ABBAS AND TEMPLECOMBE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting held on the
14th April 2026

PRESENT Councillors R Cave (Chair), **A** Kerry, S Webb (Vice Chair), E Crowther, S Hood, M Vaughan, D Savage, P Coombes, T Williams

IN ATTENDANCE
1 Parishioner

Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed new co-opted Parish Councillor T Williams, who had signed her Acceptance of Office prior to the commencement of the meeting.
He reported that Councillor D Molineux had submitted his resignation from the Parish Council. Clerk would acknowledge his resignation and thank him for his time and support whilst on the Parish Council.

A representative of the In Bloom group gave a report on behalf of the group, which will be included with the reports for the Annual Parish Meeting 2026. Chairman thanked her for attending, she handed her report to the Clerk and left the meeting.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
A McAree, Somerset Councillor Hayward Burt and Nicola Clark

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS
S Webb declared her dispensation in respect of Slades Hill development (Knights Meadow). T Williams declared an interest in Slades Hill development (Knights Meadow) being a resident. R Cave and D Savage declared an interest in Agenda item 6 a) Bowden Road development. P Coombes declared an interest in Agenda item 10 1) Remembrance 2026/Poppy of Honour due to his role as a director.

3 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 10th March 2026
It was proposed by S Hood and seconded by A Kerry that the draft Minutes, as previously circulated, dated 10th March 2026, be agreed as correct. Signed by the Vice Chair.

4 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON THE 10.3.26
None.

5 CORRESPONDENCE
Received since the last meeting was discussed:
1) Report – April – Hayward Burt (Somerset Councillor – Somerset Council). Circulated prior to the meeting. Noted.
2) 2nd Templecombe Scout Group – AGM Thursday 23.4.26 7pm – Scout Hut. Chairman would be unable to attend; Clerk and S Hood would be present.
3) Network Rail = Vegetation Management at Gillingham Station – Templecombe. The work will be taking place daily from 08.00 30.3.26 – 17.00 31.7.26.
4) Somerset Local Plan – Cllr Diogo Rodrigues. Noted. S Webb had circulated, prior to the meeting, a summary from the Spatial Strategy document with regard to the growth within Templecombe for the Councillors information.
5) Letter dated 29.3.26 – reported loss of Hawthorne tree. Chairman read the letter out to the meeting and Councillors noted what action had been taken to remove the Hawthorne tree. Councillors do not endorse this form of action taken and Parishioners are reminded to seek permission before carrying out any works of this nature.
6) NHS Somerset – Somerset's Big Conversation 2025 – Engagement findings report – email 8.4.26. Noted.
7) Templecombe Village Fete – Saturday 22nd August 2026. Clerk reported receipt of booking form for a stall – deadline for confirmation of stall 1.8.26. The new circular path will have to be considered when setting up this year.

6 PLANNING – (S Webb/A McAree)
S Webb circulated her report prior to the meeting. Noted.
1) Applications (if applicable – received since publication of the agenda that require a decision prior to the next meeting)
a) Application no 22/03560/OUT – Outline planning permission with all matters reserved except for access, for up to 140 dwellings (use class C3), public open space, landscape, planting and biodiversity enhancements vehicular access from Bowden Road, community use, (flexible use Class E, F1 and/or F2), and associated infrastructure works – Land OS 6975 South of Bowden Road Templecombe – update on any matters since the March meeting (if applicable).

i) PFA Consulting – Pederstrian crossing at Throop Rd – planning application 22/03560/OUT email dated 31.3.26
The Councillors were not agreeable to giving up a parking space as requested. They felt that this was not a safe place to have a pedestrian crossing not only due to the restricted visibility up Church Hill but also considering queuing traffic, on to the A357, that would occur when a pedestrian is using the crossing. Pedestrians would also be crossing from the pavement side of School Lane and then having to walk through the car park, to access the school, as there is no pavement.

The Councillors felt a better location for a pedestrian crossing would be pass the Throop Road junction as pedestrians would then cross directly to the school entrance.

It was agreed to raise the matter of the derestriction issue at Combe Hill. Councillors feel that this is a concern with the development at Bowden Road and number of additional vehicles that will be generated.

b) Application no 26/00606/S73 – S73 application to vary condition 2 (approved plans) and 3 (materials) of approval 25/01320/HOU – erection of a single storey oak framed barn for parking vehicles – The Cider Press Middle Throop Farm Throop Rd
It was noted this application includes the introduction of clay tiles to match the host dwelling and a slight increase in the overall height of the proposed barn to accommodate the tiles.
Councillors had no objections to the application.

c) Application 26/00489/FUL – Change of use from mixed use (dwelling and former fish and chip shop) to a single dwelling – 1 High Street.
Councillors were satisfied reasonable attempts had been made to sell the business and retain the existing use and had no objections to the proposed change of use application.

d) Application 26/00443/ADV – Display of 7 non-illuminated wall mounted business identification signs (retrospective) – Unit 2 and 3 The Old Sidings Station Road.
Councillors considered the above application, and the following response was agreed: -
Abbas and Templecombe Parish Council have no planning reason to object
to the above application.

- Signs are not illuminated
- They face the railway and are screened by extensive trees
- No residential properties in close proximity
- No visibility from Lily Lane although the trees are not yet in full leaf.

e) Application 26.00427/S73A – S73A application to vary condition 1 (approved plans) for minor amendments to planning permission 21/00046/REM – Land at Slades Hill
S Webb circulated a comprehensive report prior to the meeting. The following conclusion was agreed by all Councillors: -

The S73A application seeks to legitimise substantial deviations from the approved Reserved Matters. These deviations:

- reduce safety, amenity and accessibility,
- undermine the drainage strategy,
- compromise ecological mitigation,
- diminish overall development quality,
- fail to meet NPPF Paragraph 140,
- conflict with NPPF Paragraph 135 (design and safety),
- conflict with Local Plan Policy EQ2,
- and result from the applicant's own construction decisions.

For these reasons, the application should be refused, and the developer required to:

- implement the approved scheme, or
- submit a full planning application for comprehensive redesign to achieve the high standard of development promised and deserved by the residents of Templecombe.

A copy of the full response submitted by the Parish Council can be obtained from the clerk at clerk@abbasandtemplecombe-pc.gov.uk Copies to be forwarded to Councillors H Burt and N Clark, S Dyke M, D Mumby (Somerset Live), E Crowther for Parish Council website.
Councillors noted that parish councils can consider requesting that an application can be referred to Somerset Council's planning committee. Under Section 5 of the committee's terms of reference (particularly 5.4 and 5.8), parish councils may request referral where an application is controversial, of significant public interest, or raises material planning issues.

Councillors discussed the above option and agreed that this course of action should be taken, and the Parish Council should ask that the above application is referred to Committee. Clerk to action.

2) **Determinations**
None.

3) **Knights Meadow Development – update if applicable (S Webb)**

S Webb circulated her report prior to the meeting. The following points were noted:

3. Current Status of the Development

Landscaping and Works Promised for January 2026

Tilia notified residents in late December 2025 that the following work would begin in January 2026:

- Turfing the frontage on the right-hand side of the main entrance and paths near the pedestrian link
- Installing:
  - a lifebuoy post at the attenuation pond
  - a bollard near Plot 21
  - close-board fencing at both ends of the maintenance corridors ("3m offsets")
- Stone picking and seeding public open spaces
- Completing the school playing field extension within 4–6 weeks by importing and spreading topsoil

However, no update was given regarding:

- LEAP opening
- Traffic calming completion
- Public open space maintenance
- Completion of the planting scheme

Current Position

- Only limited turfing has taken place.
- The lifebuoy post is installed but no lifebuoy is in place.
- Additional wooden posts around the attenuation pond appear to further restrict vehicle access, which conflicts with the maintenance access requirements although amendment to vehicular access is part of the S73 application.
- Close-board fencing installed in February blocked all access to the 3m offsets, including emergency access needed for oil-spill response and gabion wall maintenance. Narrow gates have now been installed, but they do not provide full access and are not properly secured.
- Boundary fences built within the 3m offset remain unresolved and continue to compromise emergency access and structural protection.
- Significant levelling and soil importation continues at the school field, which remains incomplete.
- There has been no evidence of stone picking.
- Some additional surface preparation has commenced on the Footpath link to Church Hill
- Additional fencing has been installed surrounding the LEAP which is not compliant with current planning conditions.
- The Parish Council is actively pursuing Somerset Council on the Section 106 obligation relating to the burial ground extension, which remains incomplete.

a) Planning Enforcement Officer – update

No update to report.

b) 106 Agreement – Transfer of land for additional burial ground land – update

No update to report.

4) **Other**

a) Planning Committee South next meeting 21st April 2026 at 2pm The Council Chambers Council Offices Brympton Way Yeovil, Update on meeting held on the 17th March 2026 if applicable.

7) Village Hall – update (if applicable) (Clerk/R Cave)

Chairman reported that the external painting had been completed. The outside lights are sometimes not coming on or if they do they stay on for a long period of time. The sensors will need checking and possibly replacing.

Chairman reported that Wessex Internet had been contacted and had an offer that would be suitable for the Village Hall to have Wi-fi. The package would cost £44.00 excluding VAT per month with an activation fee of £49.00. Chairman proposed that the Parish Council meet the cost. Councillors agreed and Clerk would contact Wessex Internet to start the process.

8) ACCOUNTING MATTERS – (S Webb/ Clerk)

1) To approve accounts and authorise payments

Vice Chair confirmed invoices balance against payments. It was proposed by S Hood and seconded by P Coombes that the following payments be authorized.

ABBAS AND TEMPLECOMBE PARISH COUNCIL PAYMENTS & RECEIPTS - For April 2026 Meeting

PAYMENTS

TO BE RAISED

PAYEE		DESCRIPTION	NET	VAT	TOTAL
NFU Mutual		Tractor insurance 26/27	90.96	0.00	**90.96**
J Pratt (Groundsman)		Salary/Expenses - March 2026	871.73	0.00	**871.73**
T J Chapman (Clerk)		Salary/Expenses - April 2026	600.00	0.00	**600.00**
SALC		Affliation fees 26/27	758.67	0.00	**758.67**
HMRC Cumbernauld		HMRC NI Month 1 payment	27.45	0.00	**27.45**
M HaskettAgri Contractors Ltd		Hedgetrimming - Churchyard	96.00	19.20	**115.20**
M Beard Painting & Dec0		Village Hall external painting	4075.00	815.00	**4890.00**
			0.00	0.00	**0.00**
			0.00	0.00	**0.00**
TOTAL Bank Payments			**6,519.81**	**834.20**	**7,354.01**
DIRECT DEBITS					
Biffa (debited 26.4.26)		Waste collection	124.95	24.99	**149.94**
British Gas (debited 13.4.26)		Electricity - Changing rooms	20.23	1.01	**21.24**
Unity Trust Bank 30.4.26		Bank charges	9.10	0.00	**9.10**
Unity Trust Bank 31.3.26		Manual Credit Handling Charge	0.90	0.00	**0.90**
			0.00	0.00	**0.00**
TOTAL DIRECT DEBITS			**155.18**	**26.00**	**181.18**
TOTAL PAYMENTS			**6,674.99**	**860.20**	**7,535.19**
RECEIPTS since last meeting					
P Coombes Gdn Services		Refund of payment for trees	156.95	0.00	156.95
HMRC		VAT refund	550.80	0.00	550.80
Scottish & Southern Elec	Plot/burial fees - burial ground	Wayleave 26/27 chq	15.61	0.00	15.61
Unity Trust Bank		Interest as at 31.3.26	415.69	0.00	415.69
TOTAL RECEIPTS					**1,139.05**

NB £24,000 transferred from Instant Access Account to Current Account Re Deposit for Path 24/3/26

£24,000 transferred to Renovation Building - 26/3/26

A Kerry and D Savage will authorise the payments on the 15th April 2026 and notify Clerk.

2) Appointment of Internal Auditor

Clerk reported that she had spoken to the appointed internal auditor 2025 who had indicated that she would no longer be able to carry on being the internal auditor for Abbas and Templecombe Parish Council. Clerk had been given another contact who would be prepared to take on the role, but they are not local. A further qualified accountant has been contacted, and they have initially indicated that they could carry out the internal audit for the year end 31.3.26. Clerk had made an appointment to meet her. Councillors would be prepared to for her to carry out the internal audit for the year end 31.3.26 if she feels she can carry out the work.

3) Other

No matters reported.

9 LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORK–LCN Meeting - next meeting to held on 7th May 2026 note change of date (Venue to be confirmed) – R Cave/D Savage/Clerk

Chairman reported that the next LCN meeting would take place now on the 7th May, venue to be confirmed. The Police and Crime Commissioner, Clare Moody, will be in attendance. It was noted there had been an incident of anti-social behaviour at Knights Meadow.

Notes from the Highways working group had been circulated prior to the meeting the next meeting will be on the 2nd June and will focus on traffic management.

10 OTHER MATTERS REPORTED FOR DISCUSSION

1) Remembrance 2026/Poppy of Honour – update if applicable

P Coombes reported that the use of the Recreation Ground would not be going ahead.

2) SCRAPP Meeting – Update (Chairman/A Kerry)

1) Letter to Sarah Dyke MP – (A Kerry)

A copy of the letter to S Dyke MP had been circulated, prior to the meeting, requesting a visit to the Village by S Dyke to look at issues with Knights Meadow and Westcombe/West Street in relation to the proposed developments on West Street and Bowden Road. No reply had been received to date.

2) Councillors agreed that the Parish Council should join the SCRAPP group as it may well be somewhere advice could be obtained bearing in mind future developments within the Village i.e. Bowden Road, West Street, Knights Templar Court and the ongoing issues with Knights Meadow – Slades Hill. S Webb agreed to represent the Parish Council. Chairman would reply to SCRAPP,

3) Somerset Council – Briefing 16.3.26 – update on the Local Plan/Local Transport Plan

Details of the recording of the parish briefing – Local Plan/Local Transport Plan had been circulated prior to the meeting.

4) Somerset Council – Adult Social Care Strategy – Crisis and Resilience Fund – to get help with school holiday fund and oil costs support

Details circulated to Councillors prior to meeting. Notes on what is being made available to assist residents facing financial hardship and cost of living pressures to be included on the website.

5) Defibrillator training (S Hood)

S Hood reported that the defibrillator training would also include CPR. When there is a date and venue it would be advertised.

6) Other

No matters reported.

11 RECREATION GROUND PROJECT – UPDATE (A Kerry, S Hood, D Savage, E Crowther)

A Kerry circulated his report prior to the meeting. The following update/points were noted: -

- A Kerry reported that two sides of the path have now been done and were awaiting tarmac. A Kerry and Chairman had reviewed the west side.
- There will be a rise of 12% for the tarmac.
- The costs will be close to £60K which accounts for the extras reported at the March meeting.
- A Kerry reported that the costs of the access to the tennis courts would be in the region of £6,000 for approximate 65m of path. Councillors discussed whether it was felt this work could be undertaken bearing in mind the extra work that has been agreed to complete the circular path and deal with the issues of the surface at the kissing gate. It was proposed by A Kerry and seconded by the Chairman that the work to the tennis courts should not be carried out.

12 TEMPLECOMBE TOGETHER (S HOOD) – UPDATE

S Hood circulated his report prior to the meeting. The March Community Lunch was well attended**.** Men who like to talk group met for the first time at the Village Hall. This initiative provides an opportunity for men to enjoy a tea/ coffee and biscuits and to talk about anything. The group will meet on the first Friday of each month from 2.30 to 4.00.

13 PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE – (E Crowther)

E Crowther circulated copies of the documents mention in a) and b) below prior to the meeting.

a) Accessibility Statement

Councillors agreed to adopt the Accessibility Statement.

b) IT Policy

Councillors agreed to adopt the IT Policy.

c) Other

E Crowther enquired as to obtaining a secure access to an AI account for the Parish Council. This could be obtained via Co-pilot and the use of Microsoft 365. Clerk would make an enquiry as her Microsoft 365 was shortly due for renewal.

14 UPDATE ON TRAFFIC CALMING MODIFICATIONS (A Kerry, Clerk)

A Kerry circulated his report prior to the meeting.

1) Speed Indicator Device (SID) update

The SID is now operational at the White Cottages. There is an improvement in adherence to the 20 mph limit. We still need to get appropriate brackets.

2) A357 issues/issues around Templecombe

A Kerry reported that a letter has been sent to our MP Sarah Dyke regarding the Westcombe /Vine Street/West Street/Bowden Road traffic issues and the additional 200 houses in the area. She has been invited to walk the area with us to see for herself. No response has been forthcoming so far. The issue is also on the South-East Highways LCN meeting in early June.

3) Other

No matters reported.

15 HIGHWAY MATTERS – (A Kerry. Clerk)

Clerk to update on various highway issues if applicable

1) Damage to wall around Yew Tree – update

Clerk has sent a chase up email asking if there is any indication as to when they would be able to look at the project, no reply received.

P Coombes reported that he had inspected the Yew Tree and it has come out of winter showing signs of stress. He has taken cuttings over the last 12 months with a 100% failure. There is also an increase in the amount of dead wood in it. It was agreed that an inspection needs to be carried out as there is a possibility of underlining issues, its noted water is escaping through the cracks in the wall. P Coombes would let Clerk have some contacts that may be prepared to carry out an assessment.

2) Casterbridge Place – section of verge at entrance – update

Clerk reported that she had now spoken with the maintenance service provider with regard to the Section 96 Licence. The service provider suggested that the Parish Council may need to speak with the agents for the management of Casterbridge Place and he provided details. He did mention that an issue had arisen with the school children waiting on the verge area for the school bus and this would need to be considered if any planting took place. Chairman considered that the Parish Council should not be involved with the verge area. Councillors agreed. Clerk would inform the resident of Casterbridge Place.

3) Derestriction – Templecombe Henstridge Combe Hill – update

Chairman reported response received from Traffic Management. They have checked the extents of the speed limits on their mapping system and these match with what is on site. The terminal signs at Combe Hill and High Street, Yenston are correctly located. Both locations are restricted roads by virtue of the system of street lighting in place, therefore are 30mph by default. The terminal signs at each end are also illuminated.

The junction with the A357 and Common Lane is within the National Speed Limit (NSL) and has no speed limit change there. The map that the Parish Council provided shows the NSL running from Common Lane to a point approximately 150m to the southeast which would be too short for a section of 60mph road. It also appears to show the 20mph limit starting at the junction of Bowden Road which is also incorrect.

4) Somerset Council – Enhanced Highways Maintenance Scheme for highway works funded by City, Town and Parish Councils – 8.4.26

It was agreed to review the details once the Enhanced Highways Maintenance Scheme is discussed at the LCN Highways meeting on the 2nd June.

5) Somerset Bus Partnership – update – S Webb)

S Webb circulated her report prior to the meeting and reported as follows: -

The Department for Transport (DfT) have announced that Somerset Council will receive £13.1m of additional funding to support both bus Services and network infrastructure in Somerset . The additional funding is to be rolled out between 2026 and 2029, would help local travel become more reliable.

The three-year funding commitment is designed to give councils the certainty to create longer-term plans around bus travel, rather than running on a year-by-year basis.

SERVICE 58 Timetable Changes

Despite increased funding there will be a further negative change to the 58 route from Wincanton to Yeovil via Templecombe operated by First Bus (Buses of Somerset)

Date of timetable change: Sunday 20 April

The Service 58A route is withdrawn with the new timetable meaning no Saturday service at all for Stalbridge. Knock on effects include the withdrawal of the 1645 journey from Yeovil to Wincanton on Monday to Friday, leaving a gap of over 2 hours between journeys in both directions during the evening peak. On Saturday, the service is every 2 hours throughout, meaning a reduction from the current Saturday offering which has additional journeys at the beginning of the day and at the end of the day.

The current Timetable for the 58 route from Wincanton to Yeovil via Templecombe can be found at:
https://www.firstbus.co.uk/somerset/plan-journey/timetables.

6) Other matters – if applicable not on the agenda

No matters reported.

16 ENVIRONMENTAL/OPEN SPACES/TREES WORKING GROUP (M VAUGHAN, P COOMBES, A McAREE)

a) Hedge and Lawn Ops – email 22.1.26 Review of Maintenance - update

Clerk reported that she would be meeting with Hedge and Lawn Ops on Monday 20th April to look at the areas included in the annual maintenance.

b) Other

1) April Report (P Coombes)

P Coombes circulated his report prior to the meeting. He will be carrying out weed spraying of all areas as last year and moving the wood chip to one location in readiness for the November tree planting.

17 FOOTPATHS REPORT (M Vaughan)

It was noted that the footpath to the rear of the Empire Farm, which joins with Hiscock's Lane is becoming impassable. Chairman suggested the Parish Council write to the Empire Farm and ask the landowners to clear the vegetation and if this is not carried out the Parish Council will ask Somerset Council to carry out the work which would be charged to the landowner.

18 BURIAL GROUND/CLOSED CHURCHYARD REPORT (CLERK)

No matters to report.

19 RECREATION GROUND MATTERS/CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA – (D Savage/P Coombes)

A) Play Area Reports/Quarterly/Annual- issues that need attention if applicable

i) Elite Playground Inspections – Inspection Contract April 2026

Clerk reported that she had completed the Inspection Contract for April 2026 and return a copy to Elite Playground Inspections.

B) Social Club (S Hood)

S Hood circulated his report prior to the meeting. There are many events planned, An Easter Egg hunt was held in April, other events include Templecombe Market, a female singer, Bingo, Community Lunch, Line Dancing, pool and skittles. A replacement Councillor will be needed to replace D Molineux.

C) Other

a) Changing rooms – Replacement inner door – quote

Chairman reported that he considered the inner door would not need to be a fire door, also as it would have to open outward it would interfere with the metal security gate. An automatic closure also would not be required. Clerk would contact C Chapman.

20 ANY OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING ON TUESDAY 12th May 2026. Items to Clerk by Monday 4th May 2026. The meeting will commence with the Annual Parish Council Meeting at 7pm and the usual monthly meeting will follow on afterwards.

No matters reported.

21) **CONFIDENTIAL – (PUBLIC AND PRESS WILL BE EXCLUDED DUE TO SENSITIVE, CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS)**

Chairman reported that there has been an accusation against the Clerk that may lead to further action.