

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 16th July 2025 at 7.00 p.m.

Attendance and Apologies

Those present:

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

Apologies

None

In Attendance

1 member of the public

Cllr Shaw said this would be her last meeting because they are moving to Weymouth very soon.

50/25. Minutes of the annual meeting held on Wednesday 14th May 2025 (agenda item 2)

The minutes of the annual meeting held on Wednesday 14/05/2025 were agreed and signed.

51/25. Public Voice (agenda item 3)

The issue of the large and increased volume of traffic travelling through the village to visit Wayford Woods was raised as being a nuisance. It was suggested that a 20 mph speed limit might be a good solution. Because the bottom of the road is a private road there is little that can be done. It was felt that the recent hot weather has encouraged people to visit the woods to walk their dogs.

52/25. Somerset Councillor Report (agenda item 4)

Cllrs Ashton and Best reported that the boundary review is still ongoing with some strange groupings of communities. This has been done to ensure that wards have similar population levels.

The future of Crewkerne Hospital is still undecided. Councillors and the local MP are watching to see what will happen. Protests are planned outside the Hospital.

At the recent full council meeting it was highlighted that Somerset Council needs to save more money. Services are being made more digital to help achieve cost savings.

Councillor numbers are going down to 96.

53/25. Planning Applications (agenda item 5)

There were no new planning applications. There is no news on the solar farm application.

54/25. Highways (agenda item 6)

All the work on the highways and drains was done earlier in the year. Because the weather has been so dry the work has not been tested.

55/25 Allotments (agenda item 7)

The vacant plots have been sprayed by the grass cutting contractor.

There has been no interest in the vacant plots. The Clerk to contact Crewkerne again and Cllr Farley to re-post the vacancies on Whatsapp.

ACTION - Cllr Farley, The Clerk

One of the allotments is very neglected with the docks about to seed. The Clerk to write to ask the tenant to tidy up the plot.

ACTION - The Clerk

56/25 Cemetery (agenda item 8)

The Cemetery is looking very nice. The grass is being cut regularly.

We have received a second quote to do crown lifts on the Western Red Cedar and the Yew. The third person did not come back with a quote. It was agreed to accept the quote from John Stewart who did the work in the Cemetery several years ago. The Clerk to contact him. **ACTION - The Clerk**

57/25 Internal Audit (agenda item 9)

The Internal Audit has been completed. Cllr Woodward to thank the auditor. **ACTION - Cllr Woodward**

58/25. Internet Banking / Nat West (agenda item 10)

The Clerk was able to make online payments using Nat West. However the way Nat West have set it up means that payments cannot be authorised by a second signatory. If we wish payments to be authorised we will have to re-apply for a different type of account. Cllr Vickery made the point that checks and controls need to be proportionate and we are dealing with only a small amount of money. Although ideally payments should be authorised by a second signatory, it has not been an easy process to get to this stage and it seems disproportionate to start again. Cllr Thompson said that she had received a text message when the payments were made to inform her that they were being made. It was noted that all signatories will be able to make payments through the account. It was agreed that for the time being the Clerk will make the payments and bring a current bank statement to each meeting to show income and expenditure. The Clerk already prints a list of payments each month.

The name which shows up on the bank statement of the payee is SLA Parish Council of Wayford, but the Wayford does not show. If you click on the name the full name and reference number come up. It was agreed to change the name to Wayford Parish Council to make it clearer to the payee. The clerk has a digital form which will just need one more signature.

59/25. Grants (agenda item 11)

It was agreed to make the usual three annual grants for the same amount of £55 as last year. The Clerk to ask for their online payment details. **ACTION - The Clerk**

60/25. Accounts payments and receipts (agenda item 12)

- (a) It was noted that Nat West will be charging 35p per transaction for business accounts starting this year. This is still cheaper than Lloyds and it was agreed to close down Lloyds once we are satisfied that the online payment system is working well on the Nat West account.
- (b) The Clerk presented the following payments to be paid by BACS:

Countrywide	Grass May	149.28
S Morley	Clerk	218.08
HMRC	paye	45.60
Countrywide	Grass June	149.28
SSCAB	Grant	55.00
Village Hall	Grant	55.00
Air Ambulance	Grant	55.00
Countrywide	Allotment Spraying	98.10

61/25 LCNs (agenda item 13)

There was nothing to report.

62/25. Matters and Items to Report (agenda item 14)

New regulations have been issued in the latest edition of the Practitioners' Guide which requires all councils to have a council email address linked to a council owned website by March 2026. It will no longer meet requirements to have a gmail or hotmail etc email address.

Cllr Woodward to see if we can have an email address with West Crewkerne on their website. Cllr Farley to make some enquiries.
ACTION - Cllr Woodward / Cllr Farley

63/25. Date of next ordinary Parish Council meeting (agenda item 15)

The next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Wednesday 10th September 2025 at 7.00 pm.** in Clapton and Wayford Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 8.20 p.m.

Barbara Woodward - Chair