

# Compton Bishop Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON

**13<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

**Present:** Councillors C Settle (Deputy Chair) D McCarthy, E Parker, M Shaw, T Kelly, G Hancock and Parish Clerk A Mortimore.

**23/9A** **Before commencing the official business on the Agenda a Resident of the Parish would like to give a short presentation on the benefits of installing Solar Panels on Community Buildings.**

Mr A Pinnington representing the Compton Bishop and Cross Climate Action Group (CCLA) provided a presentation on the benefits and grants available for installing Solar Panels on Community Buildings such as Cross Memorial Hall. The Councillors thanked Mr Pinnington for the useful information which they will pass on to the Hall Committee for their consideration.

**23/9B** **To receive any apologies for non-attendance.**

Apologies were received from Councillor T Mason (Chair)  
Somerset Councillor B Filmer.

**23/9C** **To receive declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**23/9D** **To receive and approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2023.**

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

**23/9E** **To receive the Clerks report.**

Email received from Somerset County Council Finance Department asking Parish Councils to start to consider their future financial requirements for the financial year commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024. The Clerk to speak to the Chair before the next meeting to start the process of preparing the required data.

**23/9F** **To receive the County Councillor report.**

In the absence of Councillor Filmer, Councillor Kelly read out his report sent prior to the Meeting.

1) **Council Finances:** Somerset Council has warned that it will have to draw on reserves for the second successive year to meet its budget for 2023/24. A recent Executive report describes the council's financial position as "stark and challenging". The latest budget gap for the current year is £28.6m. The papers reveal that the Council has already drawn £18 million from reserves to fund spending beyond the 2022/23 budgets. These figures are despite an £18.5m annual bonus created by moving to a Unitary Council and which were planned to be fully realised by next year.

2) **Covid autumn booster programme:** As the result of a newly identified variant the Covid-19 vaccine is being brought forward by one month and offered to those at high risk of serious disease and who are therefore most likely to benefit from the vaccination. Specifically, JCVI advises the following groups to be offered a Covid-19

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23/7H

To consider the following Planning Applications.

Planning application number	Location	Proposal
21/23/00014/EC	Timberwork Buildings, Bridgwater Road, Cross, Axbridge, BS26 2EA	Variations of Condition 2 & 3 of Planning Permission 21/21/00017

A response has already been sent to Somerset planning regarding keeping the outside wooden cladding (and not rendered) as required by condition 3 in Planning Application 21/21/00017.

23/7I

To note the Planning decisions update.

Planning application number	Location	Decision
21/23/00009/EC	Land South of, Crossmoor Drove, Axbridge,	Awaited
21/23/00011/EC	Turnpike Road, Lower Weare, Axbridge,	Awaited

23/7J

To review CBPC Complaints and grants procedures, copies previously circulated.

These have been updated and approved by the councillors and are now ready to be put on the CBPC website.

23/7K

To approve a Site Management Plan for the Springfield Wildlife Site.  
The document was unanimously approved.

23/7L

To review and approve the letters responding to concern raised in March.

These were approved by the committee and the letters issued.

23/7M

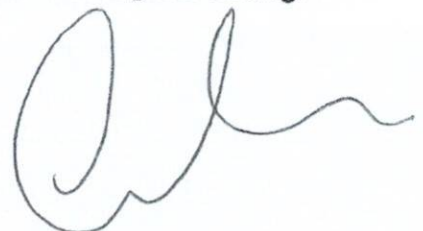
To consider a request from St Andrews Churchwardens for £500 towards grass cutting.

This was approved.

23/7N

To consider purchase of a mobile phone for the Clerk.

The Clerk suggested that he settled into the role before embarking on obtaining a separate mobile as he was happy to use his own mobile whilst getting used to the tasks involved. It was agreed to review at the next meeting.



13/9/23

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**23/7P To consider replacement parking for the notice for The New Inn.**

This was approved by the councillors.

**23/7Q To consider Councillor Training.**

It was agreed to prepare a list of available training courses so that the Councillors are up to date with current procedures.

**23/7R To consider not calling the August meeting**

It was resolved not to hold a meeting in August and return to the normal monthly meetings in September. However, there is a need to be aware of Planning Application deadlines where upon an extra-ordinary meeting may be required before the September meeting.

**23/7S To receive Councillor reports.**

Cllr Settle e-mailed her report prior to the meeting which contained two items:-

**1) Webbington Road Parking Area.**

The council are awaiting to ascertain how busy this parking/overnight staying will be during the holiday period. Cllr Settle wrote a review on the parking area for others to read as follows. "This is a good place to park but taking away your litter from camping would be appreciated by the local people who are having to do the job themselves. Try to limit your stay to one night, if possible, to allow others to enjoy the space".

**2) A38 Cross Junction.**

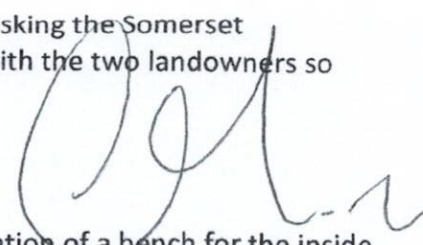
Cllr Settle has contacted Axbridge Town Council (ATC) to request a meeting with them to discuss Ideas about how to move forward with the junction in the event of the new proposed slip road not being built. Cllr McCarthy to accompany Cllr Settle when a suitable date is agreed.

**3) Coffin Lane Campaign.**

Councillors to investigate how to take the project forward by asking the Somerset Councillors who are in favour of the project to make contact with the two landowners so that some sort of progress can be made.

**4) Church Lane Bus Shelter.**

Cllr McCarthy in the process of obtaining quotes for the installation of a bench for the inside of the bus shelter.



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## 5) New sign on wall at New Inn.

A new sign is needed on the wall at the New Inn to comply with the yellow lines on the road. This is to be investigated.

## 6) Village Signs.

The Cross sign on Cross lane (boundary) needs replacing (bad condition) and a sign has been agreed with CBPC to install a "Cross Village" sign at the same location as the Compton Bishop sign. The design needs to be decided and Cllr McCarthy has contacted a parishioner who is a photographer to assist.

## 7) Keeping hold of the Strimmer.

Cllr Kelly offered to keep the Strimmer in a secure old building which would allow other members to use it as and when required. This was unanimously approved.

## 8) Flower planting at the village signs.

Cllr McCarthy suggested that it would be beneficial to know the names of those responsible for the planting. Enquiries will be made.

## 9) 20 mph.

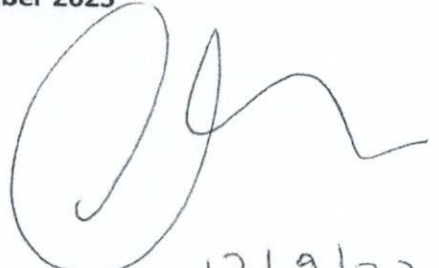
Cllr McCarthy has been investigating the criteria for imposing a 20-mph speed limit in certain areas of the parish particularly for Cross from The New Inn through to the Memorial Hall. There are certain conditions that need to be fulfilled before any initial assessment by Somerset Council can be implemented. It was agreed to discuss fully at the next meeting.

23/7T

## Items for the next agenda.

- 1) To consider purchase of a mobile phone for Clerk.
- 2) To consider the 20mph speed limit through Cross,

Next Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023



13/9/23