

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting
Held at the Sampford Arundel Parish Rooms on 14th April 2025

[A] Apologies were received from Councillors Mansell, Frear, White and Wren and the clerk, Neil Dalton

[B] Issues raised by members of the public.

[1] Twelve members of the public attended to discuss the Oldway Road proposals and to hear any updates which we might have. The chairman explained that there was no further news and that very little may happen until the formal planning application is submitted. Concern was expressed that a footpath across a ploughed field at the site had not been reinstated. Another joint meeting with Wellington Town Council is planned for the near future. It was also noted that local MP Gideon Amos is opposed to the application, but it was pointed out that if the application is rejected and goes to appeal, it is likely to be unopposed due lack of Council funding.

[2] Flooding was again discussed, with many public attendees saying that it continues to be a major issue in Stallards and Rockwell Green, and that the proposed development would only make matters worse. Another comment was that the Wellington Place plan is being ignored. More suitable areas for development were mentioned, including the land adjacent to Lidl where 70 homes are going to be built.

[3] Councillor Olive mentioned that the website will continue to be updated as soon as there is any news, and that the official response from the Council to the Oldway Road development had been posted to the website some weeks ago. The Clerk would like to mention the many positive comments he had received with regard to the new website. Thank you to Councillor Olive

Item 1: There were no disclosures of interest by councillors or those present

Item 2: Minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record

Item 3: Matters arising from the previous minutes.

[a] Matters arising – Sampford Arundel Village Hall has been booked for the remainder of the year. The Beambridge Inn will be advised of this when we hold the Annual Meeting there. The clerk will arrange payment on contact from the Village Hall Chairman

[b] The Free entry to monument for children scheme is up and running, and Councillor Olive has sent this information to the Wellington Weekly.

Item 4: Police Liaison

[a] Thanks were expressed for the recent report and the digger theft and vehicle damage were discussed

Signed and dated as a true and accurate statement

Wellington Without Parish Council

Item 5: Planning, Infrastructure and Development

[a] There was further discussion among Councillors on the Oldway Road development although no members of the public were still present. It was agreed that a united and coordinated approach is desirable and that we must keep the website updated with any news.

Item 6: Financial Issues

[a] Items of expenditure over £100 excluding salary payments
The direct debit to the Information Commissioner's Office at £47 was agreed, although the cost of membership of the Somerset Association of Local Councils at £346.33 was questioned, and not yet signed off. The Council wanted to be sure they were getting value for money considering that the cost is fairly high, so this will be a further discussion. *Postscript: The clerk will clarify this with the Chair presently.*

Item 7: County, District and Unitary Authority Councillors

There were no further issues

Item 8: Any other urgent business

[a] Councillor Lane noted that the signpost at the top of Wellington Hill has been repaired, and it appears to have been done well.

[b] The kissing gate(s) on the main path to the monument are rotting and need to be replaced with metal ones.

ACTION: Clerk to contact the National Trust

DONE: 15th April

[c] Fly tipping was mentioned as this appears to be increasing, with Councillor Hasell mentioning that Somerset Council are responsible for collecting fly-tipped rubbish if any of it is on a highway.

Date of the next meeting:

12th May at 6.30pm at the Beambridge Inn for the Annual Meeting of the Council.
Subsequent to this all further meetings will be held at Sampford Arundel Parish Rooms starting at 7.00pm

Meeting closed around 8:00pm

Signed and dated as a true and accurate statement