

(draft) Minutes of the Annual Broadwoodwidge Parish meeting.

Tuesday 26th May 2026 7.00pm at Broadwoodwidge Community Hub

Those in attendance: Cllr J Worden (Chairman), Cllrs, Gibson, Hosken, L Worden, Clerk. Invited guest - Ken James leader of Torridge District Council.

Members of the public present: 5

6229. Apologies for absence

Cllr Wonnacott.

6230. Welcome

Cllr J Worden welcomed all those in attendance to the meeting.

6231. Minutes of the meeting

Minutes of the meeting held 13th May 2025 were previously circulated, no adjustments needed, proposed as a true record of the meeting by Cllr Hosken, seconded by Cllr Gibson, agreed by all and the Chairman signed a copy.

6232. Guest Speaker

Cllr Ken James, Leader of Torridge District Council was welcomed to the meeting. He gave a report as follows:

The Community Regeneration Fund project is progressing well, with the £20 million investment being allocated towards housing, Bideford Market, and infrastructure improvements at the cattle market in Holsworthy with these being required to be completed before March 2028. Cllr James advised that he is now Chairman of both the District Forum and the Leaders Forum in Devon. He announced that the Government is expected to confirm the proposed local government reorganisation on 16 July. He explained that Torridge District Council had commissioned KPMG to develop a plan aimed at protecting North Devon's interests during the reorganisation process. Cllr James advised that a number of possible changes could emerge, including the introduction of community groups that may replace parish councils. However, until the Government's announcement is made in July, the full impact remains uncertain. John Worden asked what effect the reorganisation would have on the planning department. Cllr James responded that there would initially be little change, as any reorganisation is expected to take between three and five years to implement. He added that Torridge District Council is keen to retain core services within the district, including refuse collection and recycling. He further advised that, after 8 July, the top eight officers within Torridge District Council would be working full-time on Local Government Reorganisation duties. Cllr James was pleased to confirm that Project OSCAR, which includes a waste centre, had been completed under budget. He also reported that the Appledore Marine Innovation Centre is expected to be completed by the end of the year. John Worden asked about the future of the Burton Art Gallery. Cllr James explained that it currently remains under the management of Torridge District Council, although this arrangement is not ideal due to the significant annual costs involved. He reiterated that Torridge District Council remains the most financially stable council in Devon. Cllr James concluded by recognising the valuable work carried out by two parishioners from Broadwoodwidge in support of the Holsworthy Rural Transport Group. The Chairman thanked Cllr James for his attendance and report.

6233. Parish Council Report

John Worden, Chairman of the Parish Council gave the following report:

Looking back over the year, we have enjoyed support from our DCC Councillor, Councillor Lynne Rowsell. We secured a grant for a defibrillator for the redundant telephone box at Ivy House Cross. Electricity connection still to be agreed. Councillors Philip Hackett and Stephen Gibson have kept us updated from Torridge. Three grants were asked to be considered 1. South West Ambulance Chairty 2. The Community Hub 3. The Church Yard Fund, which is still ongoing. A complaint regarding parking charges was sent to South West Lakes Trust and the Trustees, after many enquiries from the public. A reply was received from the Trust, stating they are going to more or less continue as they have been, but to date we have not received any reply from the Trustees. Looking forward, two new noticeboards have been ordered to replace the existing ones in the village and at Ivy House Cross. Finally, I would like to thank all Parish Councillors for their attendance at meetings, Councillor Hosken for his work on the Ivy House telephone box and on the village green. Lastly but not least thank you to Kayleigh for her work and support as clerk.

6234. Close

The meeting was closed at 7:20pm.

DRAFT