

Compton Bishop Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON

10th January 2024

Present Councillors T Mason (Chair), E Parker, M Shaw, G Hancock, D McCarthy, and Parish Clerk Alan Mortimore

24/01A To receive any apologies for non-attendance.

Councillors T Kelly and C Settle, Somerset Councillors B Filmer and T Grimes. The Councillors and the Clerk would like to record their sympathy and offer their sincere Condolences to Cllr Settle and family for the loss of her brother.

24/01B To receive declarations of interest.

None

24/01C To receive and approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th December 2023 previously circulated.

It was resolved to approve the minutes as a true record of the meeting. The Chairperson signed the minutes.

24/01D To receive the Clerks report.

- 1) Turnpike Mile Post on the A38** – Southwest Heritage Trust confirmed that the post will be put back in position once the Trust can make the necessary arrangements for the planning and Highways requirements.
- 2) Draining of muddy water from a field off Church Lane from a field rented to Thatcher's.** Very recently muddy water has been running from the field into Church Lane and effecting the Bus Shelter and coming out under the Truespeed cabinet. The clerk is in contact with Thatcher's and awaiting a response to this problem.

24/01E To receive the County Councillors report.

- 1) Council's Finances** – As part of the Local Government Finance Settlement, the government announced a 6.1% increase in core spending power for Somerset which is less than expected due to various reasons. It looks like the expected shortfall in the finances of £100M for 2024/25.
- 2) End of Charges for DIY waste-** Following a change in government legislation current charges for disposing of construction and demolition materials including asbestos. Plasterboard, hardcore and rubble from DIY projects have been removed. Limits apply The full report from Somerset Councillor Filmer will be displayed on the Compton Bishop Parish Council website.

24/01F To approve the bank statement and the following payments.

Payee	Description	Amount £
Clerk	Net salary (Dec 23)	31 6.86
HMRC	Tax deducted at source	79.80
Clerk	Expenses	10.48
Somerset Council	Emptying of dog waste bins Oct 23 – Mar 24	250.85
PATA	Payroll Services (quarterly invoice Oct- Dec23)	25.80
Cross Memorial Hall	Invoice for CBPC meetings in 2024	216.00

Compton Bishop Parish Council

24/01G

To consider the following Planning applications

Planning application number	Location	Proposal
21/23/00021	Clarkes Farm, Kennel Lane, Webbington, Axbridge, BS26 2HS	Erection of detached triple garage with first floor home office. It was resolved that the Parish Council would not object to this application but with comments which will be published on Somerset Council's website.
21/23/00021	Clarkes Farm, Kennel Lane, Webbington, Axbridge, BS26 2HS	Erection of a single storey, part two storey, extension to SE elevation and erection of single storey extensions to NE and NW elevations, on site of existing (to be demolished). . It was resolved that the Parish Council would not object to this application but with comments which will be published on Somerset Council's website.

24/01H

To note the Planning Decisions Update.

Planning application number	Location	Decision
21/23/00017	Land to the south west of Townsend Farm, Prowses Lane, Axbridge	Awaited under consideration
21/23/00018	Timberwork Buildings, Bridgwater Road, Cross, Axbridge, BS26 2EA	Awaited under consideration
21/23/00023	Land adjacent to River Axe, North of Turnpike Rd, Lower Weare, Axbridge BS26	Awaited
21/23/00025	The Cheese Barn, Butts Batch, Compton Bishop, Axbridge, BS26 2HF	Awaited
21/23/00026	The Cheese Barn, Butts Batch, Compton Bishop, Axbridge, BS26 2HF	Awaited
21/23/00013	26 Church Lane, Compton Bishop, Axbridge, BS26 2HB	Awaited
21/23/00024	The Old Exchange, Bridgwater Rd, Cross Axbridge BS26 2EB	Awaited

24/01I

Safe Pathway Campaign Cross Lane – update on any progress with Axbridge Town Council and the Landowners.

Cllr Mason confirmed that he is awaiting a response from one of the landowners as well as a reply from Axbridge Town Council (ATC) from a letter sent to them by the Clerk. The Clerk to contact the Clerk of ATC for an update for the next meeting.

24/01J

Village Signs – any progress on the “Cross Village” sign at the Compton Bishop end of the Village.

Cllr Hancock produced photos of possible designs for the village sign. It was resolved to make further investigations on a particular design that was agreed as the best option to ascertain if such a photo could be enhanced to be suitable for the village sign. There will be an update at the next meeting.

Compton Bishop Parish Council

24/01K

To consider Councillor Training.

Cllr Shaw informed the meeting that he has investigated suitable training courses for Councillors with Somerset Association of Local Council (SALC) and is in the process of preparing a matrix which should be available for the next meeting.

24/01L

To receive Councillor reports.

- 1) **Speedwatch Volunteers** – Cllr McCarthy mentioned that the Speedwatch Team has still not had any contact with the new PCSO that has taken over from the current PCSO who has left. The Clerk to contact the new PCSO and ask him to liaise with the Speedwatch Team.
- 2) **Warning Signs** - Cllr Parker suggested that the Council purchase some “Ice” and “flood” signs that could be stored locally and used quickly when required. This being very relevant at the present time with water and ice along Cross lane and other parts of the parish. Cllr Parker offered to make enquiries of the cost and report back to the committee.
- 3) **CBPC Website** – The person updating the website wishes to stand down and the Clerk agreed to take on the role on the temporary basis only as he had no experience in updating such websites. Cllr Hancock offered to assist in the tasks if the Clerk has problems. The Clerk will contact the person updating the site to get the necessary information on how to update and the passwords needed
- 4) **Springfield Wildlife Site** – Cllr Shaw advised that Dam has deteriorated with the recent wet weather and needs repairing to maintain the water level. Cllr Shaw has obtained a number of sandbags for £80 and it is hoped that some of this will come from a donation. The Council agreed to make up any shortfall in costs.
Cllr Shaw also mentioned that Somerset Council need to look after the trees on the site Which needs to be completed before the nesting season. Cllr Shaw to provide contact details for the Clerk to contact the appropriate persons.

24/01M

To review two of the CBPC procedures to update to 2024.

The Councillors confirmed that they had reviewed a further two CBPC procedures and that no amendments were deemed necessary, and these were updated for the current period.

24/01N

Update on the progress of asking residents for their views regarding a 20mph speed limit In certain parts of the parish.

Due to the financial restrictions that Somerset Council (SC) are now under it was resolved to reconsider this item later when the financial situation is clearer. SC has not yet clarified if they will be prepared to offer local council’s assistance in providing such speed limits. It was suggested that providing Speed Indicator Devices (SID) could be an alternative and this will be added to the next agenda. Cllr McCarthy will provide a short email wording for the Councillors to agree which the Clerk can then send to Avon and Somerset Police for an update on the original request for SID funding.

24/01O

Update on the purchase of an Electric Strimmer/Brush Cutter.

Cllr Settle had before the meeting established the cost of a Strimmer/Brush Cutter which was more expensive than originally thought. Cllr Shaw offered to make further enquiries and update at the next meeting.

24/01P

To propose a 7.5% increase in the 2024/25 Precept due to the increased costs of running and maintaining the facilities of the Parish (current Precept for 2023/24 being £15,000).

It was agreed to accept this resolution and the Clerk will complete the Precept Form within the required deadline.

24/01Q

To consider replacement of the Kennel Lane Noticeboard which is in a very bad condition

This has now been temporarily repaired by Cllr Shaw and he will make enquiries regarding the cost of a replacement for the next meeting.

Compton Bishop Parish Council

24/01R

Items for the next agenda.

- 1) Safe Pathway Cross Lane – update on any progress with ATC and the Landowners.
- 2) Village Signs – any progress on the “Cross Village” sign at the Compton Bishop end of the Village.
- 3) Councillor Training
- 4) Review of CBPC Procedures.
- 5) To consider purchasing Speed Indicator Devices (SID) through Cross Village.
- 6) Update on the purchase of a Strimmer/Brush Cutter.
- 7) Update on the replacement of the Kennel Lane Noticeboard,

Next Parish Council Meeting – Wednesday 14th February 2024 at 7pm

DRAFT