

Compton Bishop Parish Council

COMPTON BISHOP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Open Annual General Meeting 18th May 2026

Present Councillors T Mason (Chair), C Settle, G Hancock, H Dean, D Ham, R Glyde, Parish Clerk A Mortimore, along with residents of the Parish.

To receive any apologies for non-attendance.

Councillor D McCarthy, Somerset Councillor B Filmer.

The Chair's welcome to the public.

The Chair of Compton Bishop Parish Council (CBPC) Terry Mason welcomed members of the public to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

As Councillor Filmer was unable to attend he had sent a report regarding the current developments at Somerset Council. This included the financial situation, parking charges, council housing, A38 Major Route Network scheme, Somerset Council Boundary changes. The full transcript of the report can be found on the Parish website under the Annual Parish Meeting 18th May 2026.

Compton Bishop Parish Council

He then gave an overview of the type of work and projects being undertaken by CBPC: -

- 1) Financial** – The 2025/2026 Parish Accounts have now been signed off by the Internal Auditor.
- 2) Village Maintenance Team** – The Parish Council would like to thank Mike Rolfe for organising the Village Maintenance Team along with all the volunteers who help maintain verges, hedges, the Planters and any other maintenance that is needed.
- 3) Defibrillators** – the Parish Council maintain the 3 Defibrillators around the parish with the help of local volunteers making sure that they are all in working order with new batteries being replaced when necessary.
- 4) The Wessex Water Pumping Station in Cross** - was overwhelmed with the heavy rain a couple of years ago and this situation is being monitored with Wessex Water.
- 5) Blocked Drains** – Due to Gigaclear installing fibre optic cables they managed to break some drainpipes and this has caused water overflowing onto the road which is a hazard particularly in winter. Somerset Council (SC) has jet washed around 3 drains, but it is not yet clear if this has worked satisfactorily. SC will be taking this issue up with Gigaclear for recompense.
- 6) Webbington Hotel** – Water flowing across the road from the hotel has become an issue, particularly in winter when it becomes icy. The parish council are in contact with the hotel to resolve this as it is the Landowner's responsibility not to allow overflowing water onto a highway.
- 7) Installation of a replacement Footbridge over the River Cheddar Yeo** – it is anticipated that this will be installed after the 15th June this year. The delay was due to river environmental reasons, being Salmonoid restrictions, Chubb mass spawning and water voles.
- 8) Overgrown vegetation in and along the riverbank which stopped the water flowing freely**
It is the Landowner's responsibility to ensure that any rivers or streams on their land do not get overgrown with vegetation and the parish council has been in touch with the Landowner. The Parish Council are liaising with both the Landowner and the Environment Agency to resolve this issue.
- 9) Repair of Bus Shelter** – There was damage to the roof of the bus shelter which has been repaired along with redecoration.
- 10) The four Parish Notice Boards** – only placing future notices (minutes/agenda etc) on the Memorial Hall Notice Board from April 2026. Notices were placed on all four Notice Boards earlier in the year explaining the reasons for the change.

Compton Bishop Parish Council

- 11) **Sewage/effluent leaking from a property in Church Lane** - The Parish Council are in contact with the owner and Somerset Environmental health in getting the leakage fixed.
- 12) **Councillor McCarthy's suggestion to Somerset Council regarding cost effective safety improvements proposals for the A38 Refuge Area crossing for the Strawberry Line Cycleway/Walkway** – From Councillor Filmer's Briefing Report it appears that the previously proposed traffic lights have been removed and replaced with visibility improvements following feedback from the local parish council and residents.
All the A38 improvements are subject to government sign-off. It is hoped that all the work will start in the Autumn of this year, although there is no guarantee that funds will be sufficient to meet the improvement to the A38 Refuge Area.
- 13) **Planning Enforcement** – The Parish Council has been in contact with Somerset Planning Enforcement regarding an unauthorised structure and a mobile home on land where the correct planning regulations/consent has not been followed.

The Chair then asked if any Village Groups would like to report on their activities.

Reports from Village Groups.

1) **Cross Connections - Ruth Orriss**

Ruth explained this is an informal group of people that started around 15 years ago to get things happening around the villages of the parish.

A variety of social events are organised, and anyone is very welcome to join the group if they so wish. There is contact by email as well as a Facebook page for Cross Connections for posting any relevant information around the parish.

2) **Axe Vale Climate Change Group –Councillor Rachel Glyde**

There are many local events being organised by the group to encourage more awareness of environmental issues including an Eco- Festival at the Cider barn in Chapel Allerton. There are talks on all aspects of green issues such as recycling and Solar Panels. Also, The Group is also promoting getting people to leave part of their garden as “rewilding” to encourage all sort of plants and wildlife to flourish.

Other events are planned especially some family events in the summer holidays to encourage children to become more aware of the environment.

There has recently been a Bat survey carried out in Cross and Badgworth using Bat Detectors for around one hour after sunset. Several different types and species were Recorded. It is hoped that further surveys in neighbouring locations will take place in the future.

3) **Springfield Wildlife Site – Sarah Ayling**

Springfield Wildlife Site is a small area of damp woodland with a pond and circular access path. The site entrance is between numbers 8 and 9 Springfield Close, in Cross. The site together with the adjoining Rhynes and ditches form the Cross Rhynes Local Wildlife Site.

Springfield Wildlife Site was established as a community wildlife site in 2002 when Springfield Close and Chardet Place were built. In 2023, ownership of the site passed from Sedgemoor District Council to Somerset council.

Somerset Council has strimmed around the far side of the pond which is very steep. Local volunteers have held regular work parties at the site, every 4-6 weeks depending on the time of year, weather and what tasks need doing. The main regular task is keeping the access path clear and dipping platform cut.

Compton Bishop Parish Council

For several years water has been escaping from the pond around the side of, not over, the weir and one of the boards has been missing from the weir. Somerset Council is aware of the problem. We suggested that as a temporary measure, to prevent further erosion of the bank, the volunteer group could plug the break in the bank with sandbags. Unfortunately, the Inland Drainage Board said that the site owner needed to apply (and pay) for consent. I have passed this information to Somerset Council and am waiting a response.

4) Parish Footpaths – Councillor Heather Dean

Councillor Dean introduced herself as the Parish's Volunteer Footpath Liaison Officer. After completing an Application Form and then online training she took up the role last October. There are around 32 footpaths around the parish and Councillor Dean walks the footpaths on a random basis and reports back any issues such as fallen trees/branches and any other obstructions to Somerset Council. She can clear any minor vegetation that is obstructing the pathway and carries the appropriate tools.

Somerset Council does supply and install galvanised gates that can replace the wooden Stiles free of charge to the Landowner. This allows easier access to walkers along with dogs and children. Councillor Dean has already managed to get two gates installed with another in the pipeline.

She also mentioned that anyone can report a problem with any of the footpaths within the County through the Somerset Council's website.

Questions and Answers

Several questions asked during the meeting especially during Councillor Mason update on the current work being undertaken by the Parish Council.

One subject that raised several comments was that of Environmental issues and in particular installing Solar Panels on Cross Memorial Hall. The Hall is run as a Registered Charity with very limited financial resources and it was resolved that the Axe Vale Climate Change Group would investigate the possibilities of obtaining a 100% grant from organisations offering such funds for environmental causes. This would ensure that there would not be any additional costs to the Hall Committee.

Refreshments then followed the presentations.

Alan Mortimore
Clerk to Compton Bishop Parish Council.

Terry Mason
Chair of Compton Bishop Parish Council