

BRADWORTHY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Friday
25th July 2025 in The Collacott Room, Memorial Hall,
Bradworthy

Present:

Chairman: Cllr S Lander. Cllrs, M Coles, G Greatorex, L Holloway, S Payne, V Stevens,
V Chapman, County Cllr Lynne Rowsell, District Cllr Steve Harding
Chris Summerfield (Clerk)

Meeting started 19.00

Cllr Lander advised the meeting is being recorded

1. Apologies for Absence:

Cllrs R Boughton, S Wright, S Andrews

2. Public Comment Sessions:

None

3. Councillors Declarations of Interests:

None

4. Minutes:

- (i) to receive, confirm and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 27th June 2025

Resolved: That the minutes are a true and accurate record and should be signed by the Chairman.

Proposed VS Seconded VC all agreed

- (ii) progress report on Action Points from the minutes (not already included on the agenda)

nothing to report

- (iii) matters arising from the minutes not already covered on the agenda

nothing to report

5. Chairman's Report:

On Wednesday 23rd July I attended an Engagement briefing from TDC re: Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). The government's English Devolution White Paper, Power and Partnership: Foundations for Growth states that all the remaining two-tier area in England to be eventually restructured into single-tier unitary authorities.

To be a Unitary Council you need 500k residents as a guiding principle.

Devon – 800k

Torbay – 1,400

Plymouth – 2,600

Cornwall – 5,700

Local leaders were then asked to work together to develop robust and sustainable unitary proposals that are in the best interests of the whole area. They have to consider functional economic areas, travel to work areas. They have until 28th November 2025.

Efficiencies should be identified making sure the taxpayer gets the best possible value for their money. The timeline from submitting proposals to 'vesting day' is approximately two and half years. So, it should go live 2028 when there will be local

Signed.....Date.....

elections.

The proposal at the moment is to combine East, Mid and North Devon alongside Torridge and the City of Exeter (approx. 546,000). The other unitary options would be West Devon, South Hams, Teignbridge and Torbay (426,000). Lastly Plymouth wants to remain as a stand-alone unitary authority.

Council Tax and business tax has to be taken into consideration as well as children's services, adult services and highways which now is dealt with by Devon County Council. They are still waiting data from DCC concerning costs.

There is a Council Leaders Board Decision Making Group and Cllr Ken James is representing Torridge. Thursday 24th July, I attended The Torridge Collaborative meeting at Langtree with Cllr Ken James as one speaker and a representative from DALC as the other.

Ken James told us about the Reorganisation which I had heard to the day before, but it never hurts to hear it again, as there are bits you miss.

What did occur to me was the enormous amount of work going into this project but also trying to carry out normal business. Plus, it seems that we will no longer have district councillors and parish councils are not mentioned in the White Paper. There is talk of Community Committees but there is no evidence to support this.

The representative from DALC explained that their focus now is to help parish councils prepare for this and are sending out newsletters. There is also a survey on their website they would like us to complete.

6. Clerks report

Sir Geoffrey Cox surgery 8.8.25 11.30 – 12.30

Enforcement officer letters received to say cases have been closed – Glenburnie and caravan off Elizabeth Lea Close

I have requested a quote for the repairs Cumbria Clock – they will get back to me

I have been informed there is now a new treasurer for Bradworthy Hall – Rich Lee

I have sent a message to Bradworthy Young Farmers but no response yet

2 late planning applications + 1 decision – we will talk about during Planning section

Response from Cllr Hodson re first responder – email sent to all Cllrs

7. District Councillors Report

£250k already spent on the changes still need more information. Probably be community type cllrs will be more like County Cllrs role. Ken James updated Cllrs on what is happening. No guidance from the Government, it was working well around here until now.

Clean Maritime is a success starting building work.

I have become Cllr Advocate went to meeting last Wednesday and met Alison

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Hernandez there have been some changes re-managing the staff and training them.
Going to build a relationship with Bideford Police and report back

Talk about knife angel statue coming to the area to get children thinking about knife crime. Mick Wilden serious violence prevention officer looks to see how incidents could have been stopped or changed lack of staff makes it difficult

Attended biosphere meeting – discuss 10 year plan 15% tree cover, I suggested a tree canopy around villages – feel it would benefit everyone

I will be attending with Sir Geoffrey Cox 8.8.25

TDC hardship fund available – contact TDC or myself

North Devon Plus scrutiny there is money available 1 to 1 agricultural advice

8. County Councillors Report

Lynne Rowsell had attended some of the meetings that Cllr Harding had just updated us on.

I went to Mole Valley yesterday and talked to them 3-4 farms in this area are in the process of shutting down. In the Telegraph 1st half of this year 1800 agricultural businesses closed only 800 new ones opened therefore a loss of 1000 this is a real worry, we are trying to give support people as much as we can.

First responders meeting had a mixed response – it was decided that it should be put on hold until there is more information – concerns will volunteers have the training and equipment they need, can they respond as quickly, will there be enough of them. It is a big issue in such rural areas, it will be looked at again 7.8.25

Cllr SH stated that fire stations will be closed if not needed, first responders are so important for speed and knowledge of the area.

Cllr LR asked about any sewerage issues especially in rivers Cllr SP stated that she does river fly and around Bradworthy the situation is good at the minute

Cllr MC asked about the road to Woolsery re potholes it was then discussed

Cllr SH left the meeting 19.46

9. Devon & Cornwall Police Report:

Nothing reported

Cllr MC reported that OPCC has community grant scheme opening in September

Alison Hernandez visited hostels for the homeless in Cornwall

10. Planning Matters (including any received after the issue of the agenda)

Applications

1/0574/2025/SEC106 Deed of variation of S106 pursuant to planning permission – letter to be sent to all Cllrs to approve by Tuesday evening so that Chris can send to TDC

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1/0586/2025/FUL Proposed demolition of barn and erection of three dwellings in lieu of approval 1/1070/2024/AGMB Location: Barn At Grid Reference 230808 114333, Bradworthy, O.S. Map Reference :(E) 230808 (N) 114333 response due 5.9.25 add to August Agenda

1/0587/2025/FUL change of use of part of the premises to 1no residential dwelling Martin & Co The Square response due 5.9.25 add to August Agenda

Decisions

(i) 1/0407/2025/FUL Provision of 4no. self contained holiday lets above the approved shower block under 1/0009/2022/FUL

Location: Farm Building At Grid Reference 229431 111542, E) 229431 (N) 111542 Granted

(ii) 1/474/2025/FUL demolition of agricultural building to be replace with 2no dwellings Late decision received

iii 1/0459/2025/ FULM change of use of land to form an additional 25 all year round touring caravan and camping pitches (variation of condition 8 of planning approval 1/0187/2024/FULM) Higher Alsworthy Farm Bradworthy Granted

11. Finance:

- (i) Invoices for payment: to consider and approve the schedule of payments: Resolved: That all the payments listed on the schedule of payments received by Cllrs at the meeting be approved as well as the invoices just received. Invoices over £100**

Proposed MC Seconded Cllr LH all agreed

12. Pledge for Nature/Apple Trees

Cllr SP has been looking into this further

13. Woolsery Road condition

The email has been sent and communication with Woolsery Clerk re this

Also the road from Bradworthy to Whitely Farm – Cllr SP advised that people report individual potholes

14. Footpaths

Cllr SL suggested the footpaths need to be checked, Cllr VC asked if gates have been sorted on the path to Cleverdon Cllr VS reported that they have been

15. Emergency Plan – Generator etc

Emergency Planning meeting.

This was our first meeting and Julie Matthews from Devon Communities Together joined us to help guide us through the preliminary stages.

We discussed where in the village we might have safe spaces. What an emergency might be. Resources we might need and how to get started. I offered to be the co-ordinator to start with and we have a deputy co-ordinator, and the other four member offered to be part of the team. There are other volunteers who were unable to attend last evening but will be able to join us next time.

We agreed to meet again in a months' time to share our ideas and make a start. Fortunately, a new EP template is being developed and hopefully will be ready to use in a few months' time. The present template is not user friendly and puts people off.

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Cllr SL asked if Emergency Planning to be part of the Parish Council to enable grants to be applied for and paid to Council's bank account and then ring fenced for EP use only proposed VS seconded GG all agreed

16. Play Area

Chris had tried to contact Young Farmers re getting their help to clean – **CS to try to contact them again**

Cllr SP asked if Richard should be asked to do some smaller jobs, Cllr GG anything 2hrs or more we need to be agreed at meeting all agreed

Love Lane strimming 1.5hrs

Bench to be stained 1.5hrs per bench

It would be nice to have a committee to take control of this area

Re Tractor painting – Richard unable to do this year Chris could do end of August – agreed not to do until schools are back

Need quote for trailer

CS to ask

Book Chris for the tractor for September proposed GG all agreed

CS

Jobs for Richard to do – benches

All agreed

17. New Website

Cllr SP had 4 quotes pricing not easy to work out as all done differently £100 off for doing GOV.uk website Cllr SP feels everyone should look into this before the next meeting **CS to send out details**

18. Grant Funding Procedure update

Everyone thought Cllr SP had done a great job the only question is the Limit of £300 due to larger numbers of applicants proposed GG seconded LH all agreed

19. Defib training

Due to the Memorial Hall being booked up Mon/Tues/Wed evenings check the availability of the Sunday School Room or the Skittle Alley **CS**

20. Meeting with Highways Officer

Report of meeting with Sandra Brown – TDC Highways

Attended: Cllrs. Greator, Chapman, Lander

We walked around the village to show SB the problems.

Signage removed belonging to Torridge. SB informed Southwest Water to remove theirs. SB said that in future if we have the same problem then look on the back of the sign and if there is a phone number, telephone them, and ask them to remove it. If blank on the back, then it probably belongs to Torridge and inform Highways.

We asked if we could have yellow lines outside the doctors' surgery on North Road, but SB said without enforcement it would be pointless.

SB sprayed the potholes in the Square to indicate they needed to be repaired.

SB has reported that all white road lines to be repainted including exits from the Square and Langdon Road.

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SB will contact Nigel Flower regarding parking by the school. SB said this is a problem for most schools but Nigel Flower may have a solution.

We walked to the Sutcombe road junction to show SB the problem. She said that parking by a junction is not illegal but only advisory. You are advised not to park at a junction.

We informed SB about the problems of parking outside the post office, but nothing really can be done about it.

SB noted the mirror near Broadhill. It might be removed as TDC cannot take responsibility for any injury it may cause. Although she did understand why it was put there.

She noted the parking around Broadhill but again nothing can be done.

SB looked at the verge opposite Bromells. If it is to be reduced, it won't happen until the Autumn.

Apparently not a priority though Moor road to Woolsery. SB has driven down it. We explained that it is the main route to Woolsery and the people of Woolsery use it when visiting the doctors' surgery. She said she would try to video it. She said it would go on the list but probably not in this financial year.

We walked down to look at the road opposite Baily's farm. SB took photos.

SB also took photos of the state of the road outside Wisteria Cottage, the drain that leaks outside Braddon Cottage and will report it to Southwest Water. We think this is the one that Southwest Water was going to sort out with road closure but failed to do so.

We mentioned the Youldon Moor Cross being a dangerous intersection. SB was aware of the recent tragic accident. We also mentioned Solden Cross as a hazard. Although out of our area but used by the residents of Bradworthy.

SB was going to check that the de-restriction signs on North Road had been moved back to their original spot. Moving de-restriction signs incur costs because it must go through a legal process.

We mentioned Chapter 8 training and SB said she would send some details. We asked if it would be helpful if parishes joined forces. SB said she thought it might be but was unaware if any parishes have done this.

SB said that unless we had any areas that required the enforcement officer to check on, then MC said she would speak to CLT for a date for the AGM

21 Benches.

All agreed these should be stained

22 Newsletter

When CLT date obtained

23. Matters for consideration and matters to be noted at the Chairman's discretion

Cllr VS

Nothing to report

Cllr GG

Nothing to report

Cllr VC

Reported that the life belt is still not in position by Allison Homes continue to chase.

Need to write to Bromells regarding allotments

CS

Cllr SP

Nothing to report

Cllr LH

The air ambulance lights are turned on monthly for testing 1 hour each time by LH

Cllr MC

Nothing to report

Signed.....Date.....

Minutes 25th July 2025 – adopted at the meeting on 29th August 2025

Meeting ended 21.09

Next meeting **29th August at 7pm** in the Collacott Room

Signed.....Date.....