

# Compton Bishop Parish Council

## COMPTON BISHOP PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024

**Present:** Councillors T Mason (Chair), C Settle, D McCarthy, G Hancock and Alan Mortimore (Clerk).

**24/09A To receive any apologies for non-attendance.**

Councillor E Parker, Somerset Councillors B Filmer and T Grimes.

**24/09B To receive any declarations of interest.**

No declarations of interest were received.

**24/09C To receive and approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2024 previously circulated.**

It was resolved to approve the minutes. Councillor Mason signed the minutes as being a true record.

**24/09D To receive Clerks Report.**

- 1) The Parish Councils new computer – With the agreement of the Councillors, the computer has been passed to an expert for the old computer documents to be transferred over and then “cleaned” of all other data for security reasons.
- 2) Two Councillor vacancies – The deadline for residents to seek an official election for selecting councillors has now passed. The Clerk is seeking permission from Somerset Council Electoral Services to allow the existing Councillors to co-opt any suitable candidate who may be willing to serve on the council.
- 3) Regarding item 24/08S of the minutes of 14<sup>th</sup> August, the Clerk has contacted Somerset Council via their website regarding shrubs/trees hiding road signs. Automatic acknowledgement was received and now awaiting a response.

**24/09E To receive County Councillors Report.**

Although Councillor Filmer was not able to attend he had provided a written report prior to the meeting which will be shown on the Compton Bishop Parish Website.

**24/09F To approve the bank statement and the following payments.**

Payee	Description	Amount £
Clerk	Net salary (Aug 24)	318.86
HMRC	Tax deducted at source (Aug 24)	79.80
Clerk	Expenses (Aug 24)	21.97
SALC	Annual Affiliation Fee 2024/25	184.25
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 C Settle	Reimbursement of Strimmer Line	5.32
Cross Memorial Hall	Community Police Open Session	20.00
PATA	Invoice for Payroll Services Jul – Sept 24	31.05

The payments were approved.

**24/09G To consider the following Planning applications**

Planning application number	Location	Proposal

There were no Planning Applications to consider this month.

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24/09H

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	Granted
21/23/00016	Peak Barn, Webbington Rd Compton Bishop, Axbridge BS26 2HW	Granted

24/09I

## **Safe Pathway Campaign Cross Lane – update on any progress the Landowners.**

Unfortunately, the posts holding the electric fence (protecting walkers from the cattle) in the upper field (Axbridge end) have been vandalised and the posts taken, the electric fence in this field has been dismantled. Councillor Mason to contact the Safe Pathway committee to discuss what action can be taken to reinstate this electric fence. It appears that the cattle are owned by a tenant using the field and not the landowner's stock.

24/09J

## **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 a quotation from the contractor to install the two new signs in the required locations at a total cost of £760 +£152 VAT. (The council can reclaim the VAT from HMRC at the end of the financial year.)

The appropriate image for both signs were agreed, and it was resolved to proceed on the basis of the quotation. Councillor McCarthy will now contact the contractor to proceed.

24/09K

## **To consider Councillor Training.**

Code of Conduct and Councillors Interest courses have been attended by three members and further courses will be considered as appropriate.

24/09L

## **To receive Councillor reports.**

### **1) Unused Telegraph Pole on Webbbinton Road in area of National Landscape (A0NB)**

Complaints have been received from residents that there are no overhead connections and it was placed in the front of two houses and has never been used by Truespeed, the company who erected the pole. Furthermore, it cannot be established that planning permission was obtained before its erection. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the CEO of Truespeed with copies to Somerset Planning Enforcement and Mendip Hills National Landscapes to get this resolved.

24/09M

## **Update on the purchase of the Speed Indicator Device (SID) including the proposed fitting and maintenance procedures.**

Councillor Mc Carthy along with the Speed Co-ordinator Mike Peel had obtained the agreement of the residents that it would be acceptable for the SID to be on the roadside outside their homes on the three locations.

Somerset Highways has agreed the locations but require new poles for the three SID locations at a total charge of £1050 including the cost of installation. It was resolved to proceed with the installation of the required poles.

However, before this can be progressed application forms need to be submitted to Highways for formal approval of the SID scheme. The Clerk to oversee that all the required documentation is forwarded correctly.

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- 24/09N To consider investigating the water quality of the rivers and streams in and around the Parish.**  
Councillor Settle agreed to make enquiries regarding water testing kits that would be suitable for testing the small streams around the parish and report back at the next meeting.
- 24/09O To approve a checklist for reviewing planning applications.**  
It was resolved to approve the checklist which will be used when considering future planning applications.
- 24/09P Update on various Highway issues including A38 upgrade.**  
At the last meeting Somerset Councillor Filmer mentioned that one of the A38 upgrades being considered was a bridge to replace the Strawberry Line Cycleway Refuge area. It was resolved that the Clerk should contact Councillor Filmer on a way forward to establish the scale of the plans, so the Council can make any appropriate comments on the proposed project.
- 24/09Q LCN (Local Council Network) – Use of the Memorial Hall for their meetings.**  
It was resolved that the Council would be prepared to pay the cost of Cross Memorial Hall for LCN meetings on a rota basis (i.e. using other venues in turn). The Clerk to advise the Hall Committee accordingly.
- 24/09R Items for the next agenda**
- 1) Safe Pathway Campaign** – update on any progress with the landowners and the missing electric fence.
  - 2) Village Signs** – progress on the 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.**

Next Parish Council Meeting – Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 7pm