

WAYFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Contact the Clerk: 01460 53378 / clerk@wayfordpc.org

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Wayford Parish Council held in Clapton Village Hall on Wednesday 16th September 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)
Mr Mike Best (Somerset Councillor)
Mrs Sue Morley (Clerk)

Apologies

In Attendance

1 member of the public

57/26. Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 27th May 2026 (agenda item 2)

The minutes of the last ordinary meeting held on Wednesday 27/05/2026 were agreed and signed.

58/26. Public Voice (agenda item 3)

One item was raised which will be minuted under agenda item 64/26.

59/26 Somerset Councillor Report (agenda item 4)

The Boundary Commission has created a North Crewkerne and a South Crewkerne. Cllr Best will stand for election for South Crewkerne and Cllr Ashton for North Crewkerne. After the election next year parishes will have only one Somerset Councillor.

The Somerset Rivers Authority has money available for grants for flooding projects. There has been a lot of flooding of the roads often due to run off from farm lands. There is still time to apply for a grant.

60/26. Vacancy on the Parish Council (agenda item 5)

There has been no interest in the current vacancy on the Parish Council.

61/26. Planning Applications (agenda item 6)

The new planning framework was issued on 6/8/26 and has changed the planning rules. Referring an application to committee is now restricted. If there are less than 10 houses involved an application will not be referred to committee. Parish Councils can still comment but they are time limited. More decisions will be taken by officers and the Secretary of State can be involved. The balance is on the approval of housing applications. This means a loss of consideration from local councillors who will be less involved in planning decisions.

The local plan is now very important because officers will have to take the local plan into consideration. Central planning officers will not know the local infrastructure. It is therefore very important that local parish councils learn the planning rules. Objections need to be made in the correct way linking to planning policy and quoting policy numbers where relevant.

62/26. Highways (agenda item 7)

There was nothing to report on Highways.

63/26. Allotments (agenda item 8)

- (a) There are still two vacant plots. The allotments have been topped twice this year to keep down the weeds. A new tenant has taken 1.5 plots and will keep chickens on one of the plots. The other plot holders were happy with the arrangement.
- (b) The clerk presented a comparison of local allotment charges. Most allotments have water available. It was agreed to keep to the current annual charge of £30 for residents and £35 for non residents.
- (c) Parking is difficult in the winter. The slope down to the parking area is very steep and the ground can become very wet. If it could be improved it would also act as a parking area for the Cemetery. Cllr Thompson will see if the current allotment holders would be willing to make a contribution towards improvements. Cllr Farley will get some prices for ground improvement.

ACTION - Cllr Thompson / Cllr Farley

64/26 Cemetery (agenda item 9)

- (a) A resident noted that plastic flowers deteriorate and can make the Cemetery look very messy. It was felt that the Council cannot ban plastic flowers. Those that are broken can be picked up and put in the bin which is available by the Bier House.
- (b) The Clerk presented a comparison of local Cemetery rates which shows that Wayford is much cheaper than comparable local cemeteries. It was agreed to increase the rates to a comparable level. **ACTION - The Clerk**
- (c) The Clerk to contact the contractor to cut the hedge in the autumn. **ACTION - The Clerk**

65/26. Emergency Plan (agenda item 10)

It was agreed to look at another village with an Emergency Plan to see if it could be adapted for Wayford. **ACTION - Cllr Woodward**

66/26. Notice Board (agenda item 11)

The notice board has been set up. The Chairman thanked Cllr Vickery and his son for organising this. Two brass plaques have been ordered for the notice board.

67/26. LCN (agenda item 12)

On the 14th October Clare Moody the Avon and Somerset Policy and Crime Commissioner will answer questions in an online session. Questions need to be forwarded before the date. Shop lifting has been a big problem, particularly in the Shepton Mallet and Glastonbury areas.

68/26. Accounts payments and receipts (agenda item 13)

- (a) The Clerk presented the following payments paid by BACS:

13/06/2026	Countrywide (693089)	Grass	155.03
09/07/2026	Countrywide (697990)	Grass	155.03
15/07/2026	S Morley	Salary	227.57
15/07/2026	HMRC	Paye	47.80
15/07/2026	N Potter	Audit	30.00
28/08/2026	Countrywide (703150)	Grass	155.03
08/09/2026	Countrywide (707962)	Grass	155.03
08/09/2026	R Howard	Allotment	75.00
16/09/2026	S Morley	Salary	248.66
16/09/2026	HMRC	Paye	53.20

- (b) It was noted that we have not made the usual grants this year because the July meeting was cancelled. The Clerk was asked to make the usual 3 donations for £55 as last year.

ACTION - The Clerk

69/26. Internal Audit (agenda item 14)

The Internal Audit has been completed at a charge of £30 this year.

70/26. Matters and Items to Report (agenda item 15)

Cllr Woodward applied to the British Heart Foundation for a defibrillator for the Village Hall. It will be arriving very soon.

Cllr Thompson will ask on the village Whatsapp for someone to take over the care of the village defibrillator and the books in the telephone box which need to be kept tidy.

The village defibrillator is almost 4 years old and the pads will need changing next year. They will be around £100.

71/26. Date of next ordinary Parish Council meeting (agenda item 16)

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

The meeting ended at 8.10 p.m.

Barbara Woodward - Chair