

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Pyworthy Parish Council – Thursday 19 March 2026

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

1788. Welcome

Cllr. R. Skinner welcomed all to the meeting.

1789. Apologies

Cllr. Rowsell (DCC)

1790. Minutes of the Last Meeting (22 January 2026)

Minutes of the meeting on Thursday 22 January 2026 were agreed and signed.

1791. Matters arising

Defibrillators: A resident has booked the village hall for defibrillator training on 28 May for 20 people. It will be advertised in Pyworthy Post and those interested in taking part should look out for the advert.

Notice boards: The noticeboard in Derril has now been installed.

Planning: Torridge Council are aware of potential planning contraventions in North Road, between Derril Cross and Hillsborough Cross. One part of the site has been cleared, but it appears the caravans have moved to a different part of the site.

Locality Fund: The Clerk has investigated this fund. Torridge Council will need precise locations of where planters will be placed and will need to have Devon Highways permission as well. This will be revisited once the 2026/7 fund has opened.

Ramblers Path Accessibility Fund: This fund is not suitable for rural parishes. It is reported that many rural councils have difficulty getting landowner permission, particularly where paths cross agricultural land.

1792. Public open question time

Cllr. Kenneally (TDC) reported on current activity at Torridge Council:

The Connectivity Forum organised by Sir Geoffrey Cox MP heard from broadband companies who operate in rural areas. Bush Broadband will provide broadband to small groups of houses and villages if approached by such groups. The difficulty is getting landowners to agree to wires crossing their land. Project Gigabyte wants 99% coverage in England, but rural coverage in some areas is difficult.

Beacon Solar project has been withdrawn for now, but it is felt this is only temporary.

Council tax is set to rise as Torridge Council is losing Government grants in 2026/7 and 2027/8.

Heating Oil assistance: A new scheme is being launched by the government to help people in financial crisis called the Crisis and Resilience Fund. Within this, Heating Oil Support for Low Income Households, will also be available. The Fund is designed to provide support to low-income households experiencing a sudden financial crisis, such as an unexpected expense or loss of income. More details about the scheme will be available from Torridge Council later in April.

Planning Issues: Cllr. Kenneally is following up on planning issues and has requested a list of planning enforcements from TDC.

Village Gateway: the poor state of the brick road gateway into the village has been noticed and this will be reported to DCC highways.

1793. Correspondence

Illegal Activity: An anonymous letter was received setting out alleged illegal activity at a property in the village. The police are aware and attended the property again that day (19 March). An arrest was made. It is understood that the landlord of the property is seeking to evict the tenants. Pyworthy Parish Council has no powers to intervene in such cases.

Rydon Lane: A resident has advised of development in Rydon Lane which may contravene planning regulations. This has been reported to Torridge Planning who will investigate.

1794. Planning

1/0145/2026/FUL – Demolition of existing barn and erection of 1 dwelling. Variation of condition of planning approval.

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

1/0166/2026/FUL – Retrospective change of use to land to accommodate a package treatment plant.

Councillors discussed the application. Councillors voted on this application. With 5 votes to support and one against, it was resolved that the Council would SUPPORT this application.

1/0188/2026/FUL – Extension of existing single garage to a double garage.

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

1795. Footpaths

Pat May has trimmed the hedges at the back of the village hall and the adjacent path. One resident has objected to the work carried out. Two footpath signs are to be repaired. The meeting thanked Cllr. Lock for all his hard work on footpaths.

1796. Accounts: January to 19 March 2026

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

Pyworthy Parish Council - January - March 2026						
<b>Available funds at 22 January 2026</b>						<b>£14,837.69</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>						
Date	To	Cq. No.	Amount	Net	VAT	Reason
22/01/2026	Pyworthy Village Hall	970	£ 30.00	£ 30.00	£ -	Hall hire
30/01/2026	S Davies	971	£ 268.71	£ 268.71	£ -	Clerk salary
28/02/2026	S Davies	972	£ 267.73	£ 267.73	£ -	Clerk salary
16/03/2026	JAG Signs	973	£ 921.22	£ 767.68	£ 153.54	Derril noticeboard
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>£ 1,487.66</b>	<b>£ 1,334.12</b>	<b>£ 153.54</b>	
<b>RECEIPTS</b>						
Date	From	Ref	Amount	Net	VAT	Reason
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>£ -</b>			
<b>PETTY CASH</b>						
Date	Item	Amount	Net	VAT		
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>£ -</b>			
Balance						
<b>Available funds at 19 March 2026</b>						<b>£13,350.03</b>
<b>FUNDS ALLOCATED BUT NOT YET PAID</b>						
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>£ -</b>			
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			
<b>Total</b>			<b>£ 69,960.69</b>			
Solar VAT recoverable			£ 8,262.54			

1797. To discuss applications for grants from the Community Solar Fund.  
No applications were received.

1798. Items allowed by the Chair  
Planters: Cllr Parrish asked about the legal position of placing planters on the highway. If they are hit and damage a vehicle, then the owner is liable.

Speedwatch: Following on from the recent meeting where Speedwatch was discussed, volunteers will need to come forward for training. The Clerk will ask for volunteers in the next edition of Pyworthy Post.

Solar Park - Road Resurfacing: The Clerk has contacted Torridge Planning for them to enforce the road resurfacing planning condition.

Parking: It was noted that there are now additional cars parking at the triangle in the centre of the village and concerns were raised re access for emergency vehicles. The Clerk will remind residents to park responsibly in Pyworthy Post.

Molesworth Arms: The pub will be known as the “Molesworth” going forward. It will reopen in April, once month later than planned, due to additional works required.

1799.      Date of next meetings  
Thursday 21 May 2026 and Thursday 16 July 2026.

The meeting was closed at 20.46

DRAFT