to the Shield Window on the South Side of the Chancel. Three quotes had been received (£2,500 + VAT, £3,000 (no VAT), £ 3,900 + VAT). It was agreed that Solar Fund would fund £2,500 + VAT. The successful quote is from the Diocesan Advisor who specialises in repairs to stained glass.

1704.        Items allowed by the Chair

Dog mess: A resident had reported dog mess being left on private grassed areas in the village. Dog owners are urged to ensure they clear up after their dogs and a reminder will be placed in the next Pyworthy Post. PPC owns a dog mess stencil and will be using this to leave reminders in the worst affected areas when the weather improves.

1705.        Date of next meeting

Thursday 20 March and Thursday 22 May at 7.30pm

The meeting was closed at 21.05