**ABBAS AND TEMPLECOMBE PARISH COUNCIL**
**Minutes of the Meeting held on the**
**11th August 2026**

**PRESENT Councillors** R Cave (Chair), S Webb (Vice Chair), E Crowther, P Coombes, T Williams, S Hood

**IN ATTENDANCE**
**2 Parishioners Somerset Councillor Hayward Burt**

Chairman opened the meeting and commenced the open session.

Hayward Burt reported that the National Scheme of Delegation in respect of the changes to planning will come into force at the end of October. Applications will be spilt into Tier A - applications will always be delegated to Officers and Tier B – applications may go to Committee if they pass a gateway test. Certain conditions will apply to each tier.

**1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
Somerset Councillor Nicola Clark. Councillors D Savage, M Vaughan, A Kerry

**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 14TH JULY 2026**
It was proposed by S Webb and seconded by E Crowther that the draft Minutes, as previously circulated, dated 14th July 2026 be agreed as correct and signed by the Chairman.

**4 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON THE 14.7.26**
None.

**5 CORRESPONDENCE**
Received since the last meeting was discussed:
1) Report – August – Hayward Burt (Somerset Councillor – Somerset Council). Circulated prior to the meeting. Noted.
2) Councillor Diogo Rodrigues – Planning Enforcement in Somerset – email 3.8.26. S Webb would draft a reply.
3) Heating Oil – Chairman read out email 29.7.26. The Government Scheme to help people who rely on heating oil is being administered by Citizens Advice Somerset on behalf of Somerset Council. An article will be available shortly that will give details of how residents can make a claim if appropriate.
4) Improving Mobile Network coverage in Templecombe – email 18.7.26 – Chairman read out the letter. There does not seem to be an issue with EE but choice is limited. Often Church towers are used for masks. Clerk to enquire of the Diocese policy on the use of Church towers.
5) Somerset Council – Help shape the future of adult Social Care – The Big Conversation on Care. The campaign is designed to gather views from people who care and support, unpaid cares, families, care professionals and the wider public. They are seeking help with advertising and sharing it within the community. Clerk to forward poster/flyer to E Crowther/ put posters on noticeboards.

**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 July meeting (if applicable).

b) Application no 26/01738/HOU – Erection of a porch – 37 West Street Templecombe
Clerk circulated details prior to the meeting. Councillors agreed that they had no objections to the application.

2) **Determinations**
None.

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**

T Williams reported that Tilia had responded to Sarah Dyke MP with a letter on the 29th July giving an update on the works being carried out and this resulted in scheduled visit, for this month, being cancelled. If the visit had gone ahead, she would have witnessed what the developers had failed to complete and what future developments may result in due to no checkpoint of the planning conditions.

**b) Tilia Homes Ltd – email dated 29.7.26 to MP Sarah Dyke**

T Williams referred to the proposed handover to Lambert Smith Hampton Residential on the 1st September and the current outstanding Section 73 application. Residents have not been invoiced for service charge and are not likely to pay the charge with a number of outstanding matters yet to be completed. It was suggested that the proposed management company should be invited to visit the site as it is and see the wider effect it has on The Hamlet and Blackmore Vale Close. It was suggested that the matter could be referred to the local journalist, BBC and SCRAPP.

**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) Other matters – Knights Meadow**

No matters reported.

**4) Notice of Local Plan Scoping Consultation – update if applicable**

Chairman reported that he had submitted a reply on behalf of the Parish Council. The reply date had been extended to the 9th August.

**5) Shipping container on Templecombe Recreation Ground – letter dated 31.7.26**

Chairman referred to a letter received and stated that the position of the container is temporary as currently there is no other suitable location. Its present location is on a hard surface to make for ease of access, in wet weather and is being used with renovations at the Recreation Ground. In fulness of time it will be moved.

**6) Other**

a) Planning Committee South next meeting due to be held on the 18th August 2026 at 2pm The Council Chambers Council Offices Brympton Way Yeovil has been cancelled, Update on meeting held on the 29th July 2026. (Revised date) – 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 Wessex Internet had made two appointments to attend the hall, to install the cabling and to bring the cable into the hall.

**b) Missing Roof tiles/removal of roof vent – Quotation dated 28.7.26**

Chairman referred to the quotation received from Roy Spicer Roofing Ltd for the work to replace the missing tiles and removal of the vent. The quote amounts to £1,500.00 plus VAT. It was proposed by the Chairman that the quotation be accepted. Agreed by all Councillors.

**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 August 2026 Meeting**

**PAYMENTS**

**TO BE RAISED**

| PAYEE | DESCRIPTION | NET | VAT | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Play UK Playgrounds Ltd** | Zip wire inspection | 35.00 | 7.00 | **42.00** |
| **J Pratt (Groundsman)** | Salary/Expenses - July 2026 | 736.66 | 7.86 | **744.52** |
| **T J Chapman (Clerk)** | Salary/Expenses - August 2026 | 717.99 | 22.60 | **740.59** |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Gartells Landpower Machinery** | Husqvarna - ride on mower Rec | 3,257.63 | 651.53 | **3,909.16** |
| **HMRC Cumbernauld** | HMRC NI Month 5 payment | 27.45 | 0.00 | **27.45** |
| **Zurich Insurance** | Addional premium - ride on mower | 90.44 | 0.00 | **90.44** |
| **Robin Cave** | Battery pack - leaf blower | 45.00 | 0.00 | **45.00** |
| **Lampard Electrics** | repair to outside lights Village Hall | 161.11 | 32.22 | **193.33** |
| **SALC** | Training fees - 22.7.26 T Williams | 25.00 | 0.00 | **25.00** |
| | | | | |
| **TOTAL Bank Payments** | | **5,096.28** | **721.21** | **5,817.49** |
| | | | | |
| **DIRECT DEBITS** | | | | |
| **Biffa (debited 23.8 .26)** | Waste collection | 100.66 | 20.13 | **120.79** |
| **British Gas (debited 10.8.26)** | Electricity - Changing rooms | 19.68 | 0.98 | **20.66** |
| **Unity Trust (debited 31.8.26)** | Bank Charges - 1.7.26-31.7.26 | 7.00 | 0.00 | **7.00** |
| **Information Commissioners** | Annual fee 26/27 debited 29.7.26 | 47.00 | 0.00 | **47.00** |
| | | 0.00 | 0.00 | **0.00** |
| **TOTAL DIRECT DEBITS** | | **174.34** | **21.11** | **195.45** |
| | | | | |
| **TOTAL PAYMENTS** | | **5,270.62** | **742.32** | **6,012.94** |
| | | | | |
| **RECEIPTS since last meeting** | | | | |
| **TSSC** | Water refund/Rent 26/27 | 1161.86 | 0.00 | 1161.86 |
| **HMRC** | VAT refund | 3974.24 | 0.00 | 3974.24 |
| | | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| **TOTAL RECEIPTS** | | | | **5,136.10** |

**NB payments made since July meet £20.00 Twilighters Fete stall fee 22.8.26**

S Hood and E Crowther agreed to authorise the payments on the 12th August 2026 and notify Clerk.

**2) Other**

Clerk reported that the External Auditors had asked for an amendment to be made to the Annual Governance Statement and Internal Audit Report 2025/26 in relation to the Parish Council's responsibilities as Trustees. This has been done and the corrected documents forwarded to the External Auditors.

**9 LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORK–LCN Meeting – Next Meeting including AGM 25th August 2026 7pm at Bruton Community Hall – (R Cave/D Savage/Clerk)**

The further change of date was noted.

**10 OTHER MATTERS REPORTED FOR DISCUSSION**

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

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 30th September 7pm at Keniton Mandeville Village Hall. It was noted that the planning application for Keniton Mandeville that went through highlighted the same pattern for Bowden Road.

**2) Templecombe Village Fete – 22.8.26 – Parish Council stall**

It was agreed to carry on with the stall and include the following: -

- Key game
- Information on the gym equipment phase and opportunity to donate.
- Chance for village groups to promote their activities.

**3) Somerset Council – Parish Information Sheet – Best Value Notice July 2026**

Noted.

**4) Somerset Council – Parish update – Street Naming/Numbering/appointment of new Chief Financial Officer 23.7.26**

Noted.

**5) Somerset Council – Polling District and Polling Places Review – 27.7.26**

It was agreed that no change to the location of our polling station should be made.

**6) Somerset Council – Parish Briefing – Your opinions on Somerset Connectivity wanted – 28.7.26**

Circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. Response required by the 11th September. The following points raised by A Kerry were noted: -

- Many people in the Castle Cary, Wincanton, Bruton corridor (corridor 7) would value it being extended along to the A357 to the A30 as it appears to be a significant area where people need to travel. This could be extended to Yeovil via Milborne Port and Sherborne or benefit from public transport etc.There are thousands of houses scheduled for construction along this whole route along the Dorset section of the A357 right through to Wincanton and Castle Cary - without much local employment causing many more cars, vans and HGV's to be using narrow roads
- The A357 goes on into Dorset and crosses the A30 and maybe beyond the purview of this as it crosses County boundaries, but it is not considered here. If not accounted for here, then where would it be considered?
- The presence of the Exeter to Waterloo railway which has a station in Templecombe and is a frequent marketing aid to developers.
- Considering the impact of Thales - 700 people employed there with only about 50 from the BA8 postcode, there is probably not another employer within the suggested corridor has that many employees. There is also the Henstridge Airfield businesses - a lot of which rely on the access to the A303 via the A357 and A30.

**7) Other**

No matters reported.

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

**a) Sports England grant – Crowdfunding**

A conditional award offer has been received from Sports England for £10,495.00 provided that the Parish Council can match fund the offer by way of Crowdfunding, towards the outdoor gym. S Hood reported that Sports England would accept the funding offer received from Stronger Communities Fund (see b) below). That would leave £5,495.00 to be secured from Crowdfunding. 25 different people have to give to Crowdfunding and rewards have to be given to the contributors. Chairman proposed that the Parish Council should go forward with Crowdfunding. S Hood would look into what is required.

**b) Stronger Communities Fund – grant**

S Hood reported that Stronger Communities Fund have made an offer of £5,000.00 with additional conditions. The grant is pledged for 12 months and will be released upon confirmation that the remainder of the funding for the outdoor gym is in place.

**c) Other**

Chairman read out a letter of thanks received in connection with the naming of the pathway. It was agreed that one of the Oak trees, we would be receiving in November, would be dedicated to the late G Wilson and planted in the Recreation Ground in his memory.

**12 TEMPLECOMBE TOGETHER (S HOOD) – UPDATE**

S Hood circulated his report prior to the meeting. The July community lunch was well attended.

**13 PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE/SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS – (E Crowther)**

E Crowther circulated his report prior to the meeting.

**a) Co-pilot – update**

E Crowther had now heard back from Cloudy IT, they propose a full migration to Microsoft 365, ongoing support, data backup, councillor administration, and optional prepaid support. Total upfront cost: £1,300.00 Total monthly cost: £129.26 plus VAT.
This is aimed at larger Councils. There are several plans available, as well as the free version which you can buy more time on, The Basic which he felt would be sufficient for our need would cost £200 a year.
There is a free version with limited use available. It was agreed that E Crowther could register for this and he would also look at what information NALC could give.
It was noted that if there is an incident the Councillors own phones/devices would be taken into account and would not be covered if you have down downloaded names, addresses or personal details which would identify a person. S Webb would look into options.
P Coombes would liaise with E Crowther concerning issues with his own device and GDPR/data protection.

**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 he proposes to turn off the SID for a while and download the data.

**2) A357 issues around Templecombe – if applicable**

Noted.

**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 reported that she had contacted Tom Trouton Dry Stone Walling and he would provide a quote for the repair to the wall.

**2) Derestriction – Combe Hill – Hedgehog sign enquiry - update**

Chairman read out the letter from a Parishioner as to the return of the hedgehog warning sign, which was attached to the speed sign that has been removed. When the new sign has been installed the hedgehog sign could be attached as before.

**3) Somerset Bus Partnership – update – S Webb)**

S Webb circulated her report prior to the meeting. It was noted that children aged 5 to 15 can travel for free on participating local buses across England from 1 to 31 August 2026 as part of the government's Great British Summer Savings initiative.

**4) Other matters – if applicable not on the agenda**

No matters reported.

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

**1) August Report (P Coombes)**

P Coombes reported that the seedling he had taken from the Yew tree are doing well.

**2) Other**

No other matters reported.

**17 FOOTPATHS REPORT (M Vaughan/T Williams)**

**a) Footpath Report – T Williams**

Circulated prior to meeting. It was noted that some of the minor reported issues had been carried out by Somerset Council.

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

Some clearance work had been undertaken, and most paths are now open and accessible. The Empire Farm footpaths are the only ones that are regularly reported as having issues that need to be addressed which are the legal obligation of the landowners. M Vaughan would let Clerk have a list of footpaths the subject of reported issues.

**18 BURIAL GROUND/CLOSED CHURCHYARD REPORT (CLERK)**

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

Awaiting a start date for the work from Tom Trouton Dry Stone Walling.

**b) Loose fence posts/gates – burial ground – update**

Clerk reported that D Whitehand had carried out an inspection of the work required and supplied a quotation as follows: -

- To replace 3 6" x 6" gate posts and rehang 3 x gates
- Fencing - Replace 2 x posts, use existing rails and cut off metal post - £825.00 no VAT.

Chairman proposed that the quotation be accepted. Agreed by all Councillors.

**c) Rose bed**

Clerk reported that the In Bloom group had enquired about replacement Poppy Roses. Replacement Poppy Roses had been sourced previously. It was felt that as the commemorative garden was constructed in 2014 on the 100th anniversary of the start of World War I and is a tribute to those from Abbas and Templecombe who gave their lives for their country during the 1st World War they should be replaced as they were originally planted. Clerk would report back to the In Bloom group.

**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 – update if applicable**

Clerk had requested a quotation for a replacement rope ramp from Playdale not received to date.

**ii) Other**

No matters reported.

**B) Social Club (S Hood/E Crowther)**

S Hood circulated his report prior to the meeting. Club had hosted several successful events and have planned a programme to the end of the year. The preparations are underway for the Summer Fete.

**C) Other**

a) Chairman reported that Parish Council have been offered three horse chestnut trees for the Recreation Ground that could be accepted and planted at the appropriate time.

b) Chairman reported that Thales have asked for use of the football pitch and changing rooms for a Charity Football Tournament on the morning of the 16th September. It was agreed that this would be possible and to ask for a donation towards the Crowdfunding for the gym equipment. Clerk to reply.

c) P Coombes reported that the Poppy of Honour are having a permanent memorial in Taunton in 2028. In 2029 they will be looking for a location for a future permanent 8ft memorial possibly on Templecombe Recreation Ground. Chairman responded that a suitable location would need to be found and probably planning permission needed but in principle it would have the backing of the Parish Council.

**20 ANY OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING ON TUESDAY 8th SEPTEMBER 2026. Items to Clerk by Monday 31st August 2026.**

**a) Co-option of two Parish Councillors – update**

Chairman reported that one application had been received, details of applicant had been circulated prior to the meeting. Councillors all agreed that Mr Paul Flanagan should be co-opted and would be invited to attend the September meeting.

**b) Vacancy for Parish Clerk/RFO – update**

Chairman reported that 10 responses had been received and had received application documentation. 4 formal applications had been received, and two applicants have been asked to attend an interview which will take place shortly.

It was agreed that a mobile phone should be purchased for the new clerk and a filing cabinet to be stored in the container for folders/paperwork that would need to be retained.

**c) Other**

E Crowther reported that he had received feedback via Facebook that the Church was locked and could not be accessed. He suggested that an approach could be made to the Co-op to see if they could hold a key to the Church for visitors to collect.

**Meeting closed at 9.00 pm signed R Cave dated 8.9.26**