

Compton Bishop Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON

8th March 2023

Present: Councillors T Kelly, D McCarthy, E Parker, C Settle and M Shaw.

District Councillors B Filmer and Graham Godwin-Pearson

Parish Clerk T Jay

In the absence of the Chairman Councillor C Settle chaired the meeting.


- 23/3A To receive any apologies for non-attendance.
Apologies were received from Councillor T Mason.
- 23/3B To receive declarations of interest.
Councillor M Shaw declared an interest in planning application 21/23/00003.
- 23/3C To receive and approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8th February 2023.
It was resolved to approve the minutes.
- 23/3D To invite public speaking.
A member of the public spoke about a planning application that will be submitted.

A member of the public congratulated the Parish Council for holding an open meeting regarding the Springfield Wildlife Site on 20th February but said that it was a very tense meeting, with lots of angry people in attendance. The speaker said that the anger shown towards Parish Councillors was not justified, adding that the wildlife site is a beautiful place for people of all ages to go to engage with nature.
- 23/3E To elect a Vice Chairman of the Parish Council.
It was resolved to elect Councillor Settle as Vice Chairman of the Parish Council.
- 23/3F To receive the Clerks report.
The Clerk has submitted his resignation from his position, and his last working day will be Thursday 9th March.

An open meeting regarding Springfield Wildlife Site was held on Monday 20th February. Strong views were expressed both in favour and against the Parish Council's plans for the site. The minutes of the meeting have been published on the parish website.

A Councillor said that she felt that the meeting was very poorly chaired. The Clerk said criticisms has been made about some of the comments that he made during the meeting, but he was only doing the job of the Chairman. Another Councillor expressed similar views, saying that it was a highly charged meeting and if any more open meetings are held then the Chairman must take more responsibility for the way the meeting is run.

①

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Councillor Filmer gave the following report.

The new County Council has held two meetings. Budget setting and Planning. There is going to be an overspend of £20 million in 2022/23 which will be carried forward to 2023/24. There will be a further £25million gap in spending in 2024/25. The pressure is on all County and Unitary Councils over the country to balance their budgets. The cost of adult and child social care is unbearable. It is estimated that the cost of social care in Somerset in the next four years will increase by about £100 million from about £150 million to £250 million.

There will be a Planning Development Committee comprised of Councillors representing wards in the old Sedgemoor area. Therefore the Councillors making decisions which relate to the old Sedgemoor area will have been elected in this area. Initially this Development Committee will continue to make decisions based on the Sedgemoor Local Plan.

There has been no decision regarding the upgrade of the A38 from Edithmead to Bristol Airport.

Councillor Godwin-Pearson spoke regarding the proposal to upgrade of the Coffin Lane footpath. He will asking that the builders of the new housing development in Axbridge, Bellway Homes, provide funding for the upgrade of the footpath.

23/3H

To approve the bank statement and budget and the following payments.

Payee	Description	Amount £
T Jay	Clerk's salary February	349.90
T Jay	Clerk's salary March	350.10
HMRC	PAYE February	87.60
HMRC	PAYE March	87.40
T Jay	Expenses February	47.60
T Jay	Expenses March	18.80
Climate Action Group	Donation	100.00
SALC	Councillor Training	25.00

It was resolved to approve the bank statement, budget and payments.

23/3I

To consider the following Planning applications

Planning application number	Location	Proposal
21/23/00002	Land East of Turnpike Road, Lower Weare.	Erection of an agricultural building (revised scheme). It was resolved not to support or object to the planning application, but to register concerns about the vehicle access to the site and to ask for a condition to be placed for the building only to have agricultural use in the future.
21/23/00003	Rackley House, Rackley Lane, Compton Bishop, BS26	Demolition of rear (North) extension and outbuilding, erection of single storey extension to the West elevation and new porch to the North elevation, with alterations to fenestration on all elevations. Replacement of lean-

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		It was resolved not to comment on this planning application.
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23/3J

To note the Planning Decisions Update.

Planning application number	Location	Decision
02/22/0002 1	Land to the South of Houlgate Way, Axbridge, BS26	Awaiting decision
21/22/0001 9	The Manor House, Butts Batch, Compton Bishop, BS26 2HF	Awaiting decision
21/22/0002 3	Land east of Turnpike Road, Lower Weare, BS26	Awaiting decision
21/22/0002 7	4 Kennel Lane, Webbington, BS26 2HS	Awaiting decision
21/22/0002 9	Winash, Bourton Lane, Cross, BS26 2EP	Awaiting decision

The planning decision update was noted.

23/3K

To approve a Site Management Plan for the Springfield Wildlife Site.
It was resolved to adjourn this matter.

Councillors were of the opinion that the draft management plan was too long and detailed. Councillors Parker and Shaw will liaise with the Springfield Wildlife Site volunteers to produce a simplified management plan.

There had been concerns raised that a newt survey should be carried out prior to the installation of the recently purchased oak items. Scott Mason at Sedgemoor District Council has confirmed that a newt survey will not be required. These oak items will be installed shortly.

23/3L

To consider whether the Parish Council should set up its own website and, if agreed, to decide which website provider should be used.
It was resolved to adjourn this matter until a new Parish Clerk is appointed.

23/3M

To consider whether the Parish Council should donate to the costs of running the event in the quarry to celebrate in King's Coronation.
It was resolved to allow a budget of up to £400 towards the event costs.

23/3N

To consider whether the Clerk should be paid overtime for the extra work involved in attending meetings regards the Springfield Wildlife Site.
The Clerk said that he did not wish to receive any overtime payment.

23/3O

To consider whether the Parish Council should contribute £87 towards the cost of producing posters and leaflets advertising the Safe Pathway Campaign between Cross and Axbridge.
It was resolved to contribute £87 towards these costs.

23/3P

To consider the Parish Council's temporary arrangements following the resignation of the Parish Clerk

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It was resolved to appoint a temporary Locum Clerk and to advertise for a new permanent Clerk as soon as possible.

23/3Q

To receive Councillor reports.

Councillor McCarthy reported on highways issues as follows.

Defibrillator signs Webbington Hotel, Webbington Road.

I called into the Webbington Hotel to inform them that the defibrillator signs at the entrance to the hotel have broken off from their placement and are hidden behind the hotel sign. I've been assured that the hotel maintenance team will deal with it.

I mentioned the water leakage coming down the verge from the hotel onto the Webbington Road. Councillor Mason has informed me that this was reported almost a year ago to the water board who found the water to be brown, and that the water board said that they would inform the hotel.

I have spoken to a person in reception about this and she assured me that it would be dealt with.

Pothole on highway

A pothole at the Webbington Road/Kennel Lane junction on highway (near the Parish Council noticeboard) has been reported to Somerset County Council.

Barton Lane Quarry tipping/rubbish

I have contacted Clean Surroundings at Sedgemoor District Council about large amounts of rubbish where scrambling bikes meet at the Quarry on Barton Lane. We may need to find out the owner of land as I have been told that it is privately owned, and not owned by the National Trust.

The funding application process for a Speed Indicator Device is complicated. Councillors McCarthy and Settle will complete the application.

23/3R

Items for next agenda.

There are no additional items for the next agenda.

Next Parish Council Meeting - Wednesday 12th April 2023.

End of agenda

(4)



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