

WAYFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Wayford Parish Council held in Clapton and Wayford Village Hall on Wednesday 11th March 2026 at 7.00 p.m.

Attendance and Apologies

Those present:

Mrs Barbara Woodward (Chair)
Mrs Gill Thompson (Vice Chair)
Mr Piers Farley
Mr Steve Ashton (Somerset Councillor)
Mrs Sue Morley (Clerk)

Apologies

Mr Andrew Vickery
Mr Mike Best (Somerset Councillor)

In Attendance

1 member of the public

16/26. Minutes of the ordinary meeting held on Wednesday 14th January 2026 (agenda item 2)

The minutes of the ordinary meeting held on Wednesday 14/01/2026 were agreed and signed.

17/26. Public Voice (agenda item 3)

There were no issues not on the agenda.

18/26. Somerset Councillor Report (agenda item 4)

Cllrs Ashton reported that the Government had not given Somerset Council permission to raise Council Tax above the 5% maximum. It has therefore been agreed that Council Tax will rise by 4.9% but the decision from Government has been so delayed that bills will now need to be sent out by first class post. The Council leader has sent out an email to all Clerks explaining the situation.

The Boundaries have been settled. Wayford is in South Crewkerne which stretches all the way over to Ilminster. They will be single member wards which will make it more difficult for Councillors to attend parish council meetings because there will be no one to deputise if two meetings fall on the same day.

Cllr Ashton reported that he went to the planning appeal but did not support or object to it. He noted that there are a lot of brownfield sites available for solar panels and also a lot of roofs. The Council is looking at putting panels on the Octagon roof during the planned refit which is on the way. Because the Council do not have the money to fit the panels, a private company will do it. It was also noted that panels are being fitted to some housing association properties as well as to new builds.

It was also noted that Coombe Farm are doubling the size of their solar panel installations.

19/26 Parish Council Vacancy (agenda item 5)

So far no-one has come forward to fill the vacancy on the Parish Council.

20/26 Planning Applications (agenda item 6)

Cllr Thompson attended the inquiry considering the proposed solar farm to state the Parish Council's objection to the proposal. A lot of people from the village attended each day over the 6 days of the inquiry. The Inspector will now examine the evidence. A decision is expected approximately mid April. The issue of the natural landscape is crucial. The private water supply is important but not so much now that the previous proposal for battery storage has been removed.

21/26. Highways (agenda item 7)

Potholes have been reported. Highways are urging the public to report them. Cllr Ashton said that around 7,000 are being reported to Somerset Council each week. There is capacity to repair 2,000 a week. The contractors doing the work can only repair those that have been marked, unless a supervisor is there to sign off any new ones. This is because they are paid per pothole and to allow any others to be repaired at the same time could lead to over-reporting of repaired potholes. It was stressed that Somerset is not the only county affected by a serious pothole problem. Devon's roads are in very bad repair. The very wet winter which has affected the west country in particular is responsible. Our MP has raised the issue in the House of Commons.

It was mentioned that the lay-bys in Chard Lane need some attention. Coombe Farm have said they would refresh the areas, particularly at the top of the road.

22/26 Allotments (agenda item 8)

The tenant of plot 3 has moved. A recent resident has expressed interest in the plot. The Clerk to email the Terms & Conditions and blank Tenancy Agreement to Cllr Thompson to pass on to the resident. The Clerk to send out invoices for 2026 – 27. **ACTION – Cllr Thompson / The Clerk**

23/26 Cemetery (agenda item 9)

Councillors agreed by email to continue with the current contractors. The Cemetery has been well maintained this year. There is a slight increase in cost. The Clerk has accepted the new contract.

Cllr Woodward has moved the bins inside the Bier House to keep them dry.

24/26 Website / email address (agenda item 10)

The Clerk confirmed that the website is now up and running and errors have been corrected. The email address is also running and live.

25/26 Wayford Parish Council IT Policy (agenda item 11)

Councillors unanimously agreed the IT Policy which will be put on the website.

26/26 Emergency Plan (agenda item 12)

Wayford will combine with West Crewkerne Parish Council to prepare an emergency plan to be available in case of any emergency. It was noted that there is a railway line which runs through the two parishes. Cllr Woodward will liaise with the Chair of West Crewkerne Parish Council to produce a list of names of people, including first aiders, to be contacted in emergencies. **ACTION - Cllr Woodward**

After the meeting Cllr Woodward reported that the West Crewkerne clerk would be setting up a session and somebody would attend who can give advice regarding a plan.

27/26 ICN (agenda item 13)

There was nothing to report.

28/26. Accounts payments and receipts (agenda item 14)

- (a) The Clerk presented the following payments to be paid by BACS:
- (b) £4,000 was transferred from the current account to the savings account.

25/02/26	Countrywide	Grass January	149.28
10/03/26	Countrywide	Grass February	149.28
18/03/26	HMRC	paye	47.80
10/03/26	S Morley	Salary & Expenses	229.27
18/03/26	HMRC	paye (January)	48.00

29/26. Matters and Items to Report (agenda item 15)

There was nothing to report.

30/26. Date of the Annual Parish Council Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting (agenda item 16)

The annual meetings will be held on **Wednesday 27th May 2026 at 7.00 pm.** in Clapton and Wayford Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 7.45 p.m.

Barbara Woodward - Chair