

# Compton Bishop Parish Council

## COMPTON BISHOP PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting 14th August 2024

- Present:** Councillors C Settle Chair), E Parker, D McCarthy, G Hancock and Alan Mortimore (Clerk).  
Somerset Councillor B Filmer.
- 24/08A** **To receive any apologies for non-attendance.**  
Councillor T Mason.  
Somerset Councillor T Grimes.
- 24/08B** **To receive any declarations of interest.**  
No declarations of interest were received.
- 24/08C** **To receive and approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024 previously circulated.**  
It was resolved to approve the minutes. Councillor Settle signed the minutes as being a true record.
- 24/08D** **To receive Clerks Report.**
- 1) Parish Council Finance. With the accounting package now in place, the Councillors can now have an up-to-date position of the finance situation each month.
  - 2) Computer – It was agreed as the council has purchased a new laptop for its own use that it should be set up professionally with the files, folders and all the required documents in Order, making it easier of keeping comprehensive records for the future. The Clerk to speak with the Chair on his return from holiday. Other Council members who were proficient in such technology also offered their services.
  - 3) Two Councillor vacancies – Notices have been placed on the parishes 4 Notice Boards as well as on Facebook (Cross Connections). Unless the required criteria are met within fourteen working days from the 12<sup>th</sup> August, then it may be possible to co-opt two new councillors who would be willing to serve. The existing five councillors can decide amongst themselves who to co-opt. However, the council must follow the advice from Somerset Council's Electoral Services before any action is taken.
- 24/08E** **To receive County Councillors Report.**  
Councillor Filmer gave an overview of the current situation.
- 1) Finance – The situation has not changed since financial crisis was announced. Somerset Council needs to sell around £250M worth of commercial assets. Voluntary redundancies are taking place and office buildings are being closed and sold.
  - 2) A38 upgrade – There are four parts to the road upgrade that effects Somerset. This includes upgrading the roundabouts at junctions 22 and 23 of the M5 motorway, Cross/Axbridge improvements and the possibility of a bridge over the A38 at the Strawberry line refuge (where the Strawberry Line crosses the A38). However, most of these improvements depend on Central Government funding which, as yet, have not been sanctioned.
  - 3) There is a review and restructuring of how Somerset Council offer Council Tax support.
- The full report will be shown on the Compton Bishop Parish Website.

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**24/08F To approve the bank statement and the following payments.**

Payee	Description	Amount £
Clerk	Net salary (July 24)	318.86
HMRC	Tax deducted at source (July 24)	79.80
Clerk	Expenses (July 24)	17.98
Cllr T Mason	Reimbursement for Road Rectangle Reflectors	25.60
Cllr T Mason	Reimbursement for Strimmer Mowing Line	13.60
Cllr T Mason	Refund of Postage - Lloyds Bank Mandate Forms	3.80
Mr M Peel	Petrol for strimming grass end of Kennel Lane	29.20
Cllr E Parker	Reimbursement of Nibbles for the AGM 10 <sup>th</sup> June	10.46
ScribeLite Accounting for Parish Councils	Direct Debit set up for monthly payments providing a full accounting system for the Parish from July 2024.	14.40 Monthly
Cllr G Hancock	Reimbursement of drinks for the AGM 10 <sup>th</sup> June	31.05
Clerk	Purchase of a new Laptop for Parish Council use	399.99

The payments were approved.

**24/08G To consider the following Planning applications**

Planning application number	Location	Proposal

There were no Planning Applications to consider this month.

**24/08H To note the Planning Decisions Update.**

Planning application number	Location	Decision
21/23/00023	Land adjacent to River Axe, North of Turnpike Rd, Lower Weare, Axbridge BS26	Awaited
21/23/00016	Peak Barn, Webbington Rd Compton Bishop, Axbridge BS26 2HW	To Be discussed at Planning Committee North on 13th August 2024

**24/08I Safe Pathway Campaign Cross Lane – update on any progress the Landowners.**

Councillor Parker confirmed that two of the three path adoptees cleared some of the overgrown hedges on the pathway. There was no further progress to report this month.

**24/08J Village Signs – any progress on the “Compton Bishop Parish” signs at the Compton Bishop end of the Village.**

Prior to the meeting Councillor McCarthy had circulated images of the proposed signs for Discussion at this meeting. The appropriate image was agreed with a few adjustments and now the two signs will be progressed.

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- 24/08K To consider Councillor Training.**  
Councillor Mason has been booked on a Code of Conduct and Councillors Interest course. Councillor Settle and Hancock have recently attended Code of Conduct courses.
- 24/08L To receive Councillor reports.**  
**A38 Milestone Post** - Councillor Parker requested that the Clerk, once again, ask Somerset Heritage for the definitive answer as to when the milepost will be returned to its position on A38. Councillor Parker confirmed that there are sufficient volunteers to make sure the area around the post is kept clear and maintained.  
**Maps and Documents relating to Cross Memorial Hall and the Parish** – Councillor Parker Informed the committee that her husband had, a few years ago, saved some documents and maps relating to the hall and parish from being destroyed. She suggested that these should be returned to the hall for safekeeping. It was agreed that the Parish Council should look through all the documents and then decide how to proceed. Councillor Parker will update at the next meeting.
- 24/08M Update on the purchase of the Speed Indicator Device (SID) including the proposed fitting and maintenance procedures.**  
Councillor Mc Carthy informed the meeting she met with the local Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) and the Speed Watch Co-ordinator to agree on the three locations for the SID and photos of the locations were shown for approval by the council. Two were agreed but it was suggested a slight change of location for one. However, it transpires that the suggested revised location was not possible for various reasons and it was settled that the three locations remain as originally agreed. Furthermore, the locations must be approved by Somerset Highways with certain criteria on the height of the SID which may mean new posts being installed at additional cost to the parish. Councillor McCarthy will now provide a suitable wording for Somerset Highways (SH) which will be agreed by the Councillors before being sent to SH by the Clerk on behalf of Councillor McCarthy. A further update will be provided at the next meet
- 24/08N To review any maintenance that is needed on the Parish's Footpaths, Bridges and Gates.**  
As mentioned in the minutes of the last meeting the Rights of Way Bridge Warden of Somerset Council confirmed that due to higher priority bridge projects there has not been any progress with the broken bridge over the River Axe. The Clerk to contact the Warden in a few months time as there is the possibility of further progress on the bridge later in the year.
- 24/08O To approve a checklist for reviewing planning applications.**  
Councillor Hancock had compiled a "Code of Conduct" as well as a checklist for reviewing planning applications. It was agreed that members would review the documents for approval at the meeting.
- 24/08P To approve the purchase of a laptop for the use of the Parish Council.**  
This was approved and a new laptop has been purchased
- 24/08Q To consider investigating the water quality of the rivers and streams in and around the Parish.**  
More research is needed on suitable water testing kits that are available along with other avenues to explore so that appropriate action can be taken. There will be an update at the next meeting.
- 24/08R To review and update councillor signing mandates on the two parish bank accounts.**  
Councillor McCarthy wishes to be removed from the signing mandate on the parish Bank account. Councillor Hancock offered to be the replacement and the appropriate forms have now been submitted to Lloyds Bank to allow Councillor Hancock to authorise payments.

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**24/08S To resolve various Highway issues including hidden signage and any update on the proposed changes to the A38/Cross/Axbridge junction.**

Councillor McCarthy asked the clerk to contact the Clerk of Axbridge Town Council (ATC) regarding hidden signs at: -

- 1) Cross Lane/ Axbridge Townend – signs covered with shrubs/trees.
- 2) A38/Strawberry Line refuge area – signs hidden by shrubs/trees. Although it was not known which parish this area belongs. Initial enquiry via ATC.
- 3) Old Coach Road – Councillor McCarthy agreed to contact the Clerk of Weare Parish Council regarding hidden road signs due to the overgrowth of shrubs/trees.

The changes to the A38 dealt with under item 24/08E.

When more details are known of the possible changes to the Cross/Axbridge junction and the changes to the Strawberry Line Refuge and consultations takes place, it was suggested that the Council gets other local parish councils along with Axbridge Town Council involved as a group to provide a unified response to the proposed changes.

**24/08T Items for the next agenda**

- 1) Safe Pathway Campaign – update on any progress with the landowners.
- 2) Village Signs – purchase of the two “Compton Bishop Parish” signs.
- 3) To consider Councillor Training.
- 4) Update on the progress of installing a Speed Indicator Device around the Parish.
- 5) Investigation of the water quality of the rivers and streams in and around the Parish.
- 6) Update on various Highways issues including A38 upgrade.
- 7) LCN – Use of the Memorial Hall for some of their meetings.

Next Parish Council Meeting – Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 7pm