



Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Teffont Parish Council Held in Teffont Village Hall on Tuesday 26th May 2026

Meeting Convened at 18:30	
Those Present: Parish Councillors: D Wood (Chair), C Bell, N Blackford (Vice-Chair) A Chapman, R Shawe-Taylor, C Thompson Also in attendance: R Taylor (parish clerk) and three members of the public	
Questions or Statements: The Chair invited questions and statements from the public: none were received.	
MEETING MINUTES	Item No.
Council to Elect a Chair Councillor Wood stepped down from his role as Chair and asked if any councillor wished to stand. Councillor Thompson agreed to stand. Proposed by Cllr Wood and unanimously supported by all councillors present Cllr Wood resigned as a parish councillor and left the meeting. The Council recorded its thanks for his service Resolved: Council accepted Councillor Thompson as the new Chair, declaration of office signed.	26.05.01
Council to Elect a Vice-Chair Chairman Thompson asked if any councillor was prepared to stand as Vice-Chair. Cllr Blackford agreed to stand. Proposed: Cllr Thompson, and unanimously supported by all councillors present Resolved: Council accepted Cllr Blackford as Vice-Chair, declaration of office signed	26.05.02
Declaration: Teffont Parish Council does not have the General Power of Competence Councils that do not have the General Power of Competence (GPC) are typically those that do not meet the eligibility criteria set out in the Localism Act 2011. To qualify for GPC, a council must have: 1. At least two-thirds of its members are elected, rather than appointed or co-opted. 2. A qualified clerk who has completed relevant training. If a council does not meet these conditions, it must rely on specific legal powers rather than the broad freedoms granted by GPC. Many smaller parish councils and town councils may fall into this category, especially if they lack a qualified clerk or sufficient elected members.	26.05.03
Apologies for Absence Cllr Cockram sent his apologies as he is currently working abroad.	26.05.04
Declarations of interests: None declared Dispensations: None required	26.05.05
Resolution of Minutes Minutes from previous TPC meeting The Chair asked councillors to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as a true and accurate record Resolved: Resolved: The Parish Council approved the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on Tuesday 31 March 2026	26.05.06
Review and Adoption of All Regulatory Documents and Council Policies, updated and previously circulated	26.05.07



Resolved: All councillors present agreed to adopt the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations (subject to small alterations) for 2026 along with all Council Policies soon to be published on the village website.		
Review and Confirmation of Committees and Working Groups:		26.05.08
Resolved:		
Finance	Clerk (RFO), Cllr Blackford, Cllr Thompson, Cllr Cockram	
Council Communication	M. Audus, Clerk	
Parish Liaison with Teffont House	Cllr Cockram, Cllr Shawe-Taylor	
Village Welcome	Cllr Chapman, Clerk, Z. Faulkner (NW)	
Asset Register & Risk Assessment	Cllr Shawe-Taylor, Cllr Blackford	
Emergency Plan coordinator	Cllr Thompson, Cllr Chapman	
Flood Mitigation/Resilience	Cllr Thompson, Cllr Chapman, S. O'Donnell, M. Stuart (flood Warden), T. Deane	
Highways (plus rights of way)	Cllr Blackford, Cllr Bell	
SID Working Group	Cllr Chapman, M. Audus, I. Johnson, D. Wood	
Environment and Biodiversity	Cllr Blackford, Cllr Cockram, M. Audus (tree warden)	
Amenities Working Group	Cllr Bell, Cllr Blackford	
Review of Asset Register and Insurance Cllr Blackford reported a delay in renewing the annual insurance having reassessed the asset register. Action: To inform the council once this has been resolved		26.05.09
Chair's Report The new Chair Cllr Thompson thanked David Wood for his many years of support to the parish council, especially the last two years when he returned to help ensure its future stability.		26.05.10
Clerk's Report The Clerk updated councillors on actions taken following the previous meeting and correspondence received. - A resident has raised concerns over the current state of the 'green space' in the middle of the village opposite Fitz House - The Village Hall Playground was recently cleaned by volunteer Alex Taylor, with Richard McNamara further improving it using his pressure washer. Many thanks to both! Residents are asked to update their records with the parish council email address parishclerk@teffont.com -the old email address is not monitored and will soon be deleted - The Teffont Trust agreed to fund 50% of the costs for the new defibrillator cabinet and the WC-authorized SID pole installation, for which the parish council is very grateful. - Correspondence regarding Evias Church restoration has been redirected to the Save the Teffont Spire Committee as this is not a parish council matter. - Following a request for a formal statement from WC regarding access to 'Sunrise' on Hindon Road, I received the following response from the Head of Local Highways & Countryside Access:		26.05.11



“Highways initially acted under powers contained within the Highways Act 1980, against the owner of the property in relation to the construction of the access. The owner appealed this action and his appeal was successful. Following this the matter was considered by the Councils Planning Enforcement, who concluded that the access had been in existence for a sufficient length of time that enforcement action under the Town and Country Planning Act was no longer possible. The Council is now in the position that our avenues to act have been exhausted. I do fully appreciate that this position may cause dissatisfaction.” Members expressed strong concern regarding Wiltshire Council's statement, particularly in relation to the perceived lack of consideration given to public safety.	
FINANCE	
Approval of Annual Accounts The Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) has been completed by the Clerk (Responsible Finance Officer -RFO) and approved by the Chairman • Certificate of Exemption was signed by the Chairman and RFO • Council agreed to appoint Mr Don Ridley as Internal Auditor • Annual Governance Statement was approved and signed by the Chairman and the Clerk • Completed and signed (by RFO) Accounting Statement was presented for approval and signed by the Chairman Details to be published once the internal audit is completed and certificate of exemption is accepted. [Regulation 15 (2) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015]	26.05.12
Bank Statements and Reconciliations to 30th April 2026 The RFO displayed the accounts for the month of April Resolved: Council accepted that all accounts had been reconciled and were accurate.	26.05.13
Confirmation of Bank Signatories and Financial control Resolved: The council approved the current financial controls and agreed that Cllr Blackford and Cllr Cockram (subject to his agreement) would be bank signatories for the coming year	26.05.14
Actions Following the Annual Community Gathering The event took place in the garden of the Village Hall following the Teffont Café on Saturday 23rd May and attracted a sizeable turnout from the village. It began with the presentation of the Richard Long-Fox Cup, an annual award given by the Teffont Trust in memory of long-time resident Richard Long-Fox. It is awarded to an individual who, in the opinion of the trustees, has made a significant contribution to village life. Trustee Ian Johnson awarded the cup to this year’s recipient Rosemary Pegrum, recognised with great appreciation for her tireless work running the village café, a much-loved gathering place that has strengthened community spirit for years. Annual reports from the village groups and societies were made available to read and will be published soon on the village website. Villagers were given the opportunity to comment and make suggestions for the council to consider. 1. Request for a normal swing in the playground 2. Request for an astroturf installation in the field next to the Malthouse 3. Request to limit outside lighting and respect Teffont ‘dark skies’ status 4. Request to the village to remove redundant TV aerials 5. A suggestion of planting up verges in front of houses	26.05.16



6. Request for traffic calming measures on the entrance to the village 7. Complaint of speeding on the road to Tisbury 8. Request to plant more trees 9. Suggestion for a regular clear point of contact for concerns over Teffont House. Regular meetings with Parish Council and Teffont House to keep communication open to address villagers' concerns particularly as the venue opens 10. Collaboration with TH on accurate local walking map to keep visitors on footpaths The Parish Council considered all requests (some of which will be added to future agendas) and acknowledged that, whilst some were not within the Council's remit, the suggestions would be shared with the wider village community.	
Planning Under delegated authority, the clerk submitted the council's comments on planning application PL/2026/01986 - Font House SP3 5QY - Single storey extension, single storey infill extension, garage conversion, internal and external alterations, new garden room outbuilding and carport. 1. No objections are raised by the parish council, but a few points would benefit from clarification. It is unclear how the size and height of the proposed Studio/Garden Room compare with the existing shed, particularly given its proximity to Moon Cottage. The stated separation between the car port and neighbouring boundaries also appears tight on the plans and would benefit from confirmation. In addition, given the risks identified in both the tree survey and the preliminary bat survey, any permission should be conditional on the implementation of the recommended protective measures, including those set out in section 6.6 and the ecological safeguards for bats and nesting birds. Subject to these points, the proposal does not raise significant concerns. 2. As Teffont is situated within a designated dark skies area, could you please confirm that there will be no glazing in the roof of the proposed "orangery-style, single-storey oak extension"? Alternatively, if glazing is to be included, could you confirm that appropriate blackout blinds will be installed?	26.05.17
Village Resilience - No new updates	26.05.18
Parish Steward Cllr Blackford updated the council on work to be done by the parish steward in the coming months including keeping any of the flood mitigation measures along the Teff free from obstruction.	26.05.19
Any other business for information and Items for the Next Agenda • Teffont House is expected to open in late June • The Parish Clerk informed the Council of her intention to step down from the role and advised that a replacement would be sought. • Update on flood Mitigation - next meeting	26.05.20
The Chair closed the meeting at approximately 20:00	
NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Tuesday 14th July 2026 at 18:30. To be held at Teffont Village Hall unless otherwise stated	