



Minutes of Teffont Parish Council Meeting

Held in Teffont Village Hall

Tuesday 14th July 2026

Meeting Convened at 18.30	Item No.
Those Present Parish Councillors: C Thompson (chair), N Blackford (vice-chair), A Chapman Wiltshire Councillor B Wayman Also in attendance: R Taylor (parish clerk) and five members of the public	
Questions and Statements from the public - A resident enquired if the speed indicator device (SID) could be moved further out of the village to mitigate danger of speeding and noise nuisance as motorists leave the village. As regulations do not allow for this, they requested that the 30-mph be extended. - A second concern was an alleged unauthorised road access and building construction in Teffont Woods where a forest fire occurred a few days ago understood to have resulted from a poorly extinguished bonfire. WC Cllr Wayman agreed to take this up with enforcement. - Another resident raised the issue of increased dog waste on footpaths, particularly <i>The Horseshoe</i> (TEFF3 & TEFF10) and asked if the Parish Council could issue a reminder or install signage asking dog owners to not leave dog waste where people walk.	
Councillor Wayman expressed concern that: - Wiltshire Council recently withdrew its draft local plan to accommodate new government requirements for more housing. - The new Wessex Strategic Authority will likely divert government funding away from constituent authorities. - The government's national scheme of delegation for planning means that every decision will be made by officers leaving uncertainty for committees. - Cllr Blackford expressed concerns regarding the effectiveness of the planning enforcement process when issues are reported. Cllr Wayman acknowledged the concerns but was unable to provide any reassurance	
PCSO Charlotte King could not attend but sent the most recent Teffont police report in which there were no 999 calls and no recorded crime between 03/04/2026 and 08/07/2026 <u>PCM Report - 140726 Teffont.doc</u>	
MEETING MINUTES	
Apologies for Absence Cllr Bell notified the PC that she would be on holiday. Cllr Shawe-Taylor notified the PC of another commitment Cllr Cockram notified the PC of work commitments	26.07.01
Declarations of interests – none received Dispensations: -None required	26.07.02
Minutes from previous TPC meeting Resolved: That the minutes of the parish council meeting held on Tuesday 26th May 2026 be approved as a true and accurate record of the proceedings	26.07.03
Clerk's Report	26.07.04



The Clerk reported that most correspondence received since the previous meeting is covered under separate agenda items. • Efforts are underway to arrange a village talk on the importance of preserving dark skies. • A further first aid course with St John Ambulance has been provisionally booked for the autumn. • The six-monthly playground inspection has been completed (Agenda Item 12). • Numerous comments, primarily verbal, have been received expressing concern about the mud mound at Fitz House (Agenda Item 9). • Correspondence sent as requested regarding public footpaths (Agenda Item 14). • An email has been received raising concerns about an apparent unauthorised access onto Teffont Woods, which may present a hazard to traffic entering and leaving the 30-mph speed limit. Also referred to in the public statements.	
Chair's Report: Councillor Thompson reported that this was his first substantive meeting since being elected and thanked councillors and the Clerk for their support. Since the previous meeting, he had attended introductory Chair training, continued familiarising himself with the Council's procedures and responsibilities, responded to concerns raised by residents regarding Fitz House (with the matter included on the agenda for consideration), and dealt with a resident's enquiry concerning the proposed stopping up of part of a public right of way. The Chair advised that he intended to undertake further training and to continue working with councillors and the Clerk to ensure the Council remained open, approachable, and effective in serving the parish. He concluded by thanking councillors and the Clerk for their continued support.	26.07.05
Councillor Vacancy As there has been no request for an election the Councillor vacancy can now be filled by co-option. Any registered voter in the parish that is interested in becoming a Parish Councillor should contact the clerk on parishclerk@teffont.com	26.07.06
Clerk Vacancy Members discussed the recruitment of a new Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer (RFO). Resolved: To advertise the vacancy and commence the recruitment process.	26.07.07
FINANCE	
a) Resolved: Items of expenditure were approved by the council b) Resolved: That bank reconciliations presented by the Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) were up to date. c) Resolved: That the parish accounts for the period April - June, as previously circulated, were confirmed as fully reconciled and accurate	26.07.08
Fitz House - Response to Parish Council Correspondence Following concerns raised by a number of residents regarding the ongoing refurbishment works at Fitz House, the Chairman wrote to the owner on behalf of the Parish Council. The owner advised prior to the meeting that she did not wish to respond to the Council's written questions regarding planning permission, listed building consent, engineering advice and	26.07.09



environmental consideration and expressed dissatisfaction that she was not given the identities of those that had made enquiries with the council. During discussion, the owner advised that the expected completion of work is likely to be a year later than anticipated (Christmas 2027). The earthworks are not a landscape feature; the mound is a result of earth being moved from other areas as needed. "I have had it confirmed that there is no danger to the house or the Teff from the earthworks" although conceded that it might be a danger to someone nearby on the land. She suggested that if anyone has a concern then they should come to her directly and she is content that the parish clerk supplies interested parties with her email address. Cllr Thompson explained that much of the concern comes from the ongoing danger of flash flooding within the village and slope instability.	
Correspondence - concerning an alleged environmental and public safety matter The Council has received correspondence alleging that a domestic heating oil installation may present environmental and fire safety concerns. Resolved: the council will write to the owner concerned asking for further information	26.07.10
Website The review of information on the Village Website was deferred until the next meeting.	26.07.11
Playground Maintenance Councillors considered the recent playground inspection report for the play area at the Village Hall and concluded that no further maintenance work was required at this time. Cllr Blackford asked whether there had been any progress with the provision of a new swing. It was agreed that funding was being sought to enable its purchase and installation. Resolved: No further maintenance at this time and investigate potential funding sources for the provision of a new swing.	26.07.12
Highways and Amenities Working Group Cllr Bell had previously written to Paul Shaddock of Wiltshire Council for guidance on how the recent traffic survey could be interpreted in respect of traffic calming measures on the C277. The survey concluded that • The 20-mph speed limit remains suitable for this road. • The location is eligible for Community Speed Watch and/or a SID. • The threshold for significant traffic calming (such as speed humps or road narrowing) has not been met. • Lower-cost measures, including additional 20 mph roundels and "SLOW" road markings, could be considered to reinforce the speed limit. Resolved: The Highways and Amenities Working Group will investigate the feasibility of the recommended measures and report back to the Council.	26.07.13
Footpaths and Rights of Way • The Wiltshire Council's Rights of Way Officer has confirmed that the installation of new, more accessible gates on TEFF13 remains pending, with works expected to be completed during the summer. • A request has been made to a local landowner to consider providing off-road access to TEFF13.	26.07.14



• Maintenance requests have also been sent for several overgrown public rights of way, with positive responses received. • Information on local walks, including links to public rights of way and Wiltshire Council's guidance on rights and responsibilities, are published on the village website. Rights of way - Wiltshire Council The Government's <i>Countryside Code</i> will also be added to encourage users to follow good practice and respect the countryside. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code/the-countryside-code-advice-for-countryside-visitors Resolved: To encourage constructive dialogue and mutual respect between landowners and users of public rights of way.	
The Teff Cllr Blackford reported that the upper spring at the source of the Teff has once again run dry. He advised that no weed clearance should be undertaken at this time of year, as the vegetation helps to slow the flow and retain moisture within the stream. The latest update from Ian Colley of Wessex Water was received in May, with a further report expected next month, by which time the spring is anticipated to have dried up completely. Resolved: The Parish Council will continue to press Wessex Water to review and address abstraction levels affecting the flow of the Teff.	26.07.15
Flood Mitigation Group Cllr Thompson reported on recent meetings with David Higgins of the Wiltshire Run Off Scheme. Evias: The latest approved flood mitigation proposal for the land above Evias has now been received. The scheme includes holding ponds, scrapes and swales designed to retain water, slow surface water flow along Holt Lane, and divert runoff around Evias. The proposals have been approved, including by the Evias Estate, and are awaiting the release of DEFRA funding before implementation. Magna: The Group is awaiting a response to enquiries regarding the adequacy of the new grips. As part of the flood mitigation programme, additional hedgerow planting is planned along the C277, with works expected to commence in the autumn, subject to Woodland Trust grant funding. Future proposals for Magna include further hedgerow planting and the creation of ditches to help slow and retain surface water runoff from the hillside.	26.07.16
Planning Tree applications have been received for Sandy Hills. Our Tree Warden has assessed them as reasonable and recommended no comment.	26.07.17
Any Other Business - Items for the next agenda: • An officer from Wiltshire Council requested that the Parish Council address the incorrectly installed SID -this was agreed. • Co-option of new Councillor • Clerk Vacancy • Website Update	26.07.18
NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Tuesday 1st September 2026 at 18.30 Tuesday 1st September 2026 at 18.30 to be held at Teffont Village Hall unless otherwise stated Meeting closed at approximately 19.30	