

**Minutes of Templeton Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday, 2 March 2023  
in Templeton Village Hall on the rising of the Annual Parish Meeting.**

<b>Chaired by: Councillor R Davies</b>	<b>Clerked by:</b>	
<b>Present: Councillors</b>  <b>R Davies</b> <b>Mrs J Dent CBE</b> <b>D Leeming</b> <b>Mrs L O'Brien</b> <b>Mrs S Stone</b>  <b>County Councillor R Chesterton</b>  <b>District Councillors</b>  <b>Members of the public</b>	<b>Agenda: -</b> Items raised by members of the public Apologies Declarations of Interest Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10 January 2023 Reports Matters Arising from the Minutes Planning & Planning Correspondence Finance Correspondence / Items to discuss Items raised by Councillors Urgent items to discuss Date of next meeting	
		<b>Action:</b>
69.	<b>Items raised by members of the public.</b>  Crossparks Pit - Nothong appears to be happening within MDDC. Concern that there is a risk due to the non standing for reelection of District Councillors. Carol will write to the MP re enforcement.  MDDC will be written to, to ask for an update.  BP raised the issues of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 state of the roads and potholes - Highways should be contacted</li> <li>2 village centre development, eg extra lighting now theres more housing – see 74.6, below</li> <li>3 Currency of the Parish website. Site is being taken over from the (resigned) clerk. Parish Council requesting Domain, Access Codes etc be handing over</li> </ul> The state of 'The SchoolHouse' was queried, regarding safety, security (windows broken). Owners to be asked re intentions to remedy	Chair  Chair  Chair  SS
70.	<b>Apologies.</b> County Councillor R Chesterton District Councillor Ray Stanley	
71.	<b>Declarations of Interest.</b> Councillors Mrs Dent and Mrs Stone declared a Personal Interest in matters relating to the Village Hall.  Councillors Mrs Dent and Mrs O'Brien declared a Personal Interest in matters relating to St Margaret's Church.	
72.	<b>Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10 January 2023.</b> Approved and signed as a correct record.  Proposed by Councillor Mrs Dent Seconded by Councillor Mrs O'Brien and unanimously agreed.	
73.	<b>Reports:</b> <b>73.1 County Councillor R Chesterton</b>  <u>Tiverton West County Report March 23</u>  <u>Chief Executive</u>	

Donna Manson took up her post on the 17<sup>th</sup> of February, the day after Devon County passed their budget. So far, I have only met her the one time, but everything I'm hearing is very positive.

### Roads & Potholes

At February's budget meeting councillors agreed an additional £2 million to go into roads and drainage above the 'target budget' that had previously been set.

This winter has posed challenges for the Highways and Traffic Management Service. The mix of prolonged sub-zero temperatures and heavy rain led to a rapid deterioration in the condition of the network highlighting the fragility of the asset following decades of under investment. Since April 2022 our inspection team have assessed over 27,000 reports of potholes from members of the public. Over 10,000 reports were assessed in January alone, we were receiving as many as 500 reports per day. The team have been working hard to get on top of the backlog with a focus on the safety of the travelling public. Milestone, our term maintenance contractor, has increased their resources which has seen weekend working and over forty gangs working across the county. At the beginning of the month there was 3,000 potholes waiting to be repaired, this has reduced to approximately 2,000.

Following a quiet November, in which we saw very little in the way of gritting treatment, the extended cold snaps in December and January has seen us use over 15,000 tonnes of salt across 2,094 runs (the equivalent to 55 full, Countywide treatments on our Primary Salting Network). The average across the last four winters for the same period has been 8,919 tonnes and 1,597 runs.

This additional work has a knock on effect with the planned improvement works. Gritter drivers are limited in how many hours they can work which often means planned improvement works have to be deferred. In addition, with the safety of the network taking priority, a number of the patching gangs have been redeployed on to pothole repairs.

### Made in Devon

Of the 20 Made in Devon members who needed to start paying for membership in December only 2 said they will not renew. Feedback from one member

"Made in Devon membership has been fantastic for the infancy of my little business. The photos from the brand shoot are the reason I got on the front cover of Exeter Living! I'm very grateful for that."

Our Consumer Christmas campaign launched with paid advertising on Facebook and Instagram. It was very successful: 828,074 Impressions. It also resulted in over 8000 click throughs to the Made in Devon website and hundreds of click-throughs to individual member sites.

As a direct result of the recent Made in Devon Christmas campaign, 388 people clicked directly through to Alison Hannah's Clayworks website from the Made in Devon one. Alison said 'Thankyou for your work on the campaign. I'm delighted to say that I noticed a significant improvement in the sale of my tide clocks in particular. I had some lovely comments from people and the feedback from some customers was very well received including Jake who ordered one online from Edinburgh after spotting me on Made in Devon.'

More information can be found at [www.madeindevon.org.uk/](http://www.madeindevon.org.uk/)

### Children's Services

Devon County Council has some way to go to convince Ofsted inspectors that its Children Services are getting better or can be called 'good' but frontline managers have "energy and commitment to implementing improvement plans", say inspectors.

The latest Ofsted monitoring report published on Monday 30 January, says there are some positives, but note that serious issues remain with not enough progress in key areas since the full inspection 3 years ago.

No child was identified to be at immediate risk of significant harm, but consistency of good practice across the workforce, and oversight of the care and support young people receive are lacking say inspectors. The council doesn't know, early enough, what the "permanent and secure arrangements are" for children who come into their care.

There's not enough focus by social workers on identifying permanent arrangements for some young people. "Some children live in arrangements where more permanent options, such as Special Guardianship Orders, could be pursued with family members, but are not," inspectors found.

Children wait too long for permanent arrangements for them to be made. "Thinking about the long-term options for children does not start early enough for many of them." Where young people in care are living

with family members or friends, they "often do so without the necessary rigorous and comprehensive assessments or the resultant packages of support and oversight," they say.

There's also inconsistency. "The quality of social work practice, including frontline management decisions, remains highly variable across teams." While there are "examples of stronger, child-focused practice," inspectors write, "such examples are outnumbered by those where children experiences changes of social worker and delay." "Many children still experience too many changes of social worker," they found. And that young people are, "having to tell their story multiple times, meeting new workers."

But inspectors also note some positives.

"Middle and frontline managers have energy and a strong commitment to implementing improvement plans," they say. The council is listening to recommendations from young people who are, or who have been in their care, about how to improve children's services and "children are actively involved in shaping the service and holding corporate parents (the council) to account."

"It is encouraging that their suggestions and representations are being taken seriously and implemented," inspectors note.

And for disabled children, who have short breaks in children's home to provide respite for their parents or carers, "social workers are demonstrating a good grasp of their evolving needs and how they communicate." They say that some social workers have established strong relationships with children in relatively short periods of time, and that social workers talk about how important the relationships are with young people and their families. "They (social workers) come to life when talking about them (the young people they support)".

Importantly, Ofsted also now report that "social workers are increasingly choosing to stay working in Devon," which has not previously been the case. "The local authority's reliance on temporary and agency staff is decreasing," Ofsted say. "Caseloads are becoming more manageable and key management positions throughout much of the organisation have now been filled by permanent staff."

Independent Reviewing Officers, who monitor the care that young people are getting, "are increasingly confident in challenging or escalating issues when there has been delay in planning for children, and this is leading to improved outcomes for these children," they say.

And additional demand on the council to support unaccompanied asylum seekers is being managed well. Unaccompanied children seeking asylum are being placed in suitable accommodation. "The local authority has reacted well," inspectors say.

Devon (and nationally) Bus Issues.

Up until 31 March 2023 local bus companies and local authorities have continued to receive additional funding from the Department for Transport to support the recovery in bus services since the pandemic. This funding is due to finish at the end of the current financial year.

In Devon, working with our bus companies, this funding has been used to maintain as much of the commercial and supported network as possible. Alongside the £2 fare initiative and improved driver position with Stagecoach locally we are starting to see improvements and, linked with the County Council's continued financial commitment thanks to the on street parking, alongside the improvements we have planned from our National Bus Strategy allocation, we have an excellent opportunity to build back confidence in the network and see more people back on the buses.

Future funding concern

This could all be in jeopardy though. There was some earlier indications that some additional Government funding would continue into the new financial year but there is no guarantee that anything will come forward. We are aware that nationally buses are the most popular form of public transport and carry significantly more passengers than railways, but the funding invested into the mode is substantially less and the bus may miss out again.

We are trying to get some feedback about the likely impact nationally as many areas will be seeing significant service reductions. In Devon we hope changes will not be on this scale but there is a possibility of some marginal services being withdrawn by the companies with the expectation that the local authority can pick them up when funding is already fully committed and we are seeing significant contract prices increases.

This article sums it up:

**DCC**      Kerbside Residual Waste Composition Analysis

In November 2022, some 1600 residual waste bins were analysed across Devon County Council administrative area.

Objectives

Specific aims of the work were to:

Understand the levels of waste being generated by each individual authority and Devon County as a whole.

Evaluate the amount of specific materials collected in the residual bins that could be potentially collected separately for recycling at the kerbside.

Assess the amount of food being disposed of and the proportion deemed avoidable.

Give information on levels of general packaging in the residual waste and the proportion qualifying as DRS compatible.

Executive Summary of Findings

Weighted across all authorities, 78% of households sampled throughout Devon presented residual waste for collection.

recycled at the kerbside – 1.7kg per household per week.

Around 55% (or 2.3kg per household per week) of residual waste is potentially recyclable when compared with all materials collected separately by all Devon authorities.

Packaging Content

An average of 0.8kg per household per week of total kerbside waste was due to packaging materials; 18.7% of the total.

56% of the packaging disposed of was formed of plastics.

1.5% of total kerbside waste was due to DRS drinks containers.

In terms of waste generation, households were setting out an average of 4.2kg per household per week.

Food waste was seen to be the major component of residual waste, forming 27% of the total. 79% is considered avoidable with 35% of all discarded food still packaged.

Paper made up 10% of the residual waste, 38% of which was recyclable at the kerbside.

Cardboard items made up 4% of the residual waste, 61% of this was recyclable at the kerbside.

Plastic items made up 15.4% of the residual waste, 26% of this was recyclable at the kerbside.

Metal items made up 3.2% of the residual waste, 56% was classified as recyclable.

Glass made up 2.3% of the residual waste, 47% of this was classified as recyclable.

Textiles made up 5% of the residual waste, 54% was classified as recyclable.

6.8% of residual waste was found to be garden organics.

In total 41% of residual waste collected could have been

## **73.2 District Councillors**

No Report

## **73.3 Village Hall**

The Village Hall can be used for table tennis, darts, pool or skittles or for a family get-together. Please call Bindy on 01884 860655 if you'd like the hall opened up, and to check first that there is not already a booking. The Social Club is open every Monday and Saturday evening from 8pm to 11pm – with a wide range of drinks available at very reasonable prices. Membership is only £2 a year.

**Templeton Trail - Sunday March 26<sup>th</sup>**

The popular annual Templeton Trail fun run, organised by Exe Valley Rotary Club, will take place on Sunday March 26<sup>th</sup> 2023. Runners will set off from Templeton Village Hall with a choice between a 5 km or 10 km run. The event will be mainly off-road, principally using the attractive private (and otherwise inaccessible) woodland roads and tracks of the Cruwys Morchard estate. For more information or if you would like to register, visit the Exe Valley Rotary Club's website page: <https://www.exevalleyrotary.org.uk/templeton-trail-april-2022/>

**Templeton Tractor Run**

Roland and Reg will be organising a Tractor Run for some time over April or May. This is a great fund-raising event when tractors, old and new, are invited to take part, and the owners drive their tractors along a planned local route, often with lunch and refreshments served before or after the tractor run at Templeton Village Hall.

**Templeton Village Fete - August 12<sup>th</sup>** information to follow

**Soap Box Race – Saturday September 14<sup>th</sup>**

The Soap Box has to be built by hand, be motorless and ideally have four wheels. It can be made from anything - cardboard, wood, or polystyrene, for example. The course will be the path leading down to Reg and Sue's at Colston Barton Farm.

**Harvest Supper** will be held at the end of September or beginning of October.

**Regular Templeton Clubs at the Village Hall**

**Yoga:**

Yoga sessions are held at the Village Hall every Thursday from 3.30pm until 5pm with Pat, an experienced yoga instructor based in Tiverton. Pat can accommodate all abilities. Everyone is welcome. The cost is £9 per session. If you'd like to know more, please email Laurel at [joeandlaurel@ymail.com](mailto:joeandlaurel@ymail.com)

**Book Group:**

The Templeton Book Group meets on every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 3pm at Templeton Village Hall with coffee, tea and cake. Each member of the group selects their reading choices each year from a wide range of books available from Tiverton library. Contact Julie on 01884 233507 if you would like to know more. The next dates for the book group are Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March and 12<sup>th</sup> April.

**73.4 Parochial Church Council.**

No Report

**74. Matters Arising from the Minutes.**

**74.1** Councillor Mrs Stone confirmed that details of how to report a pothole to DCC Highways to appear in the next Templeton Magazine.

**74.2 Telephone box.** We await quotations for the work, and an offer from someone to undertake the task.

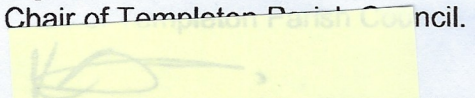
**74.3 Grit Bins at Crossparks.**

Councillor Leeming has provided the co-ordinates and the details have been advised to the County Councillor to follow up.

The other areas mentioned in the Minutes are not in Templeton.

**74.4 Ambulance Response Times.** Representations had been made.

	<p><b>74.5 Letters to Tiverton Staghounds and Foxhounds.</b> Reminder letters requesting a reply have been sent.</p> <p><b>74.6 Additional Street Lights in the Parish.</b> The request has been sent to DCC Street Lighting Team and a response is awaited.</p>													
75.	<p><b>Planning and Planning Correspondence.</b></p> <p><b>75.1</b> There were no Planning Applications to consider.</p> <p><b>75.2 Planning Correspondence.</b> There was no planning correspondence to consider.</p>													
76.	<p><b>Finance.</b></p> <p><b>76.1 Balances.</b> Barclays Community Account as at 3/2/23: £11,509.84</p> <p><b>76.3 To consider a letter of request for a donation from St Margaret's Church for interior decoration.</b> It was considered that this was not applicable as it applies to a religious space .</p> <p><b>76.3 Payments. The following payments were approved and authorised:</b>  <b>Proposed by Councillor Davies</b>  <b>Secoded by Councillor Leeming</b></p> <p><b>Mrs S Squire</b> Redacted under the Data Protection Act. Final salary.</p> <table> <tr> <td>HMRC</td> <td>PAYE</td> <td>£47.80</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>Village Hall work</b></p> <table> <tr> <td>Second payment for maintenance work as agreed</td> <td>£217.70 &amp; £102.00</td> <td>£319.70</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Third payment for repairs as agreed</td> <td></td> <td><u>£1,011.00</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td><b>£1,330.70</b></td> </tr> </table> <p><b>76.4 Letter to residents regarding a reduction in the 2023/24 Precept and the reason for this.</b>  MDDC has supplied a list of properties and the letters are to be sent out. Delayed slightly due to the resignation of the Clerk.</p> <p><b>76.5 Payments.</b> Following the Clerks resignation, additional signatures will be added to the Bank Account.</p>	HMRC	PAYE	£47.80	Second payment for maintenance work as agreed	£217.70 & £102.00	£319.70	Third payment for repairs as agreed		<u>£1,011.00</u>			<b>£1,330.70</b>	
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77.	<p><b>Scheme of Delegation.</b></p> <p>It was unanimously decided not to put a scheme of delegation in place until a new Parish Clerk has been appointed.</p>													
78.	<p><b>Correspondence / Items to discuss.</b></p> <p><b>77.1 Bampton Parish Council - Councillor / New Councillor Training.</b>  Councillors had been circulated with the details. Councillors Mrs Stone and Mrs O'Brien expressed an interest.</p>													
79.	<p><b>Items raised by Councillors.</b></p> <p><b>79.1 Parish Clerk Recruitment.</b> Mrs S Squire had resigned due to her largest Council offering substantially more hours and in taking up this offer, it had been</p>													

	<p>necessary for her to resign from five of her Councils, Templeton being one of them, as the hours could not be managed.</p> <p>A notice of vacancy advert is appearing on the Devon Association of Local Councils website with a deadline date of 14/3/23.</p> <p>The Society of Local Council Clerks has been contacted re the provision of a locum, should that be necessary.</p> <p>The Parish Council would like to register their appreciation of the years of support that Sue Squire has given them.</p> <p>The Parish Council would like to thank Rory Davies for his time and efforts as Chair as he announced that he will not be standing for re-election in May.</p>	
80.	<b>Urgent items to discuss.</b>	
81.	<p><b>Date of next Meeting:</b> Wednesday, 17 May 2023, in Templeton Village Hall at 7.30pm.</p> <p>This would be the Annual Parish Council Meeting, the first meeting of the new municipal year and the first meeting of the newly elected Council which will be constituted at this time.</p> <p>The meeting ended at 21.15.</p>	
<p><b>Summary of Decisions:</b></p> <p>➤</p>		
<p><b>These Minutes are agreed by those present as being a true record.</b></p>		
<p>Signed: Chair of Templeton Parish Council.</p> 	<p>Date: 28/06/2023</p>	

