

Compton Bishop Parish Council

COMPTON BISHOP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting 10th April 2024

- Present** Councillors C Settle (Deputy Chair), E Parker, M Shaw, D McCarthy, G Hancock and Parish Clerk Alan Mortimore. Somerset Councillors B Filmer and T Grimes. PCSO N Chard.
- 24/04A To elect a chairperson to preside at the meeting.**
This item was no longer necessary as Councillor C Settle (Deputy Chair) was able to attend and chair the meeting.
- 24/04B To receive any apologies for non-attendance.**
Councillor T Mason (Chair).
- 24/04C To receive declarations of interest.**
Councillor Settle declared a declaration of interest in item 24/04H as the Planning Application refers to her own residence and left the meeting whilst this item was discussed by the remaining Councillors.
- 24/04D To receive and approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th March 2024 previously circulated.**
It was resolved to approve the minutes as a true record of the meeting. The Chairperson signed the minutes.
- 24/04E To receive the Clerks report.**
1) Invoices for payment by Somerset Council (SC) – Letter received from the Finance Department of SC stating that any invoices that are sent to them for payment must be headed “Somerset Council” and not under any of the previous district council. Any wrongly documented invoices will be returned unpaid.
- 24/04F To receive the County Councillors report.**
1) Somerset Road Safety – Tragically, 30 people died while travelling on the roads in Somerset 2023. This was 43 per cent up on 2022 and the highest for 10 years. Avon and Somerset Police confirmed 76 per cent related to Drink/Drugs, Careless driving, speeding, mobile phone use and not wearing a seatbelt.
2) New Electric Buses – 25 new electric buses are being funded by a 2.2M grant from the Dept of Transport Zero Emission Bus Regional Area scheme along with a further £12.5M investment from Buses in Somerset. The new electric buses to be trialled on urban routes initially to test their battery life.
3) Voter Registration – Residents are being urged to register to vote for the upcoming Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner election. Also need to check their Votor ID as photographic evidence is now required to vote.
4) Former Bridgwater Hospital Site – Repair and Maintenance works are being carried out on this site to turn it into a training academy for health and social care. A £19.7M grant was successfully obtained from the Dept of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

The full text of the briefing will be posted on the Parish Council website.

- 24/04G To approve the bank statement and the following payments.**

Payee	Description	Amount £
Clerk	Net salary (Mar 24)	316.86
HMRC	Tax deducted at source	79.80
Clerk	Expenses	17.48
JW & T J Pearce	Purchase of Strimmer	600 + VAT
SALC	Training invoice INV – 3048	25.00
SALC	Training invoice INV – 3029	20.00

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These payments were approved by the Councillors, except the purchase of the Strimmer which was put on hold as Councillor Shaw had obtained a more efficient and easier to use machine at a lower cost of £475 including VAT. This purchase will now be authorised at the next meeting.

24/04H To consider the following Planning applications

As Councillor Settle had to leave the meeting whilst this application was being discussed (see 24/04C above) it was agreed among the remaining Councillors that Councillor Hancock would Chair this item.

Planning application number	Location	Proposal
21/23/00027	Rowan Cottage, Webbington Rd, Compton Bishop, Axbridge BS26 2ER	Erection of a detached garage. Amended Application. It was resolved that a majority of the Parish Council found the amendments satisfactory and supported the amended application. Full details are on the Somerset Planning Website.

24/04I 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	Granted
21/23/00018	Timberwork Buildings, Bridgwater Road, Cross, Axbridge, BS26 2EA	Granted
21/23/00023	Land adjacent to River Axe, North of Turnpike Rd, Lower Weare, Axbridge BS26	Awaited
21/24/00001	Grove Lodge, Barton Rd, Webbington, Axbridge, BS26 2HT	Awaited
21/23/00013	26 Church Lane, Compton Bishop, Axbridge, BS26 2HB	Granted

24/04J Safe Pathway Campaign Cross Lane – update on any progress with Axbridge Town Council and the Landowners.

Representations to the Landowners from the Campaign Group and Compton Bishop Parish Council has had no impact on getting them to respond and assist in this project. It appears that they will only deal officially with Somerset Council. A draft letter is being drafted for the Clerk to send to a higher authority at Somerset Council who may be able to get the Landowners to respond positively to a request to take part in negotiations. The Clerk will copy in Axbridge Town Council asking if they would also offer their full support to the action being taken to resolve this impasse.

24/04K Village Signs – any progress on the “Compton Bishop Parish” sign at the Compton Bishop end of the Village.

A suitable photograph to be incorporated in the sign had been agreed at a previous meeting. However, it needs to be digitally enhanced to be suitable and Councillor Settle offered to assist in helping Councillor Hancock in getting the correct image for the sign.

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- 24/04L To consider Councillor Training.**
Councillor Shaw confirmed that he had just updated the training matrix including courses completed as well as those booked, and this has been sent to the members for them to identify courses that would benefit themselves as Councillors especially the “Essential Councillor” courses. It was agreed to adopt the matrix as the official record to monitor and record any training undertaken. The Clerk along with Councillor Shaw to keep the matrix updated.
- 24/04M To receive Councillor reports.**
1) Milestone on the A38 – Councillor Parker asked when the historic milestone will be returned to its original position on the A38 and asked the Clerk to contact Somerset Heritage Society who were going to put it back in position.
- 24/04N 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.
- 24/03O Update on the purchase of a Speed Indicator Device (SID).**
Councillor McCarthy updated the committee that £2.5K funding had been allocated to the Parish by Avon and Somerset Police Community Fund for a SID but had not received the actual payment up to now. The Clerk to contact the Community Fund for an update. The Speedwatch Group had identified three suitable positions so that the device could be moved periodically around the parish and these positions had been forwarded to Somerset highways for their approval.
Once the SID has been purchased it needs to be decided upon how these are moved and maintained as this is a specialised task which requires training or outside expertise which is expensive. From the information already provided that in the long-term specialist provision would be more suitable and practical. Councillor McCarthy offered to look at ways to obtain funding from other community organisations and will report back at the next meeting.
- 24/03P To consider a request for a donation towards the annual grass cutting charges at St Andrews Church.**
This was resolved with a donation of £500.
- 24/02Q To consider a donation towards the cost of hall meetings for Cross and Compton Bishop Climate Action Group (CCCA).**
This was resolved with a donation of £80.
- 24/02R To consider appointing a Locum/RFO to assist in the preparing of the 2023/24 financial Accounts.**
Previous to the meeting the Clerk and the Chair (Cllr T Mason) had contacted SALC for help in preparing the end of year accounts and was given some contact details of possible Locum/Responsible Finance Officers who could help. Sally Ferguson the Clerk for three local parishes offered her assistance. She mentioned that there is a simple online package that is specific to councils which she and other Parish’s use at a cost of £15 per month.
It was unanimously agreed that Sally Ferguson should be appointed to assist the Clerk with the end of year accounts and that the online package should be purchased to finalise the accounts then review the situation.
- 24/02S To consider appointing a Councillor to act as the Internal Auditor for the 2023/24 financial Year accounts.**
There has been some confusion with the title of “Internal Auditor” as this should be a person totally independent from the council and not one of the serving councillors. It was unanimously agreed to appoint the person who had audited previous years including 2022/23. The Clerk previously contacted the Auditor just to confirm he was able to undertake the audit.

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24/02T

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) Update on obtaining funding from Avon and Somerset Police for Speed Indicator Devices (SID) through Cross Village.
- 6) To review any maintenance that are needed on the Parish’s footpath, Bridges and Gates.
- 7) To consider improving the checklist on reviewing planning applications.
- 8) To consider funding Cross Memorial Hall for periodic local community meetings with the Local PCSO (maximum 2 hours per session).

Next Parish Council Meeting – Wednesday 8th May 2024 at 7pm

DRAFT