

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Pyworthy Parish Council – Thursday 18 September 2025

Present: Cllrs. R. Skinner (Chair), Beavan, Brennan, Lock, Moores, A. Skinner.
Parish Clerk in attendance
Cllr. James (TDC)
2 members of the public.

1746. Welcome

Cllr. R. Skinner welcomed all to the meeting.

1747. Apologies

Cllr. Parrish, Cllr. Rowsell (DCC)

1748. Minutes of the Last Meeting (24 July 2025)

Minutes of the AGM meeting on Thursday 24 July 2025 were agreed and signed.

1749. Matters arising

Park Centenary Event: The event to celebrate the park being over 100 years old was a success. Thanks were offered to the organisers to those who attended.

Path relaying: The work to relay the concrete path alongside the triangle by the church lychgate will start within 6-8 weeks.

Notice boards: The noticeboard outside the village hall has been ordered and will be installed within 7-10 days. The noticeboard in Derril needs agreement from Devon County Council to site the board in this location. The clerk has submitted an application to DCC for permission.

1750. Public open question time

Cllr. James (TDC) updated the meeting on proposals for local government reorganisation. A consultation is underway to seek views of the public on the needs of the Torridge District. Roadshows are also underway to offer an “in person” consultation for local people. The Roadshow will be in the Manor Car Park in Holsworthy on Thursday 2 October between 9.30-11.30am. Councillors discussed devolution and local government reorganisation and expressed concerns that North Devon concerns were not being heard and that local people were not aware of the consultation or proposed changes.

Cllr. James (TDC) said that at the Full Council Meeting of Torridge Council on Monday 22 September, TDC would be seeking authority to reallocate £2M of funding from the Bideford Business Park Project to the delivery of a further phase of the Hatchmoor industrial Estate Project, as part of the £20.7M capital investment funding awarded through the Community Regeneration Partnership.

A member of the public said that she was planning an event to invite all local veterans to a special evening of remembrance and community on Sunday, November 9, 2025, at 7:30 PM in the village hall. The gathering would be a chance for veterans to come together, share experiences. The parish council was asked to make a contribution to the cost of the event.

Cllr. Lock proposed a grant of up to £50 to support the event, seconded by Cllr. Beavan. All Councillors were in favour. It was resolved that a payment of up to £50 to support the event would be made on submission of

invoice and receipts.

1751. Correspondence

Derril Speeding: A local resident had contacted the parish council regarding speeding through Derril and the lack of speed limit signs in Derril. This ongoing issue has been referred to Devon County Council on numerous occasions. DCC Cllr. Rowsell has undertaken to follow this up and confirmation has been received that the relevant team at DCC are looking into the lack of speed limit signs. Councillors discussed the merits of Speedwatch, based on experience in Bridgerule and it was agreed that the clerk would contact Holsworthy Hamlets Parish Council regarding borrowing equipment.

Fire Co-responders: The clerk had previously written to South Western Ambulance Trust (SWAT) regarding proposals to cease funding fire co-responders. SWAT had responders saying they had paused proposals to cease funding fire-responders while they recruit and train sufficient numbers of volunteer co-responders. This is likely to take a number of years. Councillors expressed concerns on the level of training of volunteer co-responders.

1752. Planning

1/0672/2025/FUL – Changes to drawing of proposed dwelling where permission had already been given.
Location: Killatree, Pyworthy, Devon.

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

Councillors discussed ongoing issues with caravans on land near Hillsborough Cross. Cllr. James (TDC) agreed to follow up concerns with Torridge Planning.

1753. Footpaths

The footpath by the substation is currently impassable. The clerk will report this to DCC. The footpath from Carn Brea to Burnards House is overgrown and will be cut by the landowner.

1754. Accounts: May – July 2025

Accounts July - September 2025 were agreed.

Pyworthy Parish Council - July - September 2025						
Available funds at 24 July 2025						£20,699.49
PAYMENTS						
Date	To	Cq. No.	Amount	Net	VAT	Reason
24/07/2025	Pyworthy Village Hall	950	£ 40.00			Hall Hire
24/07/2025	John Sanders Trust	951	£ 102.00			Celebration Event
31/07/2025	S J Davies	952	£ 246.83			Clerk Salary
15/08/2025	EON	953	£ 28.74			Landing Light Power
31/08/2025	S J Davies	954	£ 245.67			Clerk Salary
18/07/2025	Lloyds Bank		£ 8.75			Bank Charges
18/08/2025	Lloyds Bank		£ 7.75			Bank Charges
	TOTAL		£ 679.74	£ -	£ -	
RECEIPTS						
Date	From	Ref	Amount	Net	VAT	Reason
	TOTAL		£ -			
PETTY CASH						
Date	Item		Amount	Net	VAT	
	TOTAL		£ -			
	Balance					
Available funds at 18 September 2025						£20,019.75
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			

Power Supply to Air Ambulance Light at EX22 6SU: The current three-year contract with EON expires on 27 September. The cost of a new one-year contract is £549. The clerk sought agreement to proceed with this contract.

Cllr. A. Skinner proposed the clerk proceed accordingly, seconded by Cllr. Brennan. It was resolved that the clerk would proceed with setting up a one-year contract with EON.

Councillors were asked to sign a mandate to change the bank account address following change of clerk.

1755. Proposal to add annual park groundworks onto parish precept from 2026/7.

It was now increasingly difficult to find volunteers to undertake grass cutting etc and to maintain the park to current standards. When the current volunteers are no longer able to undertake regular fortnightly grass cuts during the summer, condition of the park will deteriorate. A contract to undertake this work is needed going forward, which would need to be added to the annual parish precept to cover the cost. Cllr. Moores had sought a quote, but at a total of £8,000 per annum, this was considered too expensive. Cllr. James (TDC) had a contact who undertook similar work in Bridgerule and a much more reasonable rate. Cllr. James will forward details to the clerk. Councillors discussed affordable rates for undertaking a total of 18 cuts in a summer season. £150 per cut, a total of £2700, was deemed an affordable budget for groundworks in the park.

Cllr. A. Skinner proposed adding £2,700 to the 2026/7 parish precept for the purposes of funding groundworks in the park. Cllr. Brennan seconded. It was resolved that the amount of £2,700 would be added to the parish precept from 2026/7 financial year.

1756. To discuss applications for grants from the Community Solar Fund.

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

1757. Items allowed by the Chair

Cllr. Kit Hepple (TDC): Kit has resigned as a Torridge councillor as the sale of the Molesworth Arms will complete in early October and he is leaving for New Zealand. A by-election will be called in October. The meeting thanked him for his work as a Torridge councillor.

Remembrance Day wreaths: Jill Johns will source the wreaths.

1758. Date of next meeting

Thursday 27 November 2025 and Thursday 22 January 2026.

The meeting was closed at 21.00