

## TEMPLETON PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes for the Annual Meeting of Templeton Parish Council held on  
Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 8.00pm - Templeton Village Hall.

**Members:** Cllr L O'Brien, (LOB), Cllr J Dent, (JD), Cllr V. Hopley, (VH), Cllr S Stone, (SS),  
Cllr J O'Brien, (JOB). Parish Clerk - Beverley Newman (BN).

**Members Present:** Cllr. L. O'Brien (Chairman), Cllr. J. O'Brien, Cllr. J. Dent.

**In attendance:** Cllr. S. Lodge, Devon County Councillor for Tiverton West, Cllr. A. Stirling, Mid Devon District Councillor, West Exe.

### **1. Election of Chair.**

The council proposed and seconded election of the Chair.

Chair - Mrs. L. O'Brien - **Proposed: Cllr. J. Dent, Seconded: Cllr. J. O'Brien.**

**Unanimously agreed by the council.**

Chair signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Chairman of the Parish Council.

### **2. Apologies received from Cllr. S. Stone, Cllr. V Hopley, Cllr. C. Harrower, Mid Devon District Councillor, West Exe. - apologies accepted by council.**

### **3. Declarations of Interest:**

Templeton Village Hall - (JD).

St Margarets Church - (LOB).

Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Devon - (JD).

### **4. Public Forum:** An opportunity for members of the public to make representations, answer questions and give evidence in respect of any item of business on the agenda, or any matter of interest to the parish. No member of the public will speak for more than 3 minutes. The period of time designated for public participation shall not exceed 15 minutes.

No members of the public in attendance.

### **5. Minutes of the previous meeting:** The minutes of the previous meeting of Templeton Parish Council held at Templeton Village Hall on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 had already been circulated prior to the meeting.

**Proposal:** Agreement to the content of the minutes was proposed by (JOB) and seconded by (JD) and was unanimously agreed by the council.

## 6. Planning:

- **26/00583/HOUSE** |Erection of an ancillary storage building incidental to the use of the dwelling house|Fourways Templeton Devon EX16 8BJ - Awaiting decision.

No comments recorded by the Council.

## 7. Highways:

### 7.1 (LOB) - Road Warden and (SS) - Snow Warden.

Road Warden - **(UPDATE): (LOB)** Birches Cross to Lower North Combe Cross resurfacing work still outstanding and **(LOB)** still in communication and chasing highways as a priority. This road was included in one of the council's priority roads sent to Highways previously. **(ACTION): (Cllr S Lodge)** checking if a scheme is in place for the work to be completed.

Pot hole filler to be delivered under the road warden scheme. This will enable some of the small pot holes to be filled by the road warden and road warden volunteers - dependent on size and depth of the holes. **(UPDATE): (LOB)** This has been delayed due to the hot weather experienced recently. A team of volunteers are ready to start work on this. The road and finger signs in the village will be addressed/cleaned/repared at the same time.

Responsibility of gritting roads not on the man gritting routes. **(UPDATE): (LOB)** to provide details to Cllr. Lodge regarding a request of possible roads to be reviewed for inclusion.

**Snow Warden - (UPDATE): (SS)** To report on any updates on the snow plan, grit bins, potential funding from the Highway Maintenance Community Enhancement Fund. Update at the next meeting in the absence of **(SS)**.

### 7.2 Proposal 6 - Upgrading of Footpath No. 3 Tiverton (Titchens Lane) to a Bridleway (GR SS 9010 1414 to 8892 1282) - Templeton Parish Council were in agreement for the proposed upgrading of the footpath to a bridleway but caution was raised against any further development. It was noted that illegal use of vehicular access was currently evident. **(UPDATE): (BN)** Copy of County Council's letter received confirming that the members agreed with the officer's recommendation in respect of proposal 6 and therefore, a Definitive Map Modification Order will be made for the upgrading of Footpath No 3, Tiverton (Titchen's Lane) to a public bridleway and noting that the south west end of the lane lies in Templeton parish.

## 8. Reports.

### 8.1 County and District Council:

**(UPDATE):** Report previously circulated to the council from Cllr Stirling.

Mid Devon District Council – 1 – 30 April 2026

**Update Cabinet decisions** – April 2026 Mid Devon District Council Cabinet met in April and agreed a number of decisions affecting communities across the district.

**Customer Care Policy** - A new Customer Care Policy was approved, setting clearer standards for how residents are supported and how enquiries are handled.

**Leisure pilot for unpaid carers** - Cabinet approved a new leisure pilot to support unpaid carers, including: Free access for carers under 18. Discounts for adult carers. Reduced casual session costs. Removal of peak-time restrictions.

**Key policy changes** - Adoption of an updated Anti-Social Behaviour Policy. Approval of a new Community Asset Transfer Policy, making it easier for community groups to take on suitable Council buildings or land. The Community Asset Transfer scheme closes on 30 June 2026.

**Environment and sustainability Environmental** - action featured strongly, with approval of: The Climate Action Plan 2026–2028, The Local Nature Recovery Strategy, A new Strategic Sustainability Grant Scheme to support local projects.

**Other decisions:** Progress on planning guidance for Anaerobic Digesters, Approval of a contract for a new temporary accommodation project. Further details, including reports and minutes, are available at: <https://www.middevon.gov.uk/your-council/councillors-democracy/decisions/>

### **Crisis & Resilience Fund – from April 2026**

Devon will receive £1.3 million in additional support as global conflict continues to drive up heating oil costs. What it is? A new government-funded Crisis & Resilience Fund (CRF) run by Mid Devon District Council, replacing the Household Support Fund and Discretionary Housing Payments. Who it is for? Low-income households facing a sudden financial shock. What it offers? Rapid, flexible support alongside access to advice on income, debt, housing and wellbeing, delivered through a “no wrong door” approach with partner organisations. What it is not? Not a universal payment. Not a replacement for benefits. Not long-term income support. Not for emergencies. Focus: Reducing repeat crises and improving financial resilience, including budgeting and longer-term stability. Next steps: Full application details will be published once final approvals are in place. For support, contact Mid Devon District Council Customer Services.

**Waste and Recycling Performance.** Mid Devon continues to perform exceptionally well nationally: Ranked 10th out of 197 local authorities for waste and recycling. 57.9% recycling rate in 2024/25, placing the district within the top 5% in England. Among the top 3% nationally for lowest residual household waste. Just 296.8kg of non-recyclable waste per household. This reflects strong resident participation in the three-weekly collection scheme and ongoing waste-reduction initiatives.

**Let’s Talk Mid Devon – Resident Survey Results.** The survey ran from 27 October to 8 December 2025 and received 525 responses. Key findings: Overall satisfaction with how the Council runs things: 51% (stable year on year) Satisfaction with the local area as a place to live: 74% Satisfaction with key services: Waste collection: 76% Parks and green spaces: 56% Street cleaning: 42%. The results are being used to inform Council priorities, budget setting and service.

**(UPDATE): Cllr Stirling** to report back to council re Anaerobic Digesters Planning guidance.

Report previously circulated to the council from Cllr Lodge.

## **Devon County Council Report late May 2026 - Cllr Steve Lodge**

### **DCC delivers £18m financial turnaround in first year.**

Devon's Liberal Democrat administration has achieved a remarkable Financial turnaround in its first year, transforming an inherited £14.7 million Projected overspend into a £2.98 million underspend.

The outturn report presented to Cabinet shows £17.9 million of savings delivered against a £695.2 million budget – without cutting frontline services. Adult Social Care achieved a £1.65 million underspend, while Children's Services also came in under budget. Crucially, this financial discipline has enabled reinvestment into priorities: £4million extra for highways maintenance, £1 million for Children's Social Care workforce, and £416,000 for SEND diagnostic support. Finance Cabinet Member James Buczkowski said the turnaround was achieved through "stronger financial grip, better forecasting, and a clear focus on public value" – not cuts for the sake of cuts.

An extra £4m for road repairs DCC's Cabinet has approved an additional £4 million for highways maintenance teams, redirecting savings from a rigorous spending review into frontline road repairs. The investment comes on top of £3 million already committed in March following one of the harshest winters in recent years, when 15 freeze-thaw cycles caused widespread damage. Over the next five years, the Lib Dem administration will invest £546.1 million in highways – including £55 million extra for preventative maintenance. The 2026/27 highways budget rises to £36 million, a £6 million increase. Devon maintains the longest road network of any English council at over 8,000 miles. Cabinet Member Dan Thomas said the council is now shifting from 'managing decline' to 'stabilising and strengthening' the network.

12-month pothole repair trial approved for Devon. Devon County Council's Cabinet has approved an expanded 12-month pothole repair trial following a successful pilot in Hatherleigh, Chagford and Barnstaple South. The trial introduces a proactive approach – repairing emerging defects before they become safety hazards, saving resources long-term by fixing issues while teams are already on site. The initial six-week pilot showed clear benefits, with the Scrutiny Committee recommending expansion. A progress report will follow at six months. Cllr Dan Thomas noted the trial demonstrates a smarter, preventative approach to maintaining Devon's roads.

Libraries to receive £1 million boost. Cabinet has confirmed a major investment to protect and strengthen the county's library service following a consultation with over 25,000 responses. The plans include a £1 million transformation fund, abolishing overdue fines, increased investment in books and digital resources, and extended opening hours through Open Access technology. There will not be a reduction in hours. Cabinet Member Cheryl Cottle-Hunkin said: "For too long, libraries have been underfunded. We're changing that. "The plans also explore expanding libraries' community role – from health services to employment support – while strengthening partnerships with local councils and voluntary organisations. The proposals are set out in a cabinet report published 20/5.

Foster Care Fortnight 2025. The annual Foster Care Fortnight campaign – from 11 to 24 May – is a nationwide effort to raise awareness of the incredible impact of foster care and to encourage more people to consider becoming foster carers. It is also a chance to say a big thank you to all foster carers for their remarkable dedication. In Devon, we have 271 approved foster homes but 810 children in need of care. Many children are placed with families outside the county, away from their communities, or in care homes. We urgently need to find more loving homes within Devon. New figures also show that 74% of those who foster with Fostering Devon have benefited from a council tax reduction, receiving an average payment of nearly £750. The scheme, introduced last year, is designed to support and retain foster carers approved by Devon County Council, helping to ease household costs while recognising the vital role they play in caring for some of the county's most vulnerable children and young people. New Crisis and Resilience Fund for households in need. A new Crisis and Resilience Fund is now in place to support low-income households in Devon facing sudden financial difficulty. The fund replaces the Household Support Fund, which ended earlier this year, but it is not a direct replacement. Instead of automatic payments, the new fund offers targeted support for low-income households experiencing an unexpected financial shock, such as a sudden loss of income or an essential cost they cannot afford. DCC takes action on rural broadband gap. Devon County Council is stepping up efforts to improve broadband connectivity in rural and hard-to-reach communities. Cabinet has welcomed a new Task and Finish group to monitor the Government's Gigabit Voucher Scheme, while a toolkit is being developed to help parish councils and communities engage with broadband providers. Cabinet Member Cheryl Cottle-Hunkin has written to the Minister for Digital Economy – co-signed by seven Devon MPs, National Park chairs and community organisations – highlighting the impact of poor connectivity on businesses, services and rural isolation. The Council is also reviewing its position on 5G infrastructure.

Grand Western Canal receives five-star award. The Grand Western Canal Country Park has once again received the five-star 'Pride in Parks' award from the Royal Horticultural Society's Southwest in Bloom. Feedback from the judges this year highlighted how impressed they were with the displays in the Canal Visitor Centre, the extensive tow path resurfacing work that took place last year, and the role that volunteers play in helping the Canal Rangers to maintain the area to such a high standard.

**8.2 Parish Councillors:** No reports received.

**8.3 Village Hall:** - No reports received. The Council discussed the village hall urinal project and funding possibilities. **(UPDATE): (JD)** This will be funded by the village hall.

**8.4 Parochial Church:** - **(LOB)** Discussions took place regarding the possibility of the parish council taking over the maintenance of the churchyard. The cost would have to be investigated and a possible increase to the next precept to cover the costs. **(ACTION): (LOB)** to liaise with St Margaret's Church.

**9. Newsletters, Bulletins, Press Releases circulated to councillors prior to the meeting.**

**9.1 DALC Newsletters** - noted by council.

**9.2 NALC Newsletters** - noted by council.

**9.3 MDDC Press Releases** - Local community assets, Community Emergency Plan - noted by council. **(LOB)** Looking to work towards a Community Emergency Plan.

## **10. Finance:**

**10.1 To note any further receipts, invoices or expense claims presented for payment since the last meeting and the bank balances - Bank Reconciliation at end of year accounts at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 to approve and minute - signed by Chairman, Councillor and Clerk.**

Bank balances as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026

- Community Main Account - £703.14
  - Earmarked Reserve Account - £1,791.93
  - Reserve Account - £2,811.11
- Total in banks: £5,306.18

Approve and minute – signed by Chairman, Councillor and Clerk.

Proposed: **(LOB)**.

Seconded: **(JD)**. Unanimously agreed by council.

### **Fixed Assets for the Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026**

Proposed: **(LOB)**.

Seconded: **(JD/JOB)**. Unanimously agreed by council.

### **Receipts List for the Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026**

Proposed: **(LOB)**.

Seconded: **(JD)**. Unanimously agreed by council.

### **Payments List for the Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026**

Proposed: **(LOB)**.

Seconded: **(JD)**. Unanimously agreed by council.

### **Payments List - (Over £100.00) 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026**

Proposed: **(LOB)**.

Seconded: **(JD)**. Unanimously agreed by council.

### **Variances 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026**

Proposed: **(LOB)**.

Seconded: **(JD/JOB)**. Unanimously agreed by council.

- **10.2 To receive the Internal Audit Report.** The report was noted and the council commented on a very satisfactory and positive report. Internal control objectives were met.

Proposed: (JD).

Seconded: (JOB).

Unanimously agreed by council.

- **10.3 To agree the Annual Governance Statement for 2025-2026**

It was agreed that all boxes could be ticked 'yes' and the statement was duly signed by the Chair of the meeting and Clerk.

Proposed: (JD).

Seconded: (JOB).

Unanimously agreed by the council.

- **10.4 To agree the Accounting Statement for 2025-2026.**

The Accounting Statement was agreed and having already been signed by the RFO it was duly signed by the Chair of the meeting.

Proposed: (JD).

Seconded: (JOB).

Unanimously agreed by the council.

- **10.5 To agree that the Parish Council wishes to certify itself as exempt from a limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Small Authorities) Regulations 2015.**

It was agreed that the Council would declare itself exempt and the form was duly signed by the Chair of the meeting and the RFO/Clerk.

Proposed: (JD).

Seconded: (JOB).

Unanimously agreed by the council.

- **10.6 To agree The Notice of the Period for the Exercise of Public Rights and other information for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 required by Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 Sections 25, 26 and 27. The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/234).**

It was agreed that the council would publish the The Notice of the Period for the Exercise of Public Rights and other information for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 required by Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, Sections 25, 26 and 277. The Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/234).

Proposed: (JD).

Seconded: (JOB).

Unanimously agreed by the council.

**10.7 To note any receipts since the last meeting and the bank balances – Bank Reconciliation 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026 – 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026 – to approve and minute – signed by chairman and clerk.**

- Community Main Account - £6800.21
- Earmarked Reserve Account - £ 291.93
- Reserve Account - £2811.11

15 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	MDDC Precept	£6260.51
14 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	Donation from 'bingo night' fund raising Templeton Village Hall – Sum up payment	£ 128.00
22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2026	Donation from 'bingo night' fund raising Templeton Village Hall – cash deposit	£ 125.00
24 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	Transfer from Earmarked Account to Community Account for Templeton Village Hall Project Roof Repairs	£ 1500.00

Approve and minute - signed by Chairman, Councillor and Clerk.

Proposed: (JOB)

Seconded: (JD)

**10.8 Invoices – to approve any invoices or expense claims presented for payment 1<sup>st</sup> April – 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

1 <sup>st</sup> April 2026	Scribe monthly payment	£ 24.00
20 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	Website	£ 21.10
27 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	Templeton Village Hall Project Roof Repairs	£ 1500.00
1 <sup>st</sup> May 2026	Clerk Salary	Redacted. Personal data exempt from being disclosed.
1 <sup>st</sup> May 2026	Consumables – ink printer cartridges x 2	£ 33.98
1 <sup>st</sup> May 2026	Scribe monthly payment	£ £24.00

Approve and minute - signed by Chairman, Councillor and Clerk

Proposed: (JOB)

Seconded: (JD)

**10.9 Precept. UPDATE: (LOB/BN).** Confirmation of precept receipt £6260.51 on April 15<sup>th</sup> 2026.

**10.10 Transference of monies from Bingo Night fund raising - Annual**  
Defibrillator maintenance and maintenance of Night Landing Site for Devon Air Ambulance into earmarked account (LOB).

Annual electricity cost £40.00 x 2 houses = £80.00

Defibrillator maintenance £100.00 per year.

Landing lights maintenance £100.00 per year.

Transfer to be made to earmarked accounts from community account.

Proposed: (JD)

Seconded: (JOB)

**10.11 Repairs and remedial work - Templeton Village Hall Repairs and remedial work -**  
Templeton Village Hall. (UPDATE): (LOB/BN) The Treasurer of Templeton Village Hall, 'Mr RL' expressed his thanks to the parish council for the contribution to the village hall repairs...

*"I would like to thank you on behalf of the village hall committee for your contribution to the repairs of the village hall and for your continuing support to the hall".*

**10.12 Internal Auditor Invoice - £75.00 approval of payment.**

Proposed: (JD).

Seconded: (JOB).

Unanimously agreed by council.

**10.13 Budget 2026/2027 and Precept Monitoring of budget and precept. To receive a budget v actual for quarter 1 of 2026/27. (UPDATE): (LOB)** Confirmation of the addition of landing light maintenance/defibrillator electricity costs/maintenance added to budget.

**10.14 Budget 2026/27 Forecast - (UPDATE): (LOB).** Confirmed that the parish council is just covering running costs and hope to slowly build up reserves.

**10.15 Parish Council Insurance.** Four insurance quotations were submitted to the council and it was agreed that the council would accept Zurich Municipal Insurance. The council discussed the renewal of the insurance. The clerk had obtained four quotes and had discussed the relative merits of each quote. The saving and the cover provided by Zurich insurance provided the best overall and came highly recommended by other councils. As this quote offered the best value for money offering a saving of £459.00 after best value for money and the best cover, this was approved unanimously

by the council.

Proposed: (LOB)

Seconded: (JD)

Unanimously agreed by council.

## 11. Matters arising from minutes not covered elsewhere.

None.

## 12. Correspondence/Items to Discuss:

**12.1** Parish Footpaths - Parish Paths P3 Partnership Scheme. Report for work to be carried out in progress. Funding for repairs. 'Footpath Events'. **(UPDATE): (LOB)** A bluebell walk took place and was very well received. This was a free event – highlighting the use of the Parish footpaths. Further walks hope to be organised in the future to explore further footpaths.

**12.2** 20 mph speed limits - **(UPDATE): (LOB)** Discussions took place regarding the evidence regarding areas for the pro's and con's of signage. Safety of children and pedestrians in the village was also discussed. The 30mph and 20mph limits had also been discussed in urban areas. **(ACTION): (Cllr Lodge)** Ongoing investigations.

Bikeability courses were also discussed. **(UPDATE): (BN)** - Bikeability courses. - Bikeability courses available if booked direct home page - Cycle training in Plymouth and Devon <https://www.cyclepass.co.uk/> Courses have to be booked by parents/carers direct. The courses cater for different age ranges and capabilities. Plymouth, Tavistock and Ivybridge are the closest venues. Courses approximately £45.00.

The school bus was discussed **(UPDATE): (LOB)** Ongoing discussions regarding 'turning points' for the bus and legally permitted walking distances for children.

**12.3 Website (BN)** Discussions and permission was sought to permit a recommended web developer to carry out an audit of Templeton Parish Council's website regarding accessibility criteria. **(BN)** confirmed that no changes would be made to the website during this audit.

Proposed: (LOB)

Seconded: (JD)

Unanimously agreed by council.

**12.4** Ex Valley Market Bus - **(LOB)** has asked people (who she is aware of) that catch the bus. **UPDATE: (LOB):** To organise a group outing on the market bus. **(UPDATE): (LOB)** Contact has been made with the driver of the market bus. **(LOB)** trying to arrange a date for a potential 'pick up' for residents in Templeton, travel to Tiverton for a two hour stay and then the return trip to gauge interest. If this trip is successful, discussions may take place regarding a permanent 'pick up/drop off' for Templeton village.

**13. Items raised by Councillors:**

None.

**14. Screen Devon/filming in Mid Devon - (LOB)** Mid Devon District Council - Town and Parish Councils may have land or assets suitable for use as film locations - from village squares and car parks to village halls. **(UPDATE): (LOB)** Interest has been lodged from the company with a view to potentially using our village and **(UPDATE): (LOB)** has been requested to forward further photographs showing areas of the natural beauty of the village. No photographs of private properties would be taken without the prior consent of those individuals.

**14.1 Defibrillator in the telephone box and village locations - (UPDATE): (LOB)** A Memorandum of Understanding has been drafted for councillors to approve and discuss at the next meeting relating to electricity usage for the defibrillators.

**14.2 Devon Wildlife Trust - Saving Devon's Treescapes project – parish/town involved in receiving a free Landmark Tree. (UPDATE): (LOB)** The tree will be temporarily planted in a pot until the final destination has been determined.

**MEETING CLOSED AT 20.47**

**Date of the next meeting is:**

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2026 at Templeton Village Hall - 7.30 p.m.**

**Draft Minutes for the Annual Meeting of Templeton  
Parish Council  
held on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2026  
at 8:00 pm - Templeton Village Hall.**

**PROPOSED:**

**SECONDED:**

**SIGNED BY CHAIRMAN:**