

Compton Bishop Parish Council

ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting 14th May 2025

- Present:** Councillors T Mason (Chair), C Settle, G Hancock, E Parker, D McCarthy, H Dean, D Ham, Somerset Councillor B Filmer and Alan Mortimore (Clerk).
- 25/05A To elect a chairperson for the forthcoming year.**
It was proposed by Cllr Parker to re-elect Cllr Mason as Chair, and this was seconded by Cllr Dean and this was unanimously agreed by all the Cllr's present. Cllr Mason agreed to be the Chair for 2025-2026 and duly signed the Declaration of Office.
- 25/05B To elect a vice chairperson for the forthcoming year.**
It was proposed by Cllr dean to re-elect Cllr Settle as Vice-Chair, and this was seconded by Cllr McCarthy and this was unanimously agreed by all the Cllr's present. Cllr Settle agreed to be the Vice-Chair for 2025-2026 and duly signed the Declaration of Office.
- 25/05C To receive apologies and any declarations of interest.**
Councillor G Hancock and Somerset Councillor T Grimes.
- 25/04D To receive and approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9th April 2025 previously circulated.**
It was resolved to approve the minutes. Councillor Mason signed the minutes as being a true record.
- 25/05E To receive and note the Internal Auditors Report.**
The Internal Auditors report was noted.
- 25/05F To approve Annual Governance Statement.**
It was resolved to approve the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1 of the Annual Return 2024-2025).
- 25/05G To approve Accounting Statements.**
It was resolved to approve the Accounting Statement (section 2 of the Annual Return 2024-2025).
- 25/05H To approve Certificate of Exemption.**
It was resolved to approve the Certificate of Exemption (part 2 of the AGAR 2024-2025).
- 25/05I To appoint members to any required committees.**
1) It was resolved that Cllr Mason would continue to be the Parish Council's representative on the Memorial Hall Committee. Cllr Mason mentioned that terms of reference under the scheme set up under the Charity Commission allows for two Parish Councillors to be appointed on the Hall Committee. Although some members expressed interest, the fact that the hall committee met in the afternoon's precluded those who work during the day. Cllr Mason will raise this at the next hall committee meeting.
2) Cllr McCarthy agreed to be the main point of contact for any issues relating to highways, roads, verges etc.
- 25/05J To receive Clerks Report.**
1) The Clerk confirmed that the £961 refund of VAT relating to the financial year 2024-2025 had been received from HMRC and was paid directly into the bank account.
2) Due to changes in government legislation from 1st April 2025 a small amount of Employers National Insurance contributions are now payable on the clerk's salary. The new monthly amount is shown below under item 25/05L.
- 25/05K To receive County Councillors Report.**
Councillor Filmer updated the committee on developments relating to Somerset Council (SC) mainly relating to the current financial position of SC and the planned proposals to obtain future financial stability. A full transcript will appear on the parish website.

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25/05L

To approve the bank statement and the following payments.

Payee	Description	Amount £
Clerk	Net salary (Apr 25)	356.47
HMRC	Tax deducted at source (Apr 25)	89.00
Clerk	Expenses (Apr 25)	63.79
CBPC	Employers National Insurance Contribution	4.27
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)	4.25
Zurich Insurance	Annual Renewal premium 1 st June – 31 st May 26	481.26
Richard Young	Internal Audit of the 2024-2025 Accounts	25.00
Mike Rolfe	Bedding plants for 3 Planters around the parish	56.50

The payments were approved.

25/05M

To consider the following Planning applications

Planning application number	Location	Proposal
	None	

25/05N

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
21/25/00004	Monksilver, Old Coach Rd, Cross BS26 2EH	Granted

25/05O

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

As mentioned at the previous meeting the Campaign Group are considering putting this project “on hold” as they cannot get the Landowners to engage with them. Cllr Parker suggested that as a final effort could the parish council arrange with MP Tessa Munt along with other Somerset Councillors including the “Footpaths Officer” for this area to attend a parish council meeting to discuss a way around this impasse with the landowners. This was agreed. Cllr Parker will provide the Clerk with the contact details of the Somerset and other local Councillors so he can co-ordinate with all parties, including Tessa Munt, to arrange a suitable date. However, to ensure that all parties are available it may be necessary to hold a separate meeting.

25/05P

To consider Councillor Training.

Appropriate training sessions to be considered by the two new co-opted Cllrs (Cllrs Dean and Ham) once they have become more established with parish council procedures.

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25/05Q

To receive Councillor reports.

Cllr McCarthy gave the following report: -

- 1) New replacement 30mph and 40mph signage on Webbington Road, near Church Lane and Newtown. There was no cost to the parish council for these signs.
- 2) A38 footpath from Cross along with Weare – overgrown hedges etc is hindering walkers and cyclists which need to be cut back. The Clerk to contact Somerset Highways to discover whether this is their responsibility or the Landowner?
- 3) Overgrown hedges along the Webbington Road with new 40mph signage becoming hidden near the Webbington Hotel. Cllr McCarthy herself, cut back some of the overgrowth. Again, Clerk to establish who is responsible for this overgrowth of vegetation.
- 4) National Grid (NG) – Tractor and Trailers were moving soil to reinstate the farmland around the site as the work is now completed. However, it needs to be established who is responsible for cutting back the Footpath and Stile area. The Clerk to make investigations.
- 5) National Grid (NG) - Cllr Mason confirmed that he had complained to NG regarding the high speed driving and lack of care to other road users by these large Tractor and Trailers. He, himself, had been forced to get onto the verge to miss having an accident. NG had confirmed that they would speak to the drivers to slow down and take more care.

25/05R

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

Before the meeting the Clerk had received from Somerset Highways (SH) an update on the fixing of the three poles to hold the SID. Without the poles in the specific places as agreed with Highways then the device cannot be put into action.

SH advised that the contractors they use are working through the backlog from last year and any safety work takes priority. Therefore, we will have to wait our turn.

As this is now outside of control of the council it was agreed to remove this item for the time being. Clerk to periodically ask for an update from SH.

25/05S

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 to obtain an update from the Landowner regarding the situation with the Environment Agency as he was waiting on their advice before cutting back any vegetation.

25/05T

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).

At the previous meeting Cllr Ham (who is a Carpenter) agreed to examine the bench to ascertain if it needed to be replaced. Cllr Ham confirmed although there is some “wear and tear” the repairs already carried out were substantial and, in his opinion, it would last another year provided it was used as intended as a bench to sit on.

It was resolved that, in view of Cllr Ham’s advice, that any bench replacement should be deferred and that this item should be removed from the agenda for the time being.

25/05U

Update on the proposals to upgrade the A38 particularly the Axbridge/Cross Junction.

An update had been received from “Transport Schemes” at Somerset Council advising that they do not have a schedule of work as they are not yet at that stage of the project. They are co-ordinating with North Somerset Council as a Full Business Case submission is prepared provided funding is approved by central government. As such, construction is likely to be sometime in 2026 or 2027.

It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda and await any updates from the project as and when anything is progressed.

25/05V

To consider having the words “Thank you for driving carefully through our village” on the back of the Village Sign in Old Coach Road (towards Weare).

Cllr Parker had obtained a quotation from Arien Signs for £112.80 to place a backing cover on the Old Coach Road with the required wording as agreed at a previous meeting. It was agreed to accept this quotation and the Clerk to contact Arien Signs to place the order.

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25/05W To consider issues encountered with the National Trust (NT).

Cllr McCarthy had been trying to contact the local NT Ranger as well as their main office with no response. The Clerk to help in making contact for an update at the next meeting.

25/05X To consider what action can be undertaken by the Parish Council under the “Generic Environmental Policy”.

Tess Gill had produced a draft generic environmental Statement that could be used by the Parish Council to encourage and promote environmental good practice. It was resolved to accept the document with any action regarding Solar Panels being deferred for the time being. The Clerk to amend the document which will then be displayed on the website.

25/05Y To consider appointing a Local Footpath Officer.

There has been interest expressed by a resident in assuming this role, and there will be an update at the next meeting.

25/05Z Items for the next agenda

- 1) Safe Pathway Campaign – update on any progress with the landowners.
- 2) To consider Councillor Training.
- 3) 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
- 4) To consider issues encountered with the National Trust.
- 5) Update of the fitting on the back of the village sign in Old Coach Road (towards Weare)
- 6) To approve the final draft of the Parish Generic Environmental statement.
- 7) To consider appointing a Local Footpath Liaison Officer

Annual Parish Meeting (open meeting with residents and local organisations).

Monday 19th May at 7pm

Next Parish Council Meeting - Wednesday 18th June 2025 at 7pm.