

# Pymoor or Pymore or Pyemoor or Pimoor?

Pymoor is a small hamlet of approximately 350 people. It is set in the middle of rich agricultural land and the New Bedford River runs close by. It became famous for having three different spellings of its name; Pymoor, Pymore and Pyemoor but in 1997 it was agreed with all relevant parties that as the first recording of the village named it as Pymoor this would be the name of the village; however there is still confusion.

*From the Pymoor CCAN archive website*

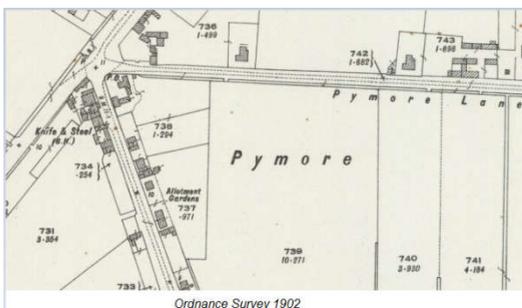
Pymoor (I will default to this spelling for the time being) does not appear in the Domesday book or on the Great Map of the Fens by Jonas Moore published in 1658.

In 1974 the Post Office took a decision as reported in the press:

What's in a name? "Quite a lot" says the Post Office. "Nothing" says the County Council.

But in Pymoor the people think that there is quite a lot in a name, for they have just had theirs changed. Little Downham Parish Council complained that someone somewhere had put an extra "O" in the spelling of the village name; now that "O" has been knocked out. So now Pymoor will be known as Pymore, officially at least.

The GPO have reverted to the "ore" spelling on their franking machine and the



change of spelling has been cleared by the County Council. Mrs Florence Brown, postmistress at Pymoor for 18 years, says that the majority of people of the village spell the name with two O's. "I have lived in the village all my life and Pymore has always been known as Pymoor," explained 68 year old Mrs Brown. "Double "O" is certainly the most popular, but I suppose people will still spell it the same as they always did and I'm sure they will not take any notice of what the officials say."

All the signposts in the village are spelt Pymore, but even they could be wrong for in 1236

Cambridge Chronicle 1784

**T**o be SOLD by AUCTION,  
at the Lamb, in Ely, on Saturday the first day of January, 1785, between the hours of 11 and 1 of the clock at noon of the same day;  
Lot 18. All that MESSUAGE or tenement, with the barn, stables, outhouses and appurtenances thereunto belonging, situate and being on part of 12 A. of land, in a place called Pymore, in DOWNHAM, near Ely in the county of Cambridge, toge her with fald 12A. formerly Phillips's.

there was an "l" and it was Pimore. (*I would like to know where this reference comes from - author*)

Mrs Claude Golding, President of the village Women's

Institute, has warned all her members of the change." I have tried to find out the history of the name and the correct spelling but have been unable to," she explained. "It is all very confusing."

Mr Lawrence Witham, Deputy Council Secretary, said the County Council did not make directives as to the spellings of place names. "If it is the feeling that a name should be spelt another way then we will almost certainly change the signs," he explained.

The Post Office say there is obviously a desire for all place names to be spelt correctly. "The Little Downham Parish Council contacted us and requested that Pymoor should be changed to Pymore, and we agreed this with the County Council," explained a spokesman.



This has been an everlasting topic for discussion.

It appeared again in the papers in 1980:

The unveiling of a village sign will clear up an argument which has raged for years. Ancient records show that the hamlet was named Pimore but over the years it had become either Pymore or Pymoor, according to fancy. Most local people spell it "OOR" but the clerk of Little Downham Parish Council says he used "ORE" and always will do. Two signs in the village both spell it differently.

But now a new wooden sign has been carved, reading Pymoor. It will be unveiled at Pymore Hill. The name means 'Flies over a bog'.

There was a follow up article:



The unveiling of the village sign at Pymoor by Parish Councillor Graham Lark caused controversy in May 1980. It was not the carved oak design depicting a dragonfly settling on a bulrush in marshland, a reference to the village name, nor its position in the centre of the village. The problem was the spelling of the name itself, should it perhaps have been

Pymore as some residents believed, and as the sign at the entrance to the village proclaimed.

The question was put to the vote in January 1997 when the Parish Council declared that the name on the sign was indeed the correct one.

As the locals pronounce it Pymah, the spelling is perhaps academic but I'm sure our editor has something to say on the matter.

**Robin Pearl**