



## Minutes of the Parish Council meeting

held on February 3rd at the Sampford Arundel Parish Rooms

[A] Apologies and attendance. A welcome was extended to Councillor Wren. Apologies were received from PCSO Hill, Councillors Mansell, Worth and Hasell

[B] There were no members of the public present.

**Item 1:** There was one disclosure of interest by the clerk on agenda item 3b, although personal submissions by councillors regarding item 5a may also have been undertaken.

**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] There are three defibrillator guardians for Holywell Lake, Debbie Eaton and John and Nicky Pope. The defibrillator has been delivered and awaits installation.

[b] The clerk was grateful for the suggested pay rise and it has been suggested by the payroll officer that an increase in weekly working hours by thirty minutes is the most appropriate and financially agreeable action for both the clerk and council. It was agreed that the salary level will be revisited in the new financial year following a review of the clerk's working hours and this will be placed on the April agenda.

ACTION: Clerk to contact the payroll officer to action the recommendation

DONE: February 4<sup>th</sup>

ACTION: Clerk to contact the payroll officer to research the salary structure for the April meeting.

[c] The clerk, in his role as the Wellington Rural coordinator, has been interviewed by BBC Radio Somerset regarding the return of Speedwatch in order to reinforce the planned installation of speed indicator devices in Ford Street for which we still await the erection of the support poles. The clerk will also attend a briefing session clarify the revised reporting system. If any parishioner wishes to volunteer to assist in Speedwatch please contact the clerk.

**Item 4:** Police Liaison

The police report for December 2025 has been received, and it was pleasing to note the low level of incidences.

**Item 5:** Planning, Infrastructure and Development

[a] Application 44/25/0013 at Oldway road was discussed at great length by those present. The Parish Council has now finalised its submission which is a strong objection and this will be placed on the planning website. There is some lack of clarity over the final date for these submissions. The planning portal gives February 6<sup>th</sup> as the final date, but the site notice allows 21 days after January 23<sup>rd</sup>, which is February 13<sup>th</sup>. The Parish Council will abide by the date published on the website and also request a referral to Committee. Thanks were expressed to Councillor Olive.

ACTION: The submission will be made on February 4<sup>th</sup>

DONE: February 4<sup>th</sup>

## Wellington Without Parish Council

### **Item 6: Financial Issues**

[a] Transaction E28 for dog waste bin installation has been requested at £222 including VAT

ACTION: Council to sign to approve the transaction

DONE: February 3rd

[b] Reimbursement for the above less VAT has been kindly made by Mr Simon Ross and another generous parishioner. The bin has proved to be successful!

[c] Precept. Receipt of the application for £9000 has been confirmed by Somerset Council

[d] Pension re-enrolment. This is legally required by June 22<sup>nd</sup> and will be carried out by the payroll officer

[e] The clerk has contacted “The Complete Professional”, who has again agreed to undertake the annual audit

[f] The Annual Governance and Accountability Return, is a mandatory yearly financial and governance document for small local councils in England (parish/town councils), showing their accounts, governance statements, and audit results to ensure transparency and proper use of public funds, with sections for internal/external audit and public inspection. The default submission deadline for the completed AGAR (or Certificate of Exemption) to the external auditor is expected to be around July 1st following the expected receipt of the documentation following the closure of the financial year on March 31<sup>st</sup> 2026.

### **Item 7: County, District and Unitary Authority Councillors**

[a] It has been reported that Somerset Council ranks highly in new Department for Transport gradings for road condition and maintenance. The Council also scores green for its maintenance programme. This is based on the percentage of work which is preventative – i.e. aimed at stopping defects such as potholes from forming in the first place, rather than reactive. The scoring means Somerset Council ranks in the top 21 out of 153 authorities for carrying out effective preventive road maintenance, such as resurfacing and surface dressing.

[b] There was an interesting discussion outlining how the planning system works and changes and demands, which have occurred both locally and nationally.

### **Item 8: Any other urgent business**

[a] It has been agreed to move meetings to the second Monday of each month except for one exception in May. This will necessitate moving to the Lang Room behind All Saints Church at Rockwell Green. This is a well-equipped modern room, and all parishioners and press are welcome to attend. It will not be possible to use the second Monday in May due to the clerk’s absence. Thanks are extended to the Sampford Arundel Parish Hall Bookings Secretary for his past support.

[b] The Annual General Meeting will be held on May 18<sup>th</sup>

[c] The clerk has reported a tree in unsafe condition at Ford Street which may affect road safety

[d] The clerk has also reported a large pothole in Gerbestone Lane

[e] A parishioner has drawn attention to a flooding and black ice issue in the parish, exacerbated by barriers to prevent water accessing nearby fields. This has been reported to Somerset Council.

## Wellington Without Parish Council

[f] There have been a number of electricity blackouts at various points in the parish and Western Power have asked that all such occurrences even minor ones, are reported to them.

The dates of the future meetings will be:

2026	9 <sup>th</sup> March	13 <sup>th</sup> April	18 <sup>th</sup> May
8 <sup>th</sup> June	13 <sup>th</sup> July	No meeting in August	14 <sup>th</sup> September
12 <sup>th</sup> October	9 <sup>th</sup> November	14 <sup>th</sup> December	
2027	11 <sup>th</sup> January	8 <sup>th</sup> February	8 <sup>th</sup> March

### **Date of the next meeting**

March 9<sup>th</sup> at 7.00pm

in the Lang Room, behind All Saints Church, Rockwell Green

[Please note the change of venue]