

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Pyworthy Parish Council – Thursday 24 July 2025

Present: Cllrs. R. Skinner (Chair), Beavan, Brennan, Lock, Moores, Parrish, A. Skinner.
Parish Clerk in attendance
Cllr. Rowsell (DCC)
3 members of the public.

1734. Welcome

Cllr. R. Skinner welcomed all to the meeting.

1735. Apologies

Cllr. Heppell (TDC)

1736. Minutes of the Last Meeting (22 May 2025)

Minutes of the AGM meeting on Thursday 22 May 2025 were agreed and signed.

1737. Matters arising

Solar Park: Work on the Solar Park continues, equipment testing will begin shortly.

Path relaying: The clerk has advised the building contractor awarded the work to relay the concrete path alongside the triangle by the church lychgate. The contractor has not yet given a start date for this work and the clerk will chase up.

1738. Public open question time

A resident proposed that the Parish Council purchase a patch of land near Hillsborough Cross. The land has been occupied without permission of current owner and a static caravan and associated structures set up. Councillors discussed ownership of the site, current land values, potential for water pollution to enter Derril Water and the impact on wildlife corridor in this location. Torridge Planning are aware of potential planning infringement in this location and the Clerk will follow up with Planning Enforcement on this issue. The Clerk will flag Environment Agency on potential pollution entering the Derril Water at this site.

Cllr. Rowsell (DCC) introduced herself to the meeting. Since coming into post, Cllr. Rowsell has had a steep learning curve and training for new councillors is ongoing. Cllr. Rowsell serves on the following committees: Audit Committee, Health & Adult Care Scrutiny Committee, Devon Pension Board, Torridge Highways and Traffic Orders Committee. She has been appointed to external bodies: Devon & Severn Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority, South West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. Cllr. Rowsell is happy to receive questions about any of the committees that she sits on.

Local Government Reorganisation: DCC and District Councils continue to discuss how the county will be divided up into new unitary authorities and continue to engage with residents and other local stakeholders.

1739. Correspondence

Local MP Geoffrey Cox will be holding a surgery in Holsworthy on 30 July.

1740. Planning

1/0484/2025/AGMB – Conversion of agricultural building to a residential property.

Location: Barn near Thorndon Cross, Pyworthy, Devon.

Councillors discussed the application. Councillors resolved to SUPPORT this application.

1/0594/2025/FUL – Variation of previous planning approval – revised drawings.

Councillors discussed the application. There were concerns that updated drawings could allow further development of the site and that the site was already overdeveloped. Councillors resolved to OBJECT to this application.

1741. Footpaths

The footpath by the substation is currently impassable. The footpath by Crinacott has been cut after the previous report. Mick Thorley has a machine that could cut the path behind the village hall. Cllr. Parrish will liaise with Mr Thorley.

1742. Accounts: May – July 2025

Accounts May - July 2025 were agreed. Parish Council insurance will need to be renegotiated in April 2026 as the current three-year agreement will come to an end.

Pyworthy Parish Council - May - July 2025						
Available funds at 22 May 2025						£23,910.65
PAYMENTS						
Date	To	Cq. No.	Amount	Net	VAT	Reason
22/05/2025	Pyworthy Village Hall	932	£ 250.00			Grant
22/05/2025	Pyworthy Relief in Need	933	£ 150.00			Grant
22/05/2025	John Sanders Trust	947	£ 300.00			Grant
22/05/2025	Pyworthy Post	935	£ 800.00			Grant
22/05/2025	HFWRRC	936	£ 50.00			Grant
22/05/2025	Citizens Advice Bureau	938	£ 50.00			Grant
22/05/2025	Friends of Bude Sea Pool	939	£ 25.00			Grant
22/05/2025	Friends of Holsworthy Libr	940	£ 100.00			Grant
22/05/2025	Pyworthy Church	942	£ 250.00			Grant
31/05/2025	S J Davies	943	£ 249.31			Salary
31/05/2025	Holsworthy Community Tr	944	£ 500.00			Grant
10/06/2025	Community First Trading	945	£ 149.74			Insurance
31/05/2025	South West Heritage Trus	946	£ 50.00			Grant
19/05/2025	Lloyds Bank		£ 4.75			Bank Charges
30/06/2025	S J Davies	948	£ 245.91			Salary
01/07/2025	HMRC	949	£ 31.20			PAYE Tax
17/06/2025	Lloyds Bank		£ 5.25			Bank Charges
	TOTAL		£ 3,211.16	£ -	£ -	
RECEIPTS						
Date	From	Ref	Amount	Net	VAT	Reason
	TOTAL		£ -			
PETTY CASH						
Date	Item		Amount	Net	VAT	
	TOTAL		£ -			
	Balance					
Available funds at 24 July 2025						£20,699.49
Solar spend 2024/25						
Solar spend 2024/25			£ 3,547.31			
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			£ 69,960.69			
Solar VAT recoverable			£ 8,262.54			

Councillors discussed quotations to supply and install a mounted notice board in Derril. Two quotes were received.

Quote from Company A: £ 631.64 + VAT

Quote from Company B: £ 540 + Installation costs + VAT

Cllr. Brennan proposed, seconded Cllr. R Skinner, that quotes for installing a replacement noticeboard outside the village hall be considered at the same time as the Derril noticeboard and both be agreed at the same time, as the quotes were from the same companies in each case. It was resolved that both schemes would be considered together.

Councillors discussed quotations to supply and install a replacement notice board outside the Village Hall.

Quote from Company A: £ 767.68 + VAT

Quote from Company B: £ 806.30 + VAT

Cllr. Brennan proposed that Company A (JAG Signs) be awarded contract for both installations, seconded Cllr. Moores. It was resolved that Company A will be approached with a view to potentially securing a discount for both schemes. Both noticeboards will be installed, ensuring they comply with any planning requirements.

A village event to celebrate 100 years of the village park is being planned. Councillors discussed how the Parish Council could support the event. Cllr. A Skinner proposed that a grant of £102 be paid to cover the cost of provided free tea and coffee at the event, Seconded by Cllr. Brennan. It was resolved that £102 be paid to John Sanders Trust to support the anniversary event.

1743. To discuss applications for Solar Community Benefit fund.

There were no new applications for the Solar Community Benefit fund.

1744. Items allowed by the Chair

Park maintenance: Cllr. Moores suggesting bringing park maintenance costs under the Parish precept. It was increasingly difficult to find volunteers to undertake grass cutting etc and to maintain the park to current standards could need parish support going forward. Clerk will put this onto September meeting agenda. Cllr. Moores will provide information on proposed costs that can be circulated before the meeting so a decision on adding this cost to the precept can be decided at the September meeting before the November budget setting meeting.

First Responders: Councillors discussed the proposal by South West Ambulance Trust to no longer support Fire Service First Responders and replace them with volunteers. Councillors voiced concern that this could impact public safety. Clerk will write to South West Ambulance Trust to set out concerns on this decision.

Parking in triangle outside Molesworth Arms: A member of the public had been asked to move their car from the triangle outside the Molesworth Arms on the basis that this was not public parking. Clerk to clarify ownership of this land.

Dog fouling: There has been further instances of fouling from loose dogs in the village. Further reminders to prevent loose dogs roaming will be made.

A meeting with the Local Neighbourhood Watch Police Team will be held on 13 August in Holsworthy Cattle Market.

1745. Date of next meeting

Thursday 18 September at 7.30pm and Thursday 27 November 2025.

The meeting was closed at 21.06