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

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

IN ATTENDANCE
1 Parishioner, Councillor Hayward Burt

Chairman opened the meeting and commenced the open session.

Councillor Hayward Burt commented on the Report from the Care Quality Commission, known as CQC, published on adult social care service on Friday 5 June, which has been rated 'Requires Improvement.'
He referred to the Scoping Consultation which is live in respect of the Local Plan. Two points he noted is the hierarchy Templecombe is now in and how Horsington and Templecombe seem to be being put together. He also thought we should be looking at the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) report, Spatial Strategy and the misrepresentation of what our Village has, including how many towns you can travel to within an hour.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Somerset Councillor Nicola Clark. Councillors S Hood and D Savage.

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 HELD ON THE 9TH JUNE 2026
It was proposed by A Kerry and seconded by M Vaughan that the draft Minutes, as previously circulated, dated 9TH June 2026 be agreed as correct and signed by the Chairman.

4 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON THE 9.6.26
None.

5 CORRESPONDENCE
Received since the last meeting was discussed:
1) Report – July – Hayward Burt (Somerset Councillor – Somerset Council). Circulated prior to the meeting. Noted.
2) Annual Parish Report – Sticky Fingers – email dated 4.7.26. Chairman read out the email to the meeting as it was concerning hall hire fees for the group the email was passed to the Clerk to action with the Village Hall Committee.
3) Councillor Diogo Rodrigues – email 8.7.26 - Planning Performance in Somerset. Views are being sought on how our experience has been over the last 12 months since Somerset Council introduced temporary measures to tackle backlogs and pressures within the planning services. It was agreed a reply should be sent to the email. Councillors made the following points: -

- Rural villages suffer with more enforcement cases.
- Lack of officer visits pre and post reorganisation is detrimental to our Village and to rural areas in general.
- Definite improvement in the time for the smaller planning applications to go through. Larger applications remain and the lack of planning meetings suggests either this stagnation remains and/ lack of a level of oversight.
- Volume of S73 submissions has increased.
- Some developers do not delivery quality housing or what has been paid for.
- New developments do not take into account the volume of traffic that will be generated to on already overloaded narrow roads.
- Developers should not be allowed to commence a new development until the one they have left is finished.

It was also noted that the number of HGVs through the Village have increased. 45% of traffic through the Village consists of HGVs. Consider working with Henstridge and carry out an official count.

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 June meeting (if applicable).
Councillor Hayward Burt reported that he had an update from the Principal Planning Officer who has only recently been allocated application 25/02759/REM – it is currently "on hold".

This is because the applicant submitted revised proposals that are subject of a separate pre application enquiry which is currently under consideration.

Following initial comments from the key consultees (Placemaking, Highways, & Ecology) revised plans are awaited.

Once the advice has been issued on the pre-app then it is understood that the applicant intends to submit revised plans under application 25/02759/REM. Such revised proposals will then be subject to re-consultation in due course.

2) **Determinations**

Application no 26/00977/HOU – Extension to Farmhouse – Mead Farm Temple Lane Templecombe (granted permission) subject to conditions.

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

T Williams 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 updated on the forthcoming visit, requested by the residents of Knights Meadow, of MP Sarah Dyke. An Agenda would be prepared, and S Webb had invited a representative from the school to attend.

T Williams reported that as a result of her formal complaint submitted to Tilia, four senior Tilia representatives met with residents; Tilia acknowledged the development has not met expected standards and committed to completing outstanding work. An action plan was produced following the meeting and she had received some emails since the visit. All the grass had been cut including the slope on the Leap.

While Tilia has acknowledged shortcomings, apologised for delays and set out a programme to complete landscaping and remedial works, residents continue to have significant concerns over planning compliance, safety, maintenance standards, privacy, infrastructure quality and changes to the original approved scheme. Section 73 application remains in progress.

b) Tilia Homes Ltd – email dated 27.6.26

Chairman read out email received from a Community Trust in Lincolnshire. The Trust is responsible for managing a public open space on a development that is having similar problems that we have encountered with Knights Meadow, due to unfinished areas that should have been completed by Tilia. The Councillors offered their support as the situation is so similar to our experience with Tilia. It was felt it may be preferable to have direct contact with the residents of Knights Meadow, through T Williams as Councillor.

c) Complaint to Tilia Homes regarding perimeter land around the estate – email 6.7.26

Chairman read out email received from a Parishioner. It was noted what action had been taken within the 3-metre perimeter strip which would be eventually conveyed to Tilia Management Company. It was felt this is another issue that would need to be taken up with Tilia.

d) Planning Enforcement Officer – update if applicable

No update to report.

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

No update to report.

f) Other matters – Knights Meadow

A follow-up meeting, potentially open to all residents, has been proposed for later in 2026.

4) Notice of Local Plan Scoping Consultation – deadline for representations 11.59pm 24.7.26

Noted. Chair referred to the points raised in the open session concerning Templecombe and would have a look at the reply form that's online to form a reply.

5) **Other**

a) Planning Committee South next meeting 23rd July 2026 at 2pm The Council Chambers Council Offices Brympton Way Yeovil, Update on meeting held on the 16th June 2026. No matters to report.

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

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

Clerk reported that the official notification had been received as to the closure of School Lane from the 3rd August until 4th August for 2 days.

b) Missing Roof tiles/removal of roof vent – update

Clerk reported that another roofer had been out to the Village Hall and we were now awaiting the quotation.

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 T Williams that the following payments be authorized.

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

PAYMENTS

TO BE RAISED

PAYEE		DESCRIPTION	NET	VAT	TOTAL
Chris Chapman Windows		Changing room door/guttering SC	740.00	0.00	**740.00**
J Pratt (Groundsman)		Salary/Expenses - June 2026	584.73	2.63	**587.36**
T J Chapman (Clerk)		Salary/Expenses - July 2026	698.23	4.38	**702.61**
Glasdon UK Ltd		200 x Dog bin bags - Rec Ground	59.06	11.81	**70.87**
HMRC Cumbernauld		HMRC NI Month 4 payment	27.45	0.00	**27.45**
Elite Playground nspections		Quarterly inspections July 26	55.00	11.00	**66.00**
Robin Cave		Refund Wilsons Way sign - Rec Gd	199.00	39.80	**238.80**
			0.00	0.00	**0.00**
			0.00	0.00	**0.00**
TOTAL Bank Payments			**2,363.47**	**69.62**	**2,433.09**
DIRECT DEBITS					
Biffa (debited 26.7.26)		Waste collection	125.83	25.17	**151.00**
British Gas (debited 13.7.26)		Electricity - Changing rooms	22.39	1.12	**23.51**
			0.00	0.00	**0.00**
			0.00	0.00	**0.00**
			0.00	0.00	**0.00**
TOTAL DIRECT DEBITS			**148.22**	**26.29**	**174.51**
TOTAL PAYMENTS			**2,511.69**	**95.91**	**2,607.60**
RECEIPTS since last meeting					
R J Shuttleworth		deposit for derestriction Combe Hill	500.00	0.00	500.00
Templars Tennis Club		Rent 26/27	30.00	0.00	30.00
2nd Templecombe Scouts		Rent 26/27	12.00	0.00	12.00
Unity Trust Bank	Interest		189.92	0.00	189.92
Templecombe Village Hall	Rent	Rent 23/27*	15.00	0.00	15.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS					**746.92**

NB payments made since June meet £150.00 SCRAPP Membership £500 deposit to Somerset Council Derestrictioin Combe Hill £99.60 Blackmore Vale Ltd - Clerk Advert

***To be banked (cash)**

A Kerry and E Crowther agreed to authorise the payments on the 15th July 2026 and notify Clerk.

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

Chairman reported that a second-hand mower had been brought to the Recreation Ground for a trial by the Groundsman. It met all the requirements needed at the Recreation Ground. Three quotations had now been received, for a similar model, ranging from £3,257.63 for a 94cm cutting deck to £7,282.66 for a 112cm cutting deck, excluding VAT.

Chairman proposed that the Parish Council purchase a Husqvarna R214TC 94cm at £3,257.63 excluding VAT, with the inclusion of a two-year warranty. Agreed by all Councillors present. Clerk would place the order with Gartells – Landpower Machinery.

3) 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)

The meeting scheduled for the 15th July has been cancelled. The next meeting including the AGM will take place on the 18th August 2026 at Bruton Community Hall at 7pm.

10 OTHER MATTERS REPORTED FOR DISCUSSION

1) SCRAPP – Update (R Cave/S Webb)

Received SCRAPP guidance document to answering the Local Plan Consultation 2030 – 2045 and toolkit to assist in objecting to inappropriate developments. They would like any photos showing any issues within our community. A Kerry suggested sending a copy of the photos he took of Vine Street and West Street.

2) Templecombe Village Fete – 22.8.26 – Parish Council stall

S Hood reported that he had now received a grant offer from Sports for England for £11,000 which would need to be matched by the Parish Council. It was agreed to have a stall at the Village Fete similar to last year and include an opportunity for the various groups that meet in the Village to advertise details of what their group offers. Clerk would put a request for the groups to make contact in the Messenger and book the stall.

3) Changes to the Publication of Councillors' Home Addresses/Register of Interest Forms (Clerk)

Clerk reported that there has been a change to legislation affecting the publication of councillors' home addresses. From 29 June 2026, local authorities will no longer be required to publish an elected or co-opted member's home address in public registers of interest or on council websites. This change has been introduced to support councillor safety and privacy, while maintaining appropriate transparency.

Home addresses have been removed from our website. Register of Interest forms will need to be updated if Councillors do not consent to their home addresses being published. If home addresses are removed from Register of Interest forms to maintain transparency, under the address section, it can be stated "home address not published in accordance with section 32A of the Localism Act 2011". Councillors present consented to their addresses being published except for E Crowther, P Coombes and T Williams – clerk handed E Crowther and P Coombes new forms to be completed and returned. T Williams had submitted her Register of Interest form previously which will still comply. Clerk to seek D Savages consent or otherwise and reply to Somerset Council.

4) Parish Information Sheet – Revenues and Welfare System Software downtime

Noted.

5) 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 has developed cracks in some areas and 'lumps' in others. He has spoken to the Contractors last week on site and they acknowledged the problems and are willing to help resolve them. The extremely dry weather has caused the ground to shrink back from the path causing problems, but the repairs can only happen when the weather is cooler and some rain has fallen. He also accepts that this work needs to happen prior to the potential freezing later in the year. The path is guaranteed but this issue is not due to poor 'workmanship or poor installation' which is covered. They have proposed that we pay for the materials and spoil disposal and that they supply labour and equipment to resolve the issues. The cost estimate for our share of the current issues is £500. A Kerry intended to go back to the contractor to establish what basis he came to this figure as there are now more areas appearing so the quoted figure may now increase.

12 TEMPLECOMBE TOGETHER (S HOOD) – UPDATE

S Hood circulated his report prior to the meeting. The Community Lunch in June was well attended; the July lunch will include music from the monthly Music Group.

13 PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE – (E Crowther)

a) Co-pilot – update

E Crowther circulated his report prior to the meeting. He had investigated the possibility of allowing Councillors to use AI on council business. Our IT providers have suggested we use our Microsoft Family 365 account; the licence is for 5 seats but that only applies to the office suite not Co-Pilot where only the account holder has access to it, and it would not be compliant as it has the same terms as personal accounts. If we did get a Microsoft 365 Business Account, our IT providers are unable to support us. He had been in contact with Cloudy IT and is waiting to hear back from them. Chairman suggested contacting SALC to see what information/help they could give us.

E Crowther suggested that the Parish Council have a policy making it clear that Personal and Family Co-Pilot accounts are not used for council business. A policy will also need to be investigated for the use of Co-Pilot for council business.

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 SID report from the last month with 'spy mode' in operation.

2) A357 issues around Templecombe – if applicable

a) Westcombe/Bowden Road/Vine Street issue – email dated 4.7.26 (A Kerry)

A Kerry referred to the previously circulated emails earlier in June/July. Currently there is no interest from the developers to resolve traffic flow issues when we see 200 new houses in the area. We would need to 'poll' the residents to identify the right option assuming there is interest. When the housing is underway significant funding should be available to the Parish Council from CIL etc. The following options were discussed: -

- Do nothing.
- Make Westcombe a No Parking area on the North side. No cost to the Parish Council
- Request a one-way scheme in Westcombe with no entry from Bowden Road. This option is likely to involve costs for the Parish Council.

It was felt the suggestions may not work and none of the options should be actioned.

3) Other

A Kerry had investigated traffic volumes on A357 now and in the future and the relationship with the new Transport Plan and the new Local Plan. Should we be asking for a survey of the A357 to clearly understand the situation and the expected increases due to increased volumes created by the additional activity. He suggested this is considered and discussed at the August meeting - could be a Highways LCN issue for Templecombe and Henstridge - but what about the influx from Dorset expansion?

Councillor P Coombes left the meeting at 8.55pm

15 HIGHWAY MATTERS – (A Kerry. Clerk)

Clerk to update on various highway issues if applicable

1) Damage to wall around Yew Tree – update

A Kerry and Clerk had met with Somerset Council – County Arboriculturist on site and the Chairman reported the following advice received: -

1. 4-5 feet of the canopy and any problem branches should be removed. Somerset Council anticipate traffic management costs to be in the region of £1,500 to £2,000 although this would need to be confirmed through quotation. The costs quoted are indicative at this stage.

2. The possibility of enriching the soil with a seaweed compound (Biochar) and adding a few inches of bark to improve the nutrients available to the tree was discussed. Somerset Council recommend improving the soil using biochar, which is a carbon-rich material produced by heating organic matter, such as wood chips, in a low-oxygen environment. The biochar should be incorporated with a well-rotted compost. Where possible, the biochar should be pre-charged with compost tea, seaweed extract, or a suitable fertiliser to maximise its benefits. It is understood that it is bought pre-charged.

A mix containing approximately 10–20% biochar by volume within the compost should be applied as a top dressing to a depth of approximately 30–50 mm. If space and site conditions allow, a layer of organic wood mulch should then be applied over the surface to help conserve moisture and further improve soil conditions. Prior to application, I would strongly recommend forking or lightly cultivating the soil surface to alleviate compaction and encourage integration of the new material into the existing rooting environment. This would help by retaining water which would benefit the tree. Currently the numbers of bulbs and other plants within the bed are very hungry for the available nutrients and the recommendation is that they are removed, approach would take 12 months to show any improvement.

3. County Arboriculturist did not feel that reshaping the stone surround to be more oval (as per Traffic Management suggestion) would help the tree although it might reduce the traffic collisions with the wall. He thought a protective bell bollard could be placed and the front end of the surround (similar to the one placed at the back) might help and leave the tree with the established rooting system

Following points were noted and actioned where applicable: -

- Until the wall is secure the plants may be the only thing holding the wall together.
- It was felt the tree needed regular watering, M Vaughan said that she would be able to do this.
- Clerk to obtain a quotation from Tom Trouton Dry Stone Walling to repair the wall.
- Clerk to contact Highways to see if we could get another bell bollard for the front end of the wall.

2) Derestriction – Combe Hill – update

Clerk reported that the deposit had been received from the residents and paid to Somerset Council. Work is currently underway to prepare the TRO and the changes to signing

3) Somerset Bus Partnership – update – S Webb)

S Webb circulated her report prior to the meeting. Bus fare cap on any single journey until March 2027. The Government confirmed from 1 January 2025 that a fare cap remains in place at just £3 for any single journey across Somerset and England and it applies to the majority of routes in Somerset.

The initiative applies to cross-county services, which means for example you can travel from Street to Bristol or Yeovil to Bridport for just £3. There are 13 operators involved in the scheme in Somerset – (see Parish Council website).

4) Other matters – if applicable not on the agenda

No reported matters.

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

1) July Report (P Coombes)

P Coombes circulated his report prior to the meeting, the following matters were discussed: -

- Hedge overgrowth – Vine Street, Westcombe, West Street crossroads. Clerk to write to house owners.
- Hedge/bramble overgrowth – Bowden Road to Vine Street footpath. Clerk to contact contractor to ask him to carry out the annual cut back as soon as possible.
- Overgrowth on footpath through the Combe Hill dip traffic lights. Clerk to inform Somerset Council.

2) Other

No matters reported.

17 FOOTPATHS REPORT (M Vaughan/T Williams)

a) Footpath Report – T Williams

T Williams circulated her report prior to the meeting. Chairman thanked her for the detailed report identifying issues that have been reported and landowners.

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

It was noted that the above footpaths show some signs of having been cleared, the minimal amount of work has been carried out and the enclosed path beyond is impassable to all but those determined to push through. Dog walkers will not use it, and the long grass poses a high risk of ticks. In short, the path requires clearance from the gate in the layby to the point at which this path leaves our boundary as it then opens out into fields which are all in the process of having the hay harvested. If further work is needed a team of volunteers from the Councillors are prepared to take on the task of making the footpaths accessible.

18 BURIAL GROUND/CLOSED CHURCHYARD REPORT (CLERK)

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

Clerk reported that Tom Trouton Dry Stone Walling had quoted a day's work amounting to £250.00. There are also a few loose stones on the boundary wall with Church Garth.

b) Churchyard – request to cut back Yew tree to allow access to grave

Clerk reported that a grave is being obstructed by the growth of a Yew tree. Contractor to cut back sufficiently when annual work in Churchyard is carried out.

c) Loose gate posts/fencing – burial ground

S Webb reported that the pedestrian gate from the trackway to access the burial ground has dropped and cannot be shut. The gate post is loose. Clerk to inspect and obtain a quote for the repair.

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) Junior Multi Play Unit – issues reported

Clerk reported that D Savage had looked at the issues raised which included a loose tread on the rope pull upside, a loose hand grip on the climbing wall and the rope which is loose causing the wood to move on the side of the climbing net. He had been able to tighten up and make safe. Issues to be monitored.

B) Social Club (S Hood/E Crowther)

E Crowther circulated his report prior to the meeting. A general call has been put out for committee members and volunteers.

C) Other

No matters reported.

20 ANY OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING ON TUESDAY 11th August 2026. Items to Clerk by Monday 3rd August 2026.

a) Co-option of two Parish Councillors

Clerk reported that no applications had been received and would re-advertise for the August meeting.

b) Vacancy for Parish Clerk/RFO – update

Chairman reported that applications are being received. Chairman, S Webb and Clerk agreed to meet at 7pm on the 4th August to put together some suitable questions for the applicants and it was suggested to hold interviews on the 17th August in the Village Hall, Clerk to check availability.

Meeting closed at 9.17 pm signed R Cave dated