

M. Tobin

Minutes of Compton Bishop Parish Council Meeting held on January 3rd 2007

Present: Cllrs: Tobin, Tabrett, Hay, Withecombe and 6 Parishioners

Apologies: Cllr Rix, Mohan and Dorber

In attendance: The Clerk

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.30 p.m.

In the time allotted for members of the public to speak Mr Byrne asked about PC Bullett attending a previous meeting, the bench in Compton Bishop needs repairing and Royal Mail policy regarding the repair of post boxes.

03/01/01 Minutes of the meeting held on December 6th 2006 were approved. The minutes were then signed by the Chairman, Michael Tobin and entered into the minute book.

03/01/02 Code of Conduct

Nothing to declare

03/01/0303 Matters Arising

Cross Roads A38

Chairman explained the proposals made by the police and safety officer at a meeting on 19th December. They are to close the entrance into Old Coach Road, traffic would have to turn left only and that the Weare junction would be upgraded to allow the traffic into the village. The Chairman made a number of observations 1) Bow Bridge is too narrow and unsuitable for heavy traffic 2) Weare junction is poor and dangerous with extra traffic 3) Journey time to Axbridge would be extended. The officers were unaware that there are two pubs in the village so signage would have to be for both. Chairman said that the PC were unable to give a view without holding a public meeting, this was to be arranged for the end of January.

Benches

The clerk confirmed that the PC has third party liability insurance for benches, noticeboards and bus shelters in the parish. The parish has been notified by Somerset County Council that the new bench in Compton Bishop could be installed if the council accepts certain conditions. The Clerk is instructed to write back to SCC accepting the terms of condition for the license.

03/01/04 New Matters

03/01/05 Financial

There was no reconciliation, as it was the beginning of the month.

The Budget 2007/08 was proposed for approval by Cllr Tabrett and seconded by Cllr Hay. The budget was accepted

03/01/06 Planning

New Applications:

21/06/00019 Mr and Mrs Price, Land at Fairmaead, Cross. Change of Land use to inclusion with garden area. The Council made No Observation

21/06/00021 Mr Woods, 8 Wavering Down Rise, Shute Shelve, Erection of three storey extension to NE Elevation. The Council made No Observation.

Applications Decided

21/06/00018 Mr Flood, Erection of bridge over the river Yeo – SDC Granted permission.

Cllr Tabrett introduced a letter from SCC regarding an application for permission to install gates on the public footpath AX15/13. Clerk instructed to reply to letter and explain that the PC has no knowledge of any other party having access rights along the right of way apart from the Environment Agency.

3/01/07 Correspondence

Letter from CC Ham explaining that he recommends that Mr Brinson contacts SDC Planning Officer and SCC Highways for an informal discussion regarding the Roundabout on the A38 Cross Roads

Note from CC Ham Concerning SCC becoming a Unitary Authority he would like the PC to express views before the meeting on January 22nd. SDC opposes a Unitary Authority and there are 3 alternatives options: 1) Single Unitary Authority, 2) 2 Unitary Authorities and 3) Enhancements to 2 tier (the structures stay the same). The Cllrs unanimously decided to retain the present structure. Chairman to write a letter to the Chief Executive of SCC, copy to SDC and CC Alan Ham

Letter from Mr Byrne – Clerk asked to copy to Cllrs and defer for next PC meeting

Letter and Christmas card from Mr and Mrs Veale

Chairman closed the meeting at 20.10 p.m.
Next Meeting Wednesday 7th February 2007 at 19.30

M. Tobin



Minutes of the Special Public Meeting held on Friday, 26th January 07 at 7.30 pm in Cross Memorial Hall to discuss A Plan of the Cross Cross Roads.

Present: Cllrs Tobin, Dorber, Tabrett, CC Alan Ham, District Cllr John Denbee and 54 members of the public.

In attendance: The Clerk

Apology from County Highways Representative, HAJ and Wishecombe - attended the afternoon session - CIV RIX
Chairman, Michael Tobin opened the meeting at 7.30pm

The Chairman commenced the meeting, with the Hall full, by saying that there were many letters received from Parishioners who were unable to attend. The objective of the meeting was to consult the Parish regarding the County Highways proposal for the crossroads on the A38. The details of the scheme had been given to all households in the Parish by means of a parish council Newsletter.

The Chairman at this point in the meeting was informed that many parishioners had not been able to enter the Hall as fire and safety regulations only allowed it to hold 60 people. After discussing the situation with the group outside the Hall and those inside, the Chairman decided to hold two short, consecutive meetings with a vote at the end of each meeting.

County Councillor Alan Ham then explained the background to the proposals for the crossroads. He explained that this was a joint scheme, following a meeting between County Highways engineers, the Police and the County safety unit in December. This had resulted from pressure from the Parish Council. He explained that, due to the limited budget for road improvements and the large number of schemes, which were competing for funds, it was not possible to fund either traffic lights or a roundabout at the junction.

Following this explanation, there were several comments from the floor but general agreement that the proposed scheme was not acceptable, as it seemed to move the problem to the adjacent junctions at Weare and Shute Shelve. In addition it would increase traffic over Bow Bridge and would require longer journeys for residents going to Axbridge.

The Chairman then asked the parishioners in the meeting whether they supported the proposal or not. On a show of hands, a large majority of those present voted against the proposal.

A second meeting was then called of those parishioners who had waited outside the hall. The chairman apologised that they had been forced to wait.

County Councillor Ham then repeated the presentation which he had made to the first meeting. The comments from the floor closely followed the same points as before, with questions related to the potential problems at the other junctions and on the stretch of Old Coach Road towards Weare.

District Councillor Denbee commented that if traffic lights or a roundabout were not options, then to make Cross Lane one way from Axbridge and an improvement to the Shute Shelve junction may give an acceptable solution.

The Chairman then asked those present at the second meeting whether they supported the proposal. By a show of hands, the proposal was rejected with some abstentions.

The Chairman then confirmed that the votes and comments from the two meetings would be taken forward to the Parish Council meeting on 7 February, when the decision would be made as to what response to make to the County Council. He thanked all parishioners for attending.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm





Minutes of Compton Bishop Parish Council Meeting held on February 7th 2007

Present: Cllrs: Tobin, Dorber, Tabrett, Hay, Withecombe, Rix and County Cllr Alan Ham and 10 Parishioners

Apologies: Cllr Mohan

In attendance: The Clerk

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.30 pm

In the time allotted for members of the public to speak, Mrs Wooley asked about the elections and nomination forms to become a councillor.

07/02/01 Minutes of the meeting held on January 3rd 2007 approved. The minutes were then signed by the Chairman, Michael Tobin and entered into the minute book. Minutes of the Special Parish Meeting held on 26th January were approved with the inclusion of apologies from Cllrs Hay, Withecombe and Rix.

07/02/02 Code of Conduct

Nothing to declare

07/02/03 Matters Arising

Cross Roads A38 Proposal

The Chairman reported on the meeting of the 26th January that views were taken of over 150 parishioners concerning the proposal and it was unanimously rejected. The Chairman to write to County Highways and send all the letters and petition that the PC had received on the matter. The Chairman put forward the proposal that the PC would ask the traffic engineer to revise the scheme.. Proposed by Cllr Dorber and seconded by Cllr Tabrett. The Chairman would urgently ask the County Council to look at the scheme again with pedestrians in mind as well.

Benches

The Chairman thanked County Cllr Ham for the cheque for £250 from the Community Budget, the sum would meet the cost of the base for the bench. The Chairman had received a letter from Mr John Buckler who has asked to be involved with the selection of the bench. Mr Buckler mentioned that an ancient stone wall has been uncovered on the site proposed for the bench, it was suggested to hold off erecting the base until the Chairman had consulted with English Heritage.

The clerk reported that she had received no response from Churchill Insurance regarding the destroyed bench in Old Coach Rd, clerk to phone the insurance company directly.

Unitary Authority

The PC had received a reply from Ms Bakewell. The County will apply for unitary authority and the proposal will go up to Ruth Kelly for assessment. The Chairman mentioned that 85% of councillors were against UA.

CC Alan Ham said that the Government department will now look at the application and the final decision will be made in July 2007.

07/02/04 New Matters

Resignation of the Clerk

The Chairman thanked the clerk for all her hard efforts over the past five years in the post.

Donation to Compton Bishop Church

It was proposed that £150 would be paid as the annual donation to St. Andrews Church, Parochial Church Council for grass cutting. This was from a request from Mr McColgan, Church Warden.

Milestone

An historic milestone has been uncovered along the A38, which reads '1 mile to cross', as it is a listed item planning permission has to be sort if it is to be moved. Clerk to seek planning application forms.

Solar Panels

There have been objections from residents of Compton Bishop to Solar Panels in the roof of a cottage in the village. Under normal circumstances planning permission is not required but as the cottage is in AONB area retrospective planning is required.

Footpath, Crook Peak

Cllr Tabrett reported problems had come to light over the diversion many years ago of Footpath AX15/1, Barton Road. This had been taken up by the county public rights of way section and had caused a minor alteration to be made in a new Mendip Hills AONB long-distance walk.



Highways and Public Rights of Way

As resolved at the December meeting, Cllr Tabrett has been registered with SCC's rights of way section as Compton Bishop's parish path liaison officer.

Springfield Wildlife Site

Harley Cook, SDC's Parks and Open Spaces Policy Officer, has complimented the PC on the wildlife site annual report and thanked the volunteers for all their help. He asks that the new council, which will take office in May to continue monitoring and helping supervise the site.

07/02/05 Financial

Income Jan 07

Business Account £0.00

Managers account £0.00

Expenditure

100337 clerk's expenses/salary £282.17

Clerk reported VAT reclaim of £181.71

07/02/06 Planning

New Applications:

Applications Decided

21/06/00021 Mr Woods Erection of three storey extension to NE Elevation. SDC granted permission.

21/06/00019 Mr & Mrs Price Land at Fairmead, Change of use of land to inclusion within the garden area. SDC granted permission

07/02/07 Correspondence

The Chairman received a letter of resignation from Cllr Mohan, Chairman to write and thank him for all his efforts.

Letters from the Standards Board regarding complaints against Cllrs. In all cases, they do not warrant investigation.

Letters from Mr Byrne and Mr Parker with conflicting opinions concerning the special meeting on the 26th January.

Mr Parker congratulated the PC on the success of the meeting, as reflected in the turnout by the parishioners. The opposite opinion was expressed by Mr Byrne, who blamed the PC for the large turnout.

Two further letters from Mr Byrne. A reply to be drafted to both.

Received an annual financial statement from Contact Magazine.

Details on Waste management were circulated.

Contact numbers at SDC for clearing up fly tipping were distributed.

Cllr Tabrett commented on the notices put up in the parish regarding the Victorian post box. Cllr Tabrett said that Councillors had not given their permission to display their phone numbers around the village on telegraph poles. It was agreed that Royal Mail legal department be contacted to ask why their letters were displayed in this way.

Chairman closed the meeting at 20.10 p.m
Next Meeting Wednesday 7th March 2007 at 19.30

Vice Chair

M. Tobin

Minutes of Compton Bishop Parish Council Meeting held on March 7th 2007

Present: Cllrs Dorber, Rix, Withecombe and 11 parishioners

Apologies: Cllrs Hay, Tabrett & Tobin

The Vice Chairman opened the meeting at 7.30 pm

In the time allotted for the public to speak there were no comments made.

07/03/01 Minutes of the meeting held on the 7th February 2007 were approved. The minutes were then signed by the Vice Chairman, Jerry Dorber.

07/03/02 Code of Conduct – All councillors present have an interest to declare in an item under the heading 'Planning'.

07/03/03 Matters Arising

Appointment of New Clerk

Following the resignation of the Clerk, (Sandra Broadbent) and the subsequent advertisement for a replacement, six applications were received and a shortlist of three candidates have been interviewed. The position has been offered to and accepted by Mr Paul Passey who will start as the new clerk on March 12th 2007.

Crossroads A38 Proposal

The proposed scheme has been dropped by SCC. Review of the road markings is being looked at. At present there are no funds available for either traffic lights or a roundabout in the County budget.

Benches

With regard to the bench near the Memorial Hall on the corner of Old Coach Road, an insurance claim against the insurers of the driver will be pursued by the new Clerk.

Re. The proposed site for the bench at Compton Bishop - guidance has been sought from SCC by the Chairman and parishioner John Buckler regarding excavation of the verge to reveal the exact location of the 'Bishops Path' so that a suitable site for the bench can be established.

Milestone

SCC are in the process of mapping the location of all milestones and are therefore not in favour of resiting them. The Chairman has contacted SCC again to point out that the resiting of this milestone would be advantageous due to its poor condition and location.

Solar Panels

Sedgemoor Planning Department have confirmed that contrary to their previous advice, permission is NOT required for the fitting of solar panels on property in an AONB. Permission is however required on a listed building or in a conservation area. Therefore the solar panels on the roof of a cottage in Compton Bishop are legal.

07/03/04 New Matters

Annual Open Meeting

As the meeting is linked to that of the AGM of the Memorial Hall Committee the date will now be 20th April 2007 at 7.30 pm. At last years' meeting it was considered that there were too many speakers and not enough time allocated to public questions. County Cllr Alan Ham & District Cllr John Denbee, Jim Warner (Cray Charity) & a Neighbourhood Watch Representative, as usual will be invited to speak. In addition an invitation has been sent to Steve Atkinson, Planning Officer, to speak & answer questions on Planning issues. Clerk to check that 20th April as an acceptable date to him.

Royal Mail

The Royal Mail Legal Department have written to the PC to inform them that they are investigating the content of the laminated documents posted around the village regarding the Victorian Letterbox.

M. Tobin

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07/03/05 Financial

In the absence of the Clerk and the Chairman there is no financial report this month. This item will be deferred to the next meeting on 4th April 2007

07/03/06 Planning

There was an opportunity for parishioners to view the applications at the Memorial Hall on Monday 5th March and for their written comments to be recorded.

21/07/00003/RSM – Residential development and formation of access on land to the north of Wavering Down, Webbington Road, Cross. Mr C Byrne. Because of the perceived conflict between the applicant and the PC over some considerable period of time the PC declared an interest under the Code of Conduct and therefore did not comment and declared no view. A summary of the application and the comments of eleven parishioners who viewed the plans on Monday were read out by the Vice Chairman.

21/07/00001/RSM – Erection of a dwelling and garage on the site of bungalow (to be demolished) the Bungalow, Barton Road, Webbington BS26 2HT Mr E & Miss E Charman. No Objections or comments to be made.

21/07/00004/RSM – Erection of a single storey rear extension (Amended Scheme) 10 Springfield Close, Cross, Mr & Mrs G Hoyle. Amendments to a previous application. No objections or comments made.

Parishioners were invited to make any comments on the above mentioned applications in writing to SDC Planning Department.

Applications Decided – None recorded

07/03/07 Correspondence

The Standards Board for England has responded to further complaints from Mr Byrne of alleged misconduct by members of the PC. Individual letters have been received by most Cllrs dated 26th February stating that the case has been reviewed and the matter has been handled correctly. Therefore the matter is now closed.

The Chairman has received a further letter from the Standards Board. This relates to an earlier complaint by Mr Byrne, which was rejected. However, Mr Byrne has submitted further 'evidence' which is currently being investigated by the Standards Board, a response to which is awaited.

Peggy Farley has written on behalf of the Cross Memorial Hall Committee with regard to the date for the Annual Open Meeting which they understand to be 20th April 2007 at 7.30pm. This date has now been agreed.

The Vice Chairman closed the meeting at 8.10 pm.

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 4th April 2007 at 7.30 pm

SIGNED AS A TRUE RECORD:Chairman

DATE:*04/04/07***.....**

M. Tolim

M. Tobin

Minutes of Compton Bishop Parish Council Meeting
held on April 4th. 2007 at Cross Memorial Hall

Present: Cllrs Tobin (Chairman), Dorber (Vice-Chairman), Tabrett, Rix, Hay, Withecombe and 7 members of the public.

Public discussion:

- Mr. Byrne raised questions in respect of past minutes of the Council. Clerk undertook to respond once details of dates were supplied and also undertook to supply copies for Mr. Byrne's use.
- Reference was made by another parishioner to the use of a speed camera recently along the Webbington Road.
- Mr. Byrne informed Council of intended tree-felling and clearance at his property, which may be a disturbance to neighbours.

Chairman opened the meeting proper at 19.40

1. **Apologies for absence:** None

2. **Declaration of Interests:**

- Cllr. Mrs. Rix declared a personal interest in the matter of Planning Application 21/07/0006 at the Webbington Country Club – as a member. She would not comment on this application
- Cllr. Mrs. Withecombe declared a prejudicial interest in Planning Application 21/07/0009 at the Paddock, Old Coach Road, as applicant. She would leave the room during discussion.

3. **Approve minutes of the last meeting:** The minutes of the meeting held on 7th. March were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

4. **Matters arising from previous minutes:**

- **Bench at "Bishop's Path"** Chairman referred to concerns expressed by John Buckler and reported that Somerset County Council's Conservation Officer had agreed to visit the site and to consider it urgently. Action would be dependent on the County's budget constraints at the end of the financial year. Councillors welcomed the County's positive response.
- **Enquiries to Royal mail in respect of post boxes.** The Chairman read a prepared statement on this matter. It was agreed unanimously and without amendment. It is attached to these minutes.

5. **New matters:**

- **Annual Open Meeting arrangements.** Chairman referred councillors to a prepared draft agenda for the meeting and confirmed that speakers had agreed to be present (Mr. Steve Atkinson – Sedgemoor District Council Planning, P.C. Bullett, Speakers from Cray Charity and Neighbourhood Watch, the District and County Councillors)
- **Contact magazine.** The Council agreed to donate the sum of £247 to the producers of the parish magazine, "Contact". This represented the equivalent of £1 per household in the parish and was the same sum as 2006/7. In the event that the household numbers were found to have changed, this sum should be altered using the same formula.
- **Public Rights of Way.** Cllr. Tabrett gave an update on local Public Rights of Way issues:
 - a. Clearance work would be carried out shortly on PROW's - Kennel Lane to Rackley, bridle path onto National Trust land from Old Coach Road, Cross, footpath north from Old Coach Road near the junction of Webbington Road
 - b. Discussions continue over the disputed line of a PROW from Barton Road to Crook Peak; meanwhile the Sedgemoor PROW officer has negotiated a temporary, but satisfactory, diversion.
 - c. A new stile has been placed on the PROW along the Yeo from A38 eastwards, thus avoiding a locked gate.
- **Works at Barton Road.** Cllr. Dorber reported tidying works by the Webbington Country Club, to remove dead elm trees and undergrowth being carried out at Barton Road
- **Overhanging trees and rubbish near Rackley Lane.** Cllr. Tabrett asked that Clerk inform the relevant authority about overhanging trees on Webbington Road, west of Rackley Lane and to arrange removal of "fly-tipped" rubbish in the Crook Peak lay-by in the same area.

M. Tobin

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6. Financial:

- **To approve current Parish Clerk as a signatory to cheques.** It was propose by the Chairman and agreed unanimously that the new Clerk, Mr. Paul Passey, should be a signatory to Council cheques and that he arrange the necessary mandate with the Council's bank.
- **Payments due.** The following payments were approved to be made:
 - a. Subscription to Community Council for Somerset for 2007/8 in the sum of £25.00
 - b. Renewal of Council's Insurance Policy with Allianz-Cornhill for 2007/8 in the sum of £435.39
 - c. Re-imbusement of expenditure to Cllr. Tabrett for furniture oil for use at the Springfield Wildlife Site in the sum of £11.59
- **Monthly reconciliation.** The reconciliation sheet for February 2007 (attached to these minutes) was approved.

7. Planning:

- **Applications Received.** The following applications had been received:
 - a. The Webbington Country Club (21/07/00006) – installation of replacement covering to swimming pool etc. **Decision:** The Council had no comment. Cllr. Mrs Rix offered no opinion in accordance with her declaration of interest.
 - b. The Paddock. Old Coach Road (21/07/00009) – raising roof height and alterations to roof. **Decision:** The Council had no comment. Cllr. Mrs. Withecombe left the room during the discussion, in accordance with her declaration of interest.
- **Applications Decided by SDC.** The following decisions had been notified to the Clerk:
 - a. Land south of Cross Lane - Agricultural Notification of proposed Hay Barn – further details would be required by Sedgemoor District Council.

8. Correspondence:

- The Clerk presented a list of correspondence received. Councillors commented as follows:
 - a. Item 10 – the Deeds to the memorial Hall may be either with Somerset County Archives or the Council's bank
 - b. Item 20 – the Clerk would display Home Compost leaflets in appropriate places
 - c. Chairman had received an invitation for Councillors to attend a SCC presentation on the proposal for Unitary status. This would be listed with other correspondence.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.10

SIGNED AS A TRUE RECORD: M. Tolian **Chairman**

DATE: 02/05/07

Minutes of Compton Bishop Parish Council Special Meeting
held on May 2nd, 2007 at Cross Memorial Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllrs Tobin (Chairman), Dorber (Vice-Chairman), Hay, Withecombe and 1 member of the public.

Public discussion: As this was a Special Meeting called with the sole purposes of approving the Minutes of the previous meeting, with councillors present who had attended that meeting, and to approve the financial reconciliation for the month of March, it had been stated on the published agenda that there would be no public participation at this meeting.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllrs. Tabrett, and Rix
2. **Declaration of Interests:** None
3. **Approve minutes of the last meeting:** The minutes of the meeting held on 4th. April were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.
4. **Financial:**
 - **Monthly reconciliation.** The reconciliation sheet for March 2007 (attached to these minutes) was approved.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7. 40 p.m.

SIGNED AS A TRUE RECORD:.....**Chairman**

DATE: 2 - 7 - 07

Minutes of Compton Bishop Parish Council Meeting
held on July 2nd, 2007 at Cross Memorial Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors Byrne, Farley, Jordan, Parker, Rix, Rolfe, Warner together with ex-Parish Chairman Michael Tobin (Chairman), and members of the public.

1. **Election of Chairman for the year 2007/8:** Ex-Parish Council Chairman Michael Tobin called for nominations for Chairman. Councillor Eddie Farley was elected unopposed and took the chair for the rest of the meeting.
2. **Signature of Declarations of Acceptance of Office and completion of Notifications of Financial and other interests:** All councillors signed Declarations of Acceptance of office, to be witnessed by the Clerk. Notifications of Financial and other Interests were distributed to councillors for completion as soon as possible.
3. **Election of Vice-Chairman for the year 2007/8:** Councillor Mrs. Alison Rix was elected unopposed.
4. **Approve minutes of the last meeting:** The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd May 2007 were approved by Council and signed by the Chairman as a true record.
5. **Apologies for absence:** There were none.
6. **Model Code of Conduct:** COUNCIL RESOLVED to adopt the revised Code of Conduct, including paragraph 12(2) and to ensure that any Standing Orders of the Council reflect this decision.
7. **Matters arising from the previous minutes:** Councillor Warner queried the Petty Cash being shown in deficit and Clerk explained the difficulty of drawing cash from the bank with insufficient signatories to Council cheques at that time. He had purchased stationery from personal funds and so had shown Petty cash in deficit accordingly.
8. **Financial:**
 - a. **Monthly reconciliation(s):** COUNCIL RESOLVED to approve monthly reconciliations for April and May 2007 (attached to these minutes).
 - b. **Petty cash account:** COUNCIL RESOLVED that Clerk should provide a monthly update of the Petty Cash account, separate from monthly reconciliations in future.
 - c. **Payments due:** COUNCIL RESOLVED that all payments due and listed below should be made as soon as possible and that the relevant cheques should be signed by the Clerk and the ex-Chairman, Michael Tobin, as he was still a cheque signatory under the existing bank mandate. (see f. below)

i. Grass cutting – Tim baker Dec. Account	£30.00
ii. Clerk's salary and travel to 02/07/07 (itemised)	£389.78
iii. Sedgemoor District Council – costs of May election	£71.12
iv. Sedgemoor District Council – costs of June election	£1079.26
 - d. **Annual Audit return:** Council received a copy of the draft accounts for 2006/7 and noted the preliminary opinion of the Council's Internal Auditor, Mr. R. Tyas. COUNCIL RESOLVED to approve the Annual Accounts and to mandate the Chairman to sign them accordingly. COUNCIL RESOLVED to follow the advice of the Internal Auditor and offer to re-imburse Mrs. Lodge for her donation of towards the cost of a replacement seat, which had subsequently been met by a successful insurance claim. Chairman would seek the wishes of Mrs. Lodge.
 - e. **Year end budget comparison:** Clerk had provided a comparison between predicted expenditure and actual expenditure for 2006/7. Councillors noted this and felt that this would prove valuable as they planned the year ahead.
 - f. **Signatories to Council cheques:** COUNCIL RESOLVED that any two of the following: Chairman (Councillor Eddie Farley), Vice-Chairman (Councillor Mrs. Rix), Councillor Richard Parker and the Clerk (Mr. Paul Passey) should sign cheques on behalf of the Council and that the Clerk should arrange a bank mandate form accordingly
9. **Planning matters:**
 - a. There were no current plans for comment.
 - b. COUNCIL RESOLVED that the Council should continue to formulate its comments as consultee to Sedgemoor District Council's planning applications using the procedure previously adopted.
 - c. Councillor Parker reminded Council that in responding to planning applications the principles outlined in the Village Design Statement should be borne in mind. A copy of the document and a set of notes was given to each councillor.
 - d. Clerk was asked to ensure that as soon as a planning application is received it should be publicised on the Parish Council notice boards, together with details of how residents may make their comments known.

- 10. Adoption of Standing Orders:** COUNCIL RESOLVED to review its procedures and to formalise them over the next few months.
- a. In order to better understand past procedures and decisions, the Council agreed to form advisory committees, involving all councillors initially, to make recommendations on both financial and planning matters. These committees would meet concurrently on Wednesday 11th July, and where appropriate report back to the August Parish Council meeting.
- 11. Appointment of a Councillor to liaise with Sedgemoor District Council on matters concerning the Springfield Wildlife Site:** COUNCIL RESOLVED that Councillor Byrne should act as the Parish Councils Liaison Representative on matters relating to the Springfield Wildlife Site.
- a. Council recorded its thanks to Mr. Ian Tabrett for his past hard work in carrying out this role.
- 12. Appointment of Public Rights of Way Liaison Representative:** COUNCIL RESOLVED that Mr Ian Tabrett be asked to continue in the role of Public Rights of Way Liaison Representative on behalf of the Council.
- 13. Items of Correspondence:** Councillors had received a comprehensive list of correspondence received since the last Parish Council meeting. Clerk highlighted several issues, including his attendance at two area meetings and his application to Sedgemoor District Council for Amenity Grant re-imbusement for grass-cutting in the parish. He also asked for decisions on certain matters as follows:
- a. Councillors expressed a wish to attend Councillor Training to be organised at Cheddar, if possible.
- b. Councillor Jordan agreed to liaise with Sedgemoor District Council in their quest to identify historic buildings in the parish.
- c. Clerk was asked to contact Somerset Highways and request the re-siting of an historic milestone outside the property in Old Coach Road owned by Mr. Derek Andrew. This would be its original mid-nineteenth century position.
- d. Clerk had obtained 2 copy sets of Deeds for the Cross Memorial Hall. Chairman agreed to pass one set on to the Hall Booking Secretary. Clerk was asked to file the second set.
- e. Clerk was asked to respond positively to a request from Axbridge Town Council for a joint meeting to discuss the problem of the crossroads at Cross. It was agreed that Weare parish Council might be invited. Clerk was asked to make arrangements with the Axbridge Clerk.
- f. Council agreed that Councillors Byrne and Rix should be the Council's nominated representatives on the Memorial Hall Management Committee for the year ahead.
- g. It was agreed that the Clerk should ask Tim Baker (grass-cutter) to include in his schedule, regular trimming of "The Trafalgar Tree" in the field beside the Parish Church.
- h. Councillor Parker agreed to receive all future copies of correspondence relating to Open Spaces/countryside issues. He also agreed to look into the need to update the Parish Emergency Plan.
- i. K. Rickards Returning Officer had advised the result of the recent Sedgemoor District Council Poll concerning the Unitary Authority proposal by Somerset County Council. The results were as follows:
- | | |
|-------------|---|
| Votes cast: | 43,252 representing 50.3% of those eligible to vote |
| | Votes in favour: 6,800 (16.3% of those who voted) |
| | Votes against: 36,400 (84% of those who voted) |

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.

SIGNED AS A TRUE RECORD: .....Chairman

DATE: 08-8-07.....

During Public Participation after the meeting there was discussion about how best to meet the wishes of residents for more youth activity in the community as demonstrated within the context of the June election campaign. It was generally agreed that the role of the Parish Council should be to support any individuals or groups who wished to work in this area; that the energy and enthusiasm of residents should be encouraged. The Council could apply for grants and seek help and generally act as "facilitator". Mr. Derek Andrew gave some details of the ancient milestone, referred to above, and re-iterated his wish to see it sited in its original position.

Minutes of Compton Bishop Parish Council Meeting
held on July 31st. 2007 at Cross Memorial Hall at 4.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors Farley, Byrne Jordan, Parker, Rolfe, Warner and 1 member of the public.

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Councillor Rix.
- 2. Declaration of Interests.** Councillor Byrne declared a personal interest in agenda item D, in consequence of his serving with one of the applicants on Axbridge Town Council.
- 3. Planning matters:** The following plans were considered by Council, and recommendations made to Sedgemoor District Council as follows:

A.

Application Reference: 21/07/00015/CJM (dated 19/07/07)

Town and Country Planning Act 1990

Town and Country Planning General Development Orders 1995

Proposal: Erection of first floor side extension and installation of dormer in front elevation

Location: Meriden, Webbington Road, Compton Bishop, Axbridge, BS262HW

Applicant: Mr and Mrs A Shapcott

It was **RESOLVED** by 5 votes in favour to 1 abstention that the Council should support this application on the grounds that:

1. It met the criteria of the adopted Compton Bishop Village Design Statement.

B.

Application Reference: 21/07/00021/ML (dated 18/07/07)

Town and Country Planning Act 1990

Town and Country Planning General Development Orders 1995

Proposal: Erection of two storey side extension, partly on site of existing (to be demolished) and part two storey, part single storey rear extension

Location: 4 Church Lane, Compton Bishop, Axbridge. BS262EZ

Applicant: Mr A K Davies

It was **RESOLVED** by 3 votes against, 2 votes in favour and with 1 abstention that the Council should not support this application on the grounds that:

1. It was intrusive to the neighbouring property and might obstruct the light.
2. Despite an increase in living space there was no increased parking provision.

Council also had concerns about the structural viability of the proposed building and the Clerk would advise the District Council accordingly.

C.

Application Reference: 21/07/00019/CG (dated 25/07/07)

Town and Country Planning Act 1990

Town and Country Planning General Development Orders 1995

Proposal: Change of use and conversion of part of livery stables/storage barn to equestrian workers dwelling

Location: At, Clover Farm, Webbington Road, Compton Bishop, Axbridge, BS262HW

Applicant: Mr and Mrs M Head

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Council should support this application on the grounds that:

1. It was a reasonable addition to a viable working farm
2. It was seen as compatible with the principles of the Local Development Framework.

Council asked that SDC be advised that it wished this development should be restricted to one dwelling, and that the proposed security lighting be sited in such a way that it was not intrusive to neighbouring properties.

Prior to the meeting, the applicant supplied the Council with further documentation – a structural report on the proposed works.

D.

Application Reference 21/07/00017/CA (dated

Town and Country Planning Act 1990

Town and Country Planning General Development Orders 1995

Proposal: Erection of agricultural building

Location: Land, South of, Cross Lane, Cross, Axbridge, BS26

Applicant: P R S & E B Scott

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Council should not support this application on the grounds that:

1. It was likely to have an adverse visual impact.
2. There was no satisfactory means of disposal for cattle ordure and associated foul water from the site.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 5.30 p.m.

SIGNED AS A TRUE RECORD:  **.....Chairman**

DATE: **8-8-07**

Minutes of Compton Bishop Parish Council Meeting
held on August 29th at Cross Memorial Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors Farley, Byrne Jordan, Parker, Rolfe, Rix, Warner and 13 members of the public.

Prior to the meeting, one of the applicants of gave further details of proposals to extend Blaisdon House.

One member of the public asked that Council give due consideration to the need for affordable housing in the parish when considering all applications for future development.

1. Apologies for absence: None.

Council RESOLVED to take agenda item 3 as the last item on the agenda as two councillors would need to leave the room at that point.

2. Declaration of Interests. Councillor Byrne declared a personal interest in agenda items 4A and 4B in consequence of his friendship with the applicants. He declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item 3, as applicant.

Councillor Farley declared personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item 3, in consequence of having been reported to the Standards Board for England by the applicant.

Councillor Jordan declared a personal interest in agenda item 4D, her home being opposite the application site.

4. Planning matters (note change of agenda order): The following plans were considered by Council, and recommendations made to Sedgemoor District Council as follows:

A. Application Reference: 21/07/00023/ML (dated 14/08/07)

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990

Proposal: Erection of single storey rear extension, on site of decking (to be removed)

Location: Blaisdon House, Old Coach Road, Cross, Axbridge, BS262EE

Applicant: Mr and Mrs D Brockway

It was RESOLVED by unanimously that the Council should support this application on the grounds that:

1. It met the criteria of the adopted Compton Bishop Village Design Statement.
2. It was in line with Sedgemoor Council's Planning Policies

B. Application Reference: 21/07/00022/ML (dated 14/08/07)

Town and Country Planning Act 1990

Town and Country Planning General Development Orders 1995

Proposal: Erection of single storey rear extension, on site of decking (to be removed)

Location: Blaisdon House, Old Coach Road, Cross, Axbridge, BS262EE

Applicant: Mr and Mrs D Brockway

It was RESOLVED by unanimously that the Council should support this application on the grounds that:

1. It met the criteria of the adopted Compton Bishop Village Design Statement.
2. It was in line with Sedgemoor Council's Planning Policies



C. Application Reference: 21/07/00024/CG (dated 14/08/07)

Town and Country Planning Act 1990

Town and Country Planning General Development Orders 1995

Proposal: Retention of use and conversion of outhouse/store to 2 holiday cottages.

Location: Holiday Cottages at Dunnett Farm, Webbington Road, Compton Bishop, Axbridge

Applicant: Ms S A Rhodes

It was RESOLVED by unanimously that the Council should support this application on the grounds that:

1. It was in line with Sedgemoor Council's Planning Policies
2. Although there was likely to be little increase in traffic to and from the site, Council felt that Sedgemoor council should take note of the dangerous nature of the road at the point of access.

D. Application Reference: 21/07/00025/DRT (dated 21/08/07)

Town and Country Planning Act 1990

Town and Country Planning General Development Orders 1995

Proposal: Erection of conservatory to South elevation

Location: Wrangles, Old Coach Road, Cross, Axbridge, BS262EH

Applicant: Mr J Lambart

It was RESOLVED by unanimously that the Council should support this application on the grounds that:

1. It was in line with Sedgemoor Council's Planning Policies
3. **Response to Planning Appeal (note change of agenda order) :** The Council considered a request from Sedgemoor District Council, as consultees, on an Appeal made to the Planning Inspectorate against the local planning authority's refusal to grant planning permission for the proposal detailed below:

Town and Country Planning Act - Section 78

Proposal: Residential development and formation of access

Location: On land to the North of, Wavering Down, Webbington Road, Cross, Axbridge, BS262EL

Appellant: Mr C P Byrne

Councillors Byrne and Farley left the room and Councillor Mrs. Rix took the chair. Councillor Rolfe gave a full planning history of the site, including reasons advanced by Sedgemoor District Council for refusal of the application under appeal. He also gave the reasons put forward by the applicant's agent in their appeal submission. There had been 3 letters from residents to the Parish Council requesting that members support the position adopted by Sedgemoor District Council. After brief comments, largely in support of District Council's position, Council RESOLVED unanimously to recommend that Clerk should inform Sedgemoor District Council that it supports its continued refusal of permission, for the reasons set out in its case to the Inspector, and to point out that such a development would be contrary to the approved Village Design statement.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

SIGNED AS A TRUE RECORD:  **Chairman**

DATE: 12-9-07

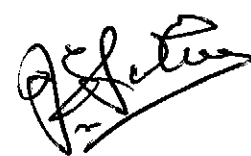
**Minutes of Compton Bishop Parish Council Meeting
held on August 8th, 2007 at Cross Memorial Hall at 7.30 p.m.**

Present: Councillors Farley (Chairman), Jordan, Parker, Rix, Rolfe, Byrne and Warner together with 5 members of the public.

Before the formal meeting Dr. Sarah Ayling spoke about the Springfield Wildlife Site; the history of its creation, its potential as a wildlife sanctuary; the general principles behind its management and the practicalities of its maintenance within the agreed terms with Sedgemoor District Council. She outlined forthcoming work to be carried out and it was confirmed that insurance was valid on condition that either she or a Parish Councillor was present during operations. The question of better entrance signage to the site was raised, but it was discounted at this stage.

The Council's documents on the site would be first listed by the Clerk and then passed to the Council's Liaison Representative (subsequently agreed to be Cllr. Rix see minute number 9c.).

1. **Apologies for Absence:** There were none.
2. **Approval of minutes:** The minutes of the meetings held on July 2nd, 2007 and on July 31st, 2007 were approved by Council and signed by the Chairman as true records.
COUNCIL RESOLVED that it had no requirement that Minutes should contain verbatim details of discussions held; that a simple record of decisions reached, or information given, was acceptable.
3. **Apologies for absence:** There were none.
4. **Members' Declarations of Interest:**
 - Cllr Farley declared Personal Interests in any matters likely to be discussed, which related to Neighbourhood Watch, of which he is co-ordinator and in all correspondence listed with respect to Cllr. Byrne, if it were to be discussed, in view of the fact that the latter had reported his actions to the Standards Board for England.
 - Cllr. Parker declared a Personal Interest in respect of all correspondence listed with respect to Cllr. Byrne, which was likely to be discussed, in view of the fact that the latter had reported his actions to the Standards Board for England.
6. **Reports on matters arising from the previous minutes not listed elsewhere on the agenda:**
 - Councillor Jordan reported that the proposed Historic Houses Survey requested by Sedgemoor District Council (SDC) had been put in abeyance.
 - There was a short discussion on the eradication of ragwort. COUNCIL RESOLVED that Cllr. Parker should speak about this to the local National Trust representatives and that the Clerk will write to SDC pointing out the growth around Wavering Down Rise entrance off the A38. Councillors were reminded that ragwort was more toxic when dry and that gloves should be worn when pulling. Burning was the best means of disposal.
 - COUNCIL RESOLVED that Cllr Byrne should join the "Road" advisory group after he stated in forthright terms that he wished to resign from the role of "Liaison for the Springfield Wildlife Site". He made it clear that it would be impossible for him to agree with the site management policy. (The change is noted in minute number 9 c and d.)
7. **Financial:**
 - a. **Monthly reconciliation(s).** COUNCIL RESOLVED to approve revised monthly reconciliations for April, May, June and July 2007 (attached to these minutes). This was necessary as Clerk had made an error in the earlier reconciliations – showing a half-Precept sum as £1500 rather than the correct figure of £3000.
 - b. **Payments due:** COUNCIL RESOLVED that all payments due and listed below should be made as soon as possible and that the relevant cheques should be signed again this month by the Clerk and the ex-Chairman, Michael Tobin, as he was still a cheque signatory under the existing bank mandate.
 - Grass cutting – Tim Baker Invoice Number 145 £30.00
 - Clerk's salary, travel and home use to 02/07/07 (itemised) £245.36
 - c. **Application for a grant from Sedgemoor Area Working Panel (SAWP):** Council noted that an application had been made to SAWP in the sum of £225-00. This was in respect of a project entitled "Village Enabling Group". The application had been made by the Chairman between meetings in order to meet the strict deadline set by SAWP.
 - d. **Dates of advertising electors' rights of inspection of Annual Accounts 2006/7 and subsequent submission of the Annual Return:** COUNCIL RESOLVED to approve dates proposed by Clerk. The public notices would be displayed on public notice boards on 13th August.
 - e. **Annual Return Governance Statement:** COUNCIL RESOLVED that the Governance Statement part of the Annual Return document should be signed by Clerk and Chairman.
 - f. **Explanation of Significant Variance on Annual Return form:** COUNCIL RESOLVED to accept explanations of the following Significant Variations on the Annual Return form as follows:
 - Box 1:** Considerable "one-off" expenditure during 2005/6 on repairs and Village Year Book.
 - Box 3** This includes "one-off" income for advertising in Village Year Book in 2005/6



Box 4 Normal increase in Clerk's salary, transport and home use costs
Boxes 6, 7 & 8 Stem from the above.

- g. **Parish Council website:** COUNCIL RESOLVED to invite Mr. Patrick Freeman to begin work in setting up a simple Parish Council website, which he had agreed, informally, to manage. Clerk would write to him, setting an early stage expenditure approved limit of £50-00. He would also be invited to address the Council at its next meeting to report progress and describe the web-site's possibilities.
8. **Planning matters:** Council resolved responses to the following current Planning Applications received, as statutory consultees, from Sedgemoor District Council.
- a. **Application Reference: 21/07/0007/CG (dated 26/07/07)**

Town and Country Planning Act 1990
Town and Country Planning General Development Orders 1995
Proposal: Use of land to site an agricultural workers mobile home
Location: Mobile Home, on OS Field No 5382 to the South of, Turnpike Road, Lower Weare, Axbridge
Applicant: Mr and Mrs J Feltham

COUNCIL RESOLVED to recommend that SDC REFUSE this application as, from the material received by this Council, the application does not appear to comply with local planning policy, in that there appears to be no evidence of viable agricultural activity.

b. **Application Reference: 21/07/00020/CJM (dated 27/07/07)**

Town and Country Planning Act 1990
Town and Country Planning General Development Orders 1995
Proposal: Erection of two storey side extension, to include ground floor garage
Location: 24 Big Tree Close, Compton Bishop, Axbridge, BS262EY
Applicant: Mr I Whaites

COUNCIL RESOLVED to recommend that SDC APPROVE this application as it appears to comply with local planning policy.

9. **Confirmation of "lead councillors" and others in Advisory Groups to oversee areas of the Council's responsibilities:** COUNCIL RESOLVED to adopt, with minor amendments, a Report produced by Chairman following discussions with councillors between meetings and to APPROVE its recommendations that the teams should be structured as follows:
- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|---|
| a. Financial matters: | Lead councillor | Cllr. Warner |
| | Other members | Cllrs. Farley, Byrne |
| b. Planning matters: | Lead councillor | Cllr. Rolfe |
| | Other members | Cllrs. Farley, Byrne, Parker |
| c. Environment matters: | Lead councillor | Cllr. Parker |
| | Other members | Cllrs. Rix (Wildlife Site), Jordan, Byrne |
| d. Highways matters: | Lead councillor | Cllr. Farley |
| | Other members | Cllrs. Rolfe, Byrne, Warner, Rix, Parker |
10. **Adoption of Council Standing Orders:** COUNCIL RESOLVED to adopt, with minor amendments, a set of Standing Orders produced through discussion and correspondence between councillors since the last meeting.
These approved Standing Orders will be supplied by the Chairman to all Councillors, and Clerk will ensure a set is available at all future meetings of the Council.
11. **Approval of task priorities identified for action:** COUNCIL RESOLVED to adopt as its guide to future action, a paper setting out perceived Council tasks in order of priority, as suggested by councillors since the last meeting. Clerk would ensure a copy of this is available at all future Council meetings.
12. **Report of initial joint meeting to discuss the A38 crossroads at Cross:** Chairman reported a successful initial meeting between representatives of Compton Bishop, Axbridge, Weare, and District and County Councillors Hill, Scott, Denby and Ham, which had taken place on 7th August. Cllr. Farley had been chosen by that meeting to be its regular Chairman, with Cllr. Rolfe as regular Deputy Chairman. Each parish would send 3 representatives to the next meeting in late September. Clerk had issued a Press release and the minutes would be available to participants shortly.
13. Council asked Clerk to write to Somerset Highways to enquire if a mobile speed indicator could be placed beside the north-bound lane of the A38 between the Yeo Bridge and the crossroads.
14. **Reports from Advisory Group leaders and members:**
- a. **Finance:** A new internal auditor would be required following the resignation of Mr Richard Tyas. Clerk would discover what qualifications would be required of a new candidate.
Mrs Lodge had made it clear, in writing to the Chairman, that she wished her previously accepted contribution to the cost of replacing the damaged seat at Old Coach Road, now be regarded as a donation to Council funds. Councillors agreed that this sum should be "ring-fenced" for a specific project, such as the movement of the milestone to Old Coach Road or another seat.
It was agreed that in the near future there was a need to undertake a risk assessment in respect of the Council's cash flow and accounts.

- b. **Environment:** Cllr. Parker was still working on the Parish Emergency Planning documentation. He had obtained a map to show flooding risks in Compton Bishop, which seemed not to affect the built up area greatly.
Cllr. Jordan produced a written digest of the proposed "Sort it" waste collection initiative from SDC. She would report back when there was any decision on significant changes for the collection service.
Chairman asked that all councillors report back to him on the state of any street furniture, for which the Council was responsible. Clerk was asked to seek estimates for the repair of the seat at Big Tree.
Cllr. Rolfe agreed to speak to the owner of the new buildings beside Dunnett Farm to discover the nature of the roofing material being used, which appears to be very reflective.
Cllr. Jordan was asked to organise, with the agreement of Somerset Highways, the re-siting of the historic A38 milestone. Clerk would liaise with her and provide contact details.
- c. **Highways:** Clerk was asked to write to the owner of a hedgerow at the corner of Bourton Lane to ask if it could be trimmed back inline with the adjacent wall to improve the sight line for traffic emerging from Bourton Lane.
He would also ask Somerset Highways to trim a hedgerow in Webbington Road and consider the marking of the "hard-shoulder" area at the corner of Old Coach Road (opposite the Memorial Hall) with hatching to indicate that it is unsuitable for parking, as it is on a bend, within 10 metres of a junction and contrary to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 sections 5 and 8.
Cllr. Warner would attend a Public Rights of Way seminar to be held in ~~September~~ ^{October} 2007.
Chairman thanked the owner of Wavering Down House for extending the area of "No waiting" cones westwards along Webbington Road during his recent charitable event.
Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators had raised no objection to reporting back to the Chairman any instances of highways neglect that they felt needed attention.
Cllr. Jordan referred to the poor state of the footpath on the south side of the A38. Clerk was asked to contact Somerset Highways and Weare Parish Council about this. Concern was also expressed that on the left hand verge southbound from Cross Lane the "Thank you for driving through our village, camera warning and 50 mph" sign was mounted at a height to be a danger to any cyclist on the path (1.7 metres to the lower edge.) and should be raised.
- 15 **Grass cutting:** COUNCIL RESOLVED to obtain from the Council's grass cutting contractor, a precise schedule of his work, and to ensure that this includes management of the area around the "Trafalgar Tree". Clerk was asked to call upon him personally.
- 16 **Correspondence:** Councillors had received a descriptive list of correspondence received since the last meeting and were invited by the Clerk to ask if there were specific items they wished to see. He hoped to produce September's list earlier in the month. At the request of members some items were discussed in more detail and others passed to councillors for their information.
- 08/06 SDC details of RLT2/3 contributions made by developers towards the provision of children's play and outdoor sport. (£773) - *discussed*
 - SALC - Items of Interest to Clerk and Councillors - including response to Planning White Paper - recommendations by SALC for endorsement by Council. - *passed to Cllr. Rolfe (planning issues)*
 - 24/07 SDC - nominations and ballot papers for Parish Representatives for Standards Committee (ACTION REQUIRED) - *Council agreed Chairman should resolve*
 - SCC - leaflet re: "Working Together to reduce Casualties" - Somerset Road Safety Partnership - *passed to Cllr. Farley*
 - Letter from David Heathcote-Amory inviting Chairman's attendance at a meeting to discuss local issues (20/09/07) - *Chairman will attend*
- 17 **Next meeting:** 12th. September 2007 at Cross Memorial Hall at 19.30

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.

SIGNED AS A TRUE RECORD:  Chairman

DATE: 12-9-07



Minutes of Compton Bishop Parish Council Meeting
held on September 12th, 2007 at Cross Memorial Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors Farley (Chairman), Jordan, Parker, Byrne and Warner together with 5 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** had been received from Cllrs. Rolfe and Rix and were accepted.
2. **Approval of minutes:** The minutes of the meetings held on August 8th.2007, subject to one minor amendment, and on August 29th, were approved by a majority and signed by the Chairman as true records.
Cllr.Byrne asked for a recorded vote as follows: For approval Councillors Farley (Chairman), Jordan, Parker, Warner – against approval Cllr. Byrne.
Cllr. Byrne objected that the minutes of August 29th did not record the fact that the meeting had been closed whilst he and Cllr. Farley were out of the room. The Clerk repeated his apology, previously made to Cllr. Byrne in a telephone conversation, that he had advised the Vice-Chairman at that meeting that the business had ended, before inviting both Councillors back to the table. Cllr. Byrne felt the minutes of the August 8th meeting failed to record his dissatisfaction at the way in which working groups had been established. He had not requested a recorded vote at the time.
3. **Members' Declarations of Interest:** In the event that certain items of correspondence came to be discussed both Cllrs. Byrne and Parker declared personal interest.
4. **Reports on matters arising from the previous minutes not listed elsewhere on the agenda:** There were none.
5. **Financial:**
 - a. **Monthly reconciliation(s).** COUNCIL RESOLVED to approve the monthly reconciliation for August (attached to these minutes).
 - b. **Payments due:** COUNCIL RESOLVED that all payments due and listed below should be made:
 - Clerk's salary, travel and home use £216.87
 - Tim Baker Invoice 159 £60.00 (also correspondence below)
 - Cross Memorial Hall Invoice £65.00
 - CPRE subscription £27.00
 - c. **Investment of capital:**COUNCIL RESOLVED that the Clerk should regularly transfer funds between the Business Manager and Treasurer Accounts so that a sum of approximately £1000 would be always available in the latter account. Cllr. Warner agreed to investigate the option of arranging Internet Banking to achieve this effectively.
 - d. **Purchase of a laminator:** COUNCIL RESOLVED that the Clerk should purchase an A3 laminator at a maximum cost of £100. The necessary pouches should be regarded as a stationery expense.
 - e. **Parish Council website:** COUNCIL RESOLVED to invite Mr Patrick Freeman to establish a Parish Council website based upon his suggested costing of £24.95 per annum for site-hosting and £2.50 per annum for registering a domain name. Mr Freeman would monitor the material on the site, which would initially be Council produced material only. Cllr. Jordan would make arrangements with Mr. Freeman.



- f. **Pre-budget Review:** COUNCIL RESOLVED to undertake a pre-budget review to be ready for the October meeting, prior to setting a precept for the year 2008/9 in November. The Clerk would provide Cllr. Warner's Financial Advisory Group with all necessary data.
- g. **Internal Account Examiner:** COUNCIL RESOLVED to discover what professional qualifications if any were required for an internal account examiner to replace Mr Richard Tyas and then to advertise for such a replacement. The Clerk would contact SALC and Cllr. Parker would place an article in the "Contact" magazine".
- h. **Sedgemoor Area Working Panel (SAWP) bid:** Council was told that its bid for a grant from SAWP in order to fund a fact-finding exercise had been rejected.
- i. COUNCIL RESOLVED to develop a questionnaire for all residents with young children in the age ranges 4-15 (78 no.) and 16-24 years (35 no.) to complete, which would be discussed at the October meeting. The Chairman wished it to be recorded that the Memorial Hall was under the control of its own Management Committee and that the Council's representatives on that body should not use their position to promulgate personal views about its use as a public amenity, but provide liaison and communication between the Council and the Trustees.
- j. **Parish newsletter:** COUNCIL RESOLVED to produce a newsletter to be distributed to every household after a draft version is approved at the October meeting. All items for inclusion, produced by councillors, should be sent to the Chairman in the first instance.

6. Planning matters:

- a. **The Council's responses to planning applications** received, as statutory consultees, from Sedgemoor District Council, made at the meeting on 29th. August 2007 were read out by the Clerk.
- b. **Holiday homes in Compton Bishop.** The Council could see no solution to the increasing number of holiday homes and second homes in the parish, whilst it recognised the way in which this changed the community's character. The Chairman was asked to raise the issue at the forthcoming meeting with the local MP, David Heathcoat-Amory. It was noted that of 26 properties in Compton Bishop village only 15 are owner occupied currently. The rest were either holiday lets, second homes or short-term tenancies. Rackley Lane reflected a similar position. Planning applications would have to be dealt with on their individual merits.
- c. **"Planning Your District to 2026"** Council was told that not all households had received this consultative document and that the deadline for comment had now passed. The Clerk would contact the District Council about this apparent oversight. Cllr. Parker gave a brief report of the ways in which the parish could be affected by both Sedgemoor District Council's Review of its future-planning framework, and by the central government proposals for planning changes.
- d. **Roof glare at barns in Webbington Road.** Cllr. Rolfe had reported^{at a previous meeting} his investigations into the disturbance caused to residents of Big Tree Close by glare from new barns on Webbington Road. Cllr. Byrne undertook to pass his comments to the concerned residents and report back.

7. Environment:

- a. **Street furniture maintenance:** The Clerk reported one response from a local builder willing to work on street furniture in the parish. Cllr. Parker agreed he would act as liaison.

J. Parker

- b. **A38 milestone:** Cllr. Jordan had spoken to Liam Gill of Somerset Highways and the Clerk had received an email from him. Somerset County Council (SCC) had concluded that the milestone should not be moved. COUNCIL RESOLVED that that it wished to pursue the matter with SDC and Cll Jordan agreed to carry out additional research to try to strengthen the council's case with SDC. The conservation officer was also involved with ancient street furniture listed items. Whatever the outcome the resident at Walnut House should be kept informed.
- c. **Parish Emergency Plan:** This remained an item of relatively low priority.
- d. **Springfield Wildlife Site:** Sedgemoor District Council has pollarded the damaged willow tree within the site.
- e. **Ragwort removal:** Councillor Parker gave details of the law and local authority policy in relation to ragwort removal. Only in certain cases would action be taken to force removal.
- f. Cllr. Parker would be attending a meeting of representatives from the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty later in the month.

8. **Highways:**

- a. COUNCIL RESOLVED that the Council should be represented by 3 councillors at the joint meetings with Weare and Axbridge Councils to discuss matters relating to the A38. These would be Councillors Farley, Rolfe and Parker. Cllr. Byrne expected to attend as a representative of Weare Parish Council.
 - b. The matter of general on-street parking was deferred to the next meeting.
 - c. The Clerk reported that Somerset Highways would be cutting back overgrown material on the footway on the east side of the A38 south of Cross Lane. As a general principle landowners were responsible for cutting their own hedgerows that abut the highway. The householder at the corner of Bourton Lane had been asked if he would cut back his broad roadside hedge, but he had declined to do so.. The Clerk was asked to obtain a written programme of hedge cutting carried out in the parish – either by Sedgemoor or Somerset Councils.
 - d. A report together with recommendations for the Council's future grass cutting programme was passed to councillors for approval at the October meeting. The Clerk was asked to send a copy to Tim Baker, the present contractor, for comment.
 - e. The Chairman presented a detailed report on the condition of the parishes' roads and other highways issues to all councillors for acceptance at the October meeting. The Clerk was asked to supply Somerset Highways with an advance copy and seek action from them on the items listed in the report under paragraph number 4.
9. COUNCIL RESOLVED to adopt a Standing Order to the effect that the Chairman may respond in writing, on the Council's behalf, to any correspondence addressed to him/her personally, with the Clerk being provided with a copy of all such correspondence. Cllr. Byrne asked for a recorded vote as follows: For approval Councillors Farley (Chairman), Jordan, Parker, Warner – against approval Cllr. Byrne.
10. COUNCIL RESOLVED that all correspondence received by the Clerk should be circulated to all councillors prior to monthly meetings. Any items deemed appropriate for consideration by a specific Advisory Group would be passed directly to the Group Leader, who would decide what action should be taken. The correspondence file would include a circulation list with time limits set for return to the Clerk. It was noted that such a correspondence file might well include just 2 weeks of received correspondence. Correspondence files for August and September would be circulated immediately.




11. **Corrrespondence:**

- a. Clerk drew attention to County Councillor Ham's Community Initiative Grant and the need to bid before December 31st. (item 13)
- b. Cllr. Byrne asked about training for councillors (item 28)
- c. Clerk was asked to inform Cllr. Rix of the Council's intention to continue with its monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of each month (item 50)
- d. COUNCIL RESOLVED to accept conditions set by Somerset Highways for the erection of a bench near Compton Bishop Church and to inform John Buckler of this decision (item 52) and ask him to proceed.
- e. Council noted the effects of construction work in Rackley Lane creating a lack of turning space. (item 35)

12. **Date and time of next meeting:** **Wednesday 10th. October at Cross Memorial Hall at 7.30 p.m.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.

SIGNED AS A TRUE RECORD:.....Chairman
DATE:10-10-07.....

Minutes of Compton Bishop Parish Council Meeting
held on October 10th, 2007 at Cross Memorial Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors Farley (Chairman), Jordan, Parker, Byrne Rolfe and Warner together with 14 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Apologies had been received from Cllr. Rix and were accepted.
2. **Approval of minutes:** The minutes of the meetings held on September 12th, subject to one minor amendment, were approved unanimously and signed by the Chairman as a true record.
3. **Members' Declarations of Interest:** All members present declared a personal interest in item 5 on the agenda on the basis that any outcome of the discussion of this item might be seen as impinging upon their well-being. In the event that certain unspecified items of correspondence came to be discussed both Cllrs. Byrne and Parker would declare personal interest at that point in the proceedings.

4. **Reports on matters arising from the previous minutes not listed elsewhere on the agenda:**

Cllr. Farley presented members with a draft sample page of a proposed Winter 2007 newsletter and asked that members provide him with text to add to this, as soon as possible.

5. **Consideration of Councillor Byrne's statement of "No confidence" as per his letter dated 15th September, which has been circulated to members prior to the meeting:**

The Chairman made it clear that any allegations or matters concerning the Clerk were considered to be matters of employment and that this part of the agenda item would be taken, with public and the Clerk excluded at the end of the meeting.

Chairman then asked Cllr. Byrne to clarify whom he had meant in his letter when referring to "their deputies". He had meant Cllr. Alison Rix (Vice-Chairman) solely. Cllr. Byrne confirmed that he was not represented at the meeting by his legal adviser.

Cllr. Byrne was invited by the Chairman to speak first on this item, which had been put on the agenda at Cllr. Byrne's request. He declined to discuss the matter saying that he had been advised by the Monitoring Officer at Sedgemoor District Council and by the Chief Executive of the Standards Board for England that he should say nothing further on this matter until the Council was in receipt of further correspondence. This, Cllr. Byrne surmised had been delayed by the recent postal strikes.

Other members were invited to comment on both this situation and Councillor Byrne's letter of 10th September. The Clerk then read the letter aloud in its entirety.

The general consensus amongst members was that the letter contained grave allegations against individual councillors, the Council in general and against the Clerk. The tone of the letter was also generally deplored.

Cllr. Byrne, when asked for proof of his allegations and insinuations, declined to comment further, repeating that he had been advised not to discuss the matter at this stage. He did, however, agree to furnish details of all his allegations, contained not just in his letter of 15th September, but also in previous letters to both the Council and the Standards Board, within 7 days.

Council RESOLVED to hold another meeting on 24th October 2007 with the sole purpose of discussing this unresolved agenda item.

6. **Standing Orders and communication with the Press**

The Chairman explained that he considered that Cllr. Byrne had contravened the Council's Standing Order to the effect that any communication with the Press should be done through the Clerk and that no member should give the impression that he/she spoke on behalf of the Council. A recent article in the Somerset Mercury attributed comments to Cllr. Byrne, which had given rise to that interpretation. Speculation had arisen in a subsequent newspaper article that the Council as a whole was out of touch with its constituents. The Chairman said that in his opinion, Cllr. Byrne's actions had brought the Council into disrepute.



Cllr. Byrne explained that, as he had not voted for the Standing Orders he did not feel bound by them and that he would speak his mind as he saw fit. After further urging by fellow councillors, he assured the Chairman that in future he would abide by Standing Orders "to the best of his ability". The Clerk asked Cllr. Byrne to confirm that this latter phrase was the way in which he wished his response to be recorded in the minutes.

The Clerk made an offer to advise Cllr. Byrne on any further dealings with the press, should they occur, but Cllr. Byrne rejected this offer.

7. Finance

a. **Monthly reconciliation(s).** COUNCIL RESOLVED to approve the monthly reconciliation for September (attached to these minutes).

b. **Payments due:** COUNCIL RESOLVED that all payments due and listed below should be made:

- Clerk's salary, travel and home use £174.47
- Retrospective payment to Clerk £79.99 (laminator)

c. **Aspects of expenditure for inclusion in a draft budget:** Cllr. Byrne passed to Cllr. Warner a quotation in the sum of £940 that he had obtained from "Agricultural Contract Services" for grass and hedge cutting in the parish and referred Cllr. Warner to his reference to financial matters in a letter dated 25th September.

- All members were asked to inform Cllr. Warner of any other expenditure that they anticipated within their areas of interest during the period 2008/2009.

d. **"Village enabling group":** COUNCIL RESOLVED to adopt a report that sought approval for a questionnaire survey of young people in the community, to be undertaken by volunteers; to acknowledge receipt of £45 sponsorship from JEFCAre Services and to make available the sum of £50 from Council funds to produce the final questionnaire and for other costs which may occur in the early stages of this project.

e. **Inland Revenue notification:** Council acknowledged a Notice of Penalty from Inland Revenue for non-return of documentation presumed to be in respect of the previous Clerk's earnings. The Clerk had appealed against this Notice.

f. **Internal Account Examiner:** COUNCIL RESOLVED to invite Mr John Gravell to act as the Council's Internal Account Examiner in place of Mr. Richard Tyas.

8. **Planning:** There were no matters relating to planning for consideration.

9. Reports from Advisory Group leaders

a. **Finance:** Council re-stated its wish to see a maximum of £1000.00 held in the Community Account at any one time.

b. Environment

- A report produced by Cllr. Parker concerning bus shelter and street furniture repair and maintenance was noted. COUNCIL RESOLVED that Cllr. Parker should seek contractors to quote for the necessary work, with bench and bus shelter immediate work being separated from ongoing furniture maintenance work.
- Cllr Byrne reported that complainants about lighting at Dunnett Farm were now content to speak directly to the property owner.
- Clerk was instructed to liaise with Mr. John Buckler and Somerset County Council to ensure the erection of a public seat Bishop's Path as soon as possible.
- Council received a report from Cllr. Rix in respect of the Springfield Wildlife Site. This outlined work undertaken and appealed for helpers on working parties.
- Councillor Byrne reported on a Memorial Hall Committee Meeting that he had attended. He said that the committee had agreed to the erection of a Council Notice board on the roadside wall of the building. The Council agreed in principle that this would be valuable. Cllr. Rolfe agreed to investigate styles and prices. The Hall Committee had also discussed a seat in the courtyard, the cleaning of the hall and the ability to hear speakers.

- Cllr. Jordan reported no progress in the proposed re-siting of the original Old Coach Road milestone currently beside the A38 as much more historical research was needed.

c. Highways

- Council noted the response from Somerset County Council (Liam Gill) in respect of works requested.
- The Clerk was asked to write to SCC and ask about a repair to the highway in front of the bus shelter at Old Coach Road.
- The Clerk was asked to contact the Webbington Hotel with regard to a recent incident of bottles being left on the road outside by young drinkers as reported by Cllr. Byrne.
- The Clerk was asked to discover which contractor cut hedgerows and failed to clear roadside debris in the parish, as identified by Cllr. Byrne.
- Council received a Report of the Joint Parishes' Meeting held on 26th. September to discuss problems at the A38 junction at Cross. Data collection guidance had been received from SCC.
- COUNCIL RESOLVED to approve the grass-cutting schedule for 2008 and to put in the budget a sum of £250.00 to meet this schedule and to include a sum of £10 for a cut around a sign in Cross Lane.
COUNCIL RESOLVED to approve the grass cutting report provided to members at the September meeting and Mr Baker's comments.
- Council noted a SCC general specification for hedgerow and verge cutting.
- COUNCIL RESOLVED that the Chairman and Clerk should comment upon SCC Highways HGV pinch point consultation document.

10. Council noted a report from Cllr. Jordan on progress in setting up the Council's website. COUNCIL RESOLVED to fund a domain name fee of £15.00 (+VAT) and to re-imburse Mr Patrick Freeman for his costs on receipt of his account. The "fledgling" website may be found at www.comptonbishopparrish.org.uk. This would be added to Council letterheads and public notices.

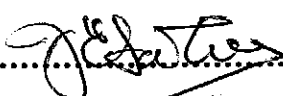
11. Council received reports of a SALC meeting at Barrington and of a County Councillor meeting at East Brent.

12. Council received items of correspondence, circulated to councillors prior to the meeting and RESOLVED:

- That Cllr Jordan should contact "Somerset Gateway" with the new website details
- That the Clerk should obtain a copy of the Parish Paths Priority consultation document for Cllr. Warner to consider.
- That the Council should support Axbridge Town Council's stance on low-flying aircraft by writing to MP's and others.
- That correspondence item no. 18 "Changes to Sedgemoor local plan" be passed to Cllr. Parker

13. **Date and time of next meeting: Wednesday 24th. October at Cross Memorial Hall at 7.30 p.m. (see item 5 above)** Councillors were given a schedule of dates of future monthly meetings until the end of April 2008

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.

SIGNED AS A TRUE RECORD: .....Chairman

DATE:14.11.07



Minutes of Compton Bishop Parish Council Meeting
held on November 14th, 2007 at Cross Memorial Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors Farley (Chairman), Jordan, Rix, Parker, Byrne, Rolfe and Warner together with 19 members of the public.

Public Participation: Penny Daley read out a letter from Mr Dennis Heymer, which set out the circumstances under which the hedge-fronting "Winash", Webbington Road had been cut without the owner's permission. Mr Heymer explained that he had paid for the work, which had been arranged by Cllr. Byrne, acting in a personal capacity. A copy of the letter would be posted to the Council.

Claire Settle said she supported the fact of the hedge-cutting as she had felt this had improved road safety in that area.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** None.
2. **Approval of minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held on October 10th, subject to the amendments below, were approved. Cllr. Byrne said that he had only received the minutes the previous day (13th November), which the Clerk refuted. In Cllr Byrne's view the minutes were completely wrong and did not reflect the meeting. He referred to a "legal letter" being passed around the table at the last meeting, which he had not been permitted to read. This allegation was refuted by all other councillors. Cllr. Byrne asked for a recorded vote. He voted against approval. Cllr. Rix abstained because she was absent from the meeting. Cllrs Farley, Warner, Jordan, Rolfe and Parker voted for approval.
 - Item 7c to read "Two residents Thomas Bugler and Harold Caddy, had complained about the debris left in the road by hedge-cutting contractors in Compton Bishop."
 - Item 5 to include the following resolution, which had been passed:
"That where any written comment, complaint or allegation is made about a councillor or clerk engaged on council business there must be a request by that councillor making the allegation to have it put on the agenda for the next meeting for proper debate and consideration by the council. Any such comment, complaint or allegation must be fully supported with written evidence at the time of making the comment, complaint or allegation. Failure to follow this procedure will result in no further action and a record being made that the councillor has made an unsupported comment, complaint or allegation, which he or she has failed to support."
3. **Members' Declarations of Interest:** All members present declared a personal interest in item 5 on the agenda on the basis that any outcome of the discussion of this item might be seen as impinging upon their well-being.

Cllr. Rix declared a personal interest in Correspondence item 14, should it be discussed.
Cllr Byrne declared a personal interest in item 9 and in items of correspondence from 28 to 40
Cllr Parker declared personal interest in item 9b (spot 2) and in Correspondence items 30. 32. 34-37 inclusive, 39 and 40 should they be discussed.
Cllrs Rolfe Warner and Jordan declared personal interest in Correspondence item 40, should it be discussed.
4. **Reports on matters arising from the previous minutes not listed elsewhere on the agenda:** - None
5. **Consideration of Councillor Byrne's statement of "No confidence" as per his letter dated 15th. September, which has been circulated to members prior to the meeting:**

The Chairman called upon Cllr. Byrne to speak on this item, which he had asked to be put on the agenda of the previous meeting, and which had been carried forward pending his production of evidence to support his allegations against the Chairman. Cllr. Byrne said his



evidence had been sent previously by letter dated 14th October and that he stood by everything he had said, that he would not withdraw any of his allegations and would apologise for nothing.

After a lengthy period of heated discussion, Cllr Byrne asserted the facts were according to his letter. He found no seconder for his motion and it consequently fell. Chairman proposed from the Chair as follows:

“Despite efforts to resolve differences that have arisen between Councillor Byrne, the Chairman and members of the Council over the past months, these have not been successful. It is proposed that because of their vexatious nature and attitude, the matter be reported to the Standards Board for England for consideration and adjudication”.

This resolution was passed unanimously.

Cllr. Parker said that Cllr Byrne had made some 79 written allegations, observations or comments, ranging from serious allegations to unhelpful comments and that dealing with this kind of behaviour was taking up far too much of Council's time. He observed that the Standards Board only deals with the Code of Conduct and that some of Cllr Byrne's comments had raised issues that were outside their remit. At Councillor Byrne's request, the Clerk read, in full, a letter from the Chief Executive of the Standards Board, written to Cllr Byrne to explain why the Board had declined to take further, any of Cllr. Byrne's complaints against a number of fellow councillors. It was Cllr Byrne's view that the Board had not “cleared” any of the councillors against whom he had complained.

The chairman would prepare and submit a response in line with the resolution.

6. Exclusion of the Press and public at a later stage in the meeting.

It was resolved that in the event that Council needed to discuss matters concerning the Clerk, who had made formal complaint against Cllr Byrne's behaviour towards him, then both Press and public should be excluded at that point in the agenda.

7. Finance

a. **Monthly reconciliation(s).** COUNCIL RESOLVED to approve the monthly reconciliation for October (attached to these minutes).

b. **Payments due:** COUNCIL RESOLVED that all payments due and listed below should be made:

• Clerk's salary, travel and home use	£217.92
• Cross Memorial Hall hire	£65.00
• Patrick Freeman - website	£24.95
• Patrick Freeman – website	£17.63
• SALC – lunch	£7.50
• Moore Stephens – Annual Audit fee	£141.00

c. **Aspects of expenditure for inclusion in a draft budget for 2008/9:**

• Cllr. Warner presented a draft budget prepared by the Finance Advisory Group. This would require a slight increase in Precept in line with inflation. The draft would be considered by Councillors, and presented for adoption, with no more than minor amendments, at the December meeting.

• It was resolved to apply to Cllr Ham for a grant to fund a new seat and notice board at the Cross Memorial Hall in the sum of £775.00

d. **Inland Revenue Appeal:** Clerk reported that the Inland Revenue were considering the Council's appeal against a Penalty Notification.

e. **Internal Account Examiner:** Clerk reported that Mr John Gravell had agreed to act as the Council's Internal Account Examiner in place of Mr. Richard Tyas. The Council wished to record their sincere thanks to Mr Tyas for his past service.



- f. **Annual Audit 2006/7:** Clerk read from the External Auditor's Certificate and Opinion provided by the External Auditors (Moore Stephens). The certificate, which raised no issues of concern, would be displayed on notice boards. The auditors, at Clerk's request, had offered advice about future layout of the final accounting. This would be communicated to Mr Gravell in due course.
- g. **Grant to "Contact" magazine:** It was resolved to grant £250 to "Contact" magazine and to inform the Crook Peak benefice that this sum would be transferred at the start of the next financial year.
- h. **Donation to Somerset Arts Week:** It was resolved to donate £30.00 to Somerset Arts Week – 2008. The sum to be transferred immediately.
- i. **Appeal from Somerset County Council Chairman:** It was resolved not to make any donation to the County Council Chairman's Appeal for funding to aid Olympic training in Somerset. It was agreed the Clerk should write a suitable letter.
8. **Planning:** There were no matters relating to planning for consideration.
9. **Reports from Advisory Group leaders**
- a. **Environment**
- Cllr. Parker reported that he had found 3 contractors willing to estimate for work on bus shelters and benches.
 - Clerk reported that Mr. John Buckler had obtained a seat for siting at Bishop's Path and it was currently being renovated. Clerk was asked to progress this work with all haste. Cllr Jordan asked that it be minuted that the previous Parish Council had approved this work, that the grant from Cllr Ham had been specifically for this project, and that the delay in completing the work and spending of the grant had been due to concerns raised by the County Conservation Officer.
 - Cllr. Rix reported that there was still a supply of free willow logs at the Springfield Wildlife Site for use in wood burners not an open fire. Work may yet have to be done to strap the split willow, recently pollarded. Working party dates are obtainable from Sarah Ayling.
 - A questionnaire on waste management in the county was passed to all councillors for completion.
 - Cllr Parker had attended a recent meeting of the Mendip Hills AONB Partnership. He presented estimated figures for the pedestrian traffic on the Mendips in the parish and quoted an annual figure of 156,000.
- c. **Highways**
- Chairman reported on a successful Joint parishes meeting regarding A38 safety at Cross. Data collected by himself and Cllr Parker had been well received. A further survey is to be carried out on a Wednesday evening and a report submitted to Taunton.
 - The Clerk reported on his enquiries into hedge-cutting issues in Webbington Road. A local contractor, Jason Cheale, had, according to his parents, cut the hedge fronting "Winash" Webbington Road at the request of "Chris Byrne". A letter printed in the Cheddar Valley Gazette (Samantha Pavey - 08/11/07) suggested that all the hedgerows in CB etc had been cut at Councillor Byrne's instigation and at his own expense. On investigation, Clerk had been informed by Mrs Pavey senior that the letter in question had been written by her daughter and had included a reference to Mrs Pavey's contact with the Parish Council, which she categorically denied having made. Clerk read out the relevant paragraph of the letter and pointed out that this assertion was at variance with the letter read by Ms Daley in the Public Participation session of the meeting. A Press Release had been issued to Cheddar Valley Gazette to set the record straight



in respect of Ms Pavey's letter. The Clerk read the Press Release in full. This emphasised the need for all contractors to ensure they have the landowner's consent before cutting hedges and to clear up the debris left in the highway.

- It was resolved to ask Somerset Highways to undertake a study of on-street parking issues, particularly at the East end of Old Coach Road and at the foot of the Crook Peak access path in the Webbington Road.
- Cllr Rolfe reported that he had received a verbal quotation of £375 for an hardwood notice board to the same dimensions as the one located outside the White Hart public house. It was determined that nothing could be done at the moment as a decision was awaited from the hall committee.

10. Cllr Jordan reported that the website is now in existence. It was agreed there was a need to establish a clear plan on the type of information the site may include. Clerk agreed to put her in touch with the Axbridge Town Council webmaster for advice. Generally the Council's site should be used for communicating public service information rather than social activity.

11. Cllr Warner asked that the Council re-confirm Mr John Stuchbery as its nominated Trustee of the Cray Charity. This was agreed unanimously.

12. Council received items of correspondence, circulated to councillors prior to the meeting and
RESOLVED:

- that Cllrs Farley and Parker should attend an SCC A38 Safety Workshop.
- that posters advertising the new website should be displayed.
- that Cllr Farley should attend the next meeting of the Sedgemoor Area Working Panel
- that Cllr Parker would provide the Clerk with a comment about increased housing developments under the proposed North Somerset Council's Core Strategy. This would then be forwarded to all relevant authorities.
- that those items in the Correspondence File received after the start of circulation, should be re-circulated. For clarity these are items 28 onwards.

13. **Date and time of next meeting:** Wednesday 12th . December at Cross Memorial Hall at 7.30 p.m. . Cllr Rix tendered her apologies for absence in advance.

14. The Press and public were then excluded from the meeting whilst councillors discussed a formal letter of complaint from the Clerk concerning the behaviour of Cllr. Byrne and the further action that is to be taken. Cllrs Rolfe and Parker agreed to act as a "Stage 1" review panel, to establish the facts surrounding the complaint and report to the chairman. They are to be impartial and were authorised to include any necessary interviews. Cllr Byrne at his specific request declined to be involved in any interview. Cllr Rolfe said that he hoped that Cllr Byrne would co-operate and that if Cllr Byrne refused the panel would be forced to report the fact and draw its own conclusions.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 22.00 hours

SIGNED AS A TRUE RECORD:  **Chairman**

DATE: 12-12-07

Minutes of Compton Bishop Parish Council Meeting
held on December 12th, 2007 at Cross Memorial Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors Farley (Chairman), Jordan, Parker, Byrne, Rolfe and Warner together with 10 members of the public.

Public Participation: *Mr Brinson informed the Council that he had applied to Sedgemoor District Council for permission to erect a dwelling on his land at Cross lane. He invited councillors to visit the site. He hoped the Council would look favourably on his application. In view of the statutory requirement for Council to comment within 21 days of receipt of the application he had no objection to Council asking for a deferment until after the Christmas period, subject to no pressure being applied that he should vacate his mobile home presently on site.*

Caroline Woolley gave information to Council about the current provisions for older youth in the district – at Axbridge Youth Club and at Wedmore. She reminded those present of the need for all youth workers to undergo proper training and checks by the Criminal Record Bureau. The County Youth Service could provide practical help and funding for additional youth work. She welcomed any moves within the community that would increase provision for young people. Penny Daley also spoke of the need for provision for youngsters within the community.

1. Apologies for Absence: Cllr. Rix.

2. Approval of minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on November 14th, subject to the amendments below, were approved, unanimously.

- Item 9a spot 3 to read “A questionnaire on waste management in the county was passed to 3 councillors for completion.”
- Item 14 (last sentence) to read “Cllr Rolfe said that he hoped that Cllr Byrne would co-operate and that if Cllr Byrne refused, the panel may be forced to report the fact and draw its own conclusions.”

The Clerk reminded councillors of the advantage of offering amendments in writing as soon as the draft minutes have been circulated.

3. Members' Declarations of Interest: All members present had declared interests on a pro-forma provided by the Clerk prior to the meeting. The Clerk read those declarations aloud as follows:

Cllrs Rolfe, Farley, Warner and Jordan declared personal interest in item 5 on the agenda.

Cllr Farley also declared personal interest in item 9b spot4 and correspondence items 10,11,12,16,20

4. Reports on matters arising from the previous minutes not listed elsewhere on the agenda:

- The Chairman reported that Mr Dennis Heymer had written to say that he would not provide the Council with a copy of his letter, which had been read out by Mrs penny Daley at the November meeting.
- The Chairman confirmed that Mr John Stuchbury had been notified of the fact that he was to remain the Council's nominated Trustee on the Cray Charity.
- The Chairman drew attention to the fact that a Press Release had been issued on the 26th. November to clarify the Councils position on an open letter by Cllr. Byrne and his proposals for establishing a Youth Club in the parish.

5. To receive a formal apology and withdrawal of allegations against Councillors made by Councillor Byrne.

- Cllr. Byrne had been presented with a document, prior to the meeting, setting out all matters for which his fellow councillors required an apology and a withdrawal. Councillor Byrne said he was unable to apologise or withdraw any of the listed matters until he had been advised by the Monitoring Officer at Sedgemoor and the Standards

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Board to whom he had sent the document, together with other papers. He initially undertook to respond in full to this requirement to apologise and withdraw, within 14 days. After heated debate in which councillors declared that they saw Cllr. Byrne's response as yet another attempt to delay settlement of this issue, he declared that he could not guarantee to respond within 14 days as he was dependent upon the advice he may receive from both bodies that he had consulted. He then confirmed, in answer to a direct question from the Clerk, that he had made a complaint to the Standards Board about his own conduct and had submitted the document and papers in support of that complaint.

It was then resolved, unanimously, that in view of Cllr. Byrne's refusal to apology or to withdraw allegations, he should be reported by the Chairman to the Standards Board for England in line with a previous resolution. (November 14th 2007 item 5)

The document presented to Cllr. Byrne, the subject of this agenda item, was not discussed nor tabled at this meeting.

X

6. Exclusion of the Press and public at item 15 on the agenda.

by It was resolved ~~my~~ majority vote that the Press and public should be excluded from item 15 on the agenda as this was a staffing matter. This was resolved by majority. Councillors Farley, Jordan, Parker, Rolfe and Warner voted in favour.

7. Finance

a. **Monthly reconciliation(s).** COUNCIL RESOLVED to approve the monthly reconciliation for November (attached to these minutes).

b. **Payments due:** COUNCIL RESOLVED that all payments due and listed below should be made:

- Clerk's salary, travel etc. £173.07
- Cross Memorial Hall hire: £34.00
- Subscription renewal SLCC (correspondence item 35): £70.00
- Re-imburement of John Buckler for work on public seat at Compton Bishop: £289.90

c. **Approval of Precept for 2008/9:**

- It was unanimously resolved to submit a request to Sedgemoor District Council for an annual Precept in the sum of £6,200.
- Cllr Jordan took this opportunity to outline a scheme to involve the community in a floral display competition in 2008, in conjunction with the Gardening Society. Council delegated to her the task of buying a suitable trophy for a sum less than the budgeted figure of £80, to be presented at the Annual Flower Show to the householder with the most attractive hanging baskets.
- The Chairman had produced a newsletter, a questionnaire for all households on youth provision and had obtained printing costs for these. It was resolved that the Council should accept the quotation for printing works from Noel Hetherington of Locking in the sum of £62.50 and that the Chairman should proceed with this.. Councillors agreed to distribute this material to designated areas of the parish.

d. **To receive a report of the Sedgemoor Area Working Panel meeting held on 29th November 2007:** The Chairman's report of the meeting was received. He made councillors aware of the possibility of improving local transport for the community, by use of the County's "Slinky bus" scheme and appealed for a volunteer coordinator. This scheme and the need for a volunteer would be included as a website item.

e. **Details of a grant application to Cllr. Alan Ham.** Council resolved to submit a request to County Councillor Alan Ham for a grant of £875.00 to meet the estimated costs of a new notice board and a seat and table outside the Cross memorial Hall.

The meeting was suspended at this point.

Cllr. Ham then explained the format in which this request should be made. He was also told that the grant obtained last year for a seat at Compton Bishop had been under-spent. He confirmed that any surplus should not be returned to him, but should be incorporated into the Council's general fund.

The meeting was re-convened.

8. **Planning:** The Clerk reported one planning application had been received that day (Re: 21/07/00027/CJA) It was resolved to request an extension to the period allowed for the Council's response, so that the matter may be properly advertised and dealt with at a meeting early in January. The Clerk was to emphasise the need not to pressurise the applicant to vacate his mobile home in the meantime. Should a deferment not be granted by Sedgemoor Council then a special planning meeting of the Parish Council would be convened as soon as possible.

9. **Reports from Advisory Group leaders**

a. **Environment**

- Cllr. Parker reported that he had not yet received estimates from the 3 contractors prepared to work on repair and maintenance of bus shelters and benches. It was noted that the notice board opposite the White hart Inn also needed attention.
- Mr. John Buckler had completed the work on the seat for at Bishop's Path and had submitted invoices for the work in the sum of £289.90 (correspondence item 48). The Clerk would write to thank him and his helpers for their efforts.
- A willow at the Springfield Wildlife Site required attention from Sedgemoor District Council and Dr Sarah Ayling had contacted David Aggett accordingly.
- Cllrs. Rolfe, Jordan, Farley, Byrne and Parker would consult on the completion of a questionnaire on waste management in the county.
- Cllr Parker reported that the National Trust would be willing to make a presentation to residents on their stewardship of the Mendip in the area.
- CPRE had produced a DVD about the Somerset Levels, but no further action would be taken in promoting this until the charities said to benefit from its sale had been identified.
- The AONB group was keen to promote the Mendip as an area to promote healthy exercise.

c. **Highways**

- Chairman reported on an "A38 Safety Workshop" that he had attended on 19th November. Council resolved to host a "Driver Awareness training Event" in the Memorial Hall on 15th January at 19.30 hrs. Attendees would be limited to 30 persons. There would be a small cost for the hire of the hall and for light refreshments.
- The recent attempts to solve the flooding problems at Old Coach Road bus shelter and on the A38 beside the New Inn were noted as unsuccessful. The Clerk would write again to Somerset Highways.
- The Clerk was asked to contact Somerset Highways Safety Partnership to discover the cost of the new yellow signs for the "Red Route" on the A38 and to point out, that in this Council's view, the number of new signs only added further distraction for the motorist.
- Cllr Byrne agreed to find out the cost and to identify suitable sites for the placement of roadside salt-bins. The Clerk would forward any information that he received from other sources on this matter.
- It was resolved to add "the need for street lighting in the parish" to the agenda of the Annual Parish Meeting in 2008.
- Cllr Byrne agreed to identify suitable sites in Compton Bishop for dog-litter bins. The Clerk would investigate the procedure in arranging such installations and pass the information to Cllr. Byrne.
- It was resolved to adopt a report on possible footway improvements in Cross, presented by the Chairman. Copies of this report would be forwarded to Somerset Highways. In addition the Clerk was asked to contact the local

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Sustrans Volunteer Ranger, Mr David Parkin, about possible support from that group for an improved footpath between Axbridge and Cross, on land owned by the Lukins and Scott families.

10. Cllr. Jordan gave further details of her investigation into the possible re-siting of the Toll Road Marker (milestone) currently beside the A38 road. It was a "listed" item. Its removal was therefore being resisted by the SCC Conservation Officer. She agreed to contact Mr Andrews, who had originally mooted this idea. Together with Cllr. Rolf, she would try to give Council an estimate of the possible costs of removing it to its original site outside Walnut House, Old Coach Road.
11. Cllr Jordan presented a report on the kind of material that the **website** might carry. Her list was approved and she was asked to carry on with this work. The Clerk would provide Mr. Patrick Freeman with e-copies of approved minutes.
12. As agreed, a **survey** would be circulated to all households with the Council newsletter to ascertain the needs of children and young people in the parish. Completed surveys would be collected up on 8th January.
13. The formal **complaint** lodged by the Clerk against the behaviour of Cllr. Byrne was still ongoing and so a report on this matter was deferred.
14. The Clerk highlighted items of **correspondence** from the file that had been circulated already and also from amongst late material that would be circulated as soon as possible (items 36 to 49).
 - The Clerk reported that he had displayed a number of posters.
 - Councillors agreed to issue cheques against invoices from Cross Memorial Hall and Mr John Buckler (see Finance – above)
 - The Clerk was asked to provide material to all councillors indicating the requirements for the Council to obtain Quality Parish Council status.
 - The response to a "Cleansweep" request from Sedgemoor District Council would be made at the January meeting.
 - The Clerk was asked to provide all councillors with details of the criteria to be met in making a bid to the Sedgemoor Area Working Panel. It was thought appropriate to make a bid for funds to support the proposed footway improvements in Cross.
 - The Clerk was asked to read aloud his file note concerning a contact from Somerset and Avon Police in response to a letter received by them from Cllr. Byrne. The Clerk was asked to apply to the police for a copy of this letter.

At this point in the meeting the Press and public were excluded.

15. A formal apology and withdrawal of allegations against the Parish Clerk made by Councillor Byrne was not discussed as he had already made it clear that he would make no apologies or withdrawals until he had received further advice. In the course of a heated discussion which followed Cllr. Byrne excused himself from the meeting with the Chairman's blessing.
16. Date, time and place of the next Council: 9th. January at Cross Memorial Hall at 7.30 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 22.05 hours

SIGNED AS A TRUE RECORD:.....Chairman

DATE:9-01-08.....