Compton Bishop Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting 8th April 2026

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

26/04A To receive any apologies for non-attendance.

Councillor R Glyde

26/04B To receive any declarations of interest.

There were no declarations of interest.

26/04C To receive and approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th March 2026 previously circulated.

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

26/04D 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.

3)**Appointing an Internal Auditor for the accounts of the Financial Year 2025-2026.**

It was resolved to approve to appoint the Internal Auditor that had audited the accounts for the previous year. Before the meeting, the Clerk contacted the Auditor to confirm his ability to conduct the Audit.

4) **Notice Boards** -it was agreed that from this month only notices would be placed on the Memorial Hall Board with a note stating that if any resident wished to receive a printed Copy then this would be arranged by the Clerk.

5) **Parish Council "open" meeting 18th May 2026** – It was agreed to re-advertise this open meeting to ensure residents are aware of the date.

6) **White Lines on the roads –** The Clerk confirmed that Somerset Highways have asked local councils for any white lines that have faded and need repainting. Compton Bishop Parish requirements along with photographs have been sent to Highways for their attention.

The Clerk now awaiting the response from Somerset when this work will be undertaken.

7) **Compton Bishop Parish Council Insurance** – It was resolved to renew again through Zurich Municipal Insurance which offers specialist Insurance to local authorities.

26/04E 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.

26/04F To approve the bank statement and the following payments.

Payee	Description	Amount £
Clerk	Net salary (Mar 26)	356.27
HMRC	Tax deducted at source (Mar 26)	89.20
Clerk	Expenses (Mar 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
John Cheek	Grass cutting and Decoration of Bus Shelter	150.00
Mike Rolfe	Preservation Paint and repairs to the Planters	21.88
Mike Peel	Petrol for mowing Kennel Lane	25.01

The payments were approved.

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26/04G To consider the following Planning application.

This application falls under Axbridge Town Council, but the Parish Council requested this application on the agenda so any comments can be officially recorded by Somerset Council Planning Dept.

Planning application number	Location	Proposal
02/25/00030	Land west of St Michaels & North of A371, Cheddar Rd, Axbridge	Change of use of land to Gypsy & Travellers site to include 1 pitch and associated works. It was resolved to make an objection to this application. Full details will appear on the Somerset Council's Planning Website.

26/04H To note the Planning Decisions Update.

Planning application number	Location	Decision
21/24/00006	Land North of Cross Moor Drove, Lower Weare	Awaited
21/26/00001	Harborne House, Church Lane, Compton Bishop	Withdrawn
21/25/00002	Land to the East of Manor Farm, Cross, Axbridge	Awaited

26/04I To consider Councillor Training

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

26/04J 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. These needs clearing to make the pathway more suitable and safer for all vulnerable users. This has already been flagged with Highways through the correct website procedure. The Clerk to provide Councillor McCarthy with the reference details who offered to follow up.

2) A38 Refuge Area (Strawberry Line crossing road crossing area). Councillor Filmer indicated that it would appear from the information he has received that the option for a bridge across the road along with Traffic Lights had been discounted by the A38 Highways Project Team. Councillor McCarthy had a recent video call with Tessa Munt with the MP very supportive of Councillor McCarthy's proposals to improve the safely of the Refuge area and would be willing to back such cost-effective improvements. At present, this is ongoing and will be kept under review by the Parish Council.

3) A "Cycle" Sign at the bottom of Cross Lane/A38 – Councillor McCarthy suggested that a sign at the bottom of Cross Lane should be suggested again. Previously Highways had indicated it was not suitable for such a sign. However, Councillor Filmer offered to make enquiries through Somerset Highways to establish if such sign could now be installed.

4) Speedwatch Group "Check your Speed" signs – On behalf of the Speedwatch Group Councillor McCarthy suggested that the Parish Council try again to get these signs as previously Avon and Somerset Police have not been helpful in supplying the posters. Councillor McCarthy along with the Clerk to make further enquiries with both the Police

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and Somerset Highways.

5) Stone Wall collapsing into the road by Butts Batch – Councillor Hancock explained that part of a stone wall had collapsed into the road, and this was causing a danger to traffic and pedestrians. It was also mentioned about a footpath problem belonging to the same Landowner. The Clerk to contact the Landowner asking for both the situations to be rectified.

6) Pedestrian White Lines along Cross Lane – Councillor Settle suggested that as an alternative to the safe walkway through the fields between Axbridge and Cross (which has stalled) a pedestrian lane should be marked on the right side of the road going towards Axbridge. This would also have pedestrian symbols within the white lines denoting the walkway. Councillor Settle had previously seen such white lines on another rural road. It was agreed this should be a formal item for the next agenda with Councillor Settle providing sample photographs to show how it would work.

26/04K 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. Councillor McCarthy will provide the Clerk with photographs of the overgrown vegetation to forward to the EA to show the state of the stream and ask if some action could now be taken to resolve this issue with the Landowner.

26/04L 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.

26/04M 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 minutes under item **26/02O** in February 2026 and under item **26/03N** in March 2026 were incorrect as it mentioned that Somerset Planning Enforcement involvement arose from both a building and a mobile home being constructed on this site. This related to a completely different location and does not involve Yeo Bridge Farm.

26/04N Update on any action taken on overgrown vegetation on road signs, benches and footpaths around the parish.

1) Parish Footpaths – Councillor Dean confirmed that Somerset's District Footpath Officer had agreed with two Landowners to replace old existing stiles with metal gates. This will be at no cost to the Landowners.

26/04O 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 the correct method to report any issues. An acknowledgement has been received but still no update on resolving the problem. The Clerk to chase Somerset Highways for an update.

26/04P Update on improving communication between the Memorial Hall Committee and the Parish Council.

Councillors Settle and Glyde have put together a series of questions for the Hall Committee. The

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Clerk to circulate with the other members for sanctioning. They may request to include additional information prior to submission to the Hall Committee for their consideration.

26/04Q Ongoing investigation into the problem of sewage flowing from properties in Church Lane.

Please refer to item **26/04H** 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 discharge of effluent persists, though the Planning Application has now been withdrawn. The Clerk to write to the property owner for details as to how he intends to stop the leaking of sewage/effluent flowing into the road and eventually river courses. A decision will then be made regarding further involvement with the Environment Agency.

26/04R Update on Goats regularly escaping from their field unto Old Coach Road and causing a danger by wandering on the highway.

It was agreed to remove this from the agenda as it appears the problem has been resolved.

26/04S To consider action that needs to be taken on surface water pouring across the Webbington Road at Newtown.

Councillor Settle is still investigating the source of this surface water and trying to contact the Landowner concerned. There will be an update at the next meeting.

26/04T To consider replacing the rotten timber in the Planter opposite Bourton Lane and replacing the Wooden Finger Post by Maggie's Corner which has rotted away at the base.

It was resolved to authorise the Parish Volunteer Group to replace the rotten timber on the Planters as and when necessary, with the cost being met by the Parish Council.
Regarding the Finger Post, as this is on a public footpath, then Councillor Dean (as the Parish's Volunteer Footpath officer) will contact District Footpath Officer for a replacement post.

Next Parish Council meeting – Wednesday 13th May 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 any action taken by the Environment Agency on the anonymous complaint received regarding Yeo Bridge Farm.
3) Update on any action taken on overgrown vegetation on road signs, benches and Footpaths.
4) Update from Somerset Highways about water flowing across the road by the Webbington Hotel.
5) Update on improving communication between the Memorial Hall Committee and the and the Parish Council.
6) Ongoing Investigation into the problem of sewage flowing from properties in Church Lane.

7) To consider action that needs to be taken on surface water pouring across the Webbington Road at Newtown.
8) Pedestrian White Lines along Cross Lane.

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