

Minutes of the West Coker Parish Council Meeting  
Dawes Twineworks Visitor's Centre, 94 High Street, West Coker BA22 9AU  
**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> of February 2026 at 7:30pm**

**Present:**

Cllr A Perry (Chair), Cllr D Neal (Vice-Chair), Cllr A McPhee, Cllr B Hampshire, Cllr C Barker, Cllr A Chubb, Cllr R Aitken, Cllr C Guthrie, Cllr A Blight.

**In attendance:**

Kate Fullerton – Clerk, four members of the public.

**i) Public Session – to hear any matters from the public**

There were no public session items.

**ii) To receive reports from Somerset Council Councillors**

The report was received before the meeting and emailed to all councillors.

**19:30 – Meeting opened.**

**1/25/178 To receive and consider any apologies for absence and to resolve to accept or refuse them**

Cllr Andrews sent his apologies for absence.

**RESOLVED:** To accept the above apologies.

**2/25/179 To receive any declarations of interest for items on this agenda**

None.

**3/25/180 To approve the Minutes of the parish council meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> of January 2026**

**RESOLVED:** To approve the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

**4/25/181 To review actions from the Minutes of the last meeting**

Actions reviewed.

**5/25/182 To receive a report from the Wardens**

**a) Footpath Warden – Cllr Chubb**

A collapsed post located just past the recreation ground requires fixing.

**ACTION: Cllr Neal/Ranger**

**b) Tree Warden – Cllr Blight**

Cllr Blight and some volunteers have been busy working on the pond at Hatherstone Wood.

**c) Environmental Warden – Cllr Andrews**

Nothing to report.

**d) Flooding Warden – Cllr Guthrie**

Nothing to report.

**6/25/183 Planning**

**a) Applications:**

None.

**b) To consider any recent planning applications from Somerset Council (South), received in the days after the agenda had been circulated and prior to this meeting. Interested public and parish councillors; please refer to (South) Somerset Council planning portal for details of planning items that might be discussed under this item:**

None.

**c) South Somerset Planning Decisions**

None.

**7/25/184 Sampson's Wood - to receive an update on the transfer of the lease to West Coker Parish Council**

No update at this time.



**8/25/185 Bunford Heights Equipped Play Area (LEAP)**

**a) To note letter sent to Untypical in December 2025 and any response received.**

A response has now been received from Untypical denying that there are any restrictions on the height of the land to be transferred for the play area. The letter has been shared with Somerset Council and also the lead contact for the Bunford Heights residents' group.

**b) To consider any further action required.**

Members reviewed the letter and felt that a contribution from Untypical of £15,000 might be acceptable if it was found there were no legal basis for insisting the extra soil is removed at their cost. Somerset Council will first need to confirm if the land meets the planning approval and S106 Agreement conditions and, if so, prepare for the land transfer from Untypical.

**ACTION: Clerk, Cllr Hewitson**

**9/25/186 Parish Ranger - to note upcoming work for the Ranger**

- Focus on drain clearing.
- Tree to be removed from the stream at the recreation ground.
- To repair the collapsed post just past the recreation ground.

**ACTION: Cllr Neal, Ranger**

**10/25/187 To share information on Local Community Network (LCN) matters – Chair Perry and Cllr Neal.**

Chair Perry asked the Clerk to forward the AA information to the LCN Officer, to share at a future meeting.

**11/25/188 Yeovil Town Council (YTC) – request to meet to discuss funding the Octagon Theatre project**

Clerk to inform the YTC clerk of the preferred meeting date; 24<sup>th</sup> of February at 2.30pm. Cllrs Perry, Barker, Aitken, McPhee, Hampshire and Neal would like to attend the meeting.

**ACTION: Clerk**

**12/25/189 Somerset Council Asset Devolution – to agree to the terms of the transfer of the assets to West Coker Parish Council**

**RESOLVED:** To accept the 'Heads of Terms' provided by Somerset Council devolution team.

**13/25/190 Village Pound – Cllr Aitken**

Cllr Aitken has formed a working group to apply for grants to turn the village pound into a Museum of Sunken Lanes. The parish council would retain ownership.

**14/25/191 Financial and regulatory matters**

**a) To receive a grant request from Crime-Stopppers.**

Item deferred. Clerk to compile a list of all grant requests to consider at the November parish council meeting.

**b) To receive an amended quote from Somerset Council for emptying bins in the parish**

Item deferred as quote hasn't been received.

**c) To approve the following payments:**

i.	K Fullerton – Clerk salary February 2026	£ 1489.75
ii.	K Fullerton – Monthly expenses (wfh, MS365) February 2026	£ 73.52
iii.	P Sandford – Rec Grd Grant Caretaker salary February 2026	£ 153.87
iv.	Somerset Council – Pension February 2026	£ 499.06
v.	HMRC – PAYE February 2026	-
vi.	Premier Landscaping – Ranger December 2025	£ 401.00
vii.	B Andrews – reimbursement for trees	£ 89.28
viii.	West Coker Social Committee – Grant for Carols in the Square costs	£ 410.00
ix.	West Coker Commemoration Hall – Grant for Ropewalker printing costs	£ 2000.00
x.	Coker Rope & Sail CIO – Grant for meeting venue 2025/Jan2026	£ 315.00
xi.	BT – WIFI JP Inv January - PAID BY DD 16/01/2026	£ 25.43

**RESOLVED:** Cllrs Barker and Neal were given authority to proceed with authorising the above payments.

**ACTION: Cllrs Neal, Barker**

**f) To agree the sum for bank transfer between WCPC accounts.**

The Clerk advised that a funds transfer of £5,000 would be required.

**g) To receive the bank reconciliation.**

The Clerk presented a bank reconciliation dated the 4<sup>th</sup> of February 2026, showing a capital balance of £177,740.63.

**15/25/192 Highway Matters**

**a) White lines to be repainted at the junction of Manor Street and East Street.**

Noted and Traffic Management have confirmed the white lines will be repainted in April 2026.

TO NOTE: Amendment to the January 2026 minutes – January minutes stated that proposal A had been approved. This was incorrect as it was option 1 that was approved, which involved double yellow lines being installed by the narrow section of Manor Street (adjacent to The Manor wall) and double yellow lines on East Street opposite the junction to Manor Street.

**ACTION: Clerk**

**b) To consider purchasing the necessary panels and parts to transform the speed indicator device (SID) to solar powered for the sum of £1260.52 + VAT, or to buy a new solar powered SID at £2710.03 + VAT**

**RESOLVED:** To purchase a new solar powered SID to be located on Halves Lane.

**ACTION: Clerk**

**c) To monitor Lane's sluice gate issues.**

The Clerk has sought input from Cllr Mike Hewitson who is communicating with Somerset Council on the sluice gate issues.

**ACTION: Clerk**

**d) Water run-off issues from The Ridge, running down through Snails Terrace/Churlands Close – to receive and comment on a report from Roy Hayes/FWAG.**

Still awaiting a formal report from FWAG. Cllr Neal will speak to the resident affected.

**ACTION: Cllr Neal**

**e) Sleight's Lane – outstanding works by Somerset Council and landowner.**

No further progress from Roy Hayes/FWAG to report. A resident has asked for an update on the outstanding works. Clerk will respond.

**ACTION: Clerk**

**f) To receive Road Defects Report from Somerset Council.**

Received.

**g) To note any blocked drains or potholes reported online by councillors and any follow-up required by the parish council.**

Potholes on Gooseacre Lane. It was noted that the recent repairs are not lasting and the road is in desperate need of resurfacing.

**h) A30 resurfacing preparations**

Noted that the road will be closed from White Post Garage up to just before the junction of A30/Gooseacre Lane. Road closed between the hours of 7pm and 6am Monday to Friday (open Saturday and Sunday nights).

**i) To note road closure notices.**

Reviewed and noted.

**16/25/193 To receive proposals and information regarding the new pavilion project and playing field refurbishment**

**a) To receive a quote for a 20ft storage container for the recreation ground.**

A quote was received from MK Containers for a 'used once' green 20ft container at £2000 to supply and £340 to deliver to a hardstanding. Online quotes at similar prices.

**RESOLVED:** To accept the offer. Delivery after the base has been installed by PH Hardwill.

**ACTION: Clerk**

**b) To receive two further quotes for the installation of a footpath from the pedestrian gate to the tennis courts.**

Item deferred as the Clerk has not yet obtained the two further quotes.

**ACTION: Clerk**

**17/25/194 To receive the following reports**

**a) Recreation Ground for Children – Chair Perry**

Chair Perry reported that the cricket safety nets were being installed today. Trustee would like to remove the toddler-multi piece of equipment and replace with something similar. Clerk to ask Somerset Landscapes to quote and to suggest a suitable alternative piece of play equipment.

**ACTION: Clerk**

**b) Dawes Twineworks – Cllr Aitken.**

Cllr Aitken spoke fondly of Reg Warr, an ex-employee of the Twineworks, who worked there from 1939 – 1943.



**c) West Coker Commemoration Hall (WCCH) – Cllr Hampshire.**

Cllr Hampshire informed members that work had started on the patio refurbishment. The recent event with James Purefoy was very well attended and raised over £900. Volunteers are needed to deliver the Ropewalker newsletter.

**18/25/195 To receive correspondence**

- To consider the request from Yeovil Without Parish Council to lobby the Government to make a decision on the New Medium Lift helicopter contract.

**RESOLVED:** Members wanted to support the initiative but were unable to attend the meeting that had been arranged.

**ACTION: Clerk**

- To receive an email regarding the proposed repair of the leaning wall on East Street (Twineworks).  
Noted.
- Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service Community Risk Management Plan engagement survey.  
Noted.

**ACTION: Clerk**

**19/25/196 To note items for the next agenda**

- LGPS – Employer pension contributions reducing for next period.
- LEVI – to consider locations for Local Vehicle Infrastructure.
- Councillor succession.

**ACTION: Clerk**

**20/25/197 To note the date of the next meeting**

5<sup>th</sup> of March 2026, 7.30pm, Ordinary Parish Council Meeting.

**20:45 Meeting closed.**