

Report from Councillor Rowsell for Halwill Parish Council's November 2025 Meeting

Halwill Rectory Lane

I wanted to update you on the Rectory Lane issue, I visited last week with the neighbourhood highways officer, who has advised me that she has raised the priority from low priority to a high issue priority concern. She doesn't have a definite date just yet but says it is definitely on the radar to be done as a matter of safety and urgency with the department that implements this.

She is also aware of the bridge and advised part of it was done and she will ask them to inspect the rest to make sure it is safe.

LGA – one of the ideas put forward was to split the unitary into 3 areas, for Holsworthy Rural it managed from Exeter and distributed as they think necessary, and I fear they won't reflect what our area really needs. There are of course a number of other options but as this period of time for suggestions is not up until the 28th November then there are still many ways this could go. We must also be aware that should the government not agree with what is put forward or even if the government is voted out then this could all change again. In short none of this is set in stone and we do not have any input it is all decided by government.

Bideford railway - Bideford railway is now underway, it has now been agreed that with all the new building work going on and the infrastructure causing chaos due to the population of the town growing as the building work progresses, that people will need alternative ways to get to Barnstable and surrounding areas. So the railway is going ahead and I will keep you updated as I hear updates

Solar farm - an open meeting was held on 31st October regarding the solar farm at Holsworthy Rural, which is the biggest so far announced at 2750 acres encompassing 17 farms. This is an ongoing situation which CPRE is involved with to try to stop this going ahead. The meeting was very well attended and 300 people turned up. The resounding opinion was that this cannot be allowed to go ahead. There is a petition online at devoncpre.org.uk if people would like to sign it. This movement is gaining momentum and we need all the help we can get.

In addition to this - **Forestry and more wind farms** This govt has announced a recent decision to cut down as many trees as required and replace them with solar panels and wind turbines, they refuse to acknowledge that by reducing the CO2 our green areas will suffer severely restricted oxygenation and will start to die. They also refuse to admit this is destroying farmland and our ability to provide food for the nation as Devon has always done, and they further refuse to acknowledge that far from helping the environment, it is killing the environment faster than anything has ever done to date.

END

APPENDIX 1

Bills for Payment – November 2025

Current Account

Date	Company	Invoice No	Amount ex VAT	Amount inc VAT	For what
13/11/25	D C Osborne	HPC – 260	£402.00	£402.00	Salary October
13/11/25	D C Osborne	HPC – 261	£10.00	£10.00	Expenses telephone
13/11/25	V J Osborne		£10.20	£10.20	Councillor's Expenses
Grant Applications					
By Whom		Requested donation (Where stated)	Amount given last Year		S137?
Holsworthy Rural Community Transport		£300	£300		Yes
Halwill Parish Hall		£2,000			No
Citizens Advice Torridge, North, Mid & West Devon			£50		Yes
North Devon Records Office					No
Royal British Legion					Yes
Halwill PPC			£300		Yes

Current Account Total For month inc VAT: £422.20

Current Account Total for month ex VAT £422.20

VAT for month: £0

HALWILL PARISH COUNCIL - BUDGET 2025/26

BUDGET	2025									2026			TOTALS	YET TO	REVISED	
	ACTUALS									Forecast			FOR YEAR	PAY	2025-26	
	£	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	2025-26		
Insurance	560			629										629	-	629
DALC	330		325											325	-	325
Play inspec	160													-	160	160
Accting srvc	150	75					78							153	-	153
ico annual fee	40													-	-	-
Bus Shelters	200	90			45			45						180	45	225
Hall Hire	400	20						30						50	-	50
Clerk	5,300	402	402	402	402	402	402	402						3,216	3,216	6,432
Stationery	120													-	120	120
IT/telephone	500	22	30	52	340	10	10	10	10					484	40	524
Maintenance	1,000													-	1,000	1,000
Travel/subsis	50								10					10	40	50
Training	100													-	100	100
Warden	3,000	656					901	472						2,029	971	3,000
Xmas dec	100													-	100	100
Grants / RBL	1,000		3,180											3,180	1,000	4,180
/ S137	8,180				315									315	7,865	8,180
Ring fenced for ash di	500													-	500	500
Contingency	2,500		13,500											13,500	-	13,500
24190	1,265	3,937	1,083	1,102	412	1,391	959	422	-	-	-	-	24,071	15,157	39,228	

Income

BUDGET															
Precept	21,690	10,845												10,845	21,690
Wayleave	19	-												-	19
HAFC	1,000	1,000												1,000	1,000
Grants/gifts	0	-												-	0
Car Park Contract	2,500	1,250												1,250	2,500
Other	0	13,375												13,375	13,375

25,209 **26,470**

38,584

HALWILL PARISH COUNCIL

Expenses Form

Claimant:	VICTORIA CSBORNE	Vehicle Details (where mileage is being claimed)	
		Make:	V. W. EOS.
Claim Date:		Engine Size:	2 LTR.

Travel Expenses		
Date Incurred	Detail	Mileage Claimed/ Public Transport Costs Incurred
23/10		

Incidental Expenses (Accommodation / Subsistence)		
Date Incurred	Detail	Cost
	PARKING	£1.20

**Torrige
District Council**
VAT No 144 6660 62

N18VJO

Valid Until

Time : **11:43**

Date : **23/10/25**

Mo: TMH02

Paid: 1.20 Cash

Purchase Time:



10:43 23/10/25

ID 2615 ****7005

Display in Windscreen
Not Transferable

Uses	Cost

	£
Mileage: 20 At [45p] ppm	9.00
Public Transport:	
Incidental: 1.20	1.20
Administration:	
Claim Total:	10.20

<p>Claimant Signature</p> <p>I certify that the claimed expenditure was necessarily incurred in the performance of approved Council duties</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;">  </div>	<p>Authorising Signature</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;">  </div>
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26th September 2025

Mr Don Osborne
Halwill Parish Clerk
PO Box 16
Beaworthy Post Office
Halwill
EX21 5ZG

Dear Mr Osborne,

Holsworthy Rural Community Transport Parish Council Grant Application

I am writing to ask the members of Halwill Parish Council to consider making a parish grant award to Holsworthy Rural Community Transport again this year. We are a small charity dedicated to improving quality of life for people in our area of rural Devon & we were extremely grateful for the support from the Councillors when they awarded a parish grant last year.

Halwill continues to be a key area for our door-to-door operations & we have almost 60 registered users in the parish, many of whom utilise our services on a regular basis. We offer weekly bus trips from the parish which people can book onto & we offer our volunteer car service to parishioners on demand.

We aim to improve people's quality of life, offering a lifeline to those in our community who are rurally isolated by providing transport for those who might not otherwise be able to travel. We find that people really appreciate this degree of independence since they no longer need to rely solely on friends or relatives for lifts, as well as potentially combatting loneliness & depression. We carry people who do not have their own transport or who have a car but cannot drive long distances or who have difficulties in accessing the limited public transport in the area.

Our "Pick Me Up" Ride & Ride minibus service collects people directly from their own homes thereby enabling them to go on essential shopping trips, visits to places of interest & social trips (such as lunch trips & scenic drives). For some people, our trips might even be their only opportunity to leave the house each week. These trips offer not only the ability to go out, but also the opportunity to develop a social network, with both aspects being very important. The passengers are taken back to their own front doors after the trip thus avoiding any need to get to & from a bus stop, with our drivers even helping them with their shopping bags if necessary.

Our volunteer car service offers a taxi-like service whereby one of our volunteer drivers collects someone from their home & drives them to their medical appointments. Destinations include all the hospitals that people in Halwill may need to attend, such as North Devon District Hospital in Barnstaple, Derriford in Plymouth & the Royal Devon & Exeter, as well as all the local GP & dental surgeries. Our driver takes the passenger to their appointment, waits for them & brings them home again afterwards. One of our highly valued volunteer drivers also comes from Halwill.

We offer mini-bus hire at subsidised rates to community groups, sports teams & other charities thereby utilising our vehicles when they are not in use for our services. This hire service is open to any community group in Halwill to help them transport their members to venues or events & our hire rates are extremely competitive compared with commercial operators.



CALL TO BOOK

01409 259001

Email: info@holsworthy ruraltransport.co.uk

The Carroll Suite, Holsworthy Memorial Hall, Manor Car Park, North Road, Holsworthy, Devon EX22 6DJ

OPERATED BY HOLSWORTHY RURAL COMMUNITY TRANSPORT Charity No. 1109623 Company No. 05287515

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holsworthy ruraltransport.co.uk



Whilst passengers are asked to pay a fare to use the Ring & Ride service, this is highly subsidised to keep it at a level which is affordable for those that need the service, but which in no way covers the cost of providing the journeys. For the volunteer car journeys, the passenger pays the volunteer driver mileage expenses, but our organisation does not formally receive money to run this service despite facilitating all the arrangements for the journeys.

The organisation needs to fund all the running & maintenance costs of the vehicles including fuel costs, insurance, mandatory safety inspections, MOT costs & drivers' wages. It also funds the running of our office for the administration of the services.

If this was a commercially viable service then I am sure that a commercial provider would be offering it, but it is not a profit-making enterprise which is why providing vital community transport services is left to charities like ours, but that does not in any way diminish the need in rural areas.

If we were fortunate enough to be awarded a parish grant again this year, then it would all be put towards the continued running costs of the charity. The annual cost of providing these vital services to our community is typically over £140,000 & so new revenue streams are constantly required to maintain the operation. We were extremely grateful for the grant awarded last year & so I am writing to ask if Councillors would be prepared to award a parish grant again this year towards the continuation of our services in Halwill & we would like to request an amount of £300.

Many thanks for your consideration of this request.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Julia Foster
Fundraising & Community Development Officer
Holsworthy Rural Community Transport

Email: julia@holsworthy ruraltransport.co.uk



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OPERATED BY HOLSWORTHY RURAL COMMUNITY TRANSPORT Charity No. 1109623 Company No. 05287515

APPLICATION

Organisation Name:	Halwill Parish Hall	
Contact:	Title: Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss/Other	
	Name: Pennie Channing	
Address:	Halwill Parish Hall	
	Halwill Junction	
	Beaworthy	
	Devon	Postcode: EX21 5XU
Phone No:		
Mobile No:	[REDACTED]	
E-mail address:	[REDACTED] halwillparishhall@gmail.com	
Sum required:	£ £2,000	
Reason for request:		
	<p>The hall is currently using an old and very inefficient heating system heat a very large space. This costs several thousands of £'s each year but still does not provide comfort for hall users, making it less attractive to potential hirers. The radiators we do have get incredibly hot to touch but do not warm the space in the winter. They are also failing regularly and cannot be repaired. A new solution is needed.</p>	
How do you propose to use this money:		
	<p>To pay for the cost of lowering the ceiling in the main hall to a height of 3.7m (just above the higher windows) and to install modern, effective and efficient air source heating units in the ceiling, plus new integral lighting and fire detection sensors to remain compliant with legislation. We aim to lower our running costs, improve the comfort of the hall for users, lower our carbon footprint and increase bookings.</p>	
To whom should the cheque be written out?		
	Halwill Parish Hall	
Attach any supporting information if required		
A basic income and expenditure account for the last tax year, to include any reserves held, to be attached please		
Signature:	[REDACTED]	Date: 11/11/2025
Name in capitals:	P A CHANNING	