

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Pyworthy Parish Council – Thursday 22 January 2026

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

1775. Welcome

Cllr. R. Skinner welcomed all to the meeting.

1776. Apologies

Cllr. James (TDC)

1777. Minutes of the Last Meeting (27 November 2025)

Minutes of the meeting on Thursday 27 November 2025 were agreed and signed.

1778. Matters arising

Footpaths: Pat May will be undertaking a site visit to overgrown footpaths and two days work will follow.
Cost to be covered by ring-fenced money in budget.

Notice boards: The noticeboard in Derril now has agreement from Devon County Council to be sited in this location. JAG signs have not been able to attend as weather has been poor and they have a backlog of work.

Road repairs: DCC are aware of the solar farm planning requirement to resurface roads used by lorries in construction. They will follow up.

EON: A credit of £50 has been put on the air ambulance light account following complaint by the Clerk on the mismanagement of the standing charge by EON.

1779. Public open question time

Churchwarden, St Swithun's Church, thanked PPC for the funding from the Solar Fund towards repairing the fence at the East End of the church.

A member of the public said that Devon Air Ambulance offer residents of Devon Parishes free training how to use Defibrillators, how to recognise heart problems, and how to give CPR. All they ask is for a free-of-charge venue, 90mins of time and about 20 residents to take part. PPC will seek a training session during 2026.

Cllr. Rowsell (DCC) reported a quiet month following the decision on transition to Unitary Authorities. A consultation by Devon Libraries may lead to reductions in library hours or reduction in staff numbers. Cllr. Rowsell will visit Holsworthy Library to see how proposals might affect them. There is money in the Locality Fund that needs to be spent by end of March 2026. The suggestion was that PPC could use this fund to put planters in place in the parish. The clerk will follow up.

Cllr. Kenneally (TDC) reported on his first months following election to TDC in 2025. He voted to support the Holsworthy Agri-Business Park but has concerns on the type of businesses that will be housed there.

Cllr. Kenneally responded to concerns about the lack of planning enforcement to unauthorised developments near Hillsborough Cross and undertook to follow up with Torridge Planning. Refuse collection lorries are now housed in a site at East-the-Water, Bideford. The future of the Holsworthy site is not known. The grid entry on Derriton Road at the edge of Pyworthy is in poor condition. Cllr. Kenneally will raise with DCC.

1780. Correspondence

Consultation on local libraries: An email from Save our Hospital Services highlighted a consultation by Devon Libraries on services provided, suggesting that the consultation scores will be used to justify reducing service hours or staff numbers. The Clerk will highlight the Devon Libraries consultation to local residents in Pyworthy Post.

Connectivity Forum: Sir Geoffrey Cox MP has set up a forum for Parish Councils to attend at Holsworthy Memorial Hall on 30 January regarding poor broadband and mobile phone signals.

Rydon Lane: An email was received from Devon & Cornwall Police Firearms Team regarding an issue in Rydon Lane. The Clerk will forward email to Cllr. Parrish to respond.

Path Accessibility Fund: The Ramblers Path Accessibility Fund supports projects to make paths more accessible, particularly focusing on removing barriers that prevent those with reduced mobility getting outdoors. The funding can be used for projects on Public Rights of Way (PROW). Clerk to explore whether PPC could access this fund.

1781. TDC Town and Parish Settlement Survey

The meeting updated parish facilities listed on the Settlement Survey and identified some to be added. The Clerk will update and submit to TDC by the deadline of 31 January.

1782. Planning

1/0003/2026/FUL – Demolition of existing stables and erection 1 dwelling, in lieu of application 1/0368/2025/FUL. Location: Bounds Cross, Pyworthy, Devon.

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

1783. Footpaths

There was no update.

1784. Accounts: November 2025 to January 2026

Accounts November 2025 - January 2026 were discussed and agreed. Proposed Cllr. Parrish, Seconded Cllr. Beaven.

Cllr. Moores asked how grass cutting invoices should be paid from 1 April. Pyworthy Parish Council will pay invoices going forward for VAT purposes.

Pyworthy Parish Council - November 2025 - January 2026						
Available funds at 27 November 2026						£19,470.82
PAYMENTS						
Date	To	Cq. No.	Amount	Net	VAT	Reason
30/11/2025	S Davies	962	£ 268.99	£ 268.99		Clerk salary
07/12/2025	Andrew Johnson	963	£ 3,000.00	£ 2,500.00	£ 500.00	Church window SOLAR
07/12/2025	Pyworthy Village Hall	964	£ 20.00	£ 20.00		Hall Hire
31/12/2025	S Davies	965	£ 267.73	£ 267.73		Clerk salary
01/01/2026	HMRC	967	£ 6.00	£ 6.00		Quarterly PAYE
07/01/2026	S Davies expenses	968	£ 6.96	£ 6.96		Stamps
17/01/2026	DP Johnson	969	£ 1,057.20	£ 876.00	£ 175.20	Church Fence SOLAR
17/01/2026	Lloyds Bank		£ 6.25	£ 6.25		Bank Charges
TOTAL			£ 4,633.13	£ 3,951.93	£ 675.20	
RECEIPTS						
Date	From	Ref	Amount	Net	VAT	Reason
TOTAL			£ -			
PETTY CASH						
Date	Item	Amount	Net	VAT		
TOTAL			£ -			
Balance						
Available funds at 22 January 2026						£14,837.69
FUNDS ALLOCATED BUT NOT YET PAID						
	JAG Signs		£ 921.22	Inc VAT	Estimate	Derril Notice board
TOTAL			£ 921.22			
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			

1785. To discuss applications for grants from the Community Solar Fund.

No applications were received.

Cllr. Moores asked if the Solar Fund could support repairs to the church bells. The fund has already supported repair works to the church, so in principle could provide funding to support repairs to the bells. St Swithun's Church is already actively raising funds for restoration work for the bells, clock and tower.

Councillors asked on progress setting up the new Solar Grant Fund to be operated through Grantscape. The solar park has only just started exporting power. The Clerk will chase up progress.

1786. Items allowed by the Chair

Table Tennis Club: A member of the public asked about setting up a table tennis club in Pyworthy. There is a table tennis table in the village hall but it may need replacing. The club would need someone to set it up and run it before any funding could be given. Once set up, PPC would be happy to consider funding requests.

1787. Date of next meetings

Thursday 19 March 2026 and 21 May 2026.

The meeting was closed at 20.49