

Minutes of the Meeting of Pyworthy Parish Council – Thursday 20 March 2025

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

1706. Welcome

Cllr. R. Skinner welcomed all to the meeting.

1707. Apologies

Cllr. Parrish

1708. Minutes of the last meeting

Minutes of the last meeting on Thursday 23 January 2025 were agreed and signed.

1709. Matters arising

Defibrillator in Derril: Defibrillator funds have been transferred to PPC but have not yet appeared on bank statement. PPC are now responsible for the Derril defibrillator. Zoll Medical have issued a Field Safety Notice for G5 Semi-Automatic and Automatic defibrillators. Cllr Brennan to investigate whether this will apply to the Derril defibrillator.

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.

Police meetings: Clerk attended a Zoom meeting with Devon & Cornwall Holsworthy Rural Neighbourhood Police team. Only three parishes attended. The meeting introduced one of the new officers supporting the team. The meetings will be held monthly.

TDC Planning: Helen Smith (TDC) was not able to attend the November PPC meeting due to the poor weather. The clerk has contacted Helen and passed on dates for May/July meetings.

Bench & path improvements: Cllr Moores has not yet been able to speak to John Weighall. It was agreed that clerk would seek quotes for relaying path by the triangle.

Cllr James (TDC) updated on government proposals to merge District and County Councils to create new Unitary authorities. An Expression of Interest would be sent to UK government on 21 March setting out a proposal for three unitary councils to replace the existing District/County/Unitary councils in Devon. Pyworthy would be part of a new Unitary Council covering North Devon and Exeter. The next stage will be to work up proposals how existing services will be transferred to new Unitary Councils by November. Devon County Council elections will go ahead on 1 May.

1710. Public open question time

Cllr Hepple (TDC) said that Ripple Energy Ltd had gone into administration. Works on the Derril Water solar park will continue. Concerns were raised re the community grant worth £42,000 per annum for 40 years to

be shared equally between Bridgerule and Pyworthy parishes. The clerk will write to the Administrators and the charity overseeing the grant to ascertain status of the grant.

Cllr Hepple (TDC) updated on cyber security. At the Full Council meeting of Torridge District Council held on 17 March, outgoing Police Superintendent Toby Davies spoke about a growing incidence of Cyber Crime targeting farmers and those in rural areas. Toby had emphasised that the police were taking this threat very seriously and had set up specialist Rural Protection Units to help any farmers who may be targeted by cyber criminals.

1711. Correspondence

Large vehicles in the village: A resident highlighted a fresh incident involving a Harpers lorry loaded with wood was misdirected through the village and struggled to get round tight bends in the village centre. A telegraph pole in the village centre was damaged, but BT repaired this the same day. The vehicle was seen damaging a verge outside the village centre negotiating a tight corner. Harpers have been made aware of the incident.

1712. Planning

E/22/0032/UMOB & E/23/0107UND – Appeal against enforcement against unauthorised operational development and change of use of agricultural land to mixed use including residential.

Location: Bramblewood Farm Mobile Home, Rydon Lane, Holsworthy, EX22 7HY.

The Council had received representations from a neighbour of the site re noise. Councillors discussed the appeal and resolved to OBJECT to the appeal on the ground that the development represented an unauthorised development in the countryside and noise from the development.

1/0170/2025/FUL – Proposal: Erection of wind turbine height up to 76m and associated infrastructure.

Location: Tatson Farm.

This location is actually in Bridgerule parish. The application should be passed to Bridgerule Parish Council.

1/0596/2024 & 1/0965/2024 – Industrial units at Killatree. Cllr Hepple (TDC) indicated that these applications would be going to Torridge Planning Committee in April and asked for an updated position from PPC before the meeting.

1713. Footpaths

Cllr Lock has started annual inspections on footpaths. The annual return is due and the Clerk would liaise with Cllr Lock to complete this.

1714. Accounts

Accounts for January to March 2025 were agreed. Lloyds Bank are now introducing monthly charges for the PPC account, as they are for all community groups. A meeting with Lloyds Bank needs to be convened to allow the new clerk to have access to the account, change account address and to add new signatories. It was agreed that PPC should move to electronic payments and this would be explored.

Pyworthy Parish Council - Jan 25 - Mar 25						
Available funds at January 2025			£15,844.69			
PAYMENTS						
Date	To	Cq. No.	Amount	Net	VAT	Reason
23/01/2025	Pyworthy Village Hall	920	£ 30.00	£ 30.00		Hall rent
23/01/2025	Nick Lock	921	£ 19.27	£ 19.27		Line painting
31/01/2025	S J Davies	922	£ 205.23	£ 205.23		Salary
31/01/2025	Heritage Stained Glass	923	£ 1,164.00	£ 970.00	£ 194.00	Solar Grant
10/02/2025	EON Next	924	£ 35.63	£ 35.63		Helicopter Light
28/02/2024	S J Davies	925	£ 204.47	£ 204.47		Salary
TOTAL			£ 1,658.60	£ 1,464.60	£ 194.00	
RECEIPTS						
Date	From	Ref	Amount	Net	VAT	Reason
26/02/2025	Devon CC	5356106	£ 180.00			P3 Footpath grant
TOTAL			£ 180.00			
PETTY CASH						
Date	Item		Amount	Net	VAT	
	TOTAL		£ -			
	Balance					
Available funds at 20 March 2025			£14,366.09			
			£ 7,324.91			
Solar spend 2023/24			£ 9,336.00			
Solar spend 2022/23			£ 1,024.99			
Solar spend 2020/21			£ 7,718.00			
Solar spend 2019/20			£ 5,231.00			
Solar spend 2018/19			£ 15,880.33			
Solar spend 2017/18			£ 7,457.94			
Solar spend 2016/17			£ 700.51			
Solar spend 2015/16			£ 10,735.70			
Solar spend 2014/15			£ 1,004.00			
Solar spend 2013/14						
Total			£ 66,413.38			
Solar VAT recoverable			£ 8,262.54			

1715. To discuss applications for Solar Community Benefit fund.

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

1716. Items allowed by the Chair

Dog mess: Further representations on loose dogs and dog mess in the churchyard were raised. Councillors instances of local dogs escaping from back gardens. The clerk will put a message into Pyworthy Post reiterating that dogs should be kept on lead at all times and owners must clear up after dogs that foul. Councillors will consider buying a new dog fouling stencil.

Holsworthy Medical Centre Blood Tests: The Centre, run by Ruby Country Medical Group, will cease to facilitate hospital blood tests from 1 April, due to the costs involved. Many Pyworthy residents will have issues travelling to Barnstaple to access blood tests and this will cause severe anxiety for those without access to a car. Buses are infrequent to Banstaple, finish early in the evening and don't go to the hospital. The clerk will write to Ruby Country Medical Group (copy to Geoffrey Cox MP) to highlight the issues to Pyworthy residents and ask for this decision to be reviewed and reversed.

Derril water: Pyworthy Post had outlined issues of discharges into Derril Water. There is a overflow pipe running from the sewage works into Derril Water.

VE Day Celebrations: On 8 May there are national celebrations to mark the 80th anniversary of VE day. Councillors discussed options for Pyworthy to celebrate this anniversary. A group will be convened to discuss options. The clerk will get a notice in the next Pyworthy Post to get residents to hold the date.

Fly tipping: A lot of bottles have been left from vehicles suggesting drink driving. This will be raised at the next police meeting. Councillors will consider organising a litter pick around the village.

1717. Date of next meeting

Thursday May 22 (includes Annual Meeting) and Thursday 24 July at 7.30pm

The meeting was closed at 21.20