**TEFFONT PARISH COUNCIL**
parishclerk@teffont.com

**PARISH CLERK**: Rowena Taylor
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**www.teffont.com**

# Minutes of the Teffont Parish Council Meeting

## Held in Teffont Village Hall

## Tuesday 20th October 2026

| **Meeting Convened at 18.30** | Item No. |
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| **Those Present**<br>**Parish Councillors:** C Thompson (chair), N Blackford (vice-chair), C Bell, A Chapman, R Shawe-Taylor<br>Also in attendance: R Taylor (parish clerk) and seven members of the public | |
| **Questions and Statements from the public**<br>Laura Downer briefed the Parish Council that both churches in Teffont are now part of Eco Church, a nationwide initiative to contribute to nature recovery and respond to climate change. The scheme has five strands: Land & Nature; Buildings & Energy Use; Community & Global Engagement; Lifestyle; and Worship. The Eco Team (currently five people in the village) would welcome collaboration with the Parish Council and involvement of others in the village. | |
| **MEETING MINUTES** | |
| **Apologies for Absence**<br>Cllr Cockram sent apologies for absence due to work commitments<br>WC Wayman also sent apologies as she is unwell<br>**Resolved**: Apologies accepted | 26.10.01 |
| **Declarations of interests** – none received<br>**Dispensations**: None required | 26.10.02 |
| **Minutes of the previous TPC meeting**<br>**Resolved**: That the minutes of the parish council meeting held on Tuesday 1st September 2026 be approved as a true and accurate record of the proceedings. | 26.10.03 |
| **Chairman's report:**<br>• SSEN cable burial works are scheduled to begin around 9 November and last 7–10 days. Those affected should already be aware. I would like to acknowledge the benefits this will bring to the landscape and the resilience of our electricity supply and thank all those involved in making this possible: Emma Worth for coordinating this, Simon Mabey and Clarendon Stud for access to their land and cooperation and assistance from Sonia O'Donnell.<br>• I would like to formally thank Mick Audus for his continued contributions to the village, including Community Speed watch, his role as Town Crier, and maintaining the Teffont village website. Now that he has handed over the role of Tree Warden to councillors, it is important to recognise and acknowledge the time, effort and dedication he gives to our community.<br>• Wiltshire Council's road-marking team has been busy recently, refreshing the speed markings and white lines throughout the village. I'm sure this improvement is appreciated by everyone. | 26.10.04 |

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| **Clerk's Report** on actions taken and correspondence received that do not have their own agenda item.<br>• I'm pleased to announce that there will be another first-aid session for villagers with representatives of St John Ambulance on Thursday 26th November. Further details will be publicised shortly.<br>• PCSO Charlotte King has notified me that she has left Wiltshire Police - we wish her well. All communication will now be via PC Henry Pallas<br>• Great news! The new gates that were granted under the Cranborne Chase Access for All scheme are in the process of being installed on Teff13. ROW officer Alex Howsen and Wiltshire Ramblers were working on the southern section yesterday with the other near Holt Lane to follow soon.<br>• Maintenance of the Village Green benches will need to be factored into the Budget.<br>• Tree works applications for Font House, Caister House and Brook House received no objections from Tree Wardens. The Malthouse awaits assessment.<br>• An extraordinary meeting will take place next week to consider the council's response to Planning Applications **PL/2026/05245** and **PL/2026/05630** The Malthouse.<br>• **Teffont Woodland** – The Enforcement Officer considers all structures lawful except one hut/caravan/shed near Fontwyke Park, which will be dismantled. The owner proposes a log store, details of which will be reviewed for compliance. A response is still awaited regarding the unlicensed road access. | 26.10.05 |
| **TEFF9 Stopping-Up Order Application**<br>Having considered the background to the application and the new proposal put forward by the applicant, Councillors agreed that the original compromise offered to the applicant by the Parish Council in 2017 remained fair and reasonable. Councillors concluded that the current proposal did not justify a change in the Council's position.<br>**Resolved:** That Teffont Parish Council maintain the position agreed by resolution in 2017. | 26.10.06 |
| **Councillor Vacancy**<br>**Casual Vacancy — Co-option of a Parish Councillor**<br>The Council considered the application received from Rob Evans for co-option to fill the casual vacancy on the Parish Council.<br>Following consideration of the application, it was **Resolved** that Rob Evans be co-opted to the Parish Council. Declaration of acceptance of office was signed | 26.10.07 |
| **Staff Committee** – Cllrs Chapman, Cockram and Shawe-Taylor<br>The Committee recommended implementing the 2026–2027 Local Government Services Pay Agreement and increasing the Clerk's hours to 12.5 per week to reflect the administrative demands of the role.<br>**Resolved:**<br>• To implement the NALC-recommended 3.3% pay award, backdated to 1 April 2026.<br>• To approve in principle an increase in the Clerk's hours, subject to funding being secured. | 26.10.08 |
| **Grass Cutting Contract** | 26.10.09 |

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| Two providers have expressed interest in tendering for the grass cutting contract commencing in April 2027. Requests for quotations will be issued following a review of village requirements, including areas that could be set aside to enhance biodiversity.<br>**Resolved:**<br>1. To establish an urgent action group to identify cost-saving measures, comprising Cllrs Blackford, Chapman, Cockram, Evans and Shawe-Taylor<br>2. To review grass-cutting areas and revise maps accordingly.<br>3. To review contributions from Teffont Village Hall and the PCC.<br>4. To explore establishing a village volunteer rota. | |
| **Village Community Working Group**<br>The PC recognised the benefits of establishing a Village Community Working Group to foster connection, participation and a sense of belonging.<br>**Resolved:**<br>• To establish a Village Community Working Group, supported by but independent of the Council.<br>• To appoint Cllrs Chapman and Evans to lead the group's development. | 26.10.10 |
| **Finance**<br>a. No new items of expenditure were presented for approval.<br>b. **Resolved:** That the bank reconciliations presented by the Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) were up to date.<br>c. **Resolved:** That the second-quarter finance report was approved and signed.<br>d. Budget planning remained in progress. | 26.10.11 |
| **Highways and Amenities Working Group**<br>The Council considered the benefits of the existing Speed Indicator Device (SID) and agreed that a smaller, more cost-effective portable device would be beneficial.<br>**Resolved**: To purchase a new, cost-effective portable SID using grant funding from the Teffont Trust and to seek additional funding to cover the remaining cost.<br><br>Following a previous unsuccessful application to reduce speed limits on the B3089 beyond the existing 30 mph zones at both village boundaries, the Council agreed to revisit the proposal.<br>**Resolved:** To seek guidance from Wiltshire Council regarding potential speed limit reductions and report back to the Council with recommendations for a new application. | 26.10.12 |
| **The Teff**<br>Cllr Blackford reported that he has again monitored the dried-up Springhead this year and liaised with Wessex Water, the Environment Agency and Wessex Rivers Trust.<br>For the third time in four years, Springhead has dried up over the summer, suggesting the source of the Teff is behaving like a winterbourne. If this trend continues, the village could permanently lose its stream, with serious consequences for the local environment and wildlife. The report from the EA, expected in December, to confirm whether extraction at Fonthill is partly responsible has been delayed by a further year.<br>The remedial work required in front of the village hall should ideally be undertaken in collaboration with the Village Hall Committee and the Village Community Working Group as soon as possible, before water levels rise for the winter. | 26.10.13 |
| **Flood Mitigation**<br>• Cllr Thompson reported on the recent Flood mitigation Group meeting who have learned of more delays in the mitigation work to be conducted in Evias. | 26.10.14 |

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| • There is still no response from the EA regarding the inadequate grips installed in Magna so a more direct approach from the TPC will be attempted.<br>• Further landowners will be approached to explore opportunities for flood mitigation measures.<br>• Permission is to be sought from WC to undertake some of the Parish Steward duties as these visits are becoming less frequent. | |
| **Emergency Planning**<br>Work is underway to review and update Teffont's emergency preparedness following a recent initial meeting of community emergency volunteers.<br>• **Emergency leaflet:** Updated and due to be distributed shortly.<br>• **Emergency plan:** The full plan, currently available on the village website, is being updated.<br>• **Emergency contacts:** The contact list is under review, with additional village contacts being sought.<br>• **Community meeting:** A larger meeting is planned for November (TBC) to outline available support and identify the skills and equipment still needed. | 26.10.15 |
| **Dark Skies in Teffont**<br>As a designated Dark Sky area valued by many residents, it was agreed that further information and guidance on protecting dark skies would be shared with the village, with a presentation to be arranged for those wishing to learn more. | 26.10.16 |
| **Items for the Next Agenda**<br>To finalise the 2027-2028 budget and agree the precept application | 26.10.17 |

**Meeting Closed at approximately 20:00**

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