

TEMPLETON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes for the Annual Meeting of Templeton Parish Council Held On Tuesday 28th July 2026 at 7.30pm - 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. V. Hopley, Cllr. S. Stone

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

1. Apologies received from Cllr. J. Dent - apologies accepted by council.

2. Declarations of Interest:

Templeton Village Hall - **(SS)**, **(VH)**

St Margaret's Church - **(LOB)**, **(VH)**

3. 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 Comments were made by the public.

4 Minutes of the previous meeting: The minutes of the previous annual meeting of Templeton Parish Council held at Templeton Village Hall on 26th May 2026 had already been circulated prior to the meeting.

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

5. Planning:

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

No comments recorded by the Council.

6 Highways:

6.1 (LOB) - Road Warden and (SS) - Snow Warden.

Road Warden - **(UPDATE): (LOB)** Birches Cross to Lower North Combe Cross resurfacing work now completed. Pothole filler delivered under the road warden scheme. The council commented on the high standard of work and their appreciation to all volunteers who assisted with the pot hole filling and to the highways department. The road and finger signs in the village will be addressed/cleaned/repared in due course. Still outstanding is the responsibility of gritting roads not on the main 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.

Snow Warden Report July 2026 Sara Stone

1. Coverage

As you know, we are using a zonal approach to cover Templeton for Snow/ Grit and our emergency plan.

Zone Description

Zone 1

Named Volunteers: Yes

Templeton Cross to Palm Springs Templeton Bridge to Higher South Coombe A grit spreader is owned and operated by residents in Zone One, Temple Bridge. This grit spreader operator will use grit from the supply provided by the Snow Warden / Devon County Council.

Zone 2

Named Volunteers: Yes Templeton Village to Templeton Cross

Zone 3

Named Volunteers: Yes The Ford to Templeton Village

Zone 4

Named Volunteers: Yes Burches Cross to The Coombes

Zone 5

Named Volunteers: Pending Templeton Cross to Rackenford Road (Loxbeare Junction)
Although outside Templeton, this road gives the most direct access to and from the Rackenford Road, which is gritted by Devon County Council

Zone 4 is the most recent appointment which is really pleasing. Now the focus will be finding someone from zone 5 to join us.

2. Outside Interest In Our Snow Warden Scheme

On 05.07.2026 I had an email from Stoodleigh Parish Council. They are looking into how they can set up a Snow Warden scheme in their ward and have asked to 'pick our brains'. I've got to arrange a meeting time with them. Would any other councillors like to come to it?

It is also linked to the emergency plan. I suggest we could hold an event at the village hall and invite other PCs to come and discuss the snow warden scheme and emergency plan.

3. Grit Bin 1802



This grit box is by Lower North Coombe. It is in good order. I have ordered more grit to fill it and I have also asked the council who that piece of land belongs to so we can address how it might be maintained. In the meantime, I have organised someone to go and strim the area – hopefully on a regular basis.

4. The Grit Distribution Situation

I have bagged up the grit into manageable weight bags and I am encouraging zone volunteers to come and take what they feel they need. It has been a bit tricky to keep snow warden momentum going in all these heat waves but as we head towards Autumn.

5. Highway Maintenance Community Enhancement Fund

I have emailed dominic.scotting@devon.gov.uk again to ask about this fund, if it still exists and how we might access it. I included in my email that the recent pothole repair work done by the council has resulted in dangerous drop offs which now make our single-track lanes much harder for vehicles to pass on.

7. Reports.

7.1 County and District Council: Reports received and circulated to councillors.

2026 July Parish Council Report - Cllr. A. Stirling, Mid Devon District Councillor, West Exe.

It is noted that Councillors Gwen Duschene and Claudette Harrower alongside myself have been supporting the work being taken forward at St Paul's church rooms in Westex, Tiverton. Councillor Duschene also represented Mid Devon District Council at Tiverton Museum of Mid Devon Life during the visit of HRH The Duke of Gloucester on 9 June. The visit highlighted the museum's important heritage, educational and community role, as well as its ambitious plans for future development. Such events provide valuable opportunities to promote Mid Devon, support local organisations and strengthen community connections across the district.

County Council hosts LGR event for Towns and Parishes

On 22nd June, DCC and the Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC) facilitated a workshop for Devon's larger towns and parishes on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). This was to ensure that information on the timeline and process is being shared widely and that the strong relationship with local councils and their communities is championed as we move through the process of LGR. Mid Devon has previously run its own well-attended sessions for its towns and parishes, and the value of these is in both strengthening those individual relationships, as well as ensuring towns and parishes have full visibility on the various steps in the fairly complex journey moving forward.

While some immediate attention has been on the consideration of specific community assets, there is also a desire from local councils to look forward and shape what area-based and community decision-making feels like in the future. Everyone knows the journey ahead will have its challenges, however the message in the room was clear that these will be better faced, and more easily overcome, by working together across all levels of local government to ensure that LGR delivers the best possible outcomes for our communities. If you have any questions about this event, please contact your DALC representative directly.

Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) Published

Mid Devon District Council has published its latest Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA), an important evidence document that will help inform preparation of the new Local Plan, Plan Mid Devon.

The HELAA assesses land that has been submitted to the Council by landowners, developers and other interested parties through the 2021 and 2025 'Call for Sites' exercises. It considers whether sites may be suitable, available and achievable for housing, employment, renewable energy or habitat creation.

It is important to note that inclusion of a site in the HELAA does not mean that planning permission will be granted, nor does it mean that a site will necessarily be allocated for development in the Local Plan or a Neighbourhood Plan. Instead, the assessment provides technical evidence to help the Council understand the potential supply of land available to meet future development needs.

The HELAA will now form part of the evidence base for Plan Mid Devon, assisting the Council in deciding which sites should be taken forward for further consideration and public consultation as the new Local Plan is prepared.

Parish councils may wish to review sites within their areas and consider any implications for housing, employment, infrastructure, environmental protection and community facilities as the Local Plan process progresses.

Further information:

HELAA: <https://www.middevon.gov.uk/planning-policy/housing-and-economic-land-availability-assessment/>

Plan Mid Devon: <https://www.middevon.gov.uk/plan-mid-devon-council-launches-new-local-plan/>

Let's Talk Mid Devon: <https://letstalk.middevon.gov.uk/>

Plan Mid Devon Consultation Now Underway

Mid Devon District Council has launched work on a new Local Plan, which will guide how the district develops over the next 20 years. The plan will identify land for new homes, jobs, infrastructure and community facilities, while also considering environmental protection and the response to climate change.

The new plan is being prepared under updated Government requirements which require councils to complete Local Plans within a 30-month timeframe. The Council formally commenced work on 26 May 2026 and has opened an initial scoping consultation, inviting residents, businesses, community groups and parish councils to help shape the plan from the outset.

The consultation seeks views on the key issues facing Mid Devon, what the new Local Plan should cover, and how people would like to be kept informed as the process progresses. A

further consultation on draft policies, evidence and potential site options is expected in early 2027, followed by consultation on the full draft plan in early 2028. Subject to examination by a Planning Inspector, adoption is anticipated in spring 2029.

For further information and to participate in the consultation, visit:

<https://www.middevon.gov.uk/plan-mid-devon-council-launches-new-local-plan/>

<https://letstalk.middevon.gov.uk/>

Comments can be submitted by email to: planmiddevon@middevon.gov.uk.

What can parish councils do? Parish councils are encouraged to take part in the current Plan Mid Devon consultation and help shape the district's future development strategy. This early-stage consultation provides an opportunity to raise local priorities, identify infrastructure needs, highlight environmental concerns and ensure that the views of local communities are considered before draft policies and potential development sites are prepared. Parish councils can also encourage residents to participate in the consultation process.

Affordable Homes at Post Hill

The first 25 affordable homes have been completed at the Post Hill development in Tiverton, with residents now moving in. The wider scheme will deliver 70 affordable homes, including properties for social rent, through a partnership between Allison Homes South West and LiveWest. The development will increase the supply of affordable housing for local people and help address housing need across Mid Devon.

Grand Western Canal Retains Five-Star Award

The Grand Western Canal Country Park has retained its prestigious five-star Pride in Parks Award from the Royal Horticultural Society's South West in Bloom scheme for the second year running. Judges highlighted the quality of the Canal Visitor Centre, recent towpath improvements and the contribution of volunteers working alongside the Canal Ranger Service.

The award recognises the high standards of maintenance, conservation and visitor experience provided at one of Mid Devon's most valued natural and heritage assets. Stretching more than 11 miles through the district, the canal continues to attract residents and visitors for recreation, wildlife and tourism.

Why it matters: The award is recognition of the dedication of staff and volunteers and helps raise the profile of one of Mid Devon's premier visitor attractions, bringing environmental, community and economic benefits to the district.

Bin It 123 – Mid Devon Among England's Best for Recycling

Mid Devon continues to be one of the highest-performing councils in England for waste and recycling. Latest national figures show the district ranks 6th lowest out of 197 collection authorities for residual household waste and 10th highest for recycling rates, placing Mid Devon among the country's top-performing councils.

A programme of service improvements is planned over the coming year to help residents recycle more and reduce waste. Recent changes include accepting metal baking trays in household recycling collections, while future initiatives will include trials of soft plastic collections, additional recycling containers and food waste caddies.

Working with Devon County Council, Mid Devon will also launch the Monster Bins Project in primary schools from September 2026, using assemblies and educational activities to encourage food waste recycling among younger residents and their families.

Town and parish councils may also be interested in upcoming tours of the waste depot, where members can learn more about recent service developments and new collection technologies.

Why it matters: High recycling rates reduce disposal costs, support environmental objectives and help keep Mid Devon among the best-performing districts in the country. The planned improvements aim to make recycling easier for residents while increasing participation across the district.

New Mid Devon Residents' App Launched

Mid Devon District Council has launched a new free residents' app, giving people easier access to council services from their smartphones. Residents can report issues, contact councillors, receive waste collection reminders, read council news, check planning applications and access local service information. [middevon.gov.uk]

The app is designed to make it easier for residents to access services, receive important updates and stay connected with the Council. Download: www.middevon.gov.uk/app [middevon.gov.uk]

Why it matters: The app provides a simple, accessible way for residents to engage with council services, receive timely information and report issues while reducing reliance on phone calls and paper communications.

Apprenticeships Supporting Skills and Careers at Mid Devon

Mid Devon District Council currently supports 17 apprenticeships across a range of services. These include both traditional apprentices and existing employees who are undertaking apprenticeship qualifications alongside their day-to-day roles.

The apprenticeships are delivered through eight different training providers and cover a diverse range of subjects including plumbing, procurement, housing management and environmental health.

The Council has a strong track record of apprentices progressing into permanent roles, helping to develop local skills and build a talented workforce for the future.

Why it matters: Apprenticeships provide valuable career opportunities for local people while helping the Council attract, develop and retain skilled staff in key service areas.

Anyone interested in future opportunities with the Council can sign up for job alerts via the Council's recruitment notification service.

Strategic Sustainability Grants Launched

Mid Devon District Council has launched a new Strategic Sustainability Grants (SSG) scheme to support community organisations delivering local action on sustainability, climate change and nature recovery. The programme will provide seed and core funding to help community groups strengthen partnerships, build resilience and deliver practical environmental projects. A total of £80,000 has been allocated to the scheme over the next two financial years. [middevon.gov.uk]

The scheme offers new funding opportunities for local organisations to develop projects that support climate action, biodiversity and environmental sustainability across Mid Devon.
[middevon.gov.uk]

Further information: <https://www.middevon.gov.uk/new-strategic-sustainability-grants-to-support-community-climate-and-nature-action/> [middevon.gov.uk]

7.2 Parish Councillors: Reports received from Cllr. Stone - Snow Warden - point 6.1 and Village Hall - point 7.3 refers.

7.3 Village Hall: - Report received from Cllr. Stone.

Report from Templeton Village Hall and Social Club for Templeton Parish Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday 28th July 2026

Compiled by Sara Stone.

Recent expenses at Templeton Village Hall have included lighting repairs, purchasing hand-dryers, a new drinks cooler, a new battery for the village hall defibrillator (every 4 years), increased electricity and gas costs.

Many thanks to Templeton Parish Council for their financial support of £1,500 for the repairs. It was agreed that £10,000 running costs should always be in both the village hall and social club accounts. A graph showing the increased costs of electricity and gas has led to an increase in event booking charges.

The committee has not yet agreed on the annual amount to contribute to St Margaret's Church Repair Fund. This will be decided at the next Village Hall and Social Club Meeting on September 7th 2026.

The Village Hall Committee is investigating whether the village hall could obtain grants for installing environmentally friendly solar panels or other methods to save energy.

Councillors Val Hopley and Sara Stone have attended several Mid Devon Village Halls Cluster meetings. This has been an opportunity to see the challenges other village halls are facing and how they are responding to this.

Templeton Village Hall has been used by the local community a great deal over the past few weeks as it has been available for everyone to share the regular viewing of the World Cup thanks to (D & M).

There have also been the Social Club competitions of pool, darts, table tennis and skittles.

Future events planned so far this year include:

The Summer Fete - 8th August

Harvest Supper

Halloween Party - Friday 23rd October

Bonfire and Firework Night - Saturday 31st October

The Art Group's cheese and wine evening with art sale and exhibition

Christmas Dinner

Children's Christmas Party - Sunday 13th December organised by TL.

While there may be fewer outside bookings than some other village halls have, Templeton Village Hall is used a great deal and is available for the local community and for local events.

Templeton Village Hall would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who volunteers for events, maintenance, planning and governance and all the work that they do for our community.

- 7.4 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 as per the possible increase to the next precept to cover the costs
(ACTION): (LOB) to liaise with St Margaret's Church
(ACTION): (VH) to obtain three quotations for the church garden maintenance. Council discussed the possibility of a precept increase to cover the maintenance in the future.

8. Newsletters, Bulletins, Press Releases Circulated To Councillor's Prior To The Meeting

8.1 DALC Newsletters - noted by councillors. Discussed alignment of council elections and unitary authorities

8.2 NALC Newsletters - noted by councillors.

8.3 MDDC Press Releases - Community Emergency Plan - noted by councillors.

(ACTION): (LOB) Looking to work towards a Community Emergency Plan.

Mid Devon District Council has just launched a new app to make accessing council services even easier - www.midevon.gov.uk/app

9 Finance:

9.1 To Note Any Further Receipts Since The Last Meeting And The Bank Balances – Bank Reconciliation 5th May To 5th July 2026 To Approve And Minute - Signed By Chairman, Councillor And Clerk.

Bank balances as at 5th July 2026

- Community Main Account - £5,392.89
- Earmarked Reserve Account - £575.13
- Reserve Account - £2,819.15
- Total in banks: £8,787.17

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

Proposed: **(LOB)**. Seconded: **(SS)**.

Unanimously agreed by council.

9.2 To Note Any Receipts Since The Last Meeting And The Bank Balances – Bank Reconciliation 5th May 2026 To 5th July 2026 – To Approve And Minute – Signed By Chairman And Clerk.

4 th June 2026	Transfer from community account to earmarked account – Annual electricity costs for defibrillator x 2 houses.	£ 80.00
4 th June 2026	Transfer from community account to earmarked account – Annual defibrillator maintenance.	£100.00
4 th June 2026	Transfer from community account to earmarked account – Annual landing lights maintenance.	£100.00
8 th June 2026	Bank Interest for Reserve Account	£8.04
8 th June 2026	Bank Interest for Earmarked Account	£3.20

Approve and minute - signed by Chairman and Clerk

Receipts Proposed: **(LOB)**, Receipts Seconded: **(VH)**

Transfers Proposed **(LOB)**, Transfers Seconded **(SS)**.

9.3 Invoices – To Approve Any Invoices Or Expense Claims Presented For Payment 5th May - 5th July 2026

5 th May 2026	Scribe annual health check	£94.80
20 th May 2026	Website	£21.10
29 th May 2026	Zurich Insurance annual premium	£241.00
29 th May 2026	Clerk salary	Redacted. Personal data exempt from being disclosed
1 st June 2026	Scribe monthly payment	£24.00
8 th June 2026	Internal auditor payment.	£75.00
22 nd June 2026	Website	£21.10
26 th June 2026	Clerk Salary	Redacted. Personal data exempt from being disclosed
1st July 2026	Scribe monthly payment	£24.00

Approve and minute - signed by Councillor and Clerk

Proposed: **(SS)**

Seconded: **(VH)**

9.4 Budget 2026/2027 And Precept Monitoring Of Budget And Precept

To receive a budget v actual for quarter 2+ of 2026/27. **(UPDATE): (LOB)**.

Discussions took place re scribe accounting procedures, cost centres and recording of information. Budget predictions all on track.

9.5 Budget 2026/27 Forecast - (UPDATE): (LOB)

HMRC payment totalling £234.80 was paid on 19th July 2026 and was included in the budget forecast for salary payments. CPRE - (The Campaign to Protect Rural England) payment has now been paid and will be itemised at the next meeting.

9.6 Parish Council Insurance - (UPDATE): (BN) Parish council insurance all in place with Zurich Insurance. Renewal 31st June 2027.

9.7 VAT Reclaim - (UPDATE): (BN): VAT claim totalling £192.68 for the period of 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026 inclusive claimed. VAT refund received 14th July 2026.

10. Matters Arising From Minutes Not Covered Elsewhere

None.

11. Correspondence / Items to Discuss:

11.1 Parish Footpaths - Parish Paths P3 Partnership Scheme. Report for work to be carried out in progress. Funding for repairs. 'Footpath Events'.

(UPDATE): (LOB) Work has been completed. Kissing gates repaired, steps repaired. More signs may be required and an autumn footpath walk has been suggested.

(ACTION): (LOB) To investigate.

11.2 20 mph speed limits - (UPDATE): (LOB) Discussions took place regarding the evidence for the pro's and con's of signage. Safety of children and pedestrians in the village was also discussed. **(UPDATE): (LOB):** Ongoing investigations. Signage possibilities discussed for 20mph signs and this would be looked into. **(ACTION): (LOB)** to investigate, contact Seddons Estate Agents and communicate any initial proposals to Templeton Village residents by email. Placement of any potential signs also discussed and the placing on private land.

11.3 School Bus - It was reported that the Transport Head of DCC had visited the site. The legal requirement of 1.5 miles walking distance to walk to the school bus meets the legal requirement. Contact was made with the bus company and not viable to change the bus route. Delays in the school journey and turning points were discussed. No further action can be taken.

11.4 Website - (UPDATE): (BN) Web developer audit completed. The clerk thanked the web developer company on behalf of the council for their time, expertise and commitment in assisting the council to ensure website accessibility going forward.

Recommendations:

Add Alt Text/short descriptions to images on a web page.

Add heading structures to pages

Text contrast colours meet accessibility structure.

(ACTION): Clerk to action the above recommendations and report to council with regular updates.

11.5 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) Waiting for a window of opportunity to arrange this trip.

11.6 Complaints Policy review - (ACTION): (CLERK) To be discussed at the next meeting.

11.7 Data Protection Policy - (ACTION): (CLERK) To be discussed at the next meeting.

11.8 Data Protection Complaints Policy - (ACTION): (CLERK) To be discussed at the next meeting.

11.9 Debit Card Policy - (ACTION): (CLERK) To be discussed at the next meeting.

11.10 Register of Interests - (UPDATE): (BN): Confirmed legislative change affecting the publication of Members' personal information.

From 29th June 2026, local authorities will no longer be required to publish an elected or co-opted member's home address in the public Register of Interests. This change is introduced through section 12A of the Localism Act 2011, as inserted by section 65 of the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act 2026.

Councillors were reminded to complete their ROI forms if not already done so.

(ACTION): (CLERK) Update council files and ensure ROI forms returned to Mid Devon District Council.

12. Items Raised By Councillors:

12.1 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) Templeton has been registered. Interest has been lodged from the company with a view to potentially using our village and **(ACTION): (LOB)** has been requested to forward further photographs showing areas of the natural beauty of the village throughout the seasons.

No photographs of private properties would be taken without the prior consent of those individuals. The screening company appear to be very keen to use Templeton village as a location.

12.3 Existing Clerk Resignation (UPDATE): Due to **(LOB)** being voiceless and could only communicate in a strained whisper, **(JOB)**, the Acting Chair, spoke on behalf of the chair and council. **(JOB)** thanked **(BN)** for her hard work, dedication and commitment as clerk for Templeton Parish Council over the past two plus years. **(JOB)** wished **(BN)** well for the future on behalf of the council.

Existing Clerk, **(BN)** thanked the council and councillors for their support over the last two years. **(BN)** commented on the community spirit of Templeton, the support received by the council and how much she had enjoyed the role of clerk. **(BN)** wished her successor well in her new role.

12.4 Appointment Of Incoming Clerk. New clerk **(A)** appointed clerk for Templeton Parish Council. Approved: **(JOB)**, seconded: **(SS)**. Unanimously approved by council.

12.5 Newly Appointed Clerk – resolution to appoint newly appointed clerk to act as Responsible Financial Officer, (the statutory officer responsible for managing a parish council's financial affairs) and Data Protection Officer. Approved **(JOB)**. **(SS)**. Unanimously approved by council.

MEETING CLOSED AT 20.18

Date of the next meeting is:

TUESDAY 26th September 2026 at Templeton Village Hall

Minutes for the Meeting of Templeton Parish Council
Held on Tuesday 28th July 2026 at 7:30pm
Templeton Village Hall

PROPOSED:

SECONDED:

SIGNED: CHAIRMAN