

(draft) Minutes of the Broadwoodwidge Parish Council meeting.

Tuesday 3rd March 2026 7.30pm at Broadwoodwidge Community Hub

Those in attendance: Cllr J Worden (Chairman), Cllrs Beazley, Hosken, Gibson, County Cllr Rowsell, District Cllr Hackett, Clerk.

Members of the public present: 0

6197. Apologies for Absence

County Cllr Wonnacott, L Worden. Apologies accepted.

6198. Declarations of Interests

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

6199. Public Open Question Time

None.

6200. County Councillor Report

The County Councillor reported that she had been in discussions with Devon Highways regarding potholes and general road conditions. She explained that she had driven around the parish with the Neighbourhood Highways Officer to highlight specific problem areas. However, she expressed disappointment that the responses she received were often that the issues “did not meet the repair criteria” or that the roads were “not busy enough to qualify” for repairs. Cllr Rowsell also shared her frustration with the practice of repairing individual potholes on roads where several are present, questioning how this approach can be considered an economical way to maintain the highways. She confirmed that she would continue to press for change and seek further explanation from Highways on how the current repair criteria are justified.

Cllr Rowsell reported on the development of new solar farms, advising that schemes in Pyworthy and Shebear had been approved. She explained that the current planning criteria indicate that if a community supports a solar farm, and the development is below a specified size threshold, planning permission is likely to be granted, particularly where Section 106 contributions are made to Torridge District Council.

Reporting on emergencies, she stated that there had been some issues with co-responders not logging incidents or passing them on to the emergency services, and that one such case had nearly resulted in a loss of life. She encouraged anyone who is aware of incidents to ensure they are properly reported to help prevent a recurrence.

6201. District Councillor Report

Cllr Gibson reported that two potholes at Upcott had been repaired promptly after being reported through the online portal. He also confirmed that Highways had set its budget for the next three years. In addition, he stated that a vote had taken place at TDC on Wednesday regarding an increase in council tax, which was approved despite concerns that had been raised. Cllr Gibson confirmed that he voted against the motion.

Cllr Hackett provided an update on finances, stating that within two years TDC is likely to be £400,000 over budget and may need to draw on its reserves. He commented that district councils currently appear to be focusing largely on Local Government Reform. He also reported that TDC had spent £70,000 on trees, despite the Forestry Commission already carrying out planting in various locations across the district. In addition, £300,000 had been spent on a generator for Riverbank House to provide backup for IT systems. Cllr Gibson added that he had questioned, in writing, why this was necessary and why a generator could not be rented instead but was informed that this was not council policy. Cllr Hackett went on to report that the Police and Crime Commissioner’s budget had been circulated and noted that while it stated there would be more police officers on the ground, this does not appear to be reflected in practice.

6202. Council Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held January 22nd, 2026, were previously circulated. Councillors agreed the minutes as a true record of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr Hosken, seconded by Cllr Beazley, all agreed, and the Chairman signed a copy.

6203. Matters Arising

None.

6204. Accounts due for payment

Mihi Digital – website maintenance £102

Accounts proposed by Cllr Gibson, seconded by Cllr Beazley and agreed by all.

6205. Planning

1/0729/2025/FUL – Appeal for Conversion of agricultural storage shed to 1no. dwelling Location: Land At Grid Reference 241758 091306. – Cllrs agreed to reiterate the comments made on the original application.

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

6206. Response letter from South West Lakes Trust re parking regulations at Roadford Lake

The Clerk read out the response letter, which clarified when the community-use computers had been removed. The letter also confirmed that parking charges have been in place at Roadford Lake for over 26 years and that it is only the introduction of ANPR enforcement that has been implemented more recently.

The letter acknowledged the suggestion of reduced parking fees for local communities but noted that annual permits are already available through the Friends of South West Lakes Trust scheme. It also stated that parking charges have remained at the same rate for many years, but a decision has now been made to increase them in response to the rising costs of providing safe public access, maintaining facilities, and delivering environmental benefits. Councillors are awaiting a response from the Trustees of the South West Lakes Trust.

6207. Ivyhouse Cross defibrillator

The Clerk reported that the defibrillator had been delivered. Cllr Hosken had installed the cabinet, and the electrician has been booked in for next week to connect it up.

6208. Request for new grit bin

Highways advised that they would not fund any new grit bins; however, the Parish Council could purchase one if they wished to do so, and Highways would provide salt for it. The Clerk was instructed to investigate prices and present the information at the next meeting.

6209. To Receive Correspondence

Temporary traffic notice for April 7th – April 10th for patching work on the road from Boldventure Cross past Cherry Lodge, Eworthy. Full notice on the website.

Community Risk management plan online meeting hosted by Devon and Somerset Fire & Rescue Service – March 6th 12noon. Full poster on the website.

6210. Any other Business

Cllr Gibson advised that the Churchyard had obtained one quote for maintenance work and is awaiting a second. Hedge cutting has now commenced, with the opposite side scheduled to be cut in October 2026. Once the accounts have been collated, these will be presented to the Parish Council for consideration of a grant.

The Clerk was asked to check with the grass cutter whether the terms for this season remain the same.

The Clerk was asked to invite Cllr Ken James to speak at the annual parish meeting in May.

6211. Date for next meeting and close

The next meetings will be held on Tuesday 14th April 2026 followed by Tuesday 26th May 2026. The meeting was closed at 8.15pm.