

WAYFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Contact the Clerk: 01460 53378 / wayfordparish@gmail.com

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Wayford Parish Council held in Clapton and Wayford Village Hall on Wednesday 14th January 2026 at 7.00 p.m.

Attendance and Apologies

Those present:

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

Apologies

Mr Mike Best (Somerset Councillor)

In Attendance

01/26. Minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 12th November 2025 (agenda item 2)

The minutes of the last ordinary meeting held on Wednesday 12/11/2025 were agreed and signed.

02/26. Public Voice (agenda item 3)

There were no members of the public in attendance.

03/26. Somerset Councillor Report (agenda item 4)

Cllr Ashton reported that charging for car parks on a Sunday is being considered and a decision will be made tomorrow.

Council tax is likely to go up by 7% although it could be more. There is a £70 million shortfall and Somerset Council have very few things left to sell. To properly balance the budget would need an approximately 28% rise in Council tax which is unlikely to happen. Cuts will still need to be made and services will cost more. 70% of the budget is spent on adult and child social care. SEN costs are considerable and are rising. These are statutory services and the Council is accruing debt in order to meet them.

The Council's road contractor Kier has an incentive to fix potholes in areas where they are working.

04/26. Planning Applications (agenda item 5)

Application Number: 24/00352/FUL

Proposal: proposed solar farm comprising ground mounted solar PV panels, with a generating capacity of up to 18.5 MWp including mounting framework, inverters, underground cabling, stockproof fence, CCTV, internal tracks and associated infrastructure and biodiversity net gain, substation for grid connection for a temporary period of 40 years

Location: Land OS 8186 Dunsham Lane Wayford Crewkerne Somerset TA18 8QL

The date of the inquiry is set for 10th February 2026. Cllrs Woodward and Thompson will prepare a statement from the Parish Council setting out its concerns about aspects of this application. The Inspector will read all submissions but standing up to speak will carry more weight, which is especially true for the Parish Council. The Clerk to inform the Inspector that Cllr Thompson will speak at the inquiry.

ACTION - The Clerk

There was a meeting of the village action group at the village hall this week. They have a number of specialists and there is concern from Dorset regarding the visibility of the solar farm. After the inquiry the Inspector will visit the site.

7.40 Cllr Ashton left the meeting.

05/26. Parish Council Vacancy (agenda item 6)

No-one has come forward to fill the vacancy on the Parish Council.

06/26. Highways (agenda item 7)

Some of the drains have been jetted. There is no more money left for jetting this year. Next year Highways will look to see if they can do anything more permanent. A question was asked if the problems in Dunsham Lane have been reported. They have been but there is no money left. It was also noted that jetting does not clear drains which have been blocked or collapsed under the road.

There have been some offers of help to dig out the drains etc. Cllr Vickery to contact Guy Coleman at Coombe Farm for help. It was noted that when it is flooded at the bottom of the road you can only access the village from the top so it is important to make sure this is kept clear. **ACTION - Cllr Vickery**

07/26. Allotments (agenda item 8)

There has been no interest in the vacant plots. Cllr Farley to put the vacancies on the Whatsapp group again. **ACTION - Cllr Farley**

08/26. Cemetery (agenda item 9)

There was nothing to report on the Cemetery.

09/26. Website / email address (agenda item 10)

The Clerk has put together a website which is almost ready to go live. **ACTION - The Clerk**

10/26. LCN (agenda item 11)

There was nothing to report on the LCNs.

11/26. Budget and Precept 2026 (agenda item 12)

It was agreed to raise the precept by 5% to £4,200. **ACTION - The Clerk**

12/26. Accounts payments and receipts (agenda item 13)

The Clerk presented the following payments paid by BACS:

09/12/25	Countrywide (663732)	Grass Nov	£ 149.28
09/12/25	Paul Stabbins	Hedges Cemetery	£ 390.00
29/12/25	Rob Howard	Allotments	£ 50.00
05/01/26	Countrywide (668494)	Grass Dec	£ 149.28
14/01/26	S Morley	Salary + Expenses	£ 229.87

The Clerk was asked to look at transferring some of the money from the Current Account to the Savings Accounts. **ACTION - The Clerk**

13/26. Matters and Items to Report (agenda item 14)

IT Policy

The Clerk explained that under the new Assertion 10 on the Annual Governance Statement, the Parish Council is required to have an IT Policy which will be on the website. The Clerk presented a Policy drafted on NALC's model policy. Councillors expressed their agreement to the Policy which will be formally agreed at the next meeting in March.

ACTION - The Clerk and Agenda Item next meeting

14/26. Date of next ordinary Parish Council meeting (agenda item 15)

The next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Wednesday 11th March 2026 at 7.00 pm.** in Clapton and Wayford Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 8.20 p.m.

Barbara Woodward - Chair