

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Pyworthy Parish Council – Thursday 27 November 2025

Present: Cllrs. R. Skinner (Chair), Beavan, Brennan, Lock, Parrish, A. Skinner.
Parish Clerk in attendance
David Campbell (Holsworthy Hamlets Parish Council)
2 members of the public.

1759. Welcome

Cllr. R. Skinner welcomed all to the meeting.

1760. Apologies

Cllr. Moores, Cllr. Rowsell (DCC), Cllr. Kenneally (TDC)

1761. Minutes of the Last Meeting (18 September 2025)

Minutes of the meeting on Thursday 18 September 2025 were agreed and signed.

1762. Matters arising

Veterans Event: The Veterans' Event in the Village Hall was held on Sunday 9 November. Turnout was a little disappointing, but it is intended to repeat this event in 2026. Thanks were offered to the organiser and to those who attended.

Path relaying: The work to relay the concrete path alongside the triangle by the church lychgate was complete.

Notice boards: The noticeboard outside the village hall has been installed. The noticeboard in Derril now needs agreement from Devon County Council to be sited in this location. JAG signs will organise a site inspection for installation as there are power cables in this location.

Derril Speed Limit Signs: Devon County Council do not have funding available to support a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for the purpose of installation of speed limit signs in Derril. Additionally, they said there is no reported collision data between 2020 and 2024, suggesting there are no current safety concerns that would prioritise a change in speed limit. PPC could self-fund a TRO which would cost £7,000-£9,000. PPC does not have funds to cover this cost.

1763. Speedwatch

David Campbell From Holsworthy Hamlets Parish Council (HHPC) addressed the meeting on HHPC's experience of running Speedwatch at sites in their parish council area. Volunteers for Speedwatch need to sign up online and will undergo training. The Police select the site that Speedwatch will operate from and provide the equipment. HHPC found that the Speedwatch equipment did have an effect on speeding in Chilsworthy. Councillors discussed the speeding issues in Derril. There is a conflict between national speed limit through Derril and the presence of streetlights which would indicate a 30mph limit. Councillors thanked David Campbell for taking the time to address the meeting. Councillors would consider next steps.

1764. Public open question time

No questions were raised.

1765. Correspondence

Pensions Regulator: The Pensions Regulator has written to the Chair setting out PPC's legal duties as an employer. A response is required by 14 May 2026. It will be a nil return to PPC. The meeting unanimously agreed to delegate responsibility of reply to the Clerk.

TDC Town and Parish Settlement Survey: North Devon and Torridge Councils are currently undertaking a settlement study for the two districts and have asked for local knowledge to support this work. In the first instance PPC is asked to update information on current services and facilities for each settlement within the parish by 31 January. Councillors will review and let the Clerk have details of facilities in Pyworthy Parish missing from the register.

Cllr. Kenneally (TDC) Update: Cllr. Kenneally (TDC) had sent apologies and provided an update:

- a) Local Government Review: TDC voted to submit a 1-4-5 proposal, with Devon split into 3 unitary authorities
- b) Agri Business Centre: There should be a vote on this on 8th December.
- c) Beacon Solar Farm: TDC have formed a working group, comprising of ward councillors from Milton and Tamarside, Hartland and Holsworthy Town, along with the lead members for Economy, Climate change and Planning.
- d) Gleeson Homes: Gleeson Homes are currently in a consultation phase before submitting a planning application for 270 homes around Stanbury wharf on the outskirts of Holsworthy.

Cllr. Rowsell (DCC) Update: Cllr. Rowsell (DCC) had sent apologies and provided an update:

- a) Beacon Solar Farm: There is currently a campaign running with the CPRE to get the 2700 acre Holsworthy Beacon solar farm refused.
- b) Childrens Scrutiny: Cllr. Rowsell has joined the Children's Scrutiny Committee at DCC, reviewing foster care system in the county. If anyone has any concerns or questions about this please contact Cllr. Rowsell directly.
- c) Bideford Station: The possibility of re opening Bideford railway station is being investigated.

1766. Planning

1/0891/2025/FUL – Replacement dwelling with associated works, variation of condition 2 of planning approval 1/0123/2021/FUL.

Location: Rowan, Derriton Road, Pyworthy, Devon.

Councillors discussed the application. Councillors resolved to OBJECT to this application on the grounds that the development had a detrimental impact on neighbouring properties.

Councillors discussed ongoing issues with caravans on land near Hillsborough Cross. The Clerk will chase up with TDC Planning and update Cllr. James (TDC).

1767. Footpaths

Cllr. Lock will speak to Pat May regarding cutting the path at the rear of the village hall.

1768. Accounts: May – July 2025

Accounts September - November 2025 were agreed.

Pyworthy Parish Council - September - November 2025						
Available funds at 18 September 2025						£20,019.75
PAYMENTS						
Date	To	Cq. No.	Amount	Net	VAT	Reason
30/09/2025	S Davies	955	£ 257.25	£ 257.25		Clerk salary
01/10/2025	HMRC	956	£ 33.40	£ 33.40		Quarterly tax return
29/10/2025	Peter Davies	957	£ 2,600.00	£ 2,600.00		Church path repair
29/10/2025	JAG Signs	958	£ 921.22	£ 767.68	£ 153.54	Village hall notice board
31/10/2025	S Davies	959	£ 268.73	£ 268.73		Clerk salary
16/09/2025	Lloyds Bank		£ 6.25	£ 6.25		Bank charges
11/11/2025	Gill Johns	960	£ 25.00	£ 25.00		Remembrance wreath
19/11/2025	EON	961	£ 481.33	£ 481.33		Air ambulance light
17/11/2025	Lloyds Bank		£ 5.75	£ 5.75		Bank Charges
	TOTAL		£ 4,598.93	£ 4,445.39	£ 153.54	
RECEIPTS						
Date	From	Ref	Amount	Net	VAT	Reason
29/09/2025	Torrige DC		£ 4,000.00			Precept 2nd payment
03/11/2025	CAB		£ 50.00			Unpresented cheque
	TOTAL		£ 4,050.00			
PETTY CASH						
Date	Item		Amount	Net	VAT	
	TOTAL		£ -			
	Balance					
Available funds at 27 November 2025						£19,470.82
FUNDS ALLOCATED BUT NOT YET PAID						
	JAG Signs		£ 921.22	Inc VAT	Estimate	Derril Notice board
	St Swithuns Church		£ 3,000.00	Inc VAT	Estimate	Window repair
	TOTAL		£ 3,921.22			

Power Supply to Air Ambulance Light at EX22 6SU: EON had sent an invoice for £481.33 for 2 years' standing charge that had not been charged, despite the Clerk chasing this. The invoice has been paid, but the Clerk has submitted a complaint to EON for allowing this amount to build up and for the short time given to pay the invoice.

Fence at east end of St Swithun's church: A proposal to pay for a replacement for this damaged fence was raised. Cllr. Parrish proposed and Cllr. Lock seconded that this item be considered under item 1772 below, Applications for Grants from Community Solar Fund. It was resolved that it would be considered under Community Solar Fund Grants.

1769. To allocate grants for 2026/7.

There was a discussion on grants for 2026/7. Proposed by Cllr. A Skinner, seconded by Cllr. Brennan, it was resolved that grants for 2026/7 would be as follows:

Organisation	Agreed Amount
Pyworthy Village Hall	£250
Pyworthy Relief-in-Need	£150
John Sanders Trust	£300
Pyworthy Church	£250
Pyworthy Post	£800
HFWRC	£100
Holsworthy Rural Transport	£500
Friends of Bude Sea Pool	£25
Friends of Holsworthy Library	£100
North Devon Records Office	£50
TOTAL	£2,525

1770. To set budget for 2026/7

Councillors discussed the draft budget that had previously been circulated. There was one small amendment to the draft budget relating to Grants. On paper, reserves appeared healthy, but this was due to the amount of unspent Solar Funding. Unallocated reserves at the end of 2025/6 were low and likely to be around £1,100. Best practice suggests that unallocated reserves should be around £7,000. Councillors agreed that any capital spending should be made from the solar fund and not unallocated reserves in 2026/7. Cllr R Skinner proposed that the draft budget for 2026/7 be adopted including the minor change to Grants, seconded by Cllr. Brennan. It was resolved that the draft budget for 2026/7 be agreed, including the minor amendment to Grants expenditure.

1771. To set precept for 2026/7

Following a discussion, Cllr. Parrish proposed that the precept for 2026/7 be £10,700. Cllr. Brennan seconded. It was resolved that the precept for 2026/7 would be £10,700.

1772. To discuss applications for grants from the Community Solar Fund.

Councillors discussed a project to replace the dangerous fence at the East End of St Swithun's church: 2 quotes had been received for this work. Cllr. Beaven proposed that the lower quote (£1,098 + VAT) be accepted for this work, seconded by Cllr. Parrish. It was resolved that this work would be supported by the Solar Fund.

1773. Items allowed by the Chair

Councillors' meal: Councillors agreed a date for a Sunday lunch get together.

Solar Farm: Now that the solar farm was live, Cllr. R Skinner reminded those present that the solar firm and DCC Highways had had an agreement to repair roads used by solar lorries. The Clerk would contact DCC to ensure this happens.

1774. Date of next meeting

Thursday 22 January 2026 and Thursday 19 March 2026.

The meeting was closed at 21.30