TEMPLETON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes for the Annual Meeting of Templeton Parish Council held on Tuesday 29 September 2026 at 7.30 pm – 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 – Alex Langley (AL).

Members Present: Cllr L. O'Brien (Chair), Cllr J. O'Brien, Cllr V. Hopley, Cllr S. Stone, Cllr J. Dent.

In attendance: Cllr S. Lodge, Devon County Councillor for Tiverton West, Cllr C. Harrower, Mid Devon District Councillor, West Exe. Lewis Dyson Resilience Officer, MDDC, Community Emergency Hubs.

1. **Apologies – None**

2. **Declarations of Interest:**

Templeton Village Hall - (SS) (VH) (JD).
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 three minutes. The period of time designated for public participation shall not exceed 15 minutes.

- **Lewis Dyson Resilience Officer, MDDC, Community Emergency Hubs.**

LD spoke to the Council on the importance of Community Emergency Hubs, see below report,

When an emergency happens, every minute matters.
Emergency services will always prioritise the most urgent calls and may not be able to reach everyone straight away. A Community Emergency Hub is a safe, local place where people can come together during an emergency. It allows communities to share information, support one another, and take safe, practical action until emergency services arrive.

What is a Community Emergency Hub?
A Community Emergency Hub is run by the community, for the community.
To support local areas, the Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Resilience Forum (LRF) has created a simple, practical guide to help communities set up and run a Hub.
Hubs can be established in many types of community spaces, and you do not need to pre-select volunteers. The guide includes easy-to-use role cards that explain each task clearly. This means you can open a Hub quickly, assign roles to those who are present, and begin supporting your community straight away.
Suggested roles can be adapted to suit the people available and the situation you are facing.

When your community needs a Hub
A Community Emergency Hub helps your community to:

- Act quickly when something unexpected happens
- Support neighbours and look out for one another

- Strengthen existing emergency plans
- Build confidence and resilience before, during, and after an emergency

Community Emergency Hubs are simple, flexible, and suitable for many different types of emergencies. They can make a real difference in the critical early moments.

Setting up your own Community Emergency Hub

1. As a community group or organisation, agree that you would like to establish a Community Emergency Hub.
2. Understand the key principles:
    a. The Hub is open to the whole community during an emergency.
    b. It is a community asset, managed by the community for the community.
3. Identify a suitable building to use as a Community Emergency Hub.
4. Depending on your county, contact Volunteer Cornwall or Devon Communities Together (details below) to access support and to receive a Community Emergency Hub Box.
5. Ensure you have registered your Community Emergency Hub with Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Resilience Forum by selecting the link below.

Key notes:

- Communication/situation board to be placed in village hall
- Hub box to include basic but essential equipment to use in an emergency such as flash light, radio, batteries, first aid, water etc
- Insurance – covered by public liability insurance
- Police work alongside emergency hubs
- All hubs communicate
- Resilience in community

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:

Reference: 26/00966/HOUSE Householder Application, registered 21/07/2026
Address: Up top Templeton Tiverton Devon EX16 8BJ
Description: Erection of single-storey extension

Comments: No comments were recorded by the Council.

Reference: 26/01053/PNCOU PN Change of Use, registered 06/08/2026
Address: Land and Building at NGR 287168 114550 (Formerly Part Mount Pleasant Farm) Templeton Devon
Description: Prior Approval for the change of use of an agricultural building to 2 dwellings under Class Q

Comments: Questions raised:

- Councillors would like to know the overall plan for the site as 3 applications already previously requested and accepted which would mean five dwellings overall.

- A query was raised about whether the barn had existed for the 10 years required to qualify for Class Q.

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. Appreciation expressed by all councillors to Cllr S. Lodge.

A pothole filler has been delivered under the road warden scheme. Pothole filling remains outstanding.

The finger signs in the village will be addressed/cleaned/repaired in due course. Still outstanding.

Once the hedges have been cut, a team will clear the gullies to improve water flow.

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. Still outstanding

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): (SS)** Meeting to take place with Stoodleigh to incorporate emergency plan beginning of November. Update at next meeting.

The possibility of purchasing one new grit bin for the top of Higher Coombe hill, discuss at budget meeting.

Looking into how to get the village grit bins on the interactive map, Cllr Lodge to look into on behalf of SS.

(UPDATE): (CLLR S.L) Overgrown grit bin still needs investigating as to who owns the land. Update next meeting.

7 Reports.

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

Devon County Councillor report, October 2026.
local government reorganisation, you will know that the Government put a pause on local government reorganisation, but the long-term outcome remains unclear. Devon County Council has now started judicial review proceedings to challenge the Government's local government reorganisation decision. This was agreed by cabinet. The claim was lodged with the Administrative Court w/c 21 September and has been processed. DCC expects to receive the official documents shortly and will formally serve them on the Government and other relevant parties next week. This is a protective step to preserve the Council's legal position whilst the Government's review continues. There are strict time limits for bringing such challenges. Importantly, starting these proceedings does not prevent us from continuing to engage constructively with the Government and partner councils. At full council in September, we delegated authority to the Leader, consulting group leaders, to appoint members to joint committees overseeing the transition to the new unitary authority. The committees will remain while the pause is in place. Brexit and the economy In September Council accepted the Cabinet recommendation on the economic consequences of Brexit and the Single Market, seconded by Cllr Lodge. The Council noted the evidence of Brexit's economic impacts, agreeing for the Leader to write to government ministers and MPs about the importance of strong trading relationships with European markets, and supporting continued partnership working to strengthen Devon's international economic relationships. An amendment seeking to include Reform's perspective was defeated. Tourist tax. Also in September Council debated a notice of motion on protecting Devon's visitor economy and rejecting a tourist tax. The recommendation noted that Devon County Council does not currently have the powers to introduce an Overnight Visitor Levy, reaffirmed the council's support for the visitor economy, and stated that any future consideration of visitor levy arrangements should be evidence-led and developed in partnership with the tourism sector. Pension investments and genocide Council accepted a recommendation for the Investment and Pension Fund Committee to discuss potential divestment from companies based in countries found guilty of genocide at
the partner fund's strategic forum. Cllr Lodge moved the Investment and Pension Fund Committee's recommendation that officers seek to place the issue on the Partner Fund Strategic Forum agenda. During debate, concerns were raised about Israel and whether the proposal was political or antisemitic. Lodge rejected this characterisation, stressing that the motion concerned countries' behavior and the ICJ's position, not antisemitism. The recommendation was carried. Caring in Devon A new Caring in Devon Service launches on 1st October, essentially replacing Devon Carers assessments and reviews alongside a dedicated Carers Helpline now sit in-house at DCC. Preventative services continue to be commissioned through third sector partners and a peer support service goes live 1st November. New adult education courses in Devon. Learn Devon has launched its new 2026/27 adult education programme, with around 200 free courses available. Courses cover English, Maths, ESOL, digital skills and job-specific training, helping adults gain qualifications, build skills and improve career prospects. Please share this opportunity with friends and family who may benefit. Find out more here. Devon's Best Start Family Hubs & Best Start in Life programme Devon County Council has secured £6.028m of government funding (2026–2029) to expand its Best Start Family Hubs & Best Start in Life programme, designed to

improve early childhood development and school readiness. The programme supports families from pregnancy to age 19 (25 for SEND) and aims to ensure every Devon family can access joined-up, early help through a "hub without walls" model that reaches rural and isolated communities. The funding will strengthen parenting support, home learning, SEND pathways, and partnership working across health, education and community organisations. Devon County Council leads delivery through Public Health, with councillors asked to promote Family Hubs locally and help identify emerging needs. For families, this means earlier support, better access to services, stronger parent-child relationships, and more consistent help regardless of where they live — ultimately improving children's development and reducing inequalities across Devon. Devon Youth Council
Devon Youth Council has advanced its Places to Go, Things to Do campaign while driving major action on bus affordability and access. Their feedback to Devon County Council and national leaders helped shape a forthcoming national under-15 bus scheme and secured £500k of DCC investment for 16–19-year-olds not in education or employment. They also presented proposals to improve rural transport at the Devon Community Transport Day, suggesting local day trips and regular minibus links to train stations. Discussions on rural solutions continue, aiming to improve access and opportunities for young people across Devon.

7.2 Parish Councillors: Reports received from Cllr Lodge noted in point 7.1

7.3 Village Hall: - (UPDATE) (SS). Several events are coming up:
- Harvest Supper
- Farming Network meeting
- Halloween family party
- Bonfire night and fireworks
- Wine and cheese evening and art exhibition
- Murder mystery night
- Christmas competitions
- Children's Christmas party

It was noted that more fundraising events and ideas would be helpful to help raise more funds for Village Hall.

7.4 Parochial Church: - (UPDATE): (LOB) (VH) Confirmed by the PCC £1,600–£1,800 per annum for churchyard maintenance available. RC has offered their services at £20 per hour. To be budgeted to next meeting November Precept meeting. All is well with the church, with several upcoming events, including Harvest festival, Harvest service.

8. Newsletters, bulletins and press releases circulated to councillors before the meeting.

8.1 DALC newsletters – All newsletters and bulletins were sent to councillors before the meeting.

The Government announced on 7 September 2026 that plans for local government re-organisation in 14 areas, including Devon, Plymouth and Torbay, will be paused and reviewed.

8.1 NALC Newsletters - Noted by councillors.

8.2 MDDC Press Releases - (UPDATE): (AL) (LOB) Community Emergency Plan circulated to councillors prior to meeting

10. Finance:

10.1 To note any receipts since the last meeting and the bank balances - Bank Reconciliation 4th July – 3rd September 2026 to approve and minute – signed by chairman and clerk.

- Community Main Account - £4561.19
- Earmarked Reserve Account - £576.64
- Reserve Account - £2826.53

The reconciliation was approved and minuted, and signed by the Chair and Clerk.
Proposed: (LOB). Seconded: (SS)
Unanimously agreed by council

14th July 2026	VAT Refund - HMRC	-£192.68
17th July 2026	Clerk Salary - BN	Redacted. Personal data exempt from being disclosed.
20th July 2026	Website	£21.10
27th July 2026	Subscription	£36.00
27th July 2026	Clerk Salary - BN	Redacted. Personal data exempt from being disclosed.
3rd August 2026	Subscription	£24.00

10.2 Invoices: to approve invoices and expense claims presented for payment 4th July – 3rd August 2026.

To be approved and minuted, and signed by the Chair and Clerk.

Proposed: (LOB). Seconded (JD)

20th August 2026	Website	£21.10
28th August 2026	Clerk salary - AL	Redacted. Personal data exempt from being disclosed.
1st September 2026	Subscription	£24.00

10.3 Budget 2026/2027 and Precept - Monitoring of budget and precept. To receive a budget v actual for quarter 2+ of 2026/27. **(UPDATE): (LOB/AL)**. Finance report - **UPDATE: (LOB)** to be approved at next meeting November budget and precept meeting.

10.4 Budget and precept 2026/2027 – to be discussed and approved at next meeting.

11. Matters arising from minutes not covered elsewhere.

None.

12. Correspondence/Items to Discuss:

12.1 Parish footpaths (update): (LOB) Footpath events, we will approach a potential person for this role. If they are happy to take on the role they will report back to the Parish Council. To be reported back at the next Parish Meeting.

12.2 Discuss 20 mph speed limits – the possibility of introducing 20 mph speed limits through the built-up areas in the village. (UPDATE): (LOB). Ongoing, signage available from Seddon's at our request, Volunteers are needed who are willing to have a sign on their property. Seddon's will put signs up and take down.

12.3 Website - (UPDATE) (AL) Website work will be carried out in November/December.

12.4 Ex-Valley Market Bus - **(UPDATE): (LOB)**. Group outing. LOB actively organising for very soon.

12.5 Complaints Policy review. (AL). Sent to councillors before this meeting for review
Approved: LOB

Seconded: JD

12.6 Draft Data Protection Policy. (AL). Sent to councillors before this meeting for review
Approved: SS

Seconded: JD

12.7 Draft Data Protection Complaints Policy. (AL). Sent to councillors before this meeting for review
Approved: VH

Seconded: JOB

12.8 Draft Debit Card Policy. (LOB/AL). Sent to councillors before this meeting for review
Approved: JOB

Seconded: SS

12.9 Co-option Policy - Review at the next meeting (November) (AL)

12.10 Equality and Diversity Policy – Review at the next meeting (November) (AL)

12.11 Freedom of Information Policy – Review at the next meeting (November) (AL)

12.12 Grant Policy - Review at the next meeting (November) (AL)

12.13 IT Policy - Review at the next meeting (November) (AL)

12.14 Dates for 2027 Parish Council meetings. (UPDATE) (AL)

26 January
30 March
25 May
27 July
28 September
23 November

APPROVED BY: LOB SECONDED: JOB

13. Items raised by Councillors:

Cllr S. Lodge would like to encourage the community to take part in watching People's Emergency Briefing screening in Templeton.

13.1 Screen Devon/filming in Mid Devon - (UPDATE): (LOB). Very keen to get involved with Screen Devon as a lot of prime-time TV shows as well as movies are being shot currently in Devon, Pictures need to be taken of the village 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

13.2 Defibrillator in the Telephone Box - (UPDATE): (LOB). Ongoing, RC to install heater into the telephone box so then the defibrillator can also go in along with signage. All defibrillators checked regularly

MEETING CLOSED AT 9.20 PM

<u>The date of the next meeting is:</u>

Tuesday 24 November 2026 at Templeton Village Hall

Minutes of the meeting of Templeton Parish Council
Held on Tuesday 29 September 2026 at 7.30 pm
Templeton Village Hall

Proposed:

Seconded:

Signed: Chair