

WAYFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Wayford Parish Council held in Clapton Village Hall on Wednesday 15th January 2025 at 7.00 p.m.

Attendance and Apologies

Those present:	Apologies	In Attendance
Mrs Barbara Woodward (Chair)	Mr Mike Best (Somerset Councillor)	
Mrs Gill Thompson (Vice Chair)		
Mr Piers Farley		
Mrs Julie Shaw		
Mr Andrew Vickery		
Mr Steve Ashton (Somerset Councillor)		
Mrs Sue Morley (Clerk)		

1/25 Minutes of the ordinary meeting held on Wednesday 13th November 2024 (agenda item 2)

The minutes of the ordinary meeting were agreed and were signed by Cllr Woodward as Chair.

2/25 Public Voice (agenda item 3) - There were no members of the public present.

3/25 Somerset Councillor Report (agenda item 4)

Cllr Ashton reported that it is currently very quiet. The Highways team has now been reduced from 10 to 4. The consultation on the planning process has just closed.

4/25 Planning Applications (agenda item 5)

(a) Proposal: Raising an existing roof to match the height of the adjacent roof. Proposed work also includes changes to various window & door openings along with the addition of three new skylights.
Location: Ashcombe Barn Park Lane Wayford Crewkerne Somerset TA18 8QJ
Application Number: 24/02832/HOU

Councillors indicated by email that they had no objections to the proposal.

(b) Proposal: Single-storey rear extension
Location: The Greyhound Wayford Crewkerne Somerset TA18 8QG
Application Number: 24/02694/HOU

Councillors indicated by email that they had no objections to the proposal.

5/25 Highways (agenda item 6)

Potholes

Highways were contacted regarding the potholes but so far there has not been a reply.

Drains

It was agreed at previous meetings to arrange a day with digger to dig out the banks around the drains so that they are not hidden or covered by encroaching soil. It was felt preferable to ask a contractor who will be experienced and insured to do the work, rather than councillors and residents. One quote for £581 for a day with a man and a digger has been received. It was agreed to obtain a second quote and then proceed with the work as soon as possible. Councillors to approve the chosen quote by email.

ACTION – Cllr Farley / Cllr Vickery

Note: Since the meeting a second quote has been received for £500 + VAT for two men and a digger for a day with a start date before March. Councillors indicated that they approve this second quote, particularly as the work can be done very soon. Work should start before the next meeting.

Councillors thanked Mr Barry Retter for all the work he has done to keep the drains clear. This is helping but it was felt that the long term solution is to deal with the drains under the roads which are blocked or broken. Highways do not have the money at the current time for this work.

Grit Bins

The bins were topped up but a lot has already been used in one bin. Mr Retter did the roads during the icy weather and councillors again expressed their thanks for his work. It was noted that Highways no longer supply councils with grit, apart from topping up the bins. Councils have to source their own grit if they need more.

6/25 Allotments (agenda item 7)

There is still one vacant plot and this will be put on the Whatsapp group.

ACTION – Cllr Farley

The chicken shed suffered in the recent high winds and is now anchored against the hedge which is a vacant half plot. Cllr Thompson to assess the situation.

ACTION – Cllr Thompson

It was agreed to increase the yearly rent by £5 to £30 a year for residents and £35 for non residents. The Clerk will be sending out invoices in March for the next year.

ACTION – The Clerk

7/25 Cemetery (agenda item 8)

(a) Tree Survey

Cllr Farley has contacted a company regarding an inspection of the trees in the Cemetery to see if any work needs to be undertaken. It was agreed to go ahead with the inspection.

ACTION – Cllr Farley

(b) Burial Records

Cllr Vickery has seen the old records for the Cemetery in the Church and will copy them for the Clerk's records.

ACTION – Cllr Vickery

8/25 Accounts payments and receipts (agenda item 9)

The Clerk presented the following payments which were set up by the Clerk and approved by Cllr Woodward:

Online payment	- £ 45.60	- HMRC, paye
Online payment	- £ 214.08	- Salary and expenses
Online payment	- £ 50.00	- Hedge at Allotments
Online payment	- £ 64.80	- Village Hall rent

Online provision for Nat West is progressing.

9/25 Precept 2025 (agenda item 10)

Somerset Council have confirmed a provisional charge of £6.50 + VAT per collection per bin. For Wayford this will affect the litter bin beside the old phone box. Councillors felt that every two weeks would be often enough to empty the bin. At the moment there has been no opportunity to feed this back to Somerset Council. The charge still has to be approved by Council.

Councillors were also mindful of the approximately £500 cost for the digger to do the drains and also any possible costs associated with the Cemetery trees.

It was agreed to increase the precept by £400 to £4,000 which equates to an 11.11% increase of £8.91 per year making the Parish Council precept for Wayford £75.84 per year.

10/25 LCN (agenda item 11)

No-one was available to attend the last LCN meeting.

11/25 Matters and Items to Report (agenda item 12)

Yeovil Stroke Unit

The Secretary of State has refused to overturn the decision to close the Yeovil Stroke Unit.

12/25 Date of next ordinary Parish Council meeting (agenda item 13)

The next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Wednesday 12th March 2025 at 7.00 pm.** in Clapton Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 8.05 p.m.

Barbara Woodward - Chair