

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Pyworthy Parish Council – Thursday 4 June 2026

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

1800. Welcome

Cllr. R. Skinner welcomed all to the meeting.

1801. Apologies

Cllr. Moores, Cllr. Parrish, Cllr. Rowsell (DCC)

1802. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

With Cllr Kenneally (TDC) in the Chair, Election of Chairman:

Cllr. R. Skinner, Proposed by Cllr. Lock, Seconded by Cllr. Brennan. Resolved: Cllr. R. Skinner elected.

With Cllr. R. Skinner in the Chair, Election of Vice Chairman:

Cllr. Parrish, Proposed by Cllr. A. Skinner, Seconded by Cllr. Beaven. Resolved: Cllr Parrish elected.

The meeting was suspended at 19.35 for the Annual Parish Meeting and reconvened at 19.36.

1803. Report on Year's Activities

Cllr. R. Skinner summarised 2025/6 activities. The village has benefitted from the reopening of the Molesworth. Whilst the Derril Water Solar Park is complete, the Community Fund is yet to materialise, although hopefully this will be in place by next year. Solar Fund continues to be used to support projects in the village. These include replacing the boundary fence in the churchyard, renewing the path alongside the triangle at the front of the Church and purchasing two new notice boards. One is outside the village hall and the other is at Derril where they are used to advertise all the village events. The Solar Fund supported repairs to Church's windows. A donation was given to the Park as part of the 100 years celebration to contribute to a traditional sport's day. Footpaths have recently been checked and hedges adjoining have now been trimmed back to make paths more accessible. Thanks were given to all Councillors for their support through the year and to the Clerk for all his hard work.

1804. Minutes of the Last Meeting (19 March 2026)

Minutes of the meeting on Thursday 19 March 2026 were agreed and signed.

1805. Matters arising

Defibrillators: 15 people attended the defibrillator training in May and represented all parts of the village.

Illegal Activity: Two persons have returned to a property in the village whilst an eviction order is in motion. Residents are advised not to approach these individuals but to record and report any issues.

Speedwatch: An invitation in Pyworthy Post for people to sign up for Speedwatch training did not result in any volunteers coming forward.

1806. Public open question time

Cllrs. Kenneally and James (TDC) reported on current activity at Torridge Council:

Playzones: Planning has been agreed for the Holsworthy Playzone.

Cllr. James: Has been elected Leader once again.

Agri Business Centre: A public consultation was held at the Market Hall, Holsworthy, on Monday 20 April 2026 where proposals were displayed for consideration by the local community.

Locality budget: Both Cllrs. James and Kenneally again have a £1,000 locality budget for local communities for 2026/7.

Solar Beacon: There is no update.

Planning Enforcement: Torridge Planning have agreed to give all TDC Councillors regular updates on planning enforcements in their wards. Road from Derril Cross to Hillsborough Cross: Still three caravans on site and no update on removal of water tower and septic tank.

Planning Regulations: Changes to planning regulations come into effect from 31 October 2026. Under Schedule 1 of the draft Town and Country Planning (Discharge of Local Planning Authority Functions) Regulations, specific categories of planning applications must be unconditionally delegated to planning officers and can never be considered by a planning committee. TDC may need to make changes to its Constitution to accommodate changes to the Act.

Local Government Reorganisation: A government decision is expected on 16 July for the preferred option for Devon.

Election Dates: Next parish council elections are due in 2027, but further parish council elections may be changed to match those for new Unitary Authorities.

Derril Water Solar Park: There is an electricity grid issue that requires the solar park to shut down and not export because of the risk of overloading the grid. The curtailment could remain in place until the autumn. This may affect set up of the Panel for the community funding.

Fly Tipping: There has been fly tipping including asbestos in the road from Derril Cross to Hillsborough Cross which has been reported but not yet removed.

Pyworthy Planning Issues: A number of building plots along the golf centre road in Derril have taken out hedges for gates. There is an inconsistent approach by Torridge Planning on enforcing removal of hedges for gates.

1807. Correspondence

Dog Bins: An email was received from a resident asking for dog bins to be emptied more frequently due to the smell. The resident was advised that Torridge D C are responsible for dog bins. It was noted that the bins are used for bulk disposal of dog waste from gardens by some residents.

1808. Planning

1/0381/2026/FUL – Proposed extension and alterations, The Old Smithy, Pyworthy
Councillors discussed the application. Councillors resolved to SUPPORT this application.

1/0003/2026/FUL – APPEAL against Council refusal – Stable Nectar Haze, Bounds Cross.
Councillors discussed the appeal. Councillors had supported the application previously and resolved to SUPPORT the appeal.

1809. Footpaths

Footpath by MOT Centre – it is reported that overhanging trees are blocking the path.

Footpath Blackpool to Carn Brea – This footpath crosses a field with livestock. It is reported that persons are walking dogs off lead across this field. The Clerk will put an article in Pyworthy Post reminding residents

that dogs must be kept on lead where livestock are present and that farmers have the right to shoot loose dogs around livestock. Cllr. Lock will investigate putting up warning signs on this footpath.

1810. Other Committee Appointments

Other appointments were agreed as follows:

- a. Planning Sub-Committee - ALL
- b. Village Hall Committee – Cllr. Brennan
- c. Parish Church Liaison – Liffy Lowes
- d. Financial Overseer – Cllr. R Skinner
- e. Road Liaison Officer – Cllr. Lock
- f. Footpath Coordinator – Cllr. Lock
- g. Pyworthy Relief-in-Need representatives – Gill Johns
- h. Defibrillator Coordinator – Cllr. Brennan, Cllr. Lock

1811. Accounts

a) Residual Accounts March 19-31 2026

Residual Accounts March 19-31 2026 were discussed and agreed. Proposed Cllr. Lock, Seconded Cllr. Brennan.

Pyworthy Parish Council - March 19-31 2026 Year End Residual						
Available funds at 19 March 2026						£13,350.03
PAYMENTS						
Date	To	Cq. No.	Amount	Net	VAT	Reason
19/03/2026	EON	974	£ 22.33	£ 22.33	£ -	Helicopter spotlight
31/03/2026	S J Davies	975	£ 268.87	£ 268.87	£ -	Clerk salary
31/03/2026	HMRC	976	£ 5.80	£ 5.80	£ -	PAYE Jan-Mar 26
17/03/2026	Lloyds Bank		£ 6.75	£ 6.75	£ -	Bank charges
20/10/2025	Lloyds Bank		£ 5.25	£ 5.25		Bank Charges
16/12/2025	Lloyds Bank		£ 5.25	£ 5.25		Bank charges
17/02/2026	Lloyds Bank		£ 5.25	£ 5.25		Bank charges
	TOTAL		£ 319.50	£ 319.50	£ -	
RECEIPTS						
Date	From	Ref	Amount	Net	VAT	Reason
25/03/2026	GSII Parsonage Wood		£ 6,403.67			Solar Fund 2026/7
	TOTAL		£ 6,403.67			
PETTY CASH						
Date	Item		Amount	Net	VAT	
	TOTAL		£ -			
	Balance					
Available funds at 31 March 2026						£19,434.20

b) Accounts 1 April – 4 June 2026

Accounts 1 April – 4 June 2026 were discussed and agreed. Proposed Cllr. A Skinner, Seconded Cllr. Brennan.

Pyworthy Parish Council - April - Jun 26										
Available funds at 1 April 2026								£19,434.20		
PAYMENTS										
Date	To	Cq. No.	Amount		Net		VAT	Reason		
08/04/2026	S Cholwill	978	£	576.00	£	480.00	£	96.00	Park Maintenance	PARK
27/04/2026	Pat May Group	977	£	482.76	£	402.30	£	80.46	Footpath work	FOOTPATH
30/04/2026	S J Davies	979	£	215.73	£	215.73	£	-	Clerk Salary	
05/05/2026	S Cholwill	980	£	384.00	£	320.00	£	64.00	Park maintenance	PARK
17/04/2026	Lloyds Bank		£	4.75	£	4.75	£	-	Bank charges	
07/05/2026	Community First	981	£	216.16	£	216.16	£	-	Insurance	
31/05/2026	S J Davies	982	£	215.73	£	215.73	£	-	Clerk salary	
01/06/2026	S Cholwill		£	384.00	£	320.00	£	64.00	Park Maintenance	PARK
	TOTAL		£	2,479.13	£	2,174.67	£	304.46		
RECEIPTS										
Date	From	Ref	Amount		Net		VAT	Reason		
30/04/2026	Torrige DC		£	5,350.00				Precept 2026/7		
	TOTAL		£	5,350.00						
PETTY CASH										
Date	Item		Amount		Net		VAT			
	TOTAL		£	-						
	Balance									
Available funds at 3 June 2026								£22,305.07		
Solar spend 2024/25										
					£3,547.31					
Budget Spend										
Solar Fund Spend 2026/7				£16,758.00		£0.00				
Park Maintenance fund spend 2026/7				£2,700.00		£1,120.00	9 cuts remaining			
Footpath fund spend				£162.66		£402.30				

c) Park Maintenance payments

The 2026/7 precept was increased by £2,700 to cover grass cutting costs at the park. This was based on 18 cuts at £150. However, the contractor is charging £160 per cut and the budget will now only cover 16 cuts. Invoices to total of £ 1,120 have been received to date. There is no further budget to cover any invoice above the agreed budget of £2,700 for grass cutting. There was no representative of the John Sanders Park Trust present, so it was agreed that the item would be deferred to the July meeting and details of the contract between John Sanders Park Trust and the contractor be sought.

1812. Annual Accounts and Audit 2025/6

Approval of the Annual Accounts were proposed by Cllr. Lock and seconded by Cllr. Beaven. Resolved: The Annual Accounts were accepted.

The Clerk had prepared the annual Audit Governance and Accountability Return 2025/6 which had been independently scrutinised. This is an audit statement completed only by local councils where gross income or expenditure is £25,000 or less and wish to certify themselves as exempt from a limited assurance review. The return includes a Certificate of Exemption and an Annual Internal Audit Report. Councillors discussed the Return. Cllr. Lock proposed agreement and signing of the Return, seconded by Cllr. Beaven. Resolved: The Audit Governance and Accountability Return 2025/6 was agreed and signed by the Chairman and Clerk. It was agreed that thanks be recorded to the independent scrutineer, Melanie Dymond.

1813. To discuss applications for grants from the Community Solar Fund.

a) Pyworthy Village Hall. Cllr. Brennan set a request from Pyworthy Village Hall. The village hall roofs are now 35-40 years old and reaching the end of their lifetime. Two quotes have been received for work to replace the roofs. Quote A: £ 23,000 + VAT and Quote B: £ 44,000 + VAT. The village hall will be taking up Quote A, Able Roofing, as they are a local contractor and have done work around the village. Other funding has been secured from other sources. Cllr. Brennan requested a grant of £5,000. Cllr. R Skinner proposed a grant of £5,000 towards the village hall roof, seconded by Cllr. Beaven. Resolved: A grant of £5,000 will be made on completion of the project.

b) West Devon Airgun Club. The West Devon Airgun Club, which is located in Pyworthy, requested a grant towards purchase of a ride on mower. A quote was received from Andrew Symons, a local supplier, for two types of mower. The preferred model is a Stiga Tornado with Honda engine at £ 2,860 inc VAT. It had not been possible to source a second quote, but it was considered that Andrew Symons offered good value. Proposed by Cllr Brennan, Seconded Cllr Lock, that a grant of up to £ 2,860 be awarded. Resolved: that a grant of up to £2,860 inc VAT be awarded.

1814. Items allowed by the Chair

Grass Verges: Cllr Lock reported the height of the grass verges at the junction of the junction of the A3072 at Killatree Cross made visibility poor at this junction and could lead to accidents. The Clerk will report to Devon Highways.

Speeding in village: It was reported that a Royal Mail van was speeding through Pyworthy and Derril whilst collecting post. Collection time coincided with the late afternoon school run and public safety concerns were raised. The Clerk will contact Royal Mail to flag the issue.

Fly-tipping: Cllr. R Skinner reported fly-tipping in the layby at Thorndon Cross. It has been reported but not actioned by TDC.

1815. Date of next meetings

Thursday 16 July 2026 and Thursday 24 September 2026.

The meeting was closed at 21.40