

Compton Bishop Parish Council

COMPTON BISHOP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting 12th March 2025

Present: Councillors T Mason (Chair), C Settle, D McCarthy, G Hancock, Co-opted Councillor H Dean and Alan Mortimore (Clerk).

1) Tess Gill (Resident of the Parish) asked if she could address the Council before the official meeting commenced on Generic Environmental Policy. The Councillors thanked her for a very informative talk which they will evaluate for future agenda items on such environmental issues that could affect the parish.

2) Mr and Mrs Lampkin attended the meeting regarding their Planning Application under item 23/03I. In accordance with the Council's Standing Orders, the Chair allowed them to explain their proposed plans in more detail for the benefit of the Councillors.

25/03A To receive any apologies for non-attendance.

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

25/03B To consider Co-opting Heather Dean as a member of Compton Bishop Parish Council.

Councillor Mason proposed co-opting Heather Dean, a resident of Compton Bishop, to be a member of the Parish Council. This was seconded by Councillor Hancock and unanimously agreed by all the Councillors. Councillor Dean then accepted the position and signed the Declaration of Office. The Chair welcomed Councillor Dean and hoped that she would make a valuable contribution to the workings of the Council.

25/03C To receive any declarations of interest.

No declarations of interest were received.

25/03D To receive and approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12th February 2025 previously circulated.

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

25/03E To receive Clerks Report.

1) End of the Financial Year Reports – The Clerk informed the meeting that he was preparing the year figures and was getting all the required documents together. However, as this was the first year that the Scribe Accounting System had been used, he may need to make use of Scribe's expertise to ensure that the cost centres and format of all the input data are correct. There is a charge for this service of £190+ VAT (the VAT can be reclaimed by the council).

Furthermore, The Clerk may need the help of the Clerk from another Parish who was able to help format the accounts for the last financial year. Although this should only be to make sure the accounts are acceptable for the Internal Auditor.

The Clerk asked for the Council to allow him to be able to progress these reports and any incidental costs without further reference within the parameters agreed.

2) Financial Position – The Clerk advised the meeting of the current cash situation with both the Current and Savings Accounts.

3) Home Working Allowance (HWA) – It was established that the Clerk had not been claiming the set HWA entitlement since his commencement with the Council. See item 25/03G

25/3F To receive County Councillors Report.

Councillor Filmer was not able to attend the meeting so there was no Somerset Council update on the current situation and latest development. There will a progress report at the next meeting.

25/03G To consider authorising the back payment of the Clerk's "Home Working Allowance" which was never claimed.

The backdated payments were approved and authorised. Please see item 23/03H.

 9/4/25

Compton Bishop Parish Council

25/03H

To approve the bank statement and the following payments.

Payee	Description	Amount £
Clerk	Net salary (Feb 25)	356.27
HMRC	Tax deducted at source (Feb 25)	89.20
Clerk	Expenses (Feb 25)	40.69
Clerk	Expenses -backdated "home working allowance" 17 months from Sept23 to Jan25 at £26 per month	442.00
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
Cross Memorial Hall	Special meeting with parish Residents	18.00
PATA	Pay Roll Services Jan – Mar 2025	37.35

The payments were approved.

25/03I 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 2 self-build dwellings and associated works. It was resolved to make no observations or comments on this application. Full details are on the Somerset Planning Website.

25/03J

To note the Planning Decisions Update.

Planning application number	Location	Decision
21/24/00006	Land North of Cross Moor Drove, Lower Weare	Awaited

25/03K

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

There has not been any further progress as it appears that the two landowners are not engaging with the campaign committee and they are looking at ways to move the the project forward. Councillor McCarthy mentioned that at the Safe Pathway Group and Local Council Network (LCN) meetings it was suggested that a letter from the Parish Council to the local MP (Tessa Munt) explaining the issues with the Landowners asking for her assistance in getting some sort of positive communication with the landowners. Councillor McCarthy offered to draft a letter to the MP also stating that the project has the full support of the Parish Council. All the Councillors agreed.

25/03L

To consider Councillor Training.

Appropriate training sessions to be considered when a fresh set of courses become available.

25/03M

To receive Councillor reports.

- 1) **Land North of Cross Moor Drove, Lower Weare** – Councillor Mason there were many caravans and vehicles on the buildings behind the homes on the Drove. This may be for the film crews currently in the area filming in Axbridge. There is concern that this could result in being used permanently without the necessary planning permission. The Clerk to contact Somerset Planning to obtain clarification on the required regulation requirements for such filming and the concern that it might become a permanent site for other such caravans and vehicles.

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Compton Bishop Parish Council

- 2) **Replacement of White Lines around the Parish** – Councillor Mason confirmed that he had contacted Somerset Highways regarding re- marking all the white lines but was informed that this would not happen until the new financial year when allocated funds become available.
- 3) **Water still flowing across the Webbington Road from the Webbington Hotel** – Although the Hotel have confirmed that the problem has been resolved, water is still flowing across the road. The Clerk to write to the Hotel again with a copy to the Environmental Office that had been involved with this issue.
- 4) **Water flowing across the Webbington Road at Butts Batch** – Councillor Mason confirmed that after contact with the landowner regarding the overflow a local contractor has been employed by the Landowner to clear any blockages that has caused the overflow.
- 5) **Wooden Bridge on the Old River Axe** – Councillor Mason informed the meeting that he has received confirmation that the replacement bridge is ready to be installed. Somerset Footpaths and Rights of Way will now ask for suitable contractors to tender for the bridge installation. An update at the next meeting.

25/03N Update on the installation of the Speed Indicator Device (SID) which has been approved by Somerset Highways and the proposed fitting and management procedures.

The Clerk confirmed that he was still waiting for the contractors employed by Somerset Council to install the three posts for the SID. It was resolved that the Clerk should contact Somerset Highways for an update.

25/03O To consider investigating the water quality of the rivers and in and around the Parish.

Councillor Mason confirmed that the Ecologist is willing to continue to do an in-depth investigation of the water quality to include historical data against the current situation. Councillor Mason still wishes to take this project forward and has the offer of help from a couple of residents along with Councillor Dean. There has been no cost to Parish Council so far.

25/03P 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.

The Clerk confirmed that he has not had any response from the Landowner who still needs to cut back the vegetation. It is understood that he is still awaiting a reply from the Environment Agency on his questions and queries.

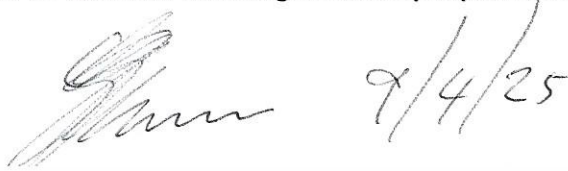
25/03Q Update on various Highway issues including the A38 upgrade including the residents "open" meeting held on Friday 28th February at 7pm in Cross Memorial Hall considering the proposed changes to the A38 Cross/Axbridge Junction.

The residents meeting held on 28th February regarding the proposed changes to the A38 received strong support from numerous residents. Councillor McCarthy introduced the meeting with an overview of the proposed changes and explained that this was just a meeting to inform residents of the proposed changes and not a Parish Council meeting. However, Somerset Councillor Bob Filmer was in attendance and answered several questions on the changes which was very well received. Councillor Parker handed out paper slips with the website link for residents to be able to respond to the proposed changes should they so wish.

Any comments need to be in by 24th March. Although it is unlikely there will be much progress on the outcome for several months due to the criteria such projects need to go through.

25/03R To consider purchasing a replacement bench for "Maggie's Corner" (by the side of the bridge over the Old River Axe on Old Coach Road).

There was a concern that, although the existing bench has been repaired, something could still break again and cause injury to someone and this would come back as being the responsibility of the Parish Council. It was resolved that the Chair should visit the bench for a final decision on replacement. There will an update at the next meeting when any replacement will be in next financial year.



Compton Bishop Parish Council

25/03S Update on the progress of revamping the website.

To be carried forward to the next meeting.

25/03T To consider storage of local Compton Bishop history and information which has been Compiled after many years of research.

Councillors Parker and Settle observed that the volume of documents involved consisted of two large plastic containers along with other files. The researcher (Margaret Jordan) wanted to ensure that when the time arrives that her son knows exactly where all these documents should go. Margaret is happy for the files to remain in her home until then and she would like to see the documents remain locally preferably in Cross Memorial Hall.

The Clerk to contact the Hall Committee to ask if they would like to consider such a request at their next meeting.

25/03U Addendum to item 25/01U of the minutes dated 15th January 2025 - To consider a date for the Parish Council "open" meeting.

Although at the January meeting it was agreed for the "Open" meeting to be on the 9th April in place of the normal meeting. It was then decided that it would be more beneficial for the "Open" meeting to be after the Annual Parish Council meeting on May 14th when the annual accounts are authorised, and Officers are elected for the coming year. The exact date of the "Open" meeting to be decided at the next parish council meeting on the 9th April 2025.

25/03V Items for the next agenda

- 1) Safe Pathway Campaign – update on any progress with the landowners.
- 2) To consider Councillor Training.
- 3) Update on the progress of installing the Speed Indicator Device around the Parish.
- 4) Update on the Investigation of the water quality of the rivers and streams in and around the Parish.
- 5) 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.
- 6) Update on various Highways issues including A38 upgrade at the Cross/Axbridge Junction.
- 7) Update on investigating a suitable new bench for "Maggie's Corner"
- 8) Update on the progress of revamping the website.
- 9) Update on the storage of local Compton Bishop history and information compiled over many years of research.
- 10) To consider issues encountered with the National Trust.
- 11) To consider what action can be undertaken by the Parish Council under the Generic Environmental Policy (the talk by Tess Gill at the last meeting).

Next Meeting - Wednesday 9th April 2025 at 7pm.

A handwritten signature, possibly 'G. M.', followed by the date '9/4/25' written in a cursive style.