ABBAS AND TEMPLECOMBE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting held on the
9th June 2026

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

IN ATTENDANCE
5 Parishioners

Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed the Parishioners.

He reported to the Councillors that regrettably he had received a letter from the Clerk giving notice of her intention to retire as Clerk/RFO as at the 30th September 2026 after 25 years of employment.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Somerset Councillor Nicola Clark and Hayward Burt.

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.

3 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 12TH MAY 2026 AND ANNUAL PARISH MEETING COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 12th MAY 2026
It was proposed by S Webb and seconded by A Kerry that the draft Minutes, as previously circulated, dated 12TH May 2026 in respect of the Annual Parish Council 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 date 12th May 2026, be agreed as correct and signed by the Chairman.

4 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON THE 12.5.26
None.

5 CORRESPONDENCE
Received since the last meeting was discussed:
1) Report – June – 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 26.5.26. Circulated prior to the meeting. A Kerry had asked for an explanation as to what the 'robust mitigations' are and what the evaluation process is measuring - e.g. time for the patient to arrive at Taunton or Dorchester for treatment measured from the initial call for the ambulance and what the outcome for the patient was? Clerk had gone back to the NHS Somerset Integrated Board with the above question, awaiting reply.
3) Somerset Council – Notification of online update on the Local Plan – 10th June 2026 at 4pm – Noted.
4) SALC – June is Gypsey. Roma and Traveller History month – details of workshop sessions – Noted.
5) Other – any further correspondence received after preparation of the agenda
Chairman reported that following the significant flooding events in January and February 2026, Somerset Council has been awarded £50m from DEFRA to support a major programme of work to strengthen flood resilience across the county. This funding will support a two-year programme, working with partners, to deliver a range of interventions.

6 PLANNING – (S Webb/T Williams)
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 May meeting (if applicable). No matters reported.

b) Application no 26/00977/HOU – Extension to Farmhouse – Mead Farm Temple Lane Templecombe BA8 0JW
Details of the application were circulated prior to the meeting. Councillors discussed the application as follows: -

- Impact of additional traffic on Tempe Lane/width of road.
- Ecology impact.
- No material objections.

Councillors had no objections and to support the application.

2) **Determinations**

S73 application to vary conditions 2 (approved plans) and 3 (materials) of approval 25/01320/HOU for Erection of a single storey oak framed barn for parking vehicles. Open for comment icon

The Cider Press Middle Throop Farm Throop Road Templecombe Somerset BA8 0HR (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)

Ref. No: 26/00606/S73 | Received: Fri 13 Mar 2026 | Validated: Thu 26 Mar 2026 | Status: Approved 12 May subject to conditions,

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

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

a) Visit to Knights Meadow by MP Sarah Dyke

S Webb and T Williams would start to put together a formal Agenda for the visit of MP Sarah Dyke with the main focus being Knights Meadow. S Webb had spoken to the Head and Deputy Head from the School who have stated they are not prepared to accept the field until it is finished. It was felt that a representative from the Education Authority should be asked to attend the meeting with MP Sarah Dyke.

T Williams reported that she had submitted to formal complaints to Tilia and a meeting is to take place on the 16th June with four representatives from Tilia and residents of Knights Meadow so they can see what state the development site has been left in.

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

Clerk confirmed that Councillors N Clarke and H Burt are in support of the request submitted by the Parish Council for the Section 73A application to be taken to the Planning Committee South.

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) S Webb's monthly report – Knights Meadow

S Webb circulated her extensive report detailing the issues that have been reported by a resident to Tilia. The full report can be viewed on the Parish Council website, or a copy can be obtained from the Clerk.

4) **Other**

a) Planning Committee South next meeting 16th June 2026 at 2pm The Council Chambers Council Offices Brympton Way Yeovil, Update on meeting held on the 19th May 2026 (Cancelled)

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

a) Wessex Internet/connection to the Village Hall via School Lane – update

Chairman reported that the Clerk had provided information to Wessex Internet in relation to ownership of School Lane so the necessary licenses etc could be obtained. It is their intention to carry out the work to bring the internet to the Village Hall, during the school holidays, on the 3rd August.

b) Roof tiles – Clerk reported that she had met a potential roofer who felt that he could not undertake the work required to replace the tiles due to the steepness of the roof and the necessary ladders that would be required. Clerk would seek another roofer.

c) Chairman reported that he had the materials to repair the disused door in the extension area.

8) ACCOUNTING MATTERS – (S Webb/R Cave/ 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 June 2026 Meeting

PAYMENTS

TO BE RAISED

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	NET	VAT	TOTAL
R A Hall	Internal audit fees yr end 31.3.26	130.00	0.00	**130.00**
J Pratt (Groundsman)	Salary/Expenses - May 2026	861.68	3.97	**865.65**
T J Chapman (Clerk)	Salary/Expenses - June 2026	645.00	0.00	**645.00**
Markel Direct	Insurance premium - In Bloom	83.87	0.00	**83.87**
HMRC Cumbernauld	HMRC NI Month 3 payment	27.45	0.00	**27.45**
SALC	Training fee - AI 23.2.26	45.00	0.00	**45.00**

		0.00	0.00	**0.00**
		0.00	0.00	**0.00**
		0.00	0.00	**0.00**
TOTAL Bank Payments		**1,793.00**	**3.97**	**1,796.97**
DIRECT DEBITS				
Biffa (debited 21.6.26)	Waste collection	100.66	20.13	**120.79**
British Gas (debited 12.6.26)	Electricity - Changing rooms	19.72	0.99	**20.71**
		0.00	0.00	**0.00**
		0.00	0.00	**0.00**
		0.00	0.00	**0.00**
TOTAL DIRECT DEBITS		**120.38**	**21.12**	**141.50**
TOTAL PAYMENTS		**1,913.38**	**25.09**	**1,938.47**
RECEIPTS since last meeting				
Unity Trust Bank	Bank charges reversal	8.50	0.00	8.50
HMRC	VAT refund 1.3.26 to 30.4.26	9068.92	0.00	9068.92
Scottish and Southern	Wayleave payment 26/27	15.61	0.00	15.61
			0.00	0.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS				**9,093.03**

NB £8,000 transferred from Current Account to Instant Access Account

£23,259.96 transferred to Renovation Building - (3rd and 4th payments)

£12,772.36 transferred from Instant Access Account to Current Account

£3,949.45 payment to Zurich - Insurance premium 3 yr agreement

E Crowther and D Savage agreed to authorise the payments on the 10th June 2026 and notify Clerk.

2) Completion of Annual Return year end 31.3.26

a) Completion of Annual Governance Statement

Chairman read out the Annual Governance Statement to the Councillors which was agreed and signed and dated by the Chairman and Clerk.

b) Completion of Accounting Statement

Chairman referred to the Accounting Statement which was agreed, signed and dated by the Chairman and Clerk.

c) Review of Internal Controls 2026/2027

The Internal Controls 2026/27 were reviewed and agreed.

2) Proposed purchase of mower for use at the Recreation Ground – update (R Cave)

Chairman reported that a visit had been made to Gartells – Landpower Machinery to view a possible ride on mower for the use of the Groundsman at the Recreation Ground. A new ride on mower that would be able to be used at the Recreation Ground, considering the addition of the pathway, would cost in the region of £2,759.40 excluding VAT (Model no R214TC). A second-hand machine would be coming in that could be brought to the Recreation Ground for a trial to see if it would be suitable. Gartells would contact Clerk to arrange an appointment.

Chairman reminded Councillors that £1,500 had been included in the budget 2026/27 when it was thought the Parish Council would be replacing like for like. Chairman proposed that this would need to be increased to approximately £2,000 plus, Councillors agreed to the necessary increase in budget to purchase a suitable ride-on mower.

4) Other

No matters reported.

9 LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORK–LCN Meeting – Next Meeting including AGM 15th July 2026 7pm at Bruton Community Hall – (R Cave/D Savage/Clerk)

a) Update on meeting held on 2nd June 2026 at Castle Cary (Highways Working Group) – (A Kerry/R Cave)

A Kerry reported that he and the Chairman attended the meeting on the 2.6.26. Andy Barron from Highways Traffic Management had been invited to attend to identify potential solutions for the Westcombe/Vine Street/West Street/Bowden Road area. Any solution (if found) would need to be funded by the Parish Council.

We are also trying to set up a meeting with someone from the Highways Infrastructure team to visit our village to gauge the impact of the additional housing on the area. This will be a much more difficult discussion as it impinges on already taken Planning decisions which did not allow for any road/footpath infrastructure apart from the development access onto existing roads. Any likely traffic survey is likely to be at the Parish Council's expense. The meeting was attended by the Parking Services Officer who informed the meeting that Parking on yellow lines can only be enforced if issues are reported - as usual resources are directed at the worst areas. Currently parking on pavements, restricting footpaths are not yet within the scope of local councils (only London has this ability). Although this will be extended to include Local Councils in principle the methodology has not been agreed with National Highways.

b) Somerset Local Plan 2045 – email from K Murdoch – Somerset Council forwarded by LCN Link Officer for information purposes

Circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting, noted.

10 OTHER MATTERS REPORTED FOR DISCUSSION

1) SCRAPP Meeting – Update (R Cave/S Webb)

Clerk had attempted to pay the membership fee of £150 but the Bank had not accepted the details given. Chairman would contact them and ask for confirmation of the details so payment could be made as soon as possible.

2) Defibrillator training (S Hood)

Chairman proposed that when the trainer and hall can be booked the event should be advertised. S Hood would check initially to see what the maximum number of attendees could be.

3) Other – if applicable

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 path is complete and feedback from the majority of people has been positive. A Parishioner had suggested having a Hopscotch grid drawn on the path. Councillors agreed that if this was progressed it would need to be done professionally. It was suggested to give the children some chalks to see how much it would be used. A Kerry had approached the School with regard to an event to open the path and the Executive Head, was enthusiastic he has delegated this to members of the School Staff, waiting for a response from them regarding a meeting to discuss further. If this is not forthcoming an alternative may be needed.

Chairman circulated suggestions for the dedication sign, Wilson's Way. The sign is supplied with legs and fixings. It can be manufactured in die pressed aluminium - £281 or in polycarbonate - £207. It was agreed that the sign should be made with die pressed aluminium and the suggested wording accepted. The sign would be located by entrance adjacent to the path.

12 TEMPLECOMBE TOGETHER (S HOOD) – UPDATE

S Hood circulated his report prior to the meeting. The Community Lunch on the 19th July will include music. The Parish Lunches have been put on hold for the moment and hopefully will resume in September.

13 PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE – (E Crowther)

a) Co-pilot – update

E Crowther circulated his report prior to the meeting. He has looked at the use of AI and its clear councillors will be breaking GDPR rules if they use their own accounts, however use of the Parish councils account is limited by the fact that only have a family plan which only the account holder has access to the AI. This limits it to, only the account holder for Copilot use.

To change to a business plan would cost the council at least a further £70 a year. Whatever the council decide on this it is imperative that a policy is in place. It was agreed to proceed to change the family membership to business. Logging in would be the same way as emails. The website is currently being updated to reflect the changes to the council.

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 circulated the SID report for the last few weeks. The device has now been set to the mode which does not display the vehicle speed but still registers it. This can then be compared with the attached report to identify the impact of the SID. We still need to sort out the brackets to move the SID to either Yew Tree bend or Lionsgate.

2) A357 issues around Templecombe – if applicable

It is strongly felt that when looking at issues the A357 should be considered along with the A371 and that a representative, from Somerset Council, should come and look at the issues within the Village and come up with some options that the presumably the Parish Council would have to pay for.

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

Chairman read out an email dated 9.6.25 from Somerset Council – County Arboriculturist in connection with the verbal feedback the supplied to them from the tree surgeon. It is felt that a crown reduction may be worthwhile to lessen the loading on the tree, but it is felt more prudent to improve the current limited rooting environment. removal of the planting and replacement with a suitable layer of organic mulch may help improve the soil conditions and reduce competition for moisture and nutrients available to the tree. A Parishioner offered a load of manure to mulch around the base of the tree. The County Arboriculturist would be happy to have a site meeting, and it was agreed to take up the offer, Clerk to action.

The Assistant Highway Manager has been contacted with regard to the wall damage.

2) Derestriction – Combe Hill – update

Chairman reported that he had spoken to Andy Barron – Traffic Management and he has confirmed that the derestriction has been agreed with the Police, and the matter can be taken forward upon receipt of the deposit required of £500.00. Clerk will report back to the residents of Combe Hill.

3) Somerset Bus Partnership – update – S Webb)

S Webb circulated her report prior to the meeting, the following information was noted: -

Children aged 5 to 15 can travel for free on participating local buses across England throughout August as part of the government's Great British Summer Savings initiative. The Chancellor is committing more than £100 million to fund the free fares scheme and also continuing to support bus services

Key Fare Details

- There are no limits to the number of children under 5 who travel free with a fare paying adult throughout the year
- . Every child aged five to 15 in England will travel free on participating local buses throughout August – with unlimited journeys, no registration required, and at no cost to families.

4) Other matters – if applicable not on the agenda

No matters reported.

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

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

Chairman reported the following quotations, for the various locations, received for 2026/27:

Churchyard/Burial Ground	£1,200.00
High Street/Vine Street	380.00
School Lane Car Park	200.00

It was proposed by M Vaughan and seconded by A Kerry that the quotations be accepted. Clerk to confirm to contractor.

b) Other

1) June Report (P Coombes)

P Coombes reported that he would deal with the weed spraying at the Churchyard/Village Hall and Recreation Ground when the weather is appropriate and he would move the wood chippings at the Recreation Ground.

17 FOOTPATHS REPORT (M Vaughan/T Williams)

a) Footpath Report – T Williams

T Williams circulated a detailed Public Rights of Way (PROW) report highlighting a number of issues that would need to be addressed. M Vaughan and T Williams will get together to establish the landowners.

b) Footpath Ref 29/8 joining with 14/16 – Grid Ref ST 714236 – if applicable

Clerk reported that no reply has been received. The footpath representatives suggested that the work is carried out, where necessary, to allow safe public access.

18 BURIAL GROUND/CLOSED CHURCHYARD REPORT (CLERK)

a) Loose stones – boundary wall with closed churchyard – update

Clerk reported that there are two areas of wall, along the boundary with the closed churchyard, where loose stones have fallen out. Clerk is waiting to hear back from Tom Trouton Dry Stone Walling.

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) Issues with fencing on boundary of Recreation Ground with Yarnbarton – update

Clerk reported that letters had been sent to the owners/occupiers of the properties with fencing issues, along the boundary, with the recreation ground. One resident had reported that the repair needed would be carried out, no reply had been received from the other resident.

ii) Chairman reported the following works required at the Recreation Ground: -

- It is felt that the litter bin should be moved to abut the pathway, on the Jeames boundary.
- The cycle bars are now both bend and it was agreed that they could be removed.
- The installation of the Wilson's Way signpost

P Coombes agreed to have a look at the above jobs.

iii) It was noted that some of the dog bins did not have a sign on them indicating that the bin is for use of the dog walkers on recreation ground only and not for dog waste brought from their homes. Chairman volunteered to check.

B) Social Club (S Hood)

S Hood circulated his report prior to the meeting. It was noted that the Club need from volunteers or they will have to consider having paid staff.

C) Other

Clerk reported that the new door to the changing rooms will be installed on Thursday of this week. A whole dry week will be needed to carry out the work to replace the fascia boards and gutters on the Social Club.

20 ANY OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING ON TUESDAY 14th July 2026. Items to Clerk by Monday 6th July 2026.

a) Co-option of two Parish Councillors

Clerk reported that the official Public Notice has been displayed and sent to Somerset Council. The time was now up, and official confirmation had not been received to date.

b) It was suggested that a further dog bin may be required along Bowden Road, leading out of the Village, initially it is felt that signage could be increased highlighting the possibility of £1,000 fine. It was agreed to put a reminder on the website asking Parishioners to respect their Village, when it comes to dog fouling.

c) The pile of topsoil, left from the work to the path, measures 15m x 17m it has been suggested the wildflowers should be sown on the mound. Clerk had a booklet showing suggested seeds, P Coombes would also look into what seed was available.

Meeting closed at 8.31 pm signed R Cave dated