

Compton Bishop Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting 11th March 2026

Present: Councillors T Mason (Chair), C Settle, D McCarthy, H Dean, D Ham, R Glyde and A Mortimore (Clerk). Somerset Councillor B Filmer.

26/03A To receive any apologies for non-attendance.

Councillor G Hancock

26/03B To receive any declarations of interest.

There were no declarations of interest.

26/03C To receive and approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th February 2026 previously circulated.

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

26/03D To receive Clerks Report.

1) Current Financial Situation – the members were updated on the current financial position.

2) Clearance of Ditches by Landowners – There has not been any further updates from the Landowners and the Clerk will continue to monitor the situation.

26/03E To receive Unitary Councillors Report.

Councillor Filmer gave a brief report on the latest update from Somerset Council, details of which will be displayed on the website.

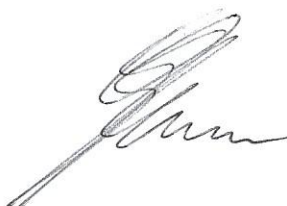
26/03F To approve the bank statement and the following payments.

Payee	Description	Amount £
Clerk	Net salary (Feb 26)	356.47
HMRC	Tax deducted at source (Feb 26)	89.00
Clerk	Expenses (Feb 26)	32.49
CBPC	Employer National Insurance Contribution	4.27
Scribe Lite 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
Lloyds Bank	Monthly Bank Charges (commenced from Jan 25)	4.25
Parish Online	Set of new Gov.uk secure email domain	242.50
Cllr David Ham	Repair of the Bus Shelter Roof	265.00
PATA	Quarterly Payroll Charge Jan 26 – Mar 26	40.35

The payments were approved.

26/03G To consider the following Planning applications.

Planning application number	Location	Proposal
21/25/00002	Land to the East of Manor Farm, Cross, Axbridge	Erection of two self-build dwellings and associated works. It was resolved not to make any comment on this application. Full details are on the Somerset Planning Website.



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26/03H

To note the Planning Decisions Update.

Planning application number	Location	Decision
21/24/00006	Land North of Cross Moor Drove, Lower Weare	Awaited
21/25/00002	Land to the East of Manor Farm, Cross, Axbridge	Application re-submitted see item 26/03G
21/26/00001	Harborne House, Church Lane, Compton Bishop	Awaited

26/03I To consider Councillor Training

The Clerk to arrange the "Essential Councillor Training Part 1" for Councillor Glyde when available.

26/03J To receive Councillor reports.

1) A38 Pathway between Cross and Weare - Councillor McCarthy asked if Somerset Highways could be chased regarding widening the pathway as the hard surface was very narrow being overgrown with vegetation. This need clearing to make the pathway more suitable and safer for all vulnerable users. The Clerk to contact Somerset Highways.

26/03K Update on the use of the four parish notice boards.

There has only been one negative comment on the proposal that from the 1st April 2026 notices (such as agenda and minutes etc) will only be displayed on the Cross Memorial Hall Notice Board. It was agreed to wait until the end of April to ascertain if any adverse comments are received on only using the Hall Notice Board and then decide the best use of the other Notice Boards (such as adapted for public notices).

26/03L Update on cutting back of vegetation that is stopping the water flowing through streams that cause problems with overflowing water and no good for the wildlife habitat.

A letter had been received from the Environment Agency (EA) dated 17th February 2026 confirming that a member of their Asset Performance Team was going to attend the site to investigate the blockage when work pressures allow. The Clerk to contact the EA for an update.

26/03M Update on the implications of Assertion 10 (AGAR 2025-2026). Report on findings of obtaining a GOV.UK Email Domain.

The "GOV.UK" email address has now been set up with Parish-Online with the Councillors being allocated their individual email address. This is a slightly more complicated system than the existing Gmail account so it will take time to get fully up to speed with the system. The historical Gmail account can then be transferred to the more secure system for transparency. This has become a very important development in the signing off the 2025-2026 Parish Council annual accounts under the "Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR)". This AGAR document will need to be completed by May this year and now will include confirmation that the council has met all legal duties around digital services, data protection and information- access.

26/03N Update on the action taken by the Environment Agency on the anonymous complaint received regarding Yeo Bridge Farm.

The Environment Agency are continuing to monitor the site, and further updates will follow if more action is required. The Clerk has also contacted Somerset Planning Enforcement as it appears a building structure has been erected without the necessary planning permission. Due to work pressures, Planning Enforcement have indicated that there may be a delay before this issue can be investigated. The Clerk to monitor the situation with both departments.

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26/03O Update on any action taken on overgrown vegetation on road signs, benches and footpaths around the parish.

1) Parish Footpaths – Somerset Council can provide gates that can replace stiles and field gates and in certain circumstances can be fitted at no charge to the landowners. Councillor Dean as the parish's footpath liaison officer, mentioned that some stiles and gates need replacing. Councillor Dean will make further enquiries with Somerset's District Footpath Officer regarding replacement of such gates and stiles as well as contacting the Landowner(s) to ascertain if they are willing to co-operate with any replacement if it can be organised. Councillor Dean Confirmed that she has reported a branch hanging from the main trunk of a tree causing a blockage to a footpath (footpath code AX15/8) and will monitor the situation.

26/03P Webbington Road Car Park/Pull In – Update on the initial progress of the project.

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had received information on registering land with the Land Registry from a Councillor from another Parish Council who had been through this process. Although it was successful it took around 3 years for all the formalities to be completed with the expense of Solicitors being involved as well as a backlog with the Land Registry. Additionally, the landowner participated willingly, making Webbington Road a completely different case. There appears be no know owner for the Webbington Road Car Park with Somerset Council confirming that they are not responsible for this piece of land. From information already gleaned this would appear to be a long and expensive project involving Solicitors and investigating archived historical records to prove the land was not previously owned by anyone else. It was resolved not to take any action in the immediate future but keep under review.

26/03Q Update from Somerset Highways on water flowing across the road by the Webbington Hotel
The Clerk confirmed that a report has been submitted on the Somerset Council's Website which is now the correct method to report any issues. An acknowledgement has been received but no update on resolving the problem. The Clerk to chase Somerset Highways for an update.

26/03R Update on improving communication between the Memorial Hall Committee and the Parish Council.

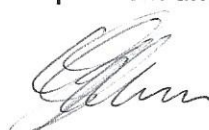
It was resolved to ask the Hall Committee if they would be prepared to copy in the Clerk with the minutes of their meetings which could then be circulated amongst the Councillors. This would help improve the communication between the two committees. Councillor Mason agreed that this would be suggested to the Hall Committee when attending their next meeting and asked if members would email him with any questions that they would like raised.

26/03S Any developments on the approach to Somerset Council regarding the crossing proposals over the A38 (Cllr McCathy).

The Clerk confirmed that Councillor McCarthy's proposals for the A38 Refuge area has been forwarded to the Somerset Highways A38 Project Team for their consideration. The A38 Refuge proposals will be sent to Tessa Munt MP as it appears that she is involved with looking at all the possible solutions to improve this crossing. Councillor McCarthy will provide the Clerk with an update of the proposals for onward transmission to the MP. As the proposed upgrade of the A38 has still to be fully approved and finalised then it was agreed to remove from the agenda for the time being and keep the proposals under review. It was unanimously agreed that the communication to the MP should include the Parish Council's objection to the bridge proposals for the Strawberry Line Crossing due to more cost-effective alternatives.

26/03T Ongoing investigation into the problem of sewage flowing from properties in Church Lane.

Please refer to item **26/03H** as this is one of the properties where the effluent discharges exist and the members were concerned that with the additional people now residing in the property the current sewage system was not sufficient for the extra usage. The Parish Council objected to the planning application on the grounds that the sewage system is inadequate and that the Environmental Agency had been involved. The Parish Council now await the decision from Planning regarding the affluent problem and whether the Environment Agency needs to be Involved further.

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26/03U Update on the repair and maintenance of the Bus Shelter.

The repair is complete.

26/03V To consider contacting the landowner regarding Goats regularly escaping from their field unto Old Coach Road and causing a danger by wandering on the highway.

It was suggested that these goats were grazing on National Trust land with the owner of the goats not providing adequate fencing to stop them escaping. In the first instance the Clerk to write to the National Trust asking for the fencing to either be repaired or replaced to ensure the goats remain within the area allowed and not escaping into neighbouring gardens and onto the highway.

26/03W To consider action that needs to be taken on surface water pouring across the Webbington Road at Newtown.

Councillor Settle agreed to make more investigation into the source of this surface water and identify the landowner concerned. There will be an update at the next meeting.

Next Parish Council meeting – Wednesday 8th April 2026 at 7 p.m.

items for the next agenda

- 1) Update on cutting back of vegetation that is stopping the water flowing through streams that cause problems with overflowing water and no good for the wildlife habitat.
- 2) Update on the implications of Assertion 10 (AGAR 2025-2026). Report on the Parish Online GOV.UK Email Domain.
- 3) Update on any action taken by the Environment Agency on the anonymous complaint received regarding Yeo Bridge Farm.
- 4) Update on any action taken on overgrown vegetation on road signs, benches and Footpaths.
- 5) Update from Somerset Highways about water flowing across the road by the Webbington Hotel.
- 6) Update on improving communication between the Memorial Hall Committee and the Parish Council.
- 7) Ongoing Investigation into the problem of sewage flowing from properties in Church Lane.
- 8) Update on Goats regularly escaping from their field unto Old Coach Road and causing a danger by wandering into neighbouring properties and unto the highway.
- 9) To consider action that needs to be taken on surface water pouring across the Webbington Road at Newtown.



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