



LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus*
The green Plover or Peewit.
Habit - fields, pasture and moors.
Notes - Peep-wit and long whistling note.
Better known in Bradworthy as the Hornwink.

Bradworthy Parish Council

www.bradworthy.org.uk

Minutes of the meeting of BRADWORTHY PARISH COUNCIL held in the Collacott Room, Bradworthy Memorial Hall on Friday 27th February 2026 at 7pm

Present Chair Cllr Lander, Cllrs V Stevens, S Wright, G Greatorex, V Chapman, S Payne, L Holloway, R Boughton, M Coles, District Cllr S Harding, County Cllr L Rousell, Clerk Chris Summerfield 2 representatives from Stop Beacon Solar

AGENDA

Chair to advise that meetings are recorded

1. Apologies for absence District Cllr S Andrews, A Dart

2. Public comment session – Stop Beacon Solar attending

Steve and Sharon Boulton explained that they are part of the working group, there is also a fundraising committee. They have come to explain what is happening - You have probably heard the application has been withdrawn from the NCIP, our concern is that there is still survey work going on which means they may come back and re-submit the application.

The area concerned is 2700 acres. By going through NCIP it goes straight to the planning Inspectorate and then finally The Secretary of State to say if approved or refused. There is a new act going through Parliament at the moment which will make it easier to get these applications through. TDC has no say in this application

Beacon Solar is a shell company the main company is Swiss registered the backers are Australia and New Zealand and the panels come from China, the other schemes had had labour imported so there is nothing in it for locals.

We think they are struggling to get grid connection until 2037 therefore it could be 7 years without a grid connection. They are looking to upgrade the grid in this area once this has been done nowhere will be safe in this area (shown on a map the area at risk)

From the Beacon Solar document the connection reforms result which belongs to Neso the West Country has been identified as a distinct region with high demand for Solar and Battery projects and they show vast availability to be able to build more developments.

Application is 1200Megawatts we think 600 solar panels and 600 batteries to top up they will take from the grid at night at a low rate and sell it back at a higher rate

Encouraging farmers to sell land they are offering good deals

Panels are only lasting 20-30 years batteries we don't know how long they will last but all will have to be replaced at least once in the 60-year lifespan. The other thing to realise is the materials used to make the panels contain pvas the panels have a coating as they get washed off it goes into the water system they are cleaning the panels all the time.

Fundraising all the time there is a justgiving page and Barn Dance and Pasty Supper and a walk - in the morning 18th April

Website www.stopbeaconsolar.com and facebook page for more information

SL asked if Sir Geoffrey Cox had given the legal assistance he had offered at the Holsworthy meeting – we have had a 3 hour zoom call with legal team.

MC asked if the NFU are getting involved – they are sitting on the fence as the deal is good for

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farmers. CPRE are involved please go to their website to sign online.

SP stated that she is amazed at what they are doing, it is a really hard thing to do, all councillors agreed what a good job they are doing

Steve explained they are not against solar panels on a roof etc

19.25 Steve and Sharon left the meeting

3. Councillors Declarations of Interests none

4. Minutes:

- (i) **to receive, confirm and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 23rd January 2026**(emailed to all cllrs) Proposed VS seconded SW all agreed
- (ii) **progress report on 'Action' points from the minutes** (not already included on the agenda) nothing
- (iii) **matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda** nothing

5. Chairmans Report

On the 30th January I attended a Connectivity meeting at Holsworthy Memorial Hall arranged by Sir Geoffrey Cox. He has had many complaints from the people in his constituency regarding poor internet and mobile access. He invited many of the companies who provide internet services i.e. Airband, BT Open Reach, Building Digital UK, Wildanet and Bush Broadband.

Many of the complaints were about slower connectivity in rural areas or lack of connectivity.

Each provider gave their reasons for rural areas being 'left out', most of it due to costs. Airband explained why having made a start with all the poles going up, not all of them were connected and many complained of dormant wires hanging from the poles. Apparently, funds dried up and they could not raise the capital. BT Open Reach said that some rural areas were not financially viable but 99% will have gigabit-capable broadband (Speeds of at least 1,000 megabits per second) by 2032. Sir Geoffrey asked all the providers to write to him and give him dates for when Holsworthy area would improve and for parishes with no connectivity at all, which mainly seemed to be people on the Moors, to contact him and he would try and marry them up. He was going to update the parishes by email as soon as he had some information.

6. Clerks Report

The grass cutting contract has been sent

We have received a call from a Parishioner regarding parking problems and the need for parking problems, but in particular the road from the public toilets to the post office this was discussed and how could this be enforced – it was agreed to write to Highways as it is not our jurisdiction CS to email Highways Officer

I have received a number of complaints again regarding the roads from Three Lanes to Whitely and the Dinworthy Road – an email has been received from a Parishioner which explains concerns this has been emailed to all Councillors prior to the meeting – this issue was discussed and the road warden scheme – Cllr Lynne Rowsell reported that 140 Parishes in Devon have registered for the road warden scheme. Cllr Rowsell has agreed for CS to pass on her email address to the Parishioner. Cllr SP said it would be interesting to see what the roads are like in those Parishes that have signed up, would Cllr Rowsell be able to find out if the scheme works? Cllr SP suggested this Parishioner joins the Parish Council. CS to ask Parishioner

All Cllrs agreed if there is a problem then it should be reported by whoever sees the problem.

There was a meeting with the Highways Officer 24.2.26 also present Headteacher Nick Lapham, Cllrs S Payne and V Chapman and myself.

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

The following report from Cllr Payne

Nick was very clear what he would like done to improve the safety, improve the footpath outside the school and drop the curb opposite. To start with he will trial putting cones out opposite the school gate, Highways Officer to investigate options to improve the problems. Nick reported 50% of the children come from outside the village

It has been reported that some parents are driving fast in through Tuckers Park to drop off concerns for safety.

A discussion was held regarding the potholes on the local roads the Highways Officer then agreed to drive up to Dinworthy to see the concerns on this road.

SP reported flooding by Cross park Farm

Cllr SW left the meeting 19.45

The Highways Officer also informed us that the police now have 2 PCSOs .

The VAT return has been submitted now

We have not received the wind turbine £3000 yet I will chase it up

Cllr SW re-entered the meeting

Cllr SP has had a report about mud on the road at Stowford Moor which she has reported to Council, there has also been an issue with the ditch on North Road flooding which SP will report I would like to thank Cllr Payne and Mick for cutting back the hedge in the play area where it was too close to the equipment – thanks from all Cllrs

Connectivity Forum Follow Up information has been emailed to all Cllrs

Dog bin request form has been submitted

We received a response email from the Enforcement Officer – emailed to all Cllrs all 3 queries raised are being followed up.

Allison Homes have said they will install the lifebuoy within the next couple of weeks. Cllr

Chapman reported how much water is in the attenuation but it is flowing – this is a concern re safety without a lifebuoy CS to send photos showing concerns to Enforcement Officer

7. District Councillors Report

Report from Cllr Harding it has been busy recently. We have had a Medium Term Financial strategy meeting the Government – Fair Funding Review which means rural areas worse off ¼ taken away £300K deficit

National Planning framework – encouraging solar panels to go up.

Scrutiny meeting told that there is now a diagnostic hub in Bideford

Active Torridge – Was costing £677K now £369k at capacity cost to us running 3 sites by 2030 should be £150k

On the climate committee now – Council informed less money coming in but asked for £70k to plant trees in the town was asked for– this didn't go down well. There are increases on council tax 2.99%. We are still trying to save money putting solar on roof etc

I attended a Police zoom meeting nothing much to report 3 PCSOs in training

Lost the funding for Bideford and Barnstaple. The main concern with crimes really is the 8 cases of agricultural machinery going missing locally – people are reminded about their security

Police also doing speedwatch locally

To report crimes ring 101 or 999 if urgent but there is easier way to report – online and it will be seen quicker

The Police have tried opening up desks in town but not successful for the public to be able to speak to the police

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SW left the meeting 20.09

Had an email from Ryan Steppel – re Mill Road houses – there will be some money due for projects – CS to contact Ryan for further information

Getting ready for devolution

Something that came up at Hartland meeting – SWASH are still using their preferred person - first responder which is not ideal ie if someone having a heart attack you need 2 people

SH left the meeting 20.16

8. County Councillors Report

Cllr LR wanted to discuss potholes- I had a meeting with the deputy director and drove around some of the roads in the area – who described “not great but not critical “- will get more money but still not enough LR has asked for a copy of the repair criteria, copy of contract with the company that does the repairs.

Keep reporting and ask for compensation if appropriate.

Cllr LR left the meeting 20.38

9. Devon & Cornwall Police Report including report regarding any ‘Teams’ meetings Nothing reported

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

Applications;

1/0078/2026/FUL Change of use and extension of agricultural storage shed to a multifunctional space consisting of domestic garage/workshop with home office above Location: South View, Bradworthy, Holsworthy, Devon response prepared by subcommittee and emailed to Cllrs ready for discussion at the meeting Proposed LH seconded GG all agreed

1/0038/2026/OUT Erection of dwelling and garage Land at grid reference 232492 114300 Long Park Drive Bradworthy Proposed GG seconded LH all agreed

1/0007/2026/FUL change of use of land and siting of 2no shepherd huts for holiday use and associated works land at grid reference 230720 116006 Bradworthy Proposed LH seconded MC all agreed

1/0008/2026/FUL erection of an agricultural shed land at grid reference 230720 116006 Bradworthy Proposed LH seconded MC all agreed

Decisions

1/0740/2025/FUL Creation of access and associated driveway and the closing of existing access (Affecting a Public Right of Way) Location: South View, Bradworthy, Holsworthy, Devon Granted

1/0968/2025/COUPD Prior notification for the change of use from commercial, business and service(Class E) to a mixed use including 1no. dwelling (Class C3) (Schedule 2, Part 3, Class G) Location: Martin & Co., The Square, Bradworthy, Holsworthy Granted

1/0586/2025/FUL proposed demolition of barn and erection of three dwellings in lieu of approval 1/1070/2024/AGMB Barn at grid reference 230808 114333 Bradworthy Granted

1/1002/2025/AGMB prior notification for the change of use of agricultural building to 1no dwellinghouse and associated building operations under class Q Agricultural building at grid

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

11. Finance

Invoices for payment: to consider and approve the schedule of payments (emailed to all cllrs) plus approval by the Council of any Invoices over £100.00 only 1 this month £105.00 Mike Spencer – approved by email so that paid by due date all agreed

12. Play Area

Cllr SP met Piran – will quote for the mushroom seat and any other jobs on the yearly inspection report Cllr SP also asked for a quote on the grass matting and looked at the Tractor problem. It was discussed about the checking – Piran to do this monthly at the cost previously quoted £240 per year, then he suggested at peak times have a check list for a Cllr who can be trained by Piran to go through weekly if any queries or concerns contact Piran and they will come and sort urgently if needed. Piran will also give advice on the restoration of the tractor if wanted SP raised a concern about the way the Parishioner who empties the rubbish bin was having to do it be hand which is dangerous. CS to contact TDC to make it safer as she is happy to do it CS/SP to raise a check list CS to email Piran to start monthly checks from 1.4.26

13. Emergency Plan

The Community Communities Together is providing a free community emergency hub kit to 100 communities across the county. To be eligible for the kit you must attend the online workshop. The workshop will explain how to set up a hub and how it functions. So, I have registered and will feedback to the parish council at the next meeting and to the Emergency Planning Group.

14. Footpath P3

Cllr SL has completed majority of the form CS to complete the bank details etc

15. Grants postponed until the next meeting due to the cutoff date being 28.2.26

16. Internal Auditor Aalgaard Renshaw to be contacted all agreed

17. Bench on the Green

Three quotes received BNC GB Sport and Piran after discussion it was decided that Piran were the better option 1.8m £330 +£60 to anchor the table VC to check the size already there and inform CS of the size to order Proposed GG Seconded LH all agreed

SP reported that on the play inspection monthly reports say that the balance beams need anti-slip Piran said they are made with this so no need

The other thing discussed was the maintenance tender that had been agreed to advertise there is not much left to be able to advertise a tender for this so it is not required and we will look at each job and decide how to deal with it.

18. Grass cutting tenders- village

We received 4 tenders these were discussed in detail Colin McCarthy Berridon Trees Charlie's Garden Services and Mike Spencer it was agreed for Mike Spencer to do the grass cutting 2026 proposed GG seconded VC all agreed

19. Village Clean-up 18.4.26 SL to do risk assessment

20. Open morning 9.5.26 SL to do risk assessment

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

RB

Nothing to report

GG

Nothing to report

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VC

Still concerned that the white line painting has not been done yet – it was then reported that someone had been knocked off their bike by someone not stopping at the junction CS to email Highways Officer again

The footpath from the toilets to the post office is really bad with rubbish.

SP

Requested Flowerbeds to be put back on the Agenda

LH

Nothing to report

VS

Nothing to report

MC

Concerned that “thank you gifts” have not been given – discussion was held as these are volunteers

SL had heard from Cllr A Dart, she has reported that she has some grant money available – SL asked Cllrs to have a think so that we can apply for grant – but not for flowers again

SW

Report left by SW

10.2.26

Suzie’s last meeting so jobs were handed over

Adam Robinson is to be Chair and Phil Cripps as Vice Chair

Leak in the Hall reception area has been traced back to the angled windows will be repaired

Events

Food and Craft 21.3.26 and 18.4.26

Bradworthy Gymnastics Club end of season event 28.3.26

Toddlers Easter Egg Hunt 3.4.26

Carnival Committee Bingo 3.4.26

Meeting closed 21.38

Next meeting 27th March 2026

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