ABBAS AND TEMPLECOMBE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting held on the
12th May 2026

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

IN ATTENDANCE
5 Parishioners
Chairman commenced the open session and welcomed the Parishioners to the meeting.

A representative of the 2nd Templecombe Scout Group reported on the current position with regard to the work required to the Scout Hut as follows: -

- The Scout Group are now looking at not demolishing the hut but leave the frame as it is, remove the roof and straighten the structure. The roof would be replaced with felt. Planning permission would not be required only building regulation approval.
- No ecology survey required, The Scout Group have commissioned a bat survey. There does not appear to be any evidence of bats and is a low/medium risk. Survey will go to the Trustee Board.
- The electric meter will need to be relocated in a box outside. The interior walls will be cleaned and any asbestos removed professionally.

Chairman thanked him for the update and offered any help with advertising when the work is being carried out, to warn users of the trackway. Any work being carried out would have to be considered if the burial ground was needed for a burial.

A resident of Combe Hill reported that she had noted the response from Traffic Management in respect of the derestriction of signage on Combe Hill. The residents affected by the section of road with the higher speed limit are willing to pay to have the signage relocated. Chairman stated he thought it would have to be carried out under the name of the Parish Council and the Council would contact Traffic Management to start the process.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Councillors S Hood, D Savage Somerset Councillor Nicola Clark. Chairman reiterated A McAree's resignation and thanked her for her time on the Council.

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 declared an interest in Agenda item 6 a) Bowden Road development.

3 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AND ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON THE 14th APRIL 2026
It was proposed by S Webb and seconded by P Coombes that the draft Minutes, as previously circulated, dated 14TH April 2026 in respect of the Annual Parish Meeting, be agreed as correct. Signed by the Chairman.
It was proposed by M Vaughan and seconded by S Webb that the draft Minutes, as previously circulated dated 14th April 2026, be agreed as correct and signed by the Chairman.

4 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON THE 14.4.26
None.

5 CORRESPONDENCE
Received since the last meeting was discussed:
1) Report – May – Hayward Burt (Somerset Councillor – Somerset Council). Circulated prior to the meeting. Noted.
2) Yeovil HASU – Speak OUT to SAVE our Emergency Stroke Unit – email dated 3.5.26. Chairman referred to the email which was circulated prior to the meeting. Councillors agreed that the Parish Council comments, regarding the proposed closure of the Hyper Acute Stroke Unit should be repeated. The closure of the unit would be detrimental to communities and as speed is of the essence when a stroke occurs travelling to Taunton or Dorchester delays time before patients are treated.

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 April meeting (if applicable). No matters reported.

2) **Determinations – the following were noted: -**

Change of use from mixed use (dwelling and former fish and chip shop) to a single dwelling house (Use Class C3) Retrospective Open for comment icon
1 High Street Templecombe Somerset BA8 0JA
Ref. No: 26/00489/FUL Received: Mon 02 Mar 2026 Validated: Fri 13 Mar 2026 Status: Approved 17/04/26

26/00443/ADV Display of 7 No. non illuminated wall mounted business identification signs at The Old Sidings Business Park, Templecombe (retrospective application)
Unit 2 And 3 The Old Sidings Station Road Templecombe Somerset BA8 0JR Approved 30/04/26

Discharge of Condition No 6 (Scheme of Tree and Hedgerow Protection Measures) of planning application 19/01604/OUT Open for comment icon
Land At Coombe Farm Os Plots 4300 Part And 4613 Pa West Street Templecombe Somerset
Ref. No: 26/00758/DOC1 | Received: Tue 31 Mar 2026 | Validated: Tue 31 Mar 2026 | Status: Condition discharged 5 May 2026

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

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

a) Tilia Homes – Letter to S Dyke MP – 16.4.26

T Williams reported that she had gone back to S Dyke MP and possibly a visit could be scheduled in during June/July to visit Knights Meadow. It was agreed that S Webb and T Williams could put an Agenda together and include the highway issues within the Village, the sites at Bowden Road, West Street and the Nursing Home site. Going forward the Parish Council strongly feel that builders should not be allowed to move on to another development before they have finished a previous development as per the planning application conditions.

b) Somerset Council reply Re Section 73A application to Planning Committee South

Clerk reported that a reply had been received from the Planning Officer confirming that our request had been placed on the file.

c) Planning Enforcement Officer – update if applicable

No update to report.

d) 106 Agreement – Transfer of land for additional burial ground land – update if applicable

No update to report.

e) Travel Plan

It is noted that the Travel Plan has not been started. It may be that SCRAPP may have some experience that could help.

The following points were also noted: -

- sone picking and seeding public open spaces – topsoil has been added to some areas, and some seeding has taken place but on the school field extension seeding appears to be on top of existing rubble
- 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.
- Some additional surface preparation has commenced on the footpath link to Church Hill it is below 3m along whole length and below 2m as it narrows to 1.55m
- 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.

4) **Other**

a) Planning Committee South next meeting 19th May 2026 at 2pm The Council Chambers Council Offices Brympton Way Yeovil, Update on meeting held on the 21st April 2026 if applicable.

b) Commencement of the Local Plan – email dated 17.4.26
A Kerry reported that the reply received from the Lead Member – Somerset Council mainly detailed how the Local Plan will be conducted.

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

Chairman read out a letter received from the Chair of the Village Hall Committee thanking the Parish Council for carrying out the redecoration of the exterior of the hall. The following matters were discussed: -

- A number of tiles had slipped on the roof, and it is felt that the vent box, on the middle of the roof, could now be removed and the roof tiled over. Clerk is waiting for an inspection to be carried out.
- The disused exit door, in the extension, needs some work to the bottom of it, boarding up and painting. Chairman had volunteered to have a look at what is needed.
- The Village Hall Committee have agreed to pay £10 monthly towards the costs quoted by Wessex Internet for the proposed internet connection. Awaiting an external inspection by Wessex Internet.

8) ACCOUNTING MATTERS – (S Webb/ Clerk)

1) To approve accounts and authorise payments

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

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

PAYMENTS				
TO BE RAISED				
PAYEE	**DESCRIPTION**	**NET**	**VAT**	**TOTAL**
Water 2 Business	water - 22.10.25 to 2.4.26	549.72	0.00	**549.72**
J Pratt (Groundsman)	Salary/Expenses - April 2026	935.32	4.77	**940.09**
T J Chapman (Clerk)	Salary/Expenses - May 2026	604.75	0.00	**604.75**
Elite Playground Inspections	Quarterly inspection - April 25	55.00	11.00	**66.00**
HMRC Cumbernauld	HMRC NI Month 2 payment	27.45	0.00	**27.45**
Play UK Playgrounds Ltd	Zip wire check/We Hopper grease	90.00	18.00	**108.00**
Milborne Port Computers	Renewal of Microsoft 365 1y	87.50	17.50	**105.00**
TOTAL Bank Payments		**2,349.74**	**51.27**	**2,401.01**
DIRECT DEBITS				
Biffa (debited 24.5.26)	Waste collection	100.66	20.13	**120.79**
British Gas (debited 14.5.26)	Electricity - Changing rooms	21.77	1.09	**22.86**
Unity Trust Bank 31.5.26	Bank charges	8.50	0.00	**8.50**
		0.00	0.00	**0.00**
		0.00	0.00	**0.00**
TOTAL DIRECT DEBITS		**130.93**	**21.22**	**152.15**
TOTAL PAYMENTS		**2,480.67**	**72.49**	**2,553.16**
RECEIPTS since last meeting				
Somerset Council	1st Payment Precept 26/27	27500.00	0.00	27500.00
		0.00	0.00	0.00
	.	0.00	0.00	0.00

TOTAL RECEIPTS **27,500.00**

NB £24,000 transferred from Instant Access Account to Current Account Re Path 23/4/26

£24,000 transferred to Renovation Building - 27/4/26 (2nd payment)

VAT refund submitted 4.5.26 - £9,068.92

A Kerry and E Crowther will authorise the payments on the 13th May 2026 and notify Clerk.

2) Review of the Insurance Cover 2026/27 (if applicable)

Clerk reported that a quotation had been requested from our current insurers, Zurich. The three-year agreement expires this year, the following quotations were received: -

- 1 year premium - £4,354.81
- 1st year premium of a 3-year agreement - £3,949.45

The last payment of the previous three-year agreement amounted to £3,088.79. Chairman proposed that the Parish Council take up the offer of the three-year agreement quotation of £3,949.45. Agreed by all Councillors. Clerk would forward a copy of the policy documentation to the Chairman for review.

2) Proposed purchase of mower for use at the Recreation Ground

Matter to be discussed under Agenda item 16 b) Other.

4) Other

No matters reported.

9 LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORK–LCN Meeting – update on meeting to held on 7th May 2026 at Charlton Horethorne Village Hall – R Cave/D Savage/Clerk

Chairman reported that D Savage had circulated a report of the meeting held on the 7th May. The Police and Crime Commissioner Clare Moody and accompany Police were unable to attend. The meeting included a presentation from the Chair of Charlton Horethorne Parish Council, Highways Maintenance update and a talk on a community youth initiative – performance capture. Next meeting will be the AGM on Wednesday 15th July venue to be confirmed. The Highway Working group meet next on 2nd June at Castle Cary.

10 OTHER MATTERS REPORTED FOR DISCUSSION

1) SCRAPP Meeting – Update (Chairman/S Webb)

Chairman reported that the Parish Council had been accepted as members. No information had been received as to payment of the joining fees.

2) Somerset Council – Weekly Parish email 17.4.26 – Last call to complete Somerset's Health and Wellbeing Survey – deadline 27.4.26

Clerk reported that the deadline for the survey had now passed.

3) St Mary's Clock repair – email dated 1.5.26

Chairman read out the email received from the Churchwarden. He reported that there is a problem with the clock in the Church Tower with the striking mechanism jamming intermittently. Clerk reported that since sending the email they have been able to carry out some remedial work to the clock and at the moment it is working better. The clock will be monitored.

4) Defibrillator training (S Hood)

Deferred to next meeting as S Hood was not in attendance.

5) Other

No matters reported.

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

Chairman thanked A Kerry for his work with the path project and overseeing the work. A Kerry circulated his report prior to the meeting. He reported that the surface is as good as it can be and he had met with the contractor regarding a few issues that will be completed during this week. There has been some good feedback from users of the path.

A Kerry suggested in the spirit of naming the path Wilson's Way (or similar) perhaps we could have an opening including the school with some form of 'sponsored running/cycling event'. He would contact the Headteacher at the School and see if they have a suggestion for an activity. It was also suggested that MP Sarah Dyke may be approached to officially open the path, which could take place at the same time as the Village Fete. Chairman would investigate a plaque/road sign, possibly cast iron, for the path name.

12 TEMPLECOMBE TOGETHER (S HOOD) – UPDATE

S Hood circulated his report prior to the meeting. He reported that they are continuing to provide refreshments for the Daisy Chain Mum and Toddler group. The last monthly community lunch had 37 residents attending, the highest number so far.

13 PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE – (E Crowther)

a) Co-pilot – update

Clerk reported that she had looked into whether it would be possible for the Councillors to have access to Co-pilot via the Parish Council's Family Microsoft 365. There are five licences available, but Clerk had been advised that there may be problems if the Councillor left and the licence had to be removed from their computer. It was agreed that E Crowther would speak to our computer support provider.

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

A Kerry circulated his report prior to the meeting.

1) Speed Indicator Device (SID) - update

A Kerry reported that the SID is operating well and he will circulate a report from the latest information during the month. Clamping issue to be sorted shortly.

Councillor Hayward Burt joined the meeting at 8.11 pm

2) A357 issues around Templecombe – if applicable

A Kerry reported as follows: -

- Our MP has responded to the note sent to her in March regarding the issues around the cumulative planning approvals in and around the Westcombe/Bowden Road/Vine Street area which will significantly increase traffic and pedestrian issues. In the response she states that she is unable to help in Planning Matters. In her response she asks us to use our Local Unitary Councillors and let her know if we get no response. Councillor Hayward Burt has spent time trying to get some sort of response from the relevant people basically attempting to get someone to visit us and walk the area and has been met with a 'not my issue' buck passing attitude. It is on the agenda for the next Highways LCN as is the A357 condition south of the crossing.

3) Other

- The kerb at the cottage, on Slades Hill, that experience flooding had been completed and will be painted for safety in due course so it's not a trip hazard.
- The kerb had also been attended to at Stoneygate High Street.

15 HIGHWAY MATTERS – (A Kerry. Clerk)

Clerk to update on various highway issues if applicable

1) Damage to wall around Yew Tree – update

Clerk reported that an initial assessment of the condition of the Yew tree had been carried out and the contractor reported as follows: -

- Bark in good order.
- Lower half of the canopy satisfactory
- Extremities not so good
- Root problem – fibrous root system is probably not getting the nutrients' the tree needs.
- Consider taking 8ft off the canopy and 2ft on the growth to the side of the tree where the growth looks more healthy
- The tree is supporting a big canopy.

2) Village parking issue email dated 28.4.26

Chairman read out the email to the Councillors and asked the Clerk to let the resident have contact details for Somerset Council Highways so any issues could be reported direct.

3) Somerset Bus Partnership – update – S Webb)

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

The following details regarding fares were noted: -

Since January 2026, Somerset bus fares will largely be capped at a maximum of £3 for single journeys under the national fare cap scheme, with First Bus implementing £2.40 for short hops (under 3 miles) and offering Tap On Tap Off for best value, while child fares are half price, all part of a simplified zone system (Taunton, Yeovil, Bridgwater, Network).

Key Fare Details from January 2026:

National £3 Fare Cap: A government-backed scheme keeps most single bus journeys in England, including Somerset, at a maximum of £3 extended in most areas until March 2027

First Bus Somerset Changes:

Short Hops: Journeys under 3 miles cost £2.40.

Longer Journeys: Max out at £3, aligning with the national cap.

Child Fares: Half the adult single fare.

Tap On Tap Off: Using contactless, you automatically get the best fare, with daily and weekly caps ensuring you never pay more than the zone limit.

Fare Zones: Simplified into Taunton, Yeovil, Bridgwater, and Network zones for easier understanding.

How to Check Fares:

Use the **First Bus app** or website to plan journeys and see specific prices.

Check the Think Travel website for general updates and participating operators.

4) Other matters – if applicable not on the agenda

Chairman referred to the discussions held during the open session with a resident from Combe Hill and the issue of the derestriction of the speed on a section of Combe Hill towards the traffic lights in the Combe Hill dip. Clerk would contact Traffic Management to progress the matter.

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

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

Clerk reported that she had met with the contractor and an up-to-date quotation would be supplied.

b) Other

1) May Report (P Coombes)

P Coombes circulated his report prior to the meeting. A discussion followed in connection with suggestions for mowing equipment for the Groundsman to enable him to mow the areas that are now not so accessible with the construction of the path: -

- P Coombes had details of a ride on mower, that with additional attachments i.e. mower heads and brush, could be used in all areas of the Recreation Ground/tennis courts (brush head). Equipment could be leased. With a multi-use machine, it may be that it could replace the tractor/topper set up we currently have. The value of the tractor was discussed and what may be expected if the tractor/topper needed to be replaced.
- Multi-use machine could be insured and taxed for use on the road.
- Chairman felt we needed to have a look at the Recreation Ground when the work was finished with the Groundsman to see what would work best. He felt if we went for a smaller ride on machine this would be in addition to the tractor/topper. Clerk would liaise with Groundsman/Chair and set up a meeting.

2) Simple way to reduce dog fouling complaints (P Coombes)

It was agreed not to pursue the option to provide dog fouling bags as per the suggestion received.

17 FOOTPATHS REPORT (M Vaughan)

Footpath Ref 29/8 joining with 14/16 – Grid Ref ST 714236

Clerk reported that an email had been sent to the landowners in connection with the above footpath and accessibility issues. No reply received to date.

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 – April quarterly report

It is noted that there is a section of fence in the bottom corner of the Play Area that needs some maintenance. Clerk would establish ownership.

ii) Zip wire inspection/We Hopper maintenance – update

Quarterly inspection had been carried out on the Zip Wire, and all is running well. The 6-monthly greasing of the We Hopper had also been carried out. The bolts have also been tightened on the Rotaweb unit.

B) Social Club (S Hood)

S Hood circulated his report prior to the meeting. One person had joined the bar staff. New booking arrangements and costs are being discussed to be finalised at the next meeting.

C) Other

No matters reported.

20 ANY OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING ON TUESDAY 9th June 2026. Items to Clerk by Monday 1st June 2026.

No matters reported.

Meeting closed at 8.29 pm signed R Cave dated 9.6.26