



Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on December 16th 2025

[A] Apologies were received from Councillor Hasell and Somerset Councillor Wren, who also passed on season's greetings to the council

[B] There were no members of the public present

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

[1] Dog waste bin. Much work has been carried out with regard to the disposal facilities, and it is hoped that a meeting will be held the week ending the 19th December for the two sponsors and the representative of Somerset Council to finalise the siting. The clerk will attend if possible as the Parish Council has agreed to fund weekly emptying.

[2] Speed indicator devices at Ford Street. Councillor Olive outlined some of the technology covering data collection, displayed messages etc. Scanning has been carried out at the approved sites, and the Highways manager has agreed to instal the necessary posts as soon as is practical. Once these are in place Councillors Olive and Lane and the clerk will meet before the installation of the units. Councillor Olive had also printed the letters to all affected residents for hand delivery. No negative response has been received, only positive comments.

[3] Lists of Parish addresses are difficult to access due to [eg] data protection. Councillor Olive has offered to look at compiling a suitable list for both hand and postal delivery. It will be necessary thereafter to consider the costs of postage and stationery.

[4] Lorry satnav routes. Following recent accidents on Wellington Hill it has become clear that lorry drivers are following their satellite navigations systems on inappropriate routes. The recommended lorry route indicated clearly by local signage is not on these systems.

ACTION: Councillors to check that the signs are extant

ACTION: Clerk to contact the police community support officer to enquire with regard to the official policy regarding lorry routes. A copy will be sent to the Highways Manager

[5] It was noted that the funding for the defibrillator at Holywell Lake has nearly reached its target.

ACTION: Clerk to make enquiries as to the total and any installation date

Item 4: Police Liaison. No report has been received

Item 5: Planning, Infrastructure and Development. No communication has been received

Wellington Without Parish Council

Item 6: Financial Issues

[1] Ledger and Bank balances. These were discussed and declared to be in line with expectations. The Council has committed to some significant expenditure for the parish this year and this may have some effect on the level of precept to be requested.

[2] Precept request. The return to Somerset Council must be made by January 30th 2026, although the “band D equivalent” figures have not yet been published by Somerset Council. There was much discussion over a possible request but it was therefore agreed to delay a final decision until the next meeting. If the data from Somerset Council has not been received by the 6th January an additional extraordinary meeting will be convened for councillors only

ACTION: The clerk will forward copies of the precept calculations and ledger. The item will be placed on the January agenda

[3] Transactions E25, E26 and E27 were approved for payment. These were the third quarter payments for the clerk’s salary, administration allowance and income tax.

ACTION: Although there is no issue the clerk will contact the payroll officer to enquire as to the system used where salary and payments to HMRC are issued separately.

Item 7: County, District and Unitary Authority Councillors

[1] Councillor Mansell has informed us that it is likely that speed detection cameras will be installed at four sites on the A38. In addition there will be a phased resurfacing of the road between Rumwell and Chelston starting in the New Year with no daytime closures. The Worlds End Junction will not be presently resurfaced due to a safety scheme to look at the junction.

[2] Following Written Parliamentary Questions by Gideon Amos MP to the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology the response regarding the Fibre Broadband Rollout is disappointing and contradicts earlier assurances that a rollout schedule would be published before the end of this year. Our MP is therefore seeking urgent clarification on: [a] Why has the Openreach contract amendment from Airband been delayed, and what is the current status of the amendment process? [b] How many of the 28,000 descoped premises have already been successfully connected by other suppliers under the Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme? [c] Is a record being maintained of all premises still awaiting connection, to ensure that none are overlooked in future delivery plans and when will a clear schedule be published for the remaining unconnected premises?

Our MP will raise the above issues and other related matters in the House of Commons to keep the pressure on, and ensure that rural communities are not left behind.

Item 8: Any other urgent business

[1] It was agreed that the local surgery dates on an apolitical poster for our Member of Parliament could be displayed on the parish notice boards. Thanks were extended to our present MP for forwarding his seasonal greetings.

[2] There have unfortunately been some local issues with trespassers and one break-in. Parishioners are urged to ensure that properties are secure. Please contact the police immediately should there be any suspicious incidents.

The Parish Council wishes you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Date of the next meeting: January 6th at Sampford Arundel Parish rooms at 7.00p