

Compton Bishop Parish Council

COMPTON BISHOP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting 9th April 2025

Present: Councillors T Mason (Chair), Councillors E Parker, H Dean and Co-opted Councillor D Ham Alan Mortimore (Clerk).

25/04A To receive any apologies for non-attendance.

Councillors D McCarthy, C Settle and G Hancock.

Somerset Councillors B Filmer and T Grimes.

25/04B To consider Co-opting David Ham as a member of Compton Bishop Parish Council.

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

25/04C To receive any declarations of interest.

No declarations of interest were received.

25/04D 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.

25/04E To receive Clerks Report.

1) **Appointing an Internal Auditor for the accounts of the Financial Year 2024-2025.**

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

2) **VAT refund** – The Clerk advised the meeting that around £950 amount of VAT that was paid in the 2024-2025 financial year can be reclaimed from HMRC which will then show as a receipt in this current year.

25/04F To receive County Councillors Report.

Councillor Filmer was not able to attend the meeting but provided a written report which will appear on the website.

25/04G To approve the bank statement and the following payments.

Payee	Description	Amount £
Clerk	Net salary (Mar 25)	356.47
HMRC	Tax deducted at source (Mar 25)	89.00
Clerk	Expenses (Mar 25)	37.99
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
Lloyds Bank	Monthly Bank Charges (commenced from Jan 25)	4.95
ScribeLite	End of financial year check-up on the data entry and cost centres.	70.80
SALC	Annual Affiliation fees	296.45

The payments were approved.

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25/04H

To consider the following Planning applications

Planning application number	Location	Proposal
21/25/00004	Monksilver, Old coach Road, Cross, Axbridge BS26 2EH	Erection of a new front porch, first floor extension over existing utility, two storey rear extension with balcony and rear raised patio. It was resolved to make no observations or comments on this application. Full details are on the Somerset Planning Website.

25/04I

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	Awaited

25/04J

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

Councillor Parker informed the meeting that the Safe Pathway Group have sent a letter to the local MP – Tessa Munt – to ask if she was able to get the two landowners to engage with the relevant parties. Both the Campaign Group and the Parish Council have done all that they can to try to get the Landowners to meet in meaningful discussions but to no avail.

Unless the MP can persuade the Landowners to start engaging then the Safe Pathway Group feel there is no alternative but to put the project “on hold” for the time being.

25/04K

To consider Councillor Training.

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

25/04L

To receive Councillor reports.

- 1) Water flowing across the Webbington Road by Vernon Lane** – 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 have caused the overflow. Back in the winter the water flowing into the road had frozen causing a couple of accidents and this has now been resolved.
- 2) Having the Words “Thank you for driving carefully through our village” on the back of the Village Sign in Old Coach Road (towards Weare)** – Councillor Parker has received a quotation for the sign to be altered accordingly and the Clerk will put this on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.
- 3) Local Footpath Liaison Officer** – Councillor Parker confirmed that the person monitoring the condition of the footpaths around the Parish does not wish to continue and would like to pass the task on to someone else. This can either be a member of the public or a local Councillor and the Clerk will put this on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting

25/04M

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. Prior to the meeting the Clerk had received an email advising that due to the winter conditions earlier in the year the contractors were behind schedule and there was little alternative but to wait for them to catch up with the schedule of work.

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- 25/0N** To consider investigating the water quality of the rivers and in and around the Parish.
Councillor Mason informed the committee that he has not had a chance to meet with the Ecologist who had offered his assistance on this matter. It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda for the time being. Any progress can be updated under "Councillor Reports".
- 25/04O** **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 in contact with the Environment Agency on how to proceed with this issue.
- 25/04P** **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.**
As there has not been any further information on the progress of these upgrades particularly the Cross/Axbridge junction it was suggested that the Clerk should contact Somerset Council for an update. This should include asking for a schedule of the anticipated work on the junction as well details of the actual upgrade itself The Clerk to report back at the next meeting.
- 25/04Q** **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).**
It was agreed that Councillor Ham should inspect the bench for his expert opinion on whether it needed replacing for a final decision at the next meeting.
- 25/04R** **To consider issues encountered with the National Trust.**
There has not been any response from the National Trust (NT) on the issues raised. However, the emails and photographs of the issues were only sent shortly prior to this meeting. As the main sponsor for this item was Councillor McCarthy it was resolved to carry forward to the next meeting.
- 25/04S** **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).**
It was agreed that the Clerk to contact Tess Gill and ask if she could provide a short policy document on action that the Parish Council could implement on certain environmental concerns.
- 25/04T** **To consider the implementation process of purchasing "check your speed" signage for the Community Speedwatch Group which could also be used in conjunction with the Speed Indicator Device (SID) once it is up and running.**
This appears to be more complicated than just the council purchasing signs as Somerset Highways need to be involved along with other criteria. It was resolved to leave this in obeyance until the Speed Indicator Device has been installed when the situation will be reviewed.
- 25/04U** **To consider a date for the Annual Parish "Open" meeting.**
It was resolved that the Annual Parish "Open" meeting should be on Friday 16th May.
- 25/04V** **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 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.
 - 5) Update on various Highways issues including A38 upgrade at the Cross/Axbridge Junction.
 - 6) Update on investigating a suitable new bench for "Maggie's Corner
 - 7) To consider issues encountered with the National Trust.
 - 8) To consider having the words "Thank you for driving carefully through our village" the on the back of the Village Sign in Old Coach Road (towards Weare)
 - 9) To consider what action can be undertaken under the Generic Environment Policy.
 - 10) To consider appointing a Local Footpath Liaison Officer
- Next Meeting - Wednesday 14th May 2025 at 7pm being the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

Compton Bishop Parish Council

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