

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting
held on 14th July 2025 at the Sampford Arundel Parish Rooms

[A] Apologies were received from Councillor Olive and Somerset Councillor Mansell. Syed Shah, public liaison officer for Somerset Council, was welcomed as a guest speaker. He presented details of the Junction 26 and link road redevelopment

[B] There were no members of the public present

[1] Somerset Council has approved plans to allow local town and parish councils to carry out low level voluntary highways maintenance work, and will provide a safety awareness course for those who want to get involved. The work that volunteers will be trained to do will include litter picking, cleaning signs and clearing gullies.

[2] To report issues with litter, litter bins and drug debris -

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/environment-and-food-safety/litter-bins-and-drug-debris/?district=Somerset+West+and+Taunton>

[3] To seek information regarding Community litter picks -

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/community-leisure-and-tourism/community-litter-picks/?district=Somerset+West+and+Taunton>

[2] Coffee morning. It had been suggested to the clerk that the parish council may wish to hold a coffee morning for parishioners. This however was not thought to be necessary.

Item 1: There were no disclosures of interest by members on agenda items

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] Culmstock Beacon parking. It was agreed after much discussion that at present the council is unable to assist with any local issues

[b] Thanks were expressed to Councillor Olive for representing the council at the Blackdown Hills Association AGM

[c] The clerk had held a useful meeting with the Chair of the above association, Mr Mike Canham, who was very pleased to welcome the council to the membership

Item 4: Police Liaison

[a] There was no police report

Item 5: Planning, Infrastructure and Development

[a] Defibrillator at Holywell Lake. After some delay caused by technical issues Debbie Eaton of Holywell Lake outlined the work being undertaken to provide a defibrillator in the village. The council was impressed by the work carried out and the associated fundraising and agreed to consider financial assistance

ACTION: This will be placed on the September agenda and the level of contribution decided at that meeting

DONE: July 14th

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[b] Speed Indicator devices. It was agreed to consider the purchase of a SID for use at Ford Street. The possibility of one at Holywell Lake, which has been raised in the past, was not supported by the evidence of traffic monitoring. There was much discussion over the siting of the units. Chapter 8 training is needed for both council installers and evidence has to be provided that they are so qualified. The chair presented photographs of the proposed sites. Despite a firm promise from the police to support this with funding nothing has materialised and all contact remains unanswered.

ACTION: The clerk to contact the Traffic Manager, Kate Brown with details of the proposed sites.
DONE: July 15th

ACTION: The clerk to contact the SID retailers to request final costs for the purchase of one solar powered unit. He will also request if there is any reduction in buying two.
DONE: July 15th

ACTION: The clerk to investigate suitable training courses for working on or near the highway
DONE: The Lantra Moving Works Operative (MWO) course through Exel Ltd. The price is £210 + VAT and candidates will be given a Lantra e-card which is valid for 5 years
Organiser has been emailed on July 15th

[c] Planning application 44/23/0099 at Exeter Road, Rockwell Green was sent to appeal. The appeal was allowed and planning permission has been granted for the erection of up to 315 dwellings with convenience store (class E) public open space, landscaping, sustainable drainage system and vehicular access point in accordance with the terms of the application dated 29 September 2023

[d] Wessex Water has arranged a community drop-in, at Wellington Library, 16 Fore Street, Wellington TA21 8AQ on Monday 18th August 2025 from 10am-12pm for customers to drop in and talk face to face about anything water related, bills, supply and waste.

Item 6: Financial Issues

[a] Church Grant. A grant of £750 has been paid and the transaction sheet signed.
[b] A replacement second-hand laptop has been purchased due to irreparable issues with the present machine and the annual Microsoft Office licence has been renewed. Both purchases have been made by the clerk, who is to be reimbursed.

ACTION: The clerk is to be reimbursed for transaction E13
DONE: July 15th

[c] The Annual Microsoft licence has been paid.

ACTION: The clerk is to be reimbursed for transaction E14
DONE: July 15th

Item 7: County, District and Unitary Authority Councillors

[a] New boundaries are being proposed for council divisions in Somerset
The Local Government Boundary Commission wants to hear what residents and local organisations think about the proposals. A 10-week consultation on the proposals will

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run until 11 August 2025. If there are any comments please email the clerk in the first instance.

[b] Wellington/Wiveliscombe bus user group would welcome new contacts to present our side of Wellington. They hold meetings in Wellington or Wiveliscombe and have a group email for exchanges between meetings.

Item 8: There was no other urgent business

Date of the next meeting: September 8th at Sampford Arundel Parish rooms