DRAFT
ABBAS AND TEMPLECOMBE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting held on the
13th October 2026

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

IN ATTENDANCE
No Parishioners

Chairman opened the meeting.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Somerset Councillors Nicola Clark, Hayward Burt, M Vaughan

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS
S Webb declared her dispensation in respect of Slades Hill development (Knights Meadow). P Flanagan and T Williams declared an interest in Slades Hill development (Knights Meadow) being residents. R Cave declared an interest in Agenda item 6 a) Bowden Road development.

3 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 8th SEPTEMBER 2026
It was proposed by P Flanagan and seconded by S Hood that the draft Minutes, as previously circulated, dated 8th September 2026 be agreed as correct and signed by the Chairman.

4 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON THE 8.9.26
None.

5 CORRESPONDENCE
Received since the last meeting was discussed:
1) Report – October – Hayward Burt (Somerset Councillor – Somerset Council). Circulated prior to the meeting. Noted.
2) 2nd Templecombe Scout Group - email dated 5.10.26. Chairman read out the email to the meeting. The Scout group have been awarded a grant from the National Lottery Community Fund which will go towards the refurbishment of the Scout Hut. They are planning to start the project within the next year and thanked everyone who has supported them over the years to enable to take the next step with the project.
3) Update – Yeovil HASU Emergency Stroke Unit – email dated 5.10.26. Chairman referred to the email informing the meeting that the closure of the Yeovil HASU went ahead on the 9th September. A joint letter had been sent to the NHS Somerset Integrated Care Board (ICB) from Yeovil Without PC, Yeovil Town Council and Somerset Council calling for an independent review of the decision to close Yeovil HASU. It was agreed that the Parish Council should continue to support the cause to overturn the decision to close the unit.

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 September meeting (if applicable).

b) i) Application no 25/02759/REM – Land OS 6975 South of Bowden Road Templecombe
- Approval of Reserved Matters – update
It was noted that the Parish Council had submitted two further comments in connection with the above application as follows: -
Abbas and Templecombe Parish Council are fully in support that the application goes to Committee and have requested that the application be considered by committee previously, with the support of Somerset Councillors N Clark and H Burt.

We have been made aware of concerns that not all revised documents appear to be submitted to allow a fully informed consultation. (We are already aware that the updated planning statement appears to include the wrong date)

ii) Copy letter from Parishioner to Planning Officer Somerset Council dated 23.9.26 and replies forwarded to the Parishioner by the Planning Officer. Noted.

2) **Determinations**
None.

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

T Williams circulated her report prior to the meeting. It was noted there has been no update since August. There has also been no update regarding the date for the handover to the management company after the initial date of 1st September was sent in error. It was suggested that it may be the residents do not know what is included in the service charge i.e. grass cutting, the wildlife corridor, Calor gas, street lighting. Some of which have not been completed i.e. noticeboards or mentioned like the unadopted roads/drains. It was noted that the social housing also pays a service charge.

4) Other

a) Planning Committee South next meeting due to be held on the 20th October 2026 at 2pm The Council Chambers Council Offices Brympton Way Yeovil has been cancelled, Update on meeting held on the 15th September/29th September 2026

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 direct debit had been activated but no payment will be taken until the internet is installed and active. An update on the application would follow from the relevant department.

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

Clerk reported that she had contacted the Contractor and as soon as the scaffolding is available the work would be carried out.

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 E Crowther that the following payments as detailed on the Payment and Receipts Schedule October 2026, circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting, be authorised.

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

PAYMENTS

TO BE RAISED

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	NET	VAT	TOTAL
Dave Whitehand	work to gates/fences Burial Gd	825.00	0.00	**825.00**
Groundsman	Salary/Expenses - September 2026	657.25	0.00	**657.25**
Clerk	Salary/Expenses - October 2026	519.40	0.00	**519.40**
HMRC	HMRC NI Tax Clerks wages	91.60	0.00	**91.60**
HMRC	HMRC NI Month	27.45	0.00	**27.45**
S Flack	Expenses	159.80	0.00	**159.80**
SALC	Training costs T Williams	25.00	0.00	**25.00**
PKF Littlejohn LLP	External Audit fees yr end 31.3.26	315.00	63.00	**378.00**
Elite Playground Inspections	Quarterly inspection report Oct 26	55.00	11.00	**66.00**
Play UK Playgrounds Ltd	Fix ramp tread/zipwire inspection	90.00	18.00	**108.00**
Joshua Howes	Christmas Trees donation 2026	500.00	0.00	**500.00**
TSSC	Unknown payments x 3 refund	294.84	0.00	**294.84**
R Cave	Refund for Poppy Wreath 2026	31.5	0.00	**31.50**
TOTAL Bank Payments		**3,591.84**	**92.00**	**3,683.84**
DIRECT DEBITS				
Biffa (debited 25.10.26)	Waste collection	125.83	25.17	**151.00**
British Gas (debited 14.10.26)	Electricity - Changing rooms	24.48	1.22	**25.70**
		0.00	0.00	**0.00**
		0.00	0.00	**0.00**
		0.00	0.00	**0.00**
TOTAL DIRECT DEBITS		**150.31**	**26.39**	**176.70**
TOTAL PAYMENTS		**3,742.15**	**118.39**	**3,860.54**

RECEIPTS since last meeting				
TSSC	Unknown receipt 2.10.26	98.28	0.00	98.28
Peter Jackson Funeral Services	Burial fees Plot E2	80.00	0.00	80.00
Unity Bank Ltd	Interest at 30.9.26	149.81	0.00	149.81
		0.00	0.00	0.00
		0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS				**328.09**

NB payment made since September meeting £54.50 EE Limited - Mobile 1st payment 16.9.26
£99.60 Blackmore Vale Magazine - Clerk advert (2) 2.10.26

A Kerry and S Hood agreed to authorise the payments on the 14th October 2026 and notify Clerk.

2) Other
Clerk reported that the External Audit had been completed by PKF Littlejohn LLP and the Completion Notice had been displayed.

9 LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORK–LCN Meetings – (R Cave/P Flanagan/Clerk) Next Meeting to be confirmed. Highways Working Group meeting 20.10.26 (R Cave/A Kerry)
Noted. Chairman would enquire as to when the next LCN Meeting is to take place.

10 OTHER MATTERS REPORTED FOR DISCUSSION
1) SCRAPP – Update (T Williams/S Webb)
T Williams reported that she had attended the meeting on the 30th September. They are hoping to set up online attendance for meetings and are currently working on their website.
2) Somerset Council – Parish update – Local Devolution/My Community Programme update – Flood Resilience
Noted.
3) Somerset Council – Parish update – date 11.9.26 and Watch and Share the Somerset Domestic Abuse Service Video information sheet
Noted.
4 Future of the South East Somerset LCN Youth Outreach Programme email dated 30.9.26
A three-year contract was awarded to Youth Connect SW from April 2024 which is up for renewal from April 2027.
The initial three-year partnership, co-funded by Bruton, Castle Cary, Milborne Port and Wincanton Town & Parish Councils, supported by a grant from Somerset Association of Local Councils' Community Health & Wellbeing programme, has generated positive outcomes for our younger people, and is currently been externally evaluated with a view to either going out to tender again or renewing the contract for a further three years. At this stage it is not known what contributions will be requested for the new contract period. Four participating Councils are currently each paying £10k per year for one session of youth work each per week, delivered by two qualified youth workers. Chairman reported that he felt the Parish Council could not look to financing a project in the region of £10,000.
5) Community Payback – (P Flanagan)
Chairman thanked P Flanagan for circulating details on community payback prior to the meeting. Councillors discussed the scheme and the following points were noted: -

- To qualify projects must provide a clear community benefit which must not replace paid employment and must not generate private profit.
- Supervision is required all day by two people, from the organisation i.e, Parish Council, when they are on site.
- Risk Assessment and public liability insurance would be required.
- Supervisors would need to be DBS checked and may require other training.

P Flanagan would investigate the scheme further and report back.
6) Remembrance 2026 – (R Cave)
Chairman reported that he had purchased a wreath and would arrange to put up the flags at the end of October. The ground spikes, on the figures, would be shortened to make installation easier. S Hood offer to help.
7) Other
No matters reported.

11 RECREATION GROUND PROJECT – UPDATE (A Kerry, S Hood, E Crowther)
a) Crowdfunding – update
S Hood circulated a handout; the following points were noted: -

- Once our project is live it becomes visible on our platform and people can find it in a few ways. It is intended to go tomorrow, 14th October 2026.
- Share on social media, email or text to allow people to go direct to our page.
- On our own network send to family, friends, neighbours as they will be our first supporters.
- Promote it online and any updates.
- Make it visible to our residents – A4 posters will be placed around the Village, and it is hoped to have flyers available to give to groups to distribute at their meetings. Posters and flyers will display the URL Link,
- A QR code will be added.
- Rewards for donating are being obtained, if donation is less than £10 a thank you will be received.

Chairman thanked S Hood for the work he has put in to set up the crowdfunding.

b) Repairs to path – update

A Kerry reported that the repairs were still under discussion, and it is acknowledged that path is not delivered to the standard we would like it to be and a solution needs to be agreed. Initially, 150 metres of path has developed cracks, areas of weed growth and shrinkage and in need of repair. To carry out the repair to the remaining 250 metres would incur a further cost but there is a risk that this will also start to develop issues and if the whole path is done, we would avoid it looking patchy. The Parish Council want to work with the contractors to rectify the issues, and this should be conveyed to any Parishioners who express their concerns which can be addressed to the Clerk.

Those that have a need to drive on to the Recreation Ground should be made aware of the weight bearing areas.

c) Other

No matters reported.

12 PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE/SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS – (E Crowther)

E Crowther reported that the update to front page of the website was outstanding and he would chase it up. A number of phishing emails have been received; Councillors were reminded not to forward them and put them in deleted.

13 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 had been turned off.

2) A357 issues around Templecombe – if applicable

No matters reported.

3) Other

A Kerry reported that still no one had come to the Village; to witness the width of the road and see it is not sufficient for two HGVs to pass and suggested a shuttle system could be a solution.

14 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 chased matter up and the contractor will be available after the 19th October to provide a quotation for the wall repairs.

2) Derestriction – Combe Hill - update

Clerk reported that the TRO Notice, dated 30th September 2026, has been issued and advertised. Any comments etc are required within 21 days of the date of the notice.

3) Dog Fouling

Chairman read out email received from a Parishioner who has reported concerns with the through path from Merthyr Guest Close to Westcombe. Councillors discussed signage/dog bin locations in the Village, and it was agreed that a reminder to Parishioners in the Messenger should be done, Chairman would write an article and send to Messenger. S Webb would look at how other Parish Council's dealt with the issue of dog fouling.

4) Somerset Bus Partnership – update – (S Webb)

S Webb circulated her report prior to the meeting. It was noted that there is a 50% fare for concessionary bus pass holders on all Slinky Services in Somerset. You may also be able to use your bus pass on certain types of journeys provided by Community Transport.

5) Other matters – if applicable not on the agenda

No matters reported.

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

1) October Report (P Coombes)

P Coombes reported that due to the weather he had been unable to carry out the spraying in the Churchyard/Village Hall area but would do so now the weather is more favourable.

It was noted that the trees from the Woodland Trust would be delivered in early November.

2) Other

No matters reported.

16 FOOTPATHS REPORT (M Vaughan/T Williams)

a) Footpath Report – T Williams

Circulated prior to the meeting contents noted.

b) Other

T Williams reported that she had contacted Somerset Council concerning the ongoing issues with the vegetation growth on one of the footpaths and has asked them what action the Parish Council can take and whether they would be writing to the landowners.

17 BURIAL GROUND/CLOSED CHURCHYARD REPORT (CLERK)

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

Clerk reported that Tom Trouton Dry Stone Walling had indicated they could carry out the work between October and November, weather permitting.

b) Poppy Rose bed – update (R Cave/Clerk)

Chairman reported that he and Clerk had met with two employees of Castle Gardens to establish what work would be needed to the roses and the bed. Chairman had completed a report which had been circulated to Councillors and the In Bloom group prior to the meeting. A reply had been received from the In Bloom group indicating that they did not feel they could carry out the work suggested by Castle Gardens, but they would be happy to weed the bed once the work has been completed. Clerk would follow up a possible contact who may be able to carry out the maintenance work to the roses on behalf of the Parish Council.

c) Relocation of two of headstones – (Clerk)

Clerk reported that the grave digger, who had attended the Burial Ground recently, reported that two of the headstones had been installed not on the actual plots this means there is reduced room on the reserved row of plots. Clerk had contacted the stone masons to ask for the headstones to be relocated.

18 RECREATION GROUND MATTERS/CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA – (P Coombes)

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

i) Junior Multi Play Unit – Quotation for replacement rope ramp - Playdale – update

Clerk reported that Simon Williams had attended to the loose tread and carried out a repair. A replacement rope ramp will be required in the future. He also carried out a quarterly inspection on the zip wire; the next one will be carried out in December.

ii) Quarterly report

Clerk confirm the quarterly report had been carried out and a copy of the report sent to the Chairman. No issues needing immediate attention.

B) Social Club (S Hood/E Crowther)

S Hood circulated his report prior to the meeting, noted.

S Hood reported all electrical equipment has been tested and verified safe to use. Discussion took place re the upcoming AGM. He would not be able to attend the AGM; E Crowther would be available to attend.

C) Request for Floodlights – Football Club email dated 10.9.26

Chairman referred to email received from the football club enquiring if it was possible to have some floodlights fitted on to the tennis court lights to allow for training during the winter. There are floodlights in the tractor shed that belong to the football club and it was agreed the Clerk would go back to the football club to see initially if they could be used,

It was also noted that some of the tiles in the showers, in the changing rooms, are beginning to blow. It was suggested that the tiles could be boarded over with waterproof board. A Kerry reminded the meeting that there will be some CIL monies due for the changing rooms from the outstanding planning applications at Bowden Road/West Street.

D) P D Fire and Safety – Changing rooms – 10.9.26

Clerk reported that P D Fire and Safety will be carrying out a fire risk assessment at the Social Club/changing rooms on 29th October.

E) Other

No matters reported.

19 ANY OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING ON TUESDAY 10th November 2026. Items to Clerk by Monday 2nd November 2026.

a) Co-option of one Parish Councillor – update

Clerk reported that that position had been advertised and no applicants had been received.

b) Co-option of one Parish Councillor (to be advertised)

As a result of the resignation of D Savage the ten electors notice has been displayed and as a result Somerset Council have confirmed that the position can be advertised. It was agreed to now advertise for two co-opted Councillors.

b) Appointment of Clerk/RFO – update

Since the September meeting the appointed replacement Clerk/RFO had resigned due to personal circumstances. The position had been re-advertised in the Blackmore Vale Magazine 9th October edition/Website/Facebook page/Messenger/Noticeboards.