

(draft) Minutes of the Broadwoodwidger Parish Council meeting.

Tuesday 9th December 2025 7.30pm at Broadwoodwidger Community Hub

Those in attendance: Cllr J Worden (Chairman), Cllrs Wonnacott, Gibson, L Worden, Beazley, Hosken, Fry. Clerk.

Members of the public present: 1

6166. Apologies for Absence

County Cllr Rowsell, District Cllr Hackett. Apologies accepted.

6167. Declarations of Interests

The Chairman declared that all interests be raised as they arise.

6168. Public Open Question Time

A member of the public attended to report that the drainage around the village green is not performing well and is causing water run-off and flooding. It is thought that the drains are most likely choked with brambles and gravel and will require the lids to be lifted to clear them out. Cllrs agreed that Cllrs Hosken and Worden would arrange for the necessary work to be carried out. The Clerk will ask the grass contractor if he is able to cut the brambles at the top of the green once a year to keep on top of the growth.

6169. County Councillor Report

The Clerk shared a short report from Cllr Rowsell that included details of possible funding for new defibrillators. Cllrs agreed the Clerk should apply and if successful a suitable location will be found.

6170. District Councillor Report

Cllr Gibson advised that he had attended a full council meeting that focused on devolution and an overview and scrutiny meeting that included a 5 year budget however as questions raised at the time could not be answered a written report is being drawn up. He also reported that it is likely that the levelling up fund will go towards the Holsworthy agri development project.

6171. Council Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held October 21st, 2025, were previously circulated. Councillors agreed the minutes as a true record of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr Beazley, seconded by Cllr Wonnacott, all agreed, and the Chairman signed a copy.

6172. Matters Arising

None.

6173. Accounts due for payment

Donation to RBL in lieu of wreath purchase £150
Martin Ashley – grass cutting Jul-Oct £432

Accounts proposed by Cllr Fry, seconded by Cllr L Worden and agreed by all.

6174. Planning

1/0872/2025/FUL - Demolition of barn and erection of 1no. dwelling in lieu of Class Q approval 1/0382/2024/AGMB (self-build) Location: Agricultural Building At Grid Reference 240245 09086. Cllrs reviewed the application and their response to the original application and agreed to make no comment.

1/0948/2025/AGMB - Prior notification for the change of use of agricultural building to 1 no. dwellinghouse and associated building operations under Class Q - Location: Trenhurst Kennels , Cross Green. Cllrs reviewed the application and agreed to submit a comment of support.

Planning decisions proposed by Cllr Gibson, seconded by Cllr Fry and agreed by all Cllrs.

Decisions

1/0749/2025/AGM - Prior notification for the change of use of agricultural building to 2no. dwellings and associated building operations under Class Q Location: Agricultural Barn At Grid Reference 240156 91795 – Permission granted.

6175. Town and Parish Settlement Survey

Cllrs reviewed the form and requested that the Clerk complete and return it.

6176. Grants

Councillors considered a grant request from St Nicholas Parochial Church Council, for churchyard maintenance in the sum of £3,500. Councillors agreed that it was appropriate and in line with due diligence to seek further clarification regarding the application. In particular, clarification was requested on whether the request was for 100% of the required costs. Councillors noted that if the request was for full funding of grass cutting, it may be more appropriate for the Parish Council to open a tender process for the work. Councillors also raised concern regarding a £500 grant awarded three years previously for hedge cutting, which had not yet been carried out.

Mr Gibson was invited to respond and confirmed that the grass cutting costs would total £2,500, with the remaining £1,000 to be used towards hedge cutting, which would be undertaken over the next two winters. The Parish Council requested that two quotes be provided for the proposed works, together with a copy of the church's audited accounts, to demonstrate the need for, and appropriate use of, grants provided. Cllr Beazley commented that the churchyard should be supported. Cllr L Worden asked whether boundary issues relating to the churchyard had been resolved, to which Mr Gibson confirmed that they had. It was agreed that, upon receipt of the requested information, councillors would consider the grant application further and that any grant awarded may be split into two parts, one for grass cutting and one for hedge cutting.

6177. To Receive Correspondence

A letter of thanks was received from South Western Ambulance Trust for the grant provided.

A general enquiry via the website had been received looking for historical information. Cllr Gibson had responded ahead of the meeting.

A traffic notice for the road from Bradford Cross to Thorndon Cross, Ashwater was received. Works to install a water hydrant will take place between Monday 26th January 2026 and Wednesday 28th January 2026.

6178. Any other Business

The Chairman reported that the Clerk and himself had recently attended a collaborative meeting where setting the precept and keeping appropriate reserves was discussed. The Clerk will draw up a proposal for the January meeting clarifying what reserves are held and what budget is likely to be required for the next financial year.

6179. Date for next meeting and close

The next meetings will be held on Thursday 22nd January followed by Tuesday 3rd March 2026. The meeting was closed at 8.30pm.

Clerk to the Council: Kayleigh Walker e-mail: info@broadwoodwidger.com