

Gulworthy Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE GULWORTHY ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

THURSDAY, 21ST MAY 2026 7.34PM HELD AT

SKITTLE ALLEY, THE COPPER PENNY INN, CHIPSHOP, TAVISTOCK

Present: Cllr K Steer, Cllr D Edwards, Cllr E Wearing and Cllr J Hamilton (arrived at 7.37pm)

In attendance: Mrs. L Moorese – Parish Clerk

01. Election of Chair - To elect the Chair of the Council for the 2026/2027 year.

Cllr

K. Royston, having confirmed her willingness to stand, was re-elected as Chair for the 2026/27 municipal year. The motion was proposed by Cllr Edwards, seconded by Cllr Steer, and unanimously agreed.

02. Chair's Declaration of Acceptance of Office

The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was subsequently signed by Cllr Kate Royston in the presence of the Parish Clerk on 22nd May 2026.

03. Election of Vice-Chair

Cllr K. Steer was re-elected as Vice Chair for the 2026/27 municipal year. The motion was proposed by Cllr Edwards, seconded by Cllr Wearing and unanimously agreed. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was duly signed by Cllr Steer in the presence of the Parish Clerk.

04. Election of Representatives to Outside Bodies & Internal Roles

Appointments were confirmed as follows:

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| • Ford Street & Maynards Charities. | Cllr Royston |
| • Gulworthy Primary Academy | Cllr Steer |
| • Gulworthy Parish Hall Management Committee | Cllr Wearing |
| • Southern Links | Cllr Royston |
| • Cemetery | Cllr Hamilton |
| • Snow Warden | Cllr Lister |
| • Climate and Biodiversity | Cllr Royston |

05. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Royston, Cllr Lister. WDBC A Blackman and DCC D Sellis

06. Declaration of Interest

None.

07. Public Participation

No members of public in attendance.

08. Approval of previous Minutes

08.01 It was resolved that the minutes from the previous ordinary meeting held on 13th April 2026 be approved as a true and accurate record and signed. Proposed by Cllr Wearing and seconded by Cllr Edwards with unanimous agreement.

08.02 The Record of the Inquorate Meeting dated 11th May 2026 was noted.

09. Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes

09.01 Broadband Provision

Deferred to the next meeting in the absence of Cllr Royston.

09.02 Parish Reserves

Deferred pending year-end accounts.

09.03 Gulworthy Farm Cluster Initiative

Members discussed a proposed collaborative initiative for local farmers focused on environmental land management, water quality, and access to funding opportunities, based on an existing successful cluster model at Stoke Climsland.

It was agreed that, rather than a formal meeting, an initial farm walk hosted locally would be the preferred approach to highlight environmental and grant-funded projects and encourage discussion.

Members noted that similar initiatives have enabled participants to access funding for shared equipment and environmental schemes, and that representatives from relevant organisations had indicated a willingness to attend future events. It was therefore agreed that an informal, early evening gathering was considered likely to be more effective than a formal meeting format.

With no formal decisions made it was agreed Cllr Steer to report on the matter further at the next meeting.

09.04 Grid Connection Enquiry (Solar Installation)

Update deferred pending further information.

09.05 Vehicle Speed Awareness Sign

Deferred pending discussions at a separate highways meeting.

09.06 Mill Hill Drainage

The ongoing concerns were duly noted by the Councillors and agreed that the matter should remain under review.

09.07 Cemetery Maintenance Issues

The Clerk reported progress on reviewing historic records relating to a restricted cemetery legacy fund. A further report will be brought to Council.

09.08 Hartshole Farm Planning Application

Considered under **Agenda Item 12.01**.

10. Reports from County and District Councillors

Written reports previously circulated were noted.

11. Parish Councillor Reports

The Chair invited Councillors to report any matters of concern or interest.

Cllr Steer raised concerns regarding the continuing reduction in local banking services following the closure of bank branches and the impact on residents' access to face-to-face banking facilities, particularly in rural areas with limited digital connectivity. Cllr Steer suggested that opportunities to improve local access to banking services, including the provision of a banking hub in Tavistock, should be explored further.

Members supported further investigation of the issue, and it was agreed that Cllr Steer would explore the matter further and report back to a future meeting.

No other matters were reported.

12. Planning

Planning applications received to-date:

12.01 Ref: 0703/26/FUL – Hartshole Farm, PL19 8JW

(Comments to be sent by Friday, 22nd May (originally 14th May)

It was resolved to support the application for the erection of two agricultural livestock buildings. Proposed by Cllr Hamilton, seconded by Cllr Wearing, and unanimously agreed.

12.02 Ref: 1121/26/FUL - Higher Artiscombe Farm, Gulworthy PL19 8JB

(Comments required by 11th June 2026)

It was resolved to support the application for the erection of a general-purpose agricultural building. Proposed by Cllr Steer, seconded by Cllr Wearing, and unanimously agreed.

12.03 To consider any planning applications received after the publication of this agenda, if any.

No further matters requiring comment.

12.04 To note planning decisions made since the last meeting.

The planning decisions were noted.

12.05 Other planning matters, including appeals and enforcement issues.

No other planning matters were reported.

13. Finance

Payroll Services – Caroline Harris

Members reviewed the Council's payroll arrangements with Caroline Harris with other alternatives suggested by the Clerk. Following discussion, it was resolved to continue with the current payroll service for a further 12 months, with a review to be undertaken prior to renewal. Cllr Steer, as Vice Chair, was authorised to sign the renewal paperwork.

13.01 Payments Schedule-

It was resolved to approve the payment schedule presented.

13.02 Receipts

Members noted receipts including the first instalment of the annual precept and bank interest received

13.03 Account Balances and Bank Reconciliation for the period to 30th April 2026 duly approved and signed by the Vice Chair, Cllr K Steer.

13.04 Asset Register

Resolved to approve the Council's Asset Register for the 2025/2026 year, and duly signed by the Vice Chair, Cllr K Steer.

13.05 Insurance Arrangements

Resolved to renew the Council's insurance cover with Zurich for the 2026/2027 year at a cost of £323.59.

14. Cemetery Update

The Clerk reported progress on cemetery records being digitised and developing a new plot management system. Members welcomed the progress.

15. Highways

Councillors raised concerns regarding the condition and maintenance of local highways, including the roundabout near the Church, which was described as poorly maintained. Issues were also highlighted in relation to overgrown vegetation and hedgerows obscuring road signage, as well as potholes and inconsistent maintenance standards across the area. Members expressed ongoing dissatisfaction with highway upkeep and agreed that the matters should continue to be reported through the appropriate channels.

16. Items for Next Meeting and Councillor Availability

It was agreed that the following items be included on the agenda for the next meeting to be held in July:

- **Broadband provision**
- **Parish reserves**
- **Cemetery legacy fund review**
- **Vehicle speed awareness sign**
- **Mill Hill drainage**
- **Highways matters**
- **Farm cluster initiative**
- **Banking services and banking hub provision**

17. Date of next Meeting

Monday, 6th July 2026

The Meeting closed at 8.55pm

Signed:

Date: