

Compton Bishop Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on

9th February 2022 at Cross Memorial Hall

Present: Councillors T Mason (Chairman), T Kelly, D McCarthy , E Parker, M Rolfe, and C Settle.

Locum Parish Clerk: T Jay

22/2A To receive any apologies for non-attendance.

Councillor A Lane sent her apologies.

22/2B To receive declarations of interest.

There were no declarations of interest.

22/2C To receive and approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19th January 2022 previously circulated.

It was resolved to approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19th January 2022

22/2D To receive the Clerks report.

The temporary (locum) Clerk has met with the Parish Clerk to carry out the handover for the period that he will be clerking for the Parish Council.

The Parish Council laptop operates extremely slowly. Emails sometimes do not arrive in the inbox for many hours. A local computer engineer is prepared to give the laptop a service for a maximum charge of £100. It was agreed to authorise this work.

The Clerk gave an overview of the implications of the new Unitary Authority for Parish Councils, including the establishment of Local Community Networks, one of which the Parish Councils will be joining.

22/2E To receive the County Councillors report.

County Councillor B Filmer had provided his report prior to the meeting, as follows:

Coronavirus infection rates: As of 28th January, the number of confirmed Covid cases in Somerset was 106,569 (27% up from 83,300 on 30th December) and the number of Covid-attributed deaths 977. The rate per 100,000 stands at 964.2 (766.6) for Somerset with Sedgemoor at 1143.1 (756.6),

The number of total deaths across the County is currently below the 5-year average and the latest R-value for Somerset is between 0.8 and 1.1.

Infection rates in Somerset continue to be extremely high. With the new Omicron variant it is still advisable, even for those who have had both jabs and the relaxation in Government guidelines to continue to observe Social Distancing and to always ventilate indoor areas.

Vaccination programmes roll-out: Somerset continues to have one of the highest vaccination rates in the country with the latest figures showing over 96.2% of the 18+ population having had one dose of

Compton Bishop Parish Council

vaccine and 93.8% having had both doses. In total 63.7% of the adult population have also received their booster.

Local Government Reorganisation: Following the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) decision to support the move to a single Unitary Council across Somerset the Structural Changes Order was laid before Parliament on 24th January. The agreed vesting date remains 1st April 2023. The first elections to the new authority together with Somerset Town and Parish elections will be held on 5th May 2022.

County Council Revenue Budget: Somerset County Council has published its last draft proposed budget ahead of the creation of a new unitary Somerset Council in April 2023. The council is proposing major increases in investment in care services, with an increase for Adult Social Care of £18m (13%), and over £12m (also 13%) for Children's Services. The increase in funding for Adult Social Care in part reflects the council's recent decision to support an increase in carers pay and to provide a retention bonus for care staff in Somerset. This is intended to support the recruitment and retention of staff in a challenging job market for care services.

County Council Capital Budget: SCC is proposing to allocate £48 million for capital spending in the coming year. This includes substantial investment in measures to tackle climate change, building on the council's successful Climate Emergency Community Fund. The council has allocated £1 million in new match funding to support the "decarbonisation" of schools – on top of the existing £7.8 million investment in decarbonising the council's buildings, including libraries. A further £1 million has been allocated for electric fleet vehicles and charging infrastructure. A new investment of £1 million has been allocated to local transport schemes.

Proposed Council Tax: Council Tax for SCC is proposed to rise by two per cent with a further one per cent rise for the social care precept. This compares to UK inflation in December running at over four percent and will mean that Somerset County Council continues to set one of the lowest County Tax rates in the UK.

Climate change action 1: Somerset County Council has been ranked as the top county council in the UK when it comes to taking a lead on climate change. Climate Emergency UK has ranked all 409 local authorities, scoring them against nine categories, including how well councils' plans would mitigate the impact of climate change locally, whether the climate and ecological emergency was integrated into existing policies, community engagement, climate education, scale of emissions targets, and commitments to tackle the ecological emergency. Somerset County Council was named as the top county council, meanwhile Somerset West & Taunton Council was ranked as the top district council

Climate change action 2: A grant available to help Somerset people benefit from energy efficient installations worth up to £10,000 has been extended until June 2022. The Green Homes Grant Scheme allows eligible homeowners to apply for vouchers to install climate-friendly energy saving measures such as insulation, air source heat pumps, or double glazing. The work can be worth up to £10,000, with nothing for homeowners to pay towards the cost of the works. To be eligible for the grants, the residents of the property must have a low income and the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) for the property must be rated D, E, F or G. visit www.heatsomerset.co.uk for more information.

Compton Bishop Parish Council

22/2F To approve the bank statement and budget and the following payments.

Date	Payee	Description	Amount
19.1.22	S Diaz	Expenses- mileage	5.40
14.1.22	T Mason	Clear acrylic for the telephone box window	65.97
25.1.22	Sedgemoor District Council	Staff salary costs January by DD	404.02
1.2.22	Wedmore I.T	Standing order for IT back up.	10.00

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

22/2G To consider the following Planning applications

Planning application number	Location	Proposal
21/22/00002	Land North of, Cross Moor Drove, Lower Weare, Axbridge	Erection of an agricultural building. It was resolved to object to this application. Full details can be found on www.sedgemoor.gov.uk
21/22/00004	Land North of, Cross Moor Drove, Lower Weare, Axbridge	Application to determine if prior approval is required for the erection of an agricultural building. It was resolved to object to this application. Full details can be found on www.sedgemoor.gov.uk
21/22/00001	6 Church Lane, Compton Bishop, Axbridge, Somerset, BS26 2EZ	Erection of a two storey extension to the side (West) elevation. It was resolved not to object to this application. Full details can be found on www.sedgemoor.gov.uk
21/22/00003	12 Wavering Down Rise, Axbridge, BS26 2JJ	Crown lift Copper Beech (T5) up to a height of 2m above ground level. It was resolved not to object to this application. Full details can be found on www.sedgemoor.gov.uk
21/21/00032	Cross End, Webbington Road, Cross, Axbridge, BS26 2EL	Conversion of detached domestic garage to granny annex. Internal alterations to existing dwelling and installation of rooflight to rear (South) elevation. It was resolved not to object to this application. Full details can be found on www.sedgemoor.gov.uk

22/2H Planning Decisions Update

Planning application number	Location	Decision
17/21/00103	Stearth Bushes, Wedmore Road, Cheddar, Somerset, BS27 3ED	Awaiting decision
21/21/00030	Land Adjoining, The Old Telephone Exchange, Bridgwater Road, Cross, Axbridge	Withdrawn
21/21/00029	Harborne House, Church Lane, Compton Bishop, Axbridge, Somerset, BS26 2HB	Granted

Compton Bishop Parish Council

21/21/00028	Westover, Church Lane, Compton Bishop, Axbridge, Somerset, BS26 2HD	Granted
21/21/00012	The Cottage At Rackley, Rackley Lane, Compton Bishop, Axbridge, Somerset, BS26 2HJ	Awaiting decision
21/21/00027	Land Southeast Of Yeo Bridge Farm, Turnpike Road, Lower Weare, Axbridge, Somerset	Withdrawn
21/21/00019	24 Church Lane, Compton Bishop, Axbridge, Somerset, BS26 2HB	Granted
17/21/00072	Round Oak Farm, Axbridge Road, Cheddar, Somerset, BS27 3BU	Granted
21/21/00024	Glebe House, Vicarage Lane, Compton Bishop, Axbridge, Somerset, BS26 2HL	Granted
21/21/00018	Street Record, Cross, Axbridge	Granted
17/21/00006	Saxon Place, Station Road, Cheddar, Somerset, BS27 3AG	Awaiting decision
17/21/00018	Land adjoining, Draycott Road, Cheddar, Somerset, BS27	Refused
17/20/00064	Land At, Steart Bushes, Wedmore Road, Cheddar, Somerset, BS27	Refused
17/18/00053	Land To the West Of, Lower New Road, Cheddar, BS27 3DZ	Awaiting decision

22/2I To consider asking First Bus to change the route of bus 126 to pass through the Cross. This will be deferred until the new road layout design is known.

22/2J To consider the enhancement/maintenance of the Springfield Wildlife Site
Councillor Rolphe gave an overview of the history of the site, including the 2005 agreement between Sedgemoor District Council and the Parish Council which authorises the Parish Council to carry out limited work on the site. Councillor Perkins provided a list of suggested items to be installed at the site.

It was resolved to agree, in principle, for the suggested items to be installed and to use the Community Infrastructure Levy money held by the Parish Council to fund the work.

The Clerk will liaise with the Sedgemoor District Council to ascertain the legal position regarding the Parish Council carrying out this work.

22/2K To receive an update regarding the damage caused by Wessex Water to the drove and lawns and loss of posts at 'Maggie's Corner'.
The contractor who caused the damage has accepted responsibility and has agreed to carry out the repairs shortly.

22/2L To receive an update regarding the representations to Somerset County Council regarding main highway issues and their impact to vulnerable users.
There is no update at present.

22/2M To consider writing to Axbridge Town Council regarding land purchase.
An application to Hinckley Point for funding was turned down on the basis that no Hinckley lorries use this road. This is plainly incorrect as a recent two hour survey showed 19 lorries using the road. A letter will be sent to Hinckley explaining that their lorries do use the road. Only one of the two landowners have indicated that they would be willing to sell their land to create a path. If the agreement of the other landowner is not given, then the project will not be able to go ahead.

Compton Bishop Parish Council

- 22/2N To consider planting willow trees on the River Axe.
It was resolved not to go ahead with this proposal as the trees would be planted on private land.
- 22/2O To consider writing to Sedgemoor District and Somerset County Councils regarding their non-compliance with the Local Plan Policy C5.
A letter has been prepared and will be sent. Axbridge Town Council will be asked to support the letter.
- 22/2P To consider donating £100 to Citizens Advice Bridgwater.
It was resolved to donate £100.
- 22/2Q To consider the Parish Council's representation on the Hall Committee.
It was resolved to appoint Councillor D McCarthy as the Parish Council's representative.
- 22/2R To consider a request from the newly formed Cross and Compton Bishop climate change action group (CCCA) for the Parish Council to pay the Hall hire charges for their monthly meetings.
It was resolved to initially donate £100 to the group.
- 22/2S To consider a response to the letter received from the Hinkley Point Community Funding Team claiming that Hinkley Point lorries do not use Coffin Lane.
Please see agenda item 22/2M.
- 22/2T To consider the arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting.
It was resolved not to hold an Annual Parish Meeting this year a) due to Covid, and the reluctance to invite a crowd of people into the hall and b) the close proximity to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.
- 22/2U To consider changing the date of Annual Parish Council meeting in May due to the Parish Council election.
It was resolved not to change the meeting date from the original date of 11th May. If there is a contested Parish Council election, then this date will need to be changed.
- 22/2V To receive Councillor reports.
There were no reports.
- 22/2X Items for the next Agenda.
There were no items.

Next Parish Council Meeting 9th March 2022.

End of agenda