

Compton Bishop Parish Council

Draft Minutes of the meeting 11th February 2026

- Present: Councillors T Mason (Chair), C Settle, G Hancock and R Glyde.
and A Mortimore (Clerk). Somerset Councillor B Filmer. Tess Gill representing Axevale Action Group (Item 26/02P only).
- 26/02A To receive any apologies for non-attendance.**
Councillors D McCarthy, D Ham and H Dean. Somerset Councillor T Grimes.
- 26/02B To Co-opt Ms Rachael Glyde as a member of Compton Bishop Parish Council.**
At the previous meeting it was unanimously agreed to co-opt Ms R Glyde. Councillor Glyde signed the Declaration of Office and Councillor Mason welcomed Councillor Glyde and hoped that she would make a valuable contribution to the Council.
- 26/02C To receive any declarations of interest.**
Councillor Hancock withdrew himself from any discussion and decision on the Planning Application under item 26/01H as the piping for the sewage system for that property goes partly through his land.
- 26/02D To receive and approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14TH January 2026 previously circulated.**
It was resolved to approve the minutes. Cllr Mason signed the minutes as a true record.
- 26/02E To receive Clerks Report.**
- 1) **Current Financial Situation** – the members were updated on the current financial position.
 - 2) **Precept for the Financial Year 2027-2027** – The clerk confirmed that as agreed previously the precept to remain the same amount as requested for this year. However, instead of being paid in one single amount, it will be paid as two payments in April and September.
 - 3) **Microsoft Office** – It was agreed that the Clerk can renew the office suite when it becomes due on the 14th February.
 - 4) **Clearance of Ditches by Landowners** – Somerset Highways had contacted the Parish Council as certain ditches needed to be cleared to allow water to flow freely. Councillor Mason had been able to ascertain the details of the Landowners involved with the Clerk writing to them asking for the ditches to be cleared. One of the landowners had now contacted a contractor to clear the specific ditches on their property. However, the other two Landowners are making further investigations on the responsibility of the ditches. The Clerk will monitor the situation and report back at the next meeting.
- 26/02F To receive Unitary Councillors Report.**
Councillor Filmer gave a brief report on the latest update from Somerset Council, details of which will be displayed on the website.
Potholes – The current rash of potholes are being temporarily filled with more permanent repairs being carried out once the ground dries out after this long period of rain.
- 26/02G To approve the bank statement and the following payments.**

Payee	Description	Amount £
Clerk	Net salary (Jan 26)	356.27
HMRC	Tax deducted at source (Jan 26)	89.20
Clerk	Expenses (Jan 26)	32.49
CBPC	Employer National Insurance Contribution	4.27
Scribe Lite Accounting for Parish Councils	Direct Debit set up for monthly payments providing a full accounting system for the Parish from July 2024.	14.40 Monthly
Lloyds Bank	Monthly Bank Charges (commenced from Jan 25)	4.25
Cllr T Mason	Reimbursement of Land Registry Search	14.00

The payments were approved.



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26/02H

To consider the following Planning applications.

Planning application number	Location	Proposal
21/26/00001	Harborne House, Church Lane, Compton Bishop, BS26 2HB	Removal of Condition 3 of application 21/13/00006 to allow for the annex to be used as a separate unit of Accommodation. The application was opposed because the effluent discharge is faulty and must be fixed according to regulations. Full details will be posted on the Somerset Planning Website.

There were no planning applications to discuss at this meeting.

26/02I

To note the Planning Decisions Update.

Planning application number	Location	Decision
21/24/00006	Land North of Cross Moor Drove, Lower Weare	Awaited
21/25/00002	Land to the East of Manor Farm, Cross, Axbridge	Awaited

26/02J

To consider Councillor Training

The Clerk to arrange the "Essential Councillor Training Part 1" for Councillor Glyde.

26/02K

To receive Councillor reports.

1) **Bleadon Sluice** – Councillor Mason explained that he went to meeting regarding the Bleadon Sluice as there is a consensus amongst many organisations that this needs to be replaced in order that the flood risks now associated with climate change can be managed more effectively.

26/02L

Update on the use of the four parish notice boards.

There has only been one negative comment on the proposal that from the 1st April 2026 notices (such as agenda and minutes etc) will only be displayed on the Cross Memorial Hall Notice Board. The situation will be monitored although the consensus of the members was to keep to the decision made at a previous meeting to only use the Hall Notice Board.

26/02M

Update on cutting back of vegetation that is stopping the water flowing through streams that cause problems with overflowing water and no good for the wildlife habitat.

It was confirmed that the area of the River Yeo in question has still not been cut back. Prior to the meeting the Clerk had asked The Environment Agency for any action that can be taken to resolve this situation and is now awaiting a response.

26/02N

To discuss the implications of Assertion 10 (AGAR 2025-2026). Report on findings of obtaining a GOV.UK Email Domain. To approve I.T. Policy in readiness.

The Clerk had made enquiries through the Somerset Association of Local Councils (SALC) who recommended using "Parish Online" to obtain the approved GOV.UK Email Domain. After consulting another accredited domain supplier, it was decided to proceed with the Parish Online quotation which offered a reasonable cost package with reliable long-term data storage. The Clerk to finalise details and Councillor Settle offered to help with all the technical issues. This has become a very important development in the signing off the 2025-2026 Parish Council annual accounts under the "Annual Governance and Accountability Return

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(AGAR). This AGAR document will need to be completed by May this year and now will include confirmation that the council has met all legal duties around digital services, data protection and information- access.

26/02O Update on the action taken by the Environment Agency on the anonymous complaint received regarding Yeo Bridge Farm.

The Environment Agency are continuing to monitor the site, and further updates will follow if more action is required. The Clerk has also contacted Somerset Planning Enforcement as it appears a building structure has been erected without the necessary planning permission. There will be an update at the next meeting.

26/02P Update on any action taken on overgrown vegetation on road signs, benches and footpaths around the parish.

1) Parish Footpaths – Somerset Council can provide gates that can replace stiles and field gates and in certain circumstances can be fitted at no charge to the landowners. At a previous meeting Councillor Dean as the parish's footpath liaison officer, mentioned that some stiles and gates need replacing. The Clerk to convey this information to Councillor Dean.

2) Safe Pathway Campaign between Cross and Axbridge – This has been an ongoing campaign for several years and has hit a "Stalemate" as the two landowners concerned are refusing to enter into any sort of negotiations over the footpath. Tess Gill from The Axevale Action Group joined the meeting to discuss the situation with parish members as well as with the Somerset County Councillor Filmer.

Councillor Filmer explained that although there had been representations to the landowners from the Team from Somerset Council which includes footpaths within its remit there was no progress made whatsoever.

The option of "Compulsory Purchase" was mentioned but Councillor Filmer indicated that with the current State of Somerset Council's finances this was not a viable solution at present.

The Safe Pathway Campaign was removed from parish meetings a few months ago due to the lack of progress with the landowners. It was understood that Axevale Action Group had taken over responsibility for continuing the project.

26/02Q Webbington Road Car Park/Pull In – to progress obtaining the ownership of this piece of land.

The decision was made to explore acquiring this land. The Clerk to contact the Councillor from Weare Parish Council who was involved in the ownership of land in Weare, who is willing to offer his advice on the first steps needed to take this project forward. There will be an update at the next meeting.

26/02R Update from Somerset Highways on water flowing across the road by the Webbington Hotel

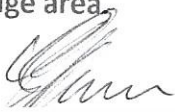
The Clerk confirmed that a report has been submitted on the Somerset Council's Website which is now the correct method to report any issues. An acknowledgement has been received and awaiting some positive action from Somerset Council and there will be an update at the next meeting.

26/02S Update on improving communication between the Memorial Hall Committee and the Parish Council.

It was resolved to ask the Hall Committee if they would be prepared to copy in the Clerk with the minutes of their meetings which could then be circulated amongst the Councillors. This would help improve the communication between the two committees. Councillor Mason agreed that this would be suggested to the Hall Committee when he attends their next meeting and asked if members would email him with any questions that they would like raised.

26/02T Any developments on the approach to Somerset Council regarding the crossing proposals over the A38 (Cllr McCathy).

The Clerk confirmed that Councillor McCarthy's proposals for the A38 Refuge area has been forwarded to the Somerset Highways A38 Project Team for their consideration. As this project is still in the development stage it was expected that there may be a delay before any decision is made on the refuge area.



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26/02U Investigation into the problem of sewage flowing from properties in Church Lane.

Please refer to item **26/02H** as this is one of the properties where the effluent discharges exist and the committee were concerned that with the additional people now residing in the property the current sewage system is not sufficient for the extra usage. The Parish Council to ascertain if the Environment Agency could take a more proactive approach with this issue. More information should be available at the next meeting.

26/02V To consider the condition of the Church Lane Bus Shelter.

Councillor Hancock has made enquiries with a local contractor who would decorate the inside at a reasonable cost and it was agreed to proceed to keep the shelter maintained and tidy. There is a problem with tiles missing from the roof and the Clerk to contact Councillor Ham as he may be able to repair the roof damage.

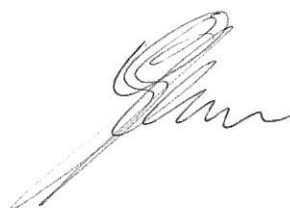
26/02W To consider a date for the Parish Open Meeting.

It was agreed to hold the Annual Parish Open Meeting on Monday 18th May 2026. The Clerk confirmed that the hall has been booked and the necessary notices will be displayed around the parish and on social media.

Next Parish Council meeting – Wednesday 11th March 2026 at 7 p.m.

items for the next agenda

- 1) Update on the use of the four parish notice boards.
- 2) Update on cutting back of vegetation that is stopping the water flowing through streams that cause problems with overflowing water and no good for the wildlife habitat.
- 3) Update on the implications of Assertion 10 (AGAR 2025-2026). Report on the Parish Online GOV.UK Email Domain.
- 4) Update on any action taken by the Environment Agency on the anonymous complaint received regarding Yeo Bridge Farm.
- 5) Update on any action taken on overgrowth vegetation on road signs, benches and Footpaths.
- 6) Webbington Road Car Park/Pull in – Update on the initial progress of the project.
- 7) Update from Somerset Highways about water flowing across the road by the Webbington Hotel.
- 8) Update on improving communication between the Memorial Hall Committee and the Parish Council.
- 9) Any developments on the approach to Somerset Council regarding the crossing proposals over the A38 (Cllr McCathy)
- 10) Ongoing Investigation into the problem of sewage flowing from properties in Church Lane.
- 11) Update on the repair and maintenance of the Church Lane Bus Shelter.



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