TEMPLE EWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Temple Ewell Parish Council Meeting held at Temple Ewell Lower Village Hall on Tuesday 29 September 2026, commencing at 7.15pm.

2627/067. Present

Cllr Dr M Parks (Chair), Cllrs A Newington, C Lynch, S Wilson and A Bateman.

In attendance: Clerk, E Arnold.

One member of the public was present.

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2627/068. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr D Prescott, Cllr M Bowman and Dr L Schoeb.

2627/069. Declarations of Interest

None.

2627/070. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 28 July 2026 were approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

2627/071. Chair's Announcements

There were no Chair's announcements.

2627/072. Public Participation

The annual allotment prizes were presented to the successful recipients.

A resident addressed the Council regarding the forthcoming 75th anniversary of the official opening of King George V Playing Field, which took place on 23 April 1952.

It was suggested that the anniversary could be marked by a community event incorporating activities, entertainment and involvement from local organisations, the school and other village groups. Suggestions included cycle activities, first aid and defibrillator awareness, children's activities, refreshments and entertainment.

Members welcomed the proposal and a potential date of 19 June 2027 was discussed.

It was agreed that the 75th anniversary event, proposed date, budget, arrangements and the establishment of a working group would be placed on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting for formal consideration.

The Clerk advised that the Dover District Council Community Grant scheme had an imminent closing date and would investigate submitting an appropriate application under the Clerk's existing delegated powers.

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2627/073. Reports

No reports had been received from the Kent County Councillor or Dover District Councillor.

The Clerk advised that she was currently experiencing difficulties accessing some of the Council's systems and was therefore unable to provide the usual Police and Crime and social media reports.

2627/074. Finance

The payments and bank reconciliations for July and August 2026 were presented.

The Clerk advised that she had still not received full access to all Council bank accounts following the handover. She had been added to two accounts but access to the remaining account was still outstanding.

The NJC pay award, backdated to 1 April 2026, was noted and the appropriate backdated payment would be made.

The Council discussed the continued assistance being provided by former Clerk Andy Howard-Grigg during the handover, particularly in relation to banking and other systems to which the Clerk did not yet have access.

It was agreed that the Clerk would establish the additional hours undertaken by Andy Howard-Grigg and that he would be paid for these hours at the appropriate rate.

The Clerk reported that the former Council laptop was approximately 12 years old and could not be repaired. Due to the existing Mac-based backup and difficulties transferring the data, a replacement Mac had been purchased to ensure continuity of Council business.

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2627/075. Allotments

The Clerk reported that no further response had been received from KCC regarding repairs to the allotment access track.

The condition of the track was discussed, particularly the large potholes and deterioration of the surface.

It was agreed that the Clerk would obtain quotations for repairs to the section of track leading to the allotment gate, including appropriate options for providing a more durable surface.

The fencing remained the responsibility of the landowner and the Council would not meet the cost of its replacement.

The Allotment AGM to be held on 4 October at 10.30am at the Village Hall was noted.

2627/076. London Road Bus Shelter

The Clerk advised that a KCC grant of up to £4,000 may be available towards the provision of a replacement bus shelter.

Members expressed concern at the length of time residents had been without a shelter following the destruction of the previous structure and the continuing uncertainty surrounding the insurance claim and liability.

It was agreed that the Clerk would submit an application for the KCC grant before the closing date and continue to investigate the insurance position, including contacting the appropriate officer at Dover District Council.

The Council would consider the most appropriate replacement once further information regarding the insurance position and grant funding was available.

2627/077. King George V Playing Field

a) Wasps' Nest

The Clerk reported that the wasps had now left the nest and no further action was required at this time.

b) Safety Flooring and Play Equipment

The Clerk reported on an inspection of the play area. Areas of the safety flooring were lifting and presented a potential trip hazard. The condition of the benches and existing play equipment was also discussed.

A quotation was being obtained for the necessary safety-surfacing works.

The school had indicated that it would be willing to replace one of the benches if the Parish Council replaced the other.

Members noted the age and condition of the existing play equipment and agreed that a longer-term plan was required for refurbishment or replacement of the play area.

The Clerk would obtain quotations for essential safety works and investigate grant funding for the wider project, including potential National Lottery funding.

Members supported involving the school and wider community in the future design of the play area.

The proposed refurbishment would also be considered alongside the King George V Playing Field 75th anniversary project.

c) Grounds Maintenance

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Grounds maintenance requirements were discussed and noted.

d) Waste Recycling Bins

The Council discussed the difficulties associated with separating general waste and recyclable waste at the playing field.

It was agreed that the Clerk would investigate the applicable waste and recycling requirements before any changes were made to the existing arrangements.

2627/078. Updates from the Clerk

a) Tree and Vegetation Removals Adjacent to Scotland Common

The extensive removal of vegetation adjacent to Scotland Common was discussed.

It was noted that Dover District Council had previously investigated the matter and information had been received indicating that replacement planting would take place.

The situation would continue to be monitored.

b) Kearsney Avenue Kerb and Pavement Installation

The Council noted that the matter had previously been pursued with the relevant authorities, including Planning Enforcement, without resolution.

It was agreed that no further action would be taken by the Parish Council at this time.

2627/079. Planning

26/00708 – Land South West of Yamaga, The Avenue, Temple Ewell – Variation of Condition 2 (approved plans) and Condition 6 (in accordance with the Arboricultural Report) of planning permission 23/01097.

No comment.

26/00715 – Beechwood, Green Lane, Temple Ewell CT16 3AR – Fell one Ash (T1) and one multi-stemmed Beech (T2), both subject to Tree Preservation Order No. 1 of 1970.

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No comment.

2627/080. Grant – TE News

The Council considered the grant application received from TE News.

Members recognised the value of the publication to the village.

It was agreed to award TE News a grant of £500.

2627/081. Remembrance Day

Arrangements for Remembrance Sunday were discussed.

It was agreed to purchase two Remembrance Day wreaths for the village commemorations.

2627/082. Christmas Event

Arrangements for the annual Christmas event were discussed.

The event would take place on 6 December 2026, with activities at the Village Hall followed by the Christmas tree lights switch-on.

The Clerk would progress arrangements, including suitable entertainment, refreshments, mulled wine, hot chocolate, mince pies and arrangements for Father Christmas.

The existing Christmas event budget would be checked and expenditure kept within the agreed budget.

2627/083. .**gov.uk** Email Addresses

The Clerk updated members regarding the use of .gov.uk email addresses for Parish Councillors and the importance of separating Council correspondence from personal email accounts.

The indicative cost of providing councillor email accounts through the Council's existing provider was noted.

It was agreed that provision for councillor .gov.uk email addresses would be included for consideration when preparing the 2027/28 budget.

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2627/084. Meeting Date Change

The Council noted that the meeting previously arranged for 20 October 2026 needed to be rescheduled.

It was agreed that the next Parish Council meeting would be held on Tuesday 3 November 2026.

2627/085. Correspondence

a) Grounds Maintenance

The Clerk reported continuing difficulties contacting the Council's grounds-maintenance contractor despite repeated telephone calls and emails.

The school required hedge maintenance to be completed before the October half-term due to planned works.

It was agreed that alternative contractors could be approached if necessary to ensure that essential work was completed. The Clerk would also establish the current contractual and payment position with the existing contractor.

A request from the contractor for a charitable donation in connection with football pitch marking was considered. Members did not support making an additional donation while concerns remained regarding completion of the contracted maintenance work.

b) Use of Temple Ewell Logo

A local vineyard owner had requested permission to use the Temple Ewell logo on locally produced wine.

Members were unsure of the ownership and copyright position relating to the logo.

The Clerk would establish ownership of the logo before the Council considered the request further.

c) Village Planter

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Correspondence had been received regarding the planter at the entrance to the village from Lydden, which had previously been maintained by Branching Out.

It was understood that responsibility for the planter had been due to return to the Parish Council.

The condition of the planter would be inspected and any necessary maintenance considered.

d) London Road Bus Shelter

Correspondence had been received from residents concerned that the London Road bus shelter had still not been replaced and highlighting the need for shelter before the winter.

The matter had been considered under Minute 2627/076 and the Clerk would continue to pursue it.

e) Allotments

Correspondence had been received from an allotment holder who had held a half plot since 2019 and advised that they had been waiting for a full plot.

The Clerk would raise the matter with the allotment representatives to establish the current waiting-list position.

2627/086. Items for Future Agendas

The following items were identified for consideration at a future meeting:

- King George V Playing Field 75th anniversary community event, including the proposed date of 19 June 2027, establishment of a working group, budget and arrangements.
- Longer-term refurbishment/replacement of the King George V Playing Field play area and associated funding.
- Waste and recycling arrangements at King George V Playing Field following the Clerk's investigation.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.36pm.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 3 November 2026.

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Future meeting dates: 24 November 2026, 12 January 2027, 23 February 2027, 30 March 2027 and 27 April 2027.

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