

Minutes of Compton Bishop Parish Council Meeting held on January 13th 2010 at Cross Memorial Hall

Present: Parish Councillors Farley (Chairman), Parker, Rolfe, Warner and Windmill; Paul Passey (Parish Clerk).

Public Participation: One resident was present and expressed satisfaction at the decision of the Adjudication Panel of the Standards Board for England to disqualify a member of the council and congratulated those whose complaints had been upheld on their diligence and persistence.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr. Mrs Rix had apologised for her absence. This was accepted.
2. **Approval of minutes:** The minutes of the monthly meeting held on December 9th. 2009 were approved unanimously by those present at that meeting and were signed by the Chairman as a true record.
3. **Members' Declarations of Interest:**
 - 3.1. Cllr Rolfe declared personal interest in all matters relating to ex-Cllr Byrne.
 - 3.2. Cllr Farley declared personal interest in all matters relating to ex-Cllr Byrne and personal interest in items 5.5 and 8.3 as author of the items.
 - 3.3. Cllr Parker declared personal interest in all matters relating to ex-Cllr Byrne.
 - 3.4. Cllr Windmill declared a personal interest in item 7.3 as a friend of Mr D. M. Harvey and occasional user of his professional services.
4. **Matters arising from minutes of the previous meeting:**
 - 4.1. Ref: Minute (8.4 – 09/12) The Clerk, in answer to Cllr Warner, reported that SCC Highways had not yet responded on the matter of signage and speed problems at the Wavering Down Farm exit.
 - 4.2. Ref: Minute (7.3 – 09/12) Council noted and approved a response produced by Cllr Parker and circulated prior to the meeting in response to the North Somerset Council Priority Strategy document. In particular concerns had been expressed about the likely increase in traffic using the Webbington Road route to and from Weston-super-Mare as a result of its intended growth. The response had been forwarded to North Somerset.
 - 4.3. Ref: Minute (7.4 – 09/12) Council noted and approved a response produced by Cllr Parker and circulated prior to the meeting in response to the Sedgemoor Strategy. The response had been forwarded to Sedgemoor District Council.
5. **Finance:**
 - 5.1. **Monthly reconciliation:** The Council RESOLVED unanimously to approve the monthly reconciliation to 25th December 2009 presented by the clerk.
 - 5.2. **Payments due:** Council RESOLVED that all payments due and listed below should be made:

Clerk's salary etc. (Salary claimed at Scale Pt19 and includes "sundries")	£237.05
Subscription to C.P.R.E.	£29.00

Note: It was RESOLVED not to renew a subscription to the Society of Local Council Clerks as both councillors and the clerk felt that support available from Somerset Association of Local Councils should be sufficient.
 - 5.3. **Transfer of funds:** Councillors RESOLVED to transfer a sum of £1,000.00 and another of £4,000.00 from the Business Money Manager and the Community Accounts respectively into the newly opened "Community Projects Account".
 - 5.4. **New member of Finance Advisory Group:** It was RESOLVED unanimously that Cllr. Windmill should become a member of the Finance Advisory Group.
 - 5.5. **Community Initiative Grant:** A sum of £695.00 had been received from Somerset County Council and deposited in the Parish Council's account. The Clerk was instructed to contact Cross Connections (Charly Higman) and St. Andrews Church (Steve McColgan) and arrange the most beneficial means of transferring the sums that they had been allocated. There was the possibility of VAT being refunded on purchases made by the Parish Council. Both groups and Cllr. Ham would be invited to some form of "hand-over" event, possibly at the next council meeting.
 - 5.6. **Levels and Moors Partnership funding bid for footpath improvement:** Councillors Farley and Warner had worked on a questionnaire for the Somerset Levels and Moors Partnership and it was agreed that this, together with an explanatory letter about the need for financing a feasibility study, should be sent to the Partnership seeking a meeting. It was hoped that the matter of the Aggregates Levy Fund would be settled by Somerset County Council at their meeting of the 13th. February and that an application can be made for a grant towards the Cross-Axbridge footpath project.
6. **Planning:** There were no current applications to consider.
 - 6.1. **National Grid pylon proposals:** A response to the National Grid consultation had been finalised between meetings and sent off. Its contents were formally approved by council. The council RESOLVED that the Chairman should contact Wraxall and Failand Parish Council to express support for its submission to National Grid, in particular for the undersea cabling option.
 - 6.2. **Hinkley Point:** Representative councillors were due to attend a Sedgemoor District Council meeting on the proposal to construct Hinkley Point "C" nuclear power station and power distribution. The Chairman's proposed verbal submission was approved by council, subject to minor amendments.

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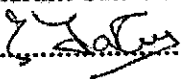
7. **Environment:**

- 7.1. **Community Land Project:** Cllr Windmill presented an updated report on the options now being considered. The survey of households conducted as part of the council's Autumn Newsletter had resulted in a 16.5% response from residents of which 84% supported moves by council to improve the Cross to Axbridge footpath link. Recommendations on next steps are to be made after closer analysis of the survey results. The Chairman thanked Councillors Windmill and Parker for their hard work on promoting the Project.
- 7.2. **Scaur's Path:** Council RESOLVED to offer written support for the proposed transfer of ownership of the Scaur's Path and to meet the costs involved in the erection, and regular emptying of a dog-mess bin at the path. The clerk was instructed write to the National Trust to that effect.
- 7.3. **Lodge Memorial seat:** Council RESOLVED to accept an offer by Mr Dean Harvey to renovate the seat at no charge; the council would meet the costs of all necessary materials. There had been no response from 3 local builders/handyman previously contacted to do the work. It was agreed that all future requests from the council for quotations from service providers should give a "cut-off date" for responses
- 7.4. **AONB:** Cllr Parker reported that he would be attending a review of the management of the AONB arranged by Somerset County Council.
- 7.5. **Bristol International Airport expansion:** It was noted that the planning application to North Somerset Council had been delayed until 10th February.
- 7.6. **Daffodil bulbs:** Councillor Parker reported that the "Free" issue daffodil bulbs had been planted and both he and Cllr Rolfe were thanked for completing this work.
- 7.7. **Severn Tidal Power:** A recent update on Government thinking on use of the Severn Estuary to produce energy seemed less enthusiastic about the "barrage" option than previously.
- 7.8. **Recent bad weather:**
- 7.8.1. Councillors expressed concern that no roads, apart from A38, in the parish had been gritted or salted.
- 7.8.2. The salt bag at Rackley had been removed by persons unknown and the clerk was asked to request a replacement and have another placed near the New Inn in Cross to deal with the bad slope up from the A38.
- 7.8.3. Councillors expressed gratitude to the unknown tractor driver who snow-ploughed through Old Coach Road and Webbington Road

8. **Highways:**

- 8.1. **Parish Priorities for transport:** The council approved, with a few amendments, a document prepared by the Chairman which set out proposals for highways improvement in the parish and included a consolidation of previous submissions. In particular it was felt there should be more emphasis in the document about traffic calming measures through Cross. The amended paper will be sent to Mr Walford at SCC.
- 8.2. **Speed Indicator Device (SID):** Councillors agreed to the programme of SID installations continuing for 2010/11 at a cost of £100, but on condition that the readings should be taken in a more appropriate place in the community; Old Coach Road within Cross itself or Webbington Road was suggested. Chairman would contact Mr Grabham at SCC about this
- 8.3. **Finger post repair:** The finger post near the Memorial Hall appeared to be only partly renovated. The clerk was instructed to clarify the situation with Highways.
- 8.4. **A38 crossroads improvement:** SCC Highways had written to offer no new ideas on the problem of the crossroads, but suggested another Joint Parishes meeting. A number of alternative dates would be sought and other parishes invited.
9. **Adjudication Panel decision:** The clerk had been informed that Parish Councillor Christopher Byrne had been disqualified as a parish councillor for Compton Bishop and elsewhere for a period of 18 months. This disqualification may be suspended if the councillor informed the Panel President that he, Councillor Byrne, intended to seek leave to appeal the decision at the High Court within 21 days of 4th January. In the event that the disqualification stands then a vacancy will exist for a councillor, either to be elected or co-opted. The clerk was instructed to inform Sedgemoor District accordingly. At some time in the next few weeks a notice setting out the options will be displayed on the parish boards.
10. **Springfield Wildlife Site:** There was nothing to report.
11. **Website update:** It was confirmed that material produced by other authorities and circulated to all households as flyers or newsheets should not be reproduced on the website. It was agreed that the "Welcome" page aimed at new residents should be revised.
12. **Correspondence:**
- 12.1. The local rail timetable will be made available on the Memorial Hall internal notice-board.
- 12.2. It was noted that SALC expected to produce revised "Model" Standing Orders in the near future.
- 12.3. It was agreed that the "Welcome" letter to new residents should be revised.
- 12.4. All other appropriate items of correspondence had been dealt with elsewhere in the agenda.
13. **Date, time and place of the next monthly Council Meeting:** February 10th 2010 at Cross Memorial Hall at 19.30 hours.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.45 hours.

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

DATE:10-02-10.....

Minutes of Compton Bishop Parish Council Meeting held on February 10th 2010 at Cross Memorial Hall

Present: Parish Councillors Farley (Chairman), Parker, Rolfe, Warner and Windmill; Paul Passey (Parish Clerk) and Somerset County Councillor Alan Ham.

Public Participation: Also present were Mr. Steve McColgan and Mrs Sue Ham representing St. Andrew's Church Compton Bishop together with Mrs Claire Settle representing Cross Connections. Before the meeting began Cllr. Ham made a formal symbolic presentation to the two represented groups of funding and equipment gained through Somerset County Council's Community Initiatives Grant, for which Cllr. Ham and the Parish Council were jointly responsible. St. Andrew's Church had received a cheque in the sum of £545.00 towards the cost of security fencing around the oil-tank at St. Andrews and Cross Connections received a digital music-centre to the value of £150.00. Cllr. Ham thanked all concerned for their efforts for the community.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr. Mrs Rix had apologised for her absence in an email to the Chairman. Her reason for absence was accepted.
2. **Approval of minutes:** The minutes of the monthly meeting held on January 13th, 2009 were approved unanimously by those present at that meeting and were signed by the Chairman as a true record.
3. **Members' Declarations of Interest:**
 - 3.1. Cllr Rolfe declared personal interest in all matters relating to Mr. C Byrne (Disqualified Councillor)
 - 3.2. Cllr Farley declared personal interest in all matters relating to Mr. C Byrne (Disqualified Councillor and personal interest in items 5.4, 7.5, 6.5 and 7.7 as author of the items.
 - 3.3. Cllr Parker declared personal interest in all matters relating to Mr C. Byrne (Disqualified Councillor.
 - 3.4. Cllr Windmill declared a personal interest in item 7.2 as a friend of the owner of land bordering The Scaur's Path.
4. **Matters arising from minutes of the previous meeting:**
 - 4.1. Ref: Minutes (4.1 – 13/01/10 and 8.4 – 09/12/09) Cllr Warner, asked what action had occurred since the clerk had reported to SCC Highways on the matter of signage and speed problems at the Wavering Down Farm exit. There had been none and the clerk was instructed to contact Liam Gill (SCC Highways) once more.
 - 4.2. Ref: Minute (7.3 – 13/01/10) Council instructed the clerk to provide Mr Dean Harvey with a letter of instruction to carry out work on the Lodge Memorial seat and authorise him, if necessary to remove the seat in order to do so.
5. **Finance:**
 - 5.1. **Monthly reconciliation:** The Council RESOLVED unanimously to approve the monthly reconciliation to 25th January 2010 presented by the clerk.
 - 5.2. **Payments due:** Council RESOLVED that all payments due and listed below should be made:

Clerk's salary etc. (Salary claimed at Scale Pt19)	£197.68
Hire of Cross Memorial Hall (3 monthly meetings)	£39.00
Re-imbusement to Chairman (E.Farley)	£150.00

Note: The Chairman had bought the digital music centre referred to above in the sum of £149.99 on behalf of the Parish Council and also had made a personal donation of 1p. to Cross Connections to ensure that the entire agreed sum of £150.00 had been made available to the group.
 - 5.3. **Community Initiative Grants:** The presentations referred to under "Public Participation" (above) had ensured that the total sum of £695.00, which had been received from Somerset County Council and deposited in the Parish Council's account, had now been distributed.
 - 5.4. **Levels and Moors Partnership funding bid for footpath improvement:** Cllr. Farley reported that discussions with the Scheme Manager, Ms. Dominic Dunbrook, had been delayed whilst she checked the view of Somerset Highways in respect of any footway improvement in Cross Lane and how any release of funds may be affected by other highways issues at the Cross crossroads.
 - 5.5. **Sedgemoor District Council Future Funding:** Councillors had read correspondence from SDC setting out ideas for future funding that included the suggestion that parishes might raise extra funds through their precepts to help maintain some non-statutory services. SDC would be unable to meet all the costs of these services in future. Councillors were unhappy at the suggestions and felt there was a lack of clarity in the letter received. It was RESOLVED to invite Alison Griffin of SDC to meet councillors of the Finance Advisory Group to give more detail.
 - 5.6. **Churchyard maintenance grant:** In response to a letter from the churchwardens, it was RESOLVED that a sum of £150.00 should be granted to St. Andrew's Church towards the cost of churchyard maintenance. This sum would be made available after April 1st, 2010.
 - 5.7. **"Community Projects Account":** The clerk reported that HSBC bank had supplied a paying-in book for the new account, but as yet no statement of account had been received to show that £5,000.00 had been transferred from the other two accounts. A letter of instruction to do so had been provided to the bank.
 - 5.8. **RLT3 funding:** The Chairman reported that a sum of £5,770 for this year and £67,908 for next was held in the RLT3 fund by SDC. This would be distributed to projects in the Axe Valley Cluster of parishes. The clerk was instructed to discover the exact process by which a bid for part of these funds might be made.

6. **Planning:**

6.1. **Planning application ref no.** 21/10/00001/CJA (Received 03/02/10) Extension of existing cattle shed on land S. of Cross Lane.

It was RESOLVED to make no formal comment on this application, but to provide SDC with the Advisory Group's comments so that planners should be aware of concerns over effluent management and visual intrusion into the landscape by such a large building.

6.2. **SDC enforcement action on a development north of Wavering Down House:** SDC Enforcement Officers had recognised that work being carried out on this site was in breach of condition 9 of the planning permission granted for the land. This stated that "Before any building works on the bungalow commence, the existing vehicular access shall be permanently stopped up by the construction of a natural stone wall, 1.3 metres in height, with a cock and hen coping. Reason: In the interests of highway safety." A Planning Contravention Notice had been served, which if not complied with within 21 days may be followed by an Enforcement Order.

6.3. **Application 21/09/00012/CJA Wheelwright and Gypsy Museum, Wheelwright's shop, Webbington, Axbridge BS26 6HX:** Members noted that this application had been recommended for refusal by SDC and was to be discussed at a Sedgemoor Development Control meeting. Although the parish council had recommended approval of the application, it was felt that attendance at the Development Control meeting by a parish councillor could add nothing further to the decision making process.

6.4. **Planning Appeal:** It was noted that an appeal is being considered against SDC's refusal of an application to erect a 7.5m high single storey dwelling on land at the rear of Wavering Down, Webbington Road. It was RESOLVED that the Planning Advisory Group should produce a summary sheet to add to the council's original objections to the application and should make these papers available to both SDC and the Planning Appeal Inspector.

6.5. **Council's actions in respect of National Grid pylon route-ways:** A summary of all actions so far, taken by the parish council in respect of the National Grid consultation process had been produced and was placed on record. This would be updated periodically.

7. **Environment:**

7.1. **Community Land Project:** Cllr Windmill reported that the questionnaire results had been collated and would be analysed for a report at the March meeting of council. A meeting was planned for 12th February with representatives of Cross Connections to ascertain their hopes and aspirations for the project.

7.2. **Scour's Path:** Cllr. Parker informed the meeting that negotiations were still ongoing and that he still had hopes that the transfer of ownership would take place.

7.3. **Maintenance of notice boards:** Cllr. Rolfe agreed to contact Bright and Scoble, the makers of the boards at Kennel Lane and the Memorial Hall to discover the best method of avoiding water ingress in the future. The clerk also had concerns about excessive condensation in the boards especially the one at the White Hart Inn. This also might need to be re-set on new posts over the next few months. The board at Church Lane bus shelter was noted also as being too small to display Council minutes.

7.4. **"Sort it Plus" arrangements:** Posters produced by the chairman had been displayed around the parish encouraging residents to be aware of the impending changes to waste disposal. Councillors had concerns that not all residents had received the relevant information from Somerset Waste Partnership (SWP) and that there were likely to be problems where terraced houses were provided with wheelie-bins that they could not accommodate or the problem of residents leaving them obstructing the pathway/highway after collection. The clerk was instructed to contact SWP and express the council's concerns.

7.5. **Hinkley Point and National Grid meeting at Bridgwater:** The Chairman had attended the meeting on 14th. January at Bridgwater and had presented the council's agreed paper.

7.6. **Protest march:** Members of council had attended the recent protest march from Christon to Webbington Farm.

7.7. **Hinkley Point and National Grid further response:** It was RESOLVED that a document produced between meetings by all councillors and co-ordinated by Cllr. Parker should be amended for style and then sent to SDC. In essence this set out the council's concerns, made clear the preferred options, asked questions about the process of consultation and requested that the council be kept fully informed of SDC's responses to both consultations. The chairman is to write to the Leader of SDC and the Infrastructure Planning Commission to record this Council's interest in the pylon proposals and ask that we be kept fully informed of progress during the process. A copy of the submission from Wraxall and Failand Parish Council would be made available to councillors Parker and Farley."

7.8. **Dog fouling:** The clerk was instructed to request posters and notices from the SDC Dog Warden in order to raise awareness of the local dog mess problem. Also the clerk should request that the dog bin at Bow Bridge be emptied.

7.9. **Overhanging vegetation:** It was reported that there are a number of properties in Old Coach Road where garden vegetation overhangs the footway. The chairman would deliver previously agreed standard letters to households requesting action.

7.10. **Old Coach Road parking:** It was noted that the on-street parking at the Eastern end of Old Coach Road was becoming more of a problem. The matter is to be raised at the forthcoming Joint A38 Parishes' Group meeting.

7.11. **Cross Quarry:** Cllr. Parker agreed to receive reports and monitor activities at the Cross Quarry.

7.12. **Bus shelters:** Council felt that the bus shelters would benefit from regular cleansing and Cllr. Rolfe would draw up a possible programme of work for a "lengthsman" such as is employed at Axbridge.

7.13. **Litter pick:** It was agreed that a litter-pick should be organised by Cllr Warner for March and that the volunteers from last year should be invited to take part, together with any others that might be persuaded.

8. **Highways:**

8.1. **A38 crossroads improvement:** SCC Highways had written to offer dates for a joint meeting with the Joint Parishes Group. The preferred date was the afternoon of 23rd. March. SCC would be asked to set out its objections to the most recent proposals presented by the group, prior to that meeting.

8.2. **Speed Indicator Device (SID):** The clerk was instructed to contact SCC to ask what progress had been made in finding a better site for the SID in Old Coach Road within Cross itself or Webbington Road.

8.3. **SCC repair and maintenance of highways:** Chairman had produced a detailed list of highways issues and passed them to Mr Liam Gill at SCC Highways. It was agreed that a copy would be circulated to councillors in order that it can be updated where additional defects are noted. The redundant framework by the Butts Batch sign near St. Andrew's church and that at Vernon Lane was due for removal. No action had been taken about a non-functioning traffic island lights on the A38 at Shute Shelve – reported to SCC and out of action since October 2009. The clerk would contact SCC again. It was noted that 3 Gas valve signs by Rosewell Cottage had been vandalised. British Gas has been informed and they had been re-positioned. The grating outside Sunnymead had not been covered with tarmac by Bristol Water's adjacent repair, but did require clearing from overhanging vegetation.

9. **Parish Councillor vacancy:** The clerk and the Chairman had spent time trying to discover from SDC, The Adjudication Panel and the High Court whether or not Mr C Byrne (Disqualified Councillor) had appealed against his disqualification as a parish councillor and therefore whether or not a vacancy for a councillor could be declared. Council instructed the clerk to write to SDC Chief Executive Mr Rickards to express the council's concern at the lack of information and urgency over the way in which the district council, as the relevant Standards Authority has not kept this Council informed with definitive information on the position resulting from the disqualification.

10. **Cheddar Valley Cluster Group meeting at Mark 2nd February 2020.** The Chairman's report of this meeting was received.

11. **Annual Parish Meeting:** This would take place on Friday April 23rd and the County and District Councillors are to be so informed and the Memorial Hall reserved by the Clerk for the occasion. It was resolved that this year short written reports would be provided by each Advisory Group Leader. They being prepared to answer any questions raised and only the chairman would give an oral report. The district and county councillors would be asked to limit the length of their presentations, so that more time is available for short presentations by external representatives. Representatives of Somerset Waste Partnership, the Police and Somerset Highways will be invited to attend to provide a short presentation and answer questions.

12. **New Model Standing Orders:** Cllrs. Rolfe and Farley together with the clerk would look at the new model Standing Orders and agree what alterations, if any, need be made to the existing version.


13. **Springfield Wildlife Site:** Dr. Sarah Ayling had reported a good meeting with David Aggett of SDC at the site and some pollarding and remedial work has been agreed. An owl box will be installed.

14. **Website update:** It was agreed that some 3D pictures of the parish might be included in the site by an outside organisation which appeared to be non-commercial. Cllr Parker and Patrick Freeman would look at the possibility of including a secure online storage space for council documents – accessible only to those with passwords. Patrick Freeman was publicly thanked and congratulated on the professional look of the website.

15. **Correspondence:** Most items had been discussed elsewhere on the agenda. It was agreed not to make a donation to St. Margaret's Hospice at Taunton. Correspondence about co-operative working in communities would be included next month.

16. **Date, time and place of the next monthly Council Meeting:** March 10th 2010 at Cross Memorial Hall at 19.30 hours

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.55 hours.

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

X

DATE:10-3-10.....

Minutes of Compton Bishop Parish Council Meeting held on March 10th 2010 at Cross Memorial Hall

Present: Parish Councillors Farley (Chairman), Parker, Rolfe, Warner and Windmill; Paul Passey (Parish Clerk).

Public Participation: Two residents were present. One took the opportunity to show plans of a proposed, but as yet un-submitted planning application and to invite members of the Planning Advisory Group to make a site visit. The second resident had attended a meeting held at the Webbington Hotel on Monday 8th March between representatives from the group "No Moor Pylons" and National Grid. Council was given a clear insight into the inadequacies of the present National Grid consultation process. This matter was discussed again within the main agenda.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr. Mrs Rix had apologised for her absence. This was accepted.
2. **Approval of minutes:** The minutes of the monthly meeting held on February 10th 2009 were approved unanimously by those present at that meeting and were signed by the Chairman as a true record.
3. **Members' Declarations of Interest:**
 - 3.1. Cllr Parker declared personal interest in any matters relating to planning issues at Wavering Down House as he had responded to the planning authority in his capacity as a possibly affected neighbour.
 - 3.2. Cllr Windmill declared a personal interest in item 7.3 as a friend of an owner of property abutting the Scaur's Path.
4. **Matters arising from minutes of the previous meeting:**
 - 4.1. Ref: Minute (4.2 – 02/10) The clerk had written to Mr Dean Harvey on the matter of the Lodge Memorial seat renovation giving authority for the bench to be removed if necessary.
 - 4.2. Ref: Minute (7.2 – 02/10) The clerk had spoken to the Axbridge lengths-man about the possibility of doing some tidying work on the parish, particularly at the bus stops. They would meet again after 15th March to see what arrangements might be made.
 - 4.3. Ref: Minute (5.3 – 02/10) The Clerk had obtained documents from Sedgemoor District Council (SDC) which set out the criteria and procedures for applying for RLT3 grants. Copies would be circulated to Finance Advisory Group members.
 - 4.4. Ref: Minute (7.4 – 02/10) Cllr. Windmill reported that not all "Sort-it Plus" boxes had been delivered within the anticipated time scale. He would check with his neighbour to see if this had now been done. If not the clerk was to be informed and he would in turn request prompt action from Somerset Waste Partnership.
5. **Finance:**
 - 5.1. **Monthly reconciliation:** The Council RESOLVED unanimously to approve the monthly reconciliation to 25th February presented by the clerk.
 - 5.2. **Payments due:** Council RESOLVED that all payments due and listed below should be made:

Clerk's salary etc. (Salary claimed at Scale Pt19 and includes "sundries")	£201.07
Tim Baker – grass-cutting as per delayed invoice*	£75.00
SALC annual subscription	£135.28

 - *It was noted that with payment of this invoice the total cost of grass-cutting for the year would be £10 more than the cost agreed at the meeting on 13th May 2009
 - 5.3. **Draft summary of annual accounts to 3rd March:** The clerk provided members with a draft summary document showing income and expenditure to date together with details of funds held in the council's three bank accounts. The clerk was asked to confirm that Mr. John Gravell was still willing to act as the council's external accounts examiner.
 - 5.4. **Somerset Levels and Moors Partnership:** The Chairman and Cllr. Warner had met a representative from the Partnership to explore how a bid might be made to fund a feasibility study in connection with the proposed footpath improvement between Cross and Axbridge. It is clear that any such bid/study would be closely connected with, or even dependent upon any changes on the A38 crossroads. Were the route to be usable as a cycleway it would be likely to attract support and perhaps funds from SusTrans. The Somerset County Council Public Rights of Way Officer was aware of the proposed project and would be willing to meet on site. It was agreed that Axbridge Town Council should be contacted to ensure that any such footpath improvement had its support.
 - 5.5. **SDC Future Funding:** Members of the Finance Advisory Group and others had met Ms. Allison Griffin of SDC to hear more about the District Council's ideas for gaining parish financial support for services likely to be cut in the next (2011-2012) Financial Year. Cllr Parker presented a report on this meeting which was noted and passed to the clerk for filing.
 - 5.6. **Hanging Basket competition:** It was agreed that Cllr. Mrs. Rix should be encouraged to manage the annual Hanging Basket competition and that as previously the parish council would provide prizes to the winners.
6. **Planning:** There were no current applications to consider.
 - 6.1. **Contravention of Planning Notice:** Members were told that SDC had issued a "Contravention of Planning Notice" to the developer at Wavering Down House. An Enforcement Notice may yet be issued.
 - 6.2. **Wheelwright and Gypsy Museum site:** SDC planning officers had recommended refusal of development at the site at Webbington, but following a site meeting District Councillors recommended permission be granted subject to some minor amendments.

- 6.3. **White Hart Inn Appeal:** An appeal against SDC's decision to refuse permission for change of use at the White Hart Inn had been dismissed by the Planning Inspector.
- 6.4. **Bristol International Airport Expansion:** Cllr Parker presented a paper on the current situation in respect of the proposed expansion at Bristol Airport, he also expressed some concern that the local area branch of CPRE had been inactive and had not commented on the expansion plans.
7. **Environment:**
- 7.1. **Community Land Project:** Cllr Windmill presented an updated report on the options now being considered. The survey of households conducted as part of the council's Autumn Newsletter had shown little support for allotments and so this aspect of the project would not be pursued at present. Support for a sports field/play area had received modest support, but the immediate problem in this scenario was to find a site suitable in size, terrain and situation close to population. A further meeting with Cross Connections was planned to get a better idea of that group's aspirations, which seemed to centre upon a play area and a cricket pitch in the same location.
- 7.2. **Scaur's Path:** There was nothing further to report.
- 7.3. **Notice boards:** Cllr. Rolfe would undertake some minor maintenance to try to seal the joints in the notice boards to see if that prevents ingress of water.
- 7.4. **National Grid routes for pylons:** Contact had now been established with the "No Moor Pylons" group and its chairman Mr. Paul Hipwell. The chairman was asked to contact the National Grid consultation team to express annoyance at not being invited to the local meeting at the Webbington Hotel on 8th. March. The chairman and Cllr. Parker were to meet representatives of Loxton and Winscombe parish councils.
- 7.5. **Dog fouling:** Signs had been provided by the SDC Dog Warden and had been put in place by Cllr. Rolfe. It was felt that these had already had some positive effect.
- 7.6. **AONB:** Cllr Parker reported that discussions on the re-organisation of the AONB were continuing.
8. **Highways:**
- 8.1. **A38 crossroads improvement:** SCC Highways and representatives of the Joint Parishes Group would meet at Cross Memorial Hall on 23rd. March. Correspondence from SCC seemed to indicate that no fresh ideas were to be put forward.
- 8.2. **Thanks:** The clerk was asked to thank SCC for recent works in the parish at the Memorial Hall (road repair), Butts batch (signage tidying) and A38 (island lighting repair). The clerk was to ask that stronger bollards be placed on the verge near the Coronation bus-shelter.
- 8.3. **Speed Indicator Device (SID):** The next installation of the SID would be somewhere in Old Coach Road and dates would be weeks beginning 12th. April, 9th. August and 6th. December.
- 8.4. **Wavering Down Farm access and related matters:** Councillors agreed that the largely negative response from SCC Highways to a request from Mr and Mrs Gaze of Wavering Down Farm that action should be taken about speeding vehicles in Webbington and Old Coach Roads was inadequate. The council would raise the matter again in writing and at discussions on March 23rd.
- 8.5. **Repair and maintenance:** SCC had acknowledged receipt of the council's recent status report and inspections would be made. The list of suggested works would be monitored by the parish council. Some concern was expressed at the failure of anyone to clear gullies in verges that allowed rainwater to run off into roadside ditches.
9. **Vacancy for Parish Councillor:** The council was pleased to have received positive advice from Ms. Wellman (Monitoring Officer) at SDC that to declare a vacancy following the disqualification of Mr. C. Byrne would be to act reasonably under the circumstances that the time allowed for appeal against his disqualification had now passed with no evidence of such an appeal having been made. Council RESOLVED that the clerk be instructed to place the statutory notices on boards in the parish as soon as possible. In the event that no election is called for within the 14 working day period allowed, then the council RESOLVED to co-opt a new member. The clerk was instructed to advertise that this would be the case as soon as this course of action becomes appropriate. Council would seek to co-opt at the April meeting.
10. **Annual Parish Meeting:** Mr. Dan Martin of SCC Highways had declined an invitation to speak at the Annual Parish Meeting. District and County Councillors Denbee and Ham would attend. The clerk was instructed to offer invitations to Somerset Waste Partnership (Steve Read), the local police and Dr. Sarah Ayling (Wildlife site). It was agreed that a Cray Charity report should form part of the agenda.
11. **Model Standing Orders:** The advice from SALC was to await a version of these Orders produced locally. The chairman and clerk would attend a meeting later in the month.
12. **Springfield Wildlife site:** It was confirmed that Cllr Rolfe would undertake renovation work on the bench at the site.
13. **Website:** It was agreed that now that the website had been running successfully for some while, its scope might be widened to include general parish information and notices of events.
14. **Correspondence:** All items had been dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.
15. **Date, time and place of the next monthly Meeting:** April 14th 2010 at Cross Memorial Hall at 19.30 hrs

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.55 hours.

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

14.4.10

Minutes of Compton Bishop Parish Council Meeting held on March 31st 2010 at Cross Memorial Hall

Present: Parish Councillors Farley (Chairman), Parker, Rolfe, Warner and Windmill; Paul Passey (Parish Clerk).

Public Participation: There was none

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr. Mrs Rix had apologised for her absence. This was accepted.
2. **Members' Declarations of Interest:**
 - 2.1. Cllr Farley declared personal interest in any matters relating to Mr. C. Byrne and to those items for discussion or adoption of which he was the author.
3. **Planning:** The Council considered the following application made to Sedgemoor District Council (SDC):

Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (As Amended)

Town and Country Planning General Development Orders 1995

Proposal: Erection of agricultural workers dwelling and garage

Location: On land at, Newland Farm, Cross Moor Drove, Axbridge

Applicant: Mr J and Mrs J Feltham

The Council RESOLVED to recommend to SDC that this application be refused and that the clerk should furnish SDC with a full copy of the Planning Advisory Group's report, which would be subject to some minor amendment following the discussions at the meeting.

4. **Highways Advisory Group:** Members noted a report of a meeting of the A38 Joint Parishes Group held on 23rd. March. It was agreed at this meeting that Somerset County Council Highways would hold a "drop-in" exhibition to set out its proposals for the cross-roads at Cross on 17th. May at Cross Memorial Hall. It was RESOLVED that the parish council would meet the costs of hall hire, not exceeding £25 and the cost of advertising the event, not exceeding £50.00.
5. **Declaration of vacancy:** The clerk had been assured by SDC Democratic Services, by telephone, that no request had been made to hold an election to fill the current vacancy on the council, and that therefore he would display notices seeking candidates for co-option by the council at its meeting on 14th. April just as soon as he had this information by letter.
6. **Draft Spring Parish Newsletter:** Councillors agreed that a newsletter should be produced and distributed by the first week in May. Cllr Parker undertook to produce a draft for comment.
7. **Grass-cutting:** A new grass-cutting schedule had been agreed with Tim Baker and subject to the clerk confirming his charges, this would be presented for ratification at the April meeting.
8. **Footpath from Cross to Axbridge:** A meeting had been held with SCC's Public Rights of Way Officer, Mr East on 30th. March, to discuss improvements to the footpath parallel to Cross Lane. A report was noted by members and it was RESOLVED to continue to seek the improvements as previously agreed by council.
9. **Hinkley Point - Briefing by SDC:** The chairman had attended a briefing by SDC on 24th March on the proposals for Hinkley Point. His report was noted. It was RESOLVED that the Council should give consideration to any impacts from the building project that might impact on the parish and that it would consider what projects the council would put forward if given access to the "benefits fund" when this is instigated.
10. **Hall Committee representative:** It was RESOLVED that Cllr Warner should be the Council's representative on the Cross Memorial Hall Committee for 2010/11
11. **Donation:** The Chairman, Cllr. Farley, had been paid a fee of £150.00, in his capacity as Chairman of the Council, for his appearance on a recent ITV programme, which dealt, amongst other matters, with the spate of complaints made about the Parish Council by a local resident. The Chairman had received the sum as a cheque made out to him personally. He had banked the sum and presented the Council with his cheque for £150.00 together with a voucher from ITV Services Ltd.
12. **Correspondence:** Cllr Parker drew members' attention to the most recent Local Development Framework proposals. These included changes in the designation of both Weare and Cheddar.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 16.35 hours.

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

DATE:

14.4.10

Minutes of Compton Bishop Parish Council Meeting held on April 14th 2010 at Cross Memorial Hall

Present: Parish Councillors Farley (Chairman), Mrs. Rix (Vice-Chairman), Parker, Rolfe, Warner and Windmill; Paul Passcy (Parish Clerk).

Public Participation: Three residents were present and the proposed erection of a dwelling at Newlands Farm was raised. The Chairman explained that this had been dealt with at the meeting on 31st. March and that the Parish Council had recommended to Sedgemoor District Council that it should be refused on a number of grounds that he outlined.

It was reported that a local resident had expressed gratitude for the recent clearance of the pond at Cross Quarry and for the improvement to gateways on National Trust land.

1. **Apologies for absence:** There were no apologies.
2. **Approval of minutes:** The minutes of the monthly meeting held on March 10th. and a special meeting held on March 31st. 2010 were approved unanimously by those present at that meeting and were signed by the Chairman as a true record.
3. **Members' Declarations of Interest:** There were none.
4. **Matters arising from minutes of the previous meeting:**
 - 4.1. Ref: Minute (~~7/4~~ - 03/10) The clerk was reminded of the need to circulate papers to members of the Finance Advisory Group in respect of RLT3 grant applications.
 - 4.2. Ref: Minute (~~7/4~~ - 03/10) It was noted that all recycling boxes now appeared to have been appropriately delivered within the parish.
5. **Finance:**
 - 5.1. **Monthly reconciliation:** The Council RESOLVED unanimously to approve the monthly reconciliation to 25th March presented by the clerk.
 - 5.2. **Payments due:** Council RESOLVED that all payments due and listed below should be made:

Clerk's salary etc. (Salary claimed at Scale Pt19 and includes "sundries")	£246.50
Cross Memorial Hall hire as per invoice	£47.00
Contact magazine annual donation	£250.00
 - 5.3. **Renewal of Council's insurance policy:** The policy previously with AXA had now been transferred by the company to AON and the premium increased. This would be due on June 1st and it was RESOLVED that the Finance Advisory Group should examine the new schedule and policy to see that it met the council's needs. A report would be made to the May meeting.
 - 5.4. **Annual Parish Audit process timetable:** The clerk set out the timetable for this process to co-incide with the requirements of Moore Stephens the external auditor, as follows:
 - 5.4.1. Clerk to display Notice of Electors' Rights by 16th. April
 - 5.4.2. Internal examiner (Mr. Gravell) to complete his inspection by 30th. April.
 - 5.4.3. Public inspection period to start on 30th. April.
 - 5.4.4. Parish Council to approve Annual Audit Return document at May monthly meeting.
 - 5.4.5. Public Inspection period to end on 28th. May.
 - 5.4.6. All Annual Audit papers to be returned to Moore Stephens (External Auditor) by 30th. June.
 - 5.4.7. Moore Stephens expected to report by 30th. September.
 - 5.5. **Improved Audit Trail:** The Council RESOLVED to accept a suggestion from the clerk that a quarterly scrutiny of payments against invoices and bank statements should be made by a member of the Finance Advisory Group. This would ensure that any discrepancies were identified earlier and make the job of the external examiner easier. This process would begin in readiness for the June meeting.
 - 5.6. **Grasscutting** The Clerk was instructed to speak once again to Tim Baker to clarify the agreed cost of cutting and to ask that when 8 cuts had been completed that he contacts the council to confirm what further work he anticipates.
6. **Planning:** There were no current applications to consider.
 - 6.1. **Contravention of Planning Notice:** Members were told that SDC had not found it necessary to issue an Enforcement Notice on the developer at Wavering Down House as the entrance had now been closed off.
7. **Environment:**
 - 7.1. **Community Land Project response to questionnaire:** Cllr Windmill had produced a detailed analysis of suggestions made by residents in their questionnaire responses. Each suggestion was discussed in turn. Some were seen as being either already in process or not matters for the parish council, but it was noted that:
 - 7.1.1. an extension of the pavement from Old Coach Road to the Coronation bus-shelter might be possible;
 - 7.1.2. that provision of footpath maps or improved signage might be useful to residents and visitors alike;
 - 7.1.3. that improved community transport might be possible through use of the "Slinky-bus" scheme;
 - 7.1.4. that an appeal to residents about limiting offensive bonfires might be included in a Parish Council newsletter;
 - 7.1.5. that were there to be any extra planting along verges that this might be more appropriate as wild, native flowers rather than large garden daffodils.

- 7.2. **National Grid routes for pylons:** The local joint parishes group had met again. Cllrs. Farley and Parker were to attend a workshop with the Independent Planning Commission on May 18th. Both hoped to be able to address the Commission.
- 7.3. **SeaGen presentation:** Cllrs. Farley, Parker and Windmill would attend a presentation at the Institute of Mechanical Engineers at Bristol on 29th. April, when there would be a presentation on power generation by undersca blade-driven turbines. These may be a viable alternative to the proposed Severn Barrage.
- 7.4. **Hinkley Point development:** Cllr Farley had attended a meeting at Sedgemoor District Council offices on 29th. March which set out some of the disadvantages and benefits likely to accrue from the proposed new generation plant at Hinkley Point.
- 7.5. **Aggregates questionnaire:** Cllr Parker was given authority to answer a recent questionnaire about aggregate extraction on the council's behalf.
8. **Highways:**
- 8.1. **A38 crossroads improvement- exhibition 17th. May:** SCC Highways would organise a "drop-in" exhibition at Cross Memorial Hall on 17th. May. This would be open to all surrounding villages to attend. It would be advertised to Compton Bishop parish residents by means of a leaflet drop. The Chairman would contact Dan Martin at SCC to confirm details.
- 8.2. **Vandalism and mess:** The clerk was instructed to contact the SDC Clean-up squad to remove rubbish at three points in the parish. The bin at the lay-by below Crook Peak had been vandalised.
- 8.3. **Cross to Axbridge footpath:** The clerk was instructed to write to Axbridge Town Council to ask for support in efforts to improve the pedestrian access between Cross and Townsend.
- 8.4. **Axbridge lengthsman:** The clerk reported that in principal the lengthsman at Axbridge Andy Laken was willing to undertake handyman tasks in Compton Bishop parish. The clerk would contact Axbridge Town Council to see if it might be appropriate for his work to be invoiced by the Town Council rather than by Mr Laken himself.
9. **Vacancy for Parish Councillor:** The council had received no formal applications from electors wishing to be co-opted. The clerk would make this clear in revised notices for the public boards. This matter would also be mentioned by the Chairman at the Annual Parish Meeting.
10. **Annual Parish Meeting:** The clerk had drawn up a draft agenda incorporating the AGM of the Memorial Hall Management Committee which would precede the Annual Parish Meeting. All households would be notified of the meeting via a leaflet to be distributed by councillors to all households early in week commencing 19th. April. Cllr. Parker and the Chairman would finalise this.
11. **Model Standing Orders:** Cllr. Rolfe agreed to take the Somerset Association of Local Council's version of the new Model Standing Orders and to recommend whether it should be adopted in its entirety, or with modifications and whether any locally produced orders should be added to it.
12. **Springfield Wildlife site:** Cllr Rolfe was undertaking renovation work on the bench at the site and an owl nesting box had been installed.
13. **Website:** Cllr Parker presented "hit figures" for the site, which he felt were not as high as he would have liked.
14. **Correspondence:** The council RESOLVED that Cllr. Warner would remain as the council's representative on the Memorial Hall Management Committee.
15. **Date, time and place of the next monthly Meeting:** May 12th 2010 at Cross Memorial Hall at 19.30 hrs

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.50 hours.

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

DATE:

19-5-10

Minutes of Compton Bishop Parish Council Meeting held on May 19th 2010 at Cross Memorial Hall

Present: Parish Councillors Farley (Chairman), Mrs. Rix (Vice-Chairman), Parker, Rolfe, Warner and Windmill.

Public Participation: Two residents, PC Pete Wills and District Councillor John Denbee in attendance. Mrs Gold expressed her thanks to the Parish Council for all their hard work for the A38 Junction exhibition. Mrs Woolley complained about the attitude of one Somerset County Council Officer, which was noted by Council. It was agreed that all the other SCC staff were very helpful and polite.

1. **Apologies for absence:** There were none. The Clerk had apologised for his absence – the minutes of the meeting were produced by Cllr. Parker.

2. **Election of Chairman and a Vice-Chairman** There were unanimous votes for Cllr Farley to continue as Chairman and Cllr Rix to continue as vice-chairman

It was proposed that item 7 on the agenda should be brought forward to this point. This was unanimously approved.

7. **Update from David Rosser of Somerset Waste Partnership** A full explanation of the reasons for the development of 'Sort-It Plus', the budget and programme was given. In response to questions from the public Mr Rosser explained that Somerset Waste Partnership could not re-cycle all types of plastic yet and those not presently acceptable go to land fill. Lids for black and green boxes could not be supplied because of their cost and potential frequent replacement when damaged or lost. Collectors have rejected some cardboard and it was accepted that staff need further training and experience in this and the issue of clearing dropped items. Assisted collection was provided for elderly/infirm who are unable to move bins to the roadside. Some areas have narrow access and new lorries are being acquired to accommodate these areas. Black bags should not be left outside overnight.

3. **Approval of minutes:** The minutes of the monthly meeting held on April 14th with one minor amendment were approved unanimously by those present at that meeting and were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

4. **Members' Declarations of Interest:** There was one.

5. **Matters arising from minutes of the previous meeting:** There were none.

6. **To approve membership of Advisory Groups for the following year :** The Chairman circulated an updated list of responsibilities which was approved unanimously.

7. See Item above

8. **Finance:**

8.1. **Monthly reconciliation:** The Council RESOLVED unanimously to approve the monthly reconciliation to 17th May as presented by the clerk.

8.2. **Payments due:** Council RESOLVED that all payments due and listed below should be made:

Clerk's salary etc. (Salary claimed at Scale Pt19 and includes "sundries" to the value of £58.80)	£307.11
SCC Highways SID	£100.00
St Andrew's Church	£150.00
Woodspring Resource Centre	£ 47.50

8.3. **To note comments and recommendations of the council's External Examiner:** Noted. There was a vote of thanks for Mr Gravell, our voluntary external examiner of accounts and appreciation of his willingness to continue in this role for a further year.

8.4. The half-year precept had been received into the Community Account direct from SDC. It was resolved that £2,000 should be paid into the Community Account and £1,400 into the Business Money Manager account.

8.5. **To approve documents to be submitted by the Clerk as part of the Annual Audit:** The finance AG received the documents to review and will seek to obtain approval at the June Council meeting. A copy of the return is to be made available for each councillor.

8.5.1. **To consider the appropriateness of the present insurance cover:** The review is in progress with the Finance AG and Clerk, which the Clerk is due to follow up.

8.6. **To note any further reports from the Finance Advisory Group:** There were none.

9. **Planning:**

Application 21/10/00003/NM May Cottage, Webbington Road: Cllr Rolfe explained the process adopted for planning application 21/10/00003/NM. The Planning AG had no objections to this application and their report, after gaining approval from all Councillors, was forwarded to the Planning Dept as the Councils' response. A retrospective vote of acceptance was unanimously agreed.

9.1. **District Councillor John Denbee on the subject of agricultural dwellings and the planning process:** Cllr Denbee provided an explanation of planning policy PPS7 for the benefit of all councillors. The Planning AG were aware of the policy and refers both to Sedgemoor District Council Planning department and their Policies and also Government guidelines when considering any application. Cllr Denbee recommended that the Council inform Sedgemoor District Council of any suspected breach of enforcement orders under policy PPS7.

9.2. **To consider possible alternative procedure for responding to SDC as consultees within prescribed timescales:** Cllr Farley explained that applications require a response from council within 21 days, which sometimes would require a special full Council meeting. Cllr Rolfe explained that, provided the Planning AG could find no reason for comment or objection then the action, as adopted for application 21/10/00003/NM, is in line with existing Standing Order policy 5.6a/5.6b.

10. **Environment:**

10.1. **To receive a report on the recent National Grid consultation at the Webbington Hotel (12th May):** Cllrs Farley, Parker, Warner and Windmill attended the meeting at the Webbington. The session was not a consultation but a presentation in support of NG's declared options. Parish Councils, action groups and organisations attended. The NG explained very carefully why undersea cabling was not acceptable to NG due

to the cost associated with the method. Their technical, financial and environmental stance on all options was severely questioned by those attending.

The IPC had invited Cllrs Farley and Parker, to attend a meeting at Sedgemoor Council Offices on 18th May 2010. The IPC took the opportunity to explain their role. National Grid gave a shortened presentation similar to that held at The Webbington. The attendees included Parish councils, action groups from Somerset and North Somerset, all MP's and highly qualified engineers and consultants in the field of power distribution. There was total criticism of the NG's consultation process and a lack of confidence in their technical, financial and environmental assessments. NG will be producing a CD of information for all groups in June/July and a closing date for comment is set at 23rd July. Community forums will be organised in the autumn of 2010 and their application is now due to go to the IPC in 2012. It was agreed that the Environment AG will co-ordinate a report on the consultation process for them.

10.2. To consider what action may be taken in respect of low-flying helicopters at night: Following complaints from two residents of Webbington Road, the Council is to write to Yeovilton to express concern. It is understood, from PC Wills that this was a training exercise for Afghanistan, the use of fields has to be approved by the landowner. Concerns were expressed over safety, the proximity of overhead cables and the disturbance of livestock.

10.3. To receive any further reports from the Environment Advisory Committee:

Motor and Quad bikes have been seen on the hills. This is an illegal activity and threatens the hills. The Somerset Hedge Group is asking for volunteers in a project to survey all hedges in Somerset. The Council would seek volunteers, as councillors were unable to accommodate this request from their resources.

The Mendip Hills AONB have a Sustainable Development Fund available and are looking for nominations for a member of the awards panel from within the Cheddar to Bleadon area.

11. Highways:

11.1. A38 crossroads improvement - exhibition 17th. May: This was a highly attended meeting with 211 visitors and a further 3 written comments from those unable to attend. SCC Highways are in the process of analysing the results of their questionnaire but an 'exit poll' shows that the majority of people do not support SCC's preferred option. Traffic lights 44%, Roundabout 21%, No right turn 16%, SCC 6%, other 10% were noted.

11.2. To note grass cutting arrangements: A schedule has been received from SCC Highways. A & B roads cutting 1st May-4th June and 26th July-13th Aug. C and unclassified 7th June-9th July

11.3. To note the proposed location of the Speed Indication Device: This was erected in the wrong location in April. Mr Grabham assures council that it will be in the correct position for the 9th August and 6th December.

11.4. To receive any further reports from the Highways Advisory Committee

The 'Frankie Howard OBE Trust' have asked the Council to support a rally of 50 - 100 classic cars, buses and scooters, which may wish to visit Wavering Down House and park along Old Coach Road. The Council, on advice from PC Wills, appreciate that this is an issue for the police and WS Atkins and will advise the Trust to contact the latter directly.

12. To consider any applications from residents wishing to be co-opted to the Parish Council: One application has been received from Dr. S Passmore. Mr Ormerod was expected to have applied, but no application had been received. It was unanimously agreed that Dr. Passmore, be co-opted. It was also agreed that Mr Ormerod, or any other interested resident would be welcome to express a wish to be linked as a non-voting member of the council to gain experience or become a member of an Advisory Group.

13. To consider ways of ensuring continuity of numbers of councillors beyond the May 2011 elections: Councillors should be seeking parishioners who may wish to stand for election next year. Expressions of interest for familiarisation in council matters would be welcomed from available or would-be candidates.

14. To consider intentions in respect of a Parish Plan: Cllr Parker produced a document and had contacted the Community Council. It was felt that the current VDS satisfies the need to develop a Parish Plan and that councillors were fully committed at present. Mr Jason Tilley will be advised accordingly.

15. To consider any matters raised by residents at, or following, the Annual Parish Meeting: Comments on A38 junction improvements were covered in the exhibition. Concerns over the actions of dog owners' regarding livestock on the hills has been dealt with by the National Trust. The police were requested to e-mail alerts on crime. They also advised on cold calling.

16. To receive a report from Cllr Rolfe on the recently updated Model Standing Orders provided by SALC: Cllr Rolfe had circulated amendments to the current Standing Orders. Comments to be received from all councillors by 26th May.

17. To receive a report from Cllr. Rix or from Dr Sarah Ayling in respect of the Springfield Wildlife Site: A working party is being organised to tidy the area. The wildlife diary will not be running this year.

18. To receive an update on the Council's website: Cllr. Parker requested council reports, in particular the A38 reports to be provided in electronic form so they can be posted on the web site providing information for parishioners.

19. To receive items of correspondence and to resolve actions as appropriate on any matters arising from this correspondence, not listed elsewhere on this agenda: A response is required to the questionnaire on Strategic Parish Clusters (10-05). A request for nominations for the Volunteer of the Year has been received from SDC.

20. To resolve the date, time and place of the next Council Meeting: 9th June, 2010

There being no further business the meeting closed at 22.17 hours.

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

DATE:9.6.10.....

Minutes of Compton Bishop Parish Council Meeting held on June 9th 2010 at Cross Memorial Hall

Present: Parish Councillors Farley (Chairman), Parker, Rolfe, Warner and Windmill. Dr. Sue Passmore signed her declaration of Acceptance of Office as a councillor (see item 3 below)

Public Participation: Mr Peter Ormerod had joined the meeting having expressed an interest in being co-opted as a non-councillor member of an Advisory Group.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr. Mrs. Rix had apologised for her absence and this was accepted.
2. **Welcome to new councillor:** Dr. Passmore, having completed her Acceptance of Office form was welcomed to the council by the Chairman.
3. **New documentation:** It was agreed that Cllr. Passmore should be provided with copies of Standing Orders and Code of Conduct papers following the meeting although it was likely that there would be changes to both sets of documents.
4. **Co-option to Advisory Groups:** Councillors agreed to the principle of co-opting non-councillors to join existing Advisory Groups.
5. **Approval of minutes:** The minutes of the monthly meeting held on May 19th were approved unanimously subject to the following amendment to item 8.4 ".....It was resolved that £2,000 should be paid into the Business Money Manager Account".
6. **Members' Declarations of Interest:**
 - 6.1. Councillor Farley declared a personal interest in item 10.1.2 .
 - 6.2. Councillor Parker declared a personal interest in item 10.3.
7. **Matters arising from minutes of the previous meeting:** It was agreed that the chairman of the Finance Advisory Group should receive a copy of all papers sent to Moore Stephens as part of the Annual Audit process.
8. **Finance:**
 - 8.1. **Monthly reconciliation:** The Council RESOLVED unanimously to approve the monthly reconciliation to 25th May as presented by the clerk.
 - 8.2. **Payments due:** Council RESOLVED that all payments due and listed below should be made:
Clerk's salary etc. (Salary claimed at Scale Pt19 and includes "sundries" to the value of £4.92, £150.78
 - 8.3. **Approval of Audit documents:** A completed Annual Audit form, previously examined by council and a note of "Explanation of Variance" provided to councillors was approved for presentation to Moore Stephens.
 - 8.4. **Insurance Policy:** Council approved recommendations put forward by Cllr Windmill on behalf of the Finance Advisory Group in respect of renewal of the council's insurance policy:
 - 8.4.1. The quoted annual premium of £532.48 should be paid to AON immediately.
 - 8.4.2. The insurers should be asked to ensure that the amount of cover provided should reflect both the number of street furniture items and the councils own current Asset Register values
 - 8.4.3. The insurers should be asked to effect Personal Accident cover for two councillors who are over 75 years of age.
 - 8.4.4. It was noted that these requests may involve some change in premium and so the clerk was asked to seek premium quotations from two further local authority insurers who may be able to effect comparable cover. These would be discussed at the July meeting.
9. **Planning:** There were no current plans for consideration.
 - 9.1. The clerk had been asked to request information from SDC planners about the status of a large caravan parked at Bramble Farm Webbington Road.
 - 9.2. **Delegation of powers to the clerk in respect of some planning matters.** Council re-affirmed its procedure for dealing with planning applications submitted for comment by SDC, which cannot be put on a regular monthly meeting agenda because of the need to respond within 21 days.
 - 9.2.1. Notice of the planning application under consideration will be placed on all 4-parish boards requesting comments from affected residents, or the applicant to be submitted to the Advisory Group.
 - 9.2.2. The application will be considered by the Planning Advisory Group and a recommendation produced for ratification at the next monthly meeting.
 - 9.2.3. The clerk, under the delegated power of this council minute, will inform SDC of the Advisory Group's recommendation when notified by the chairman of the group and confirm the formal decision of the full council immediately after the next full council meeting at which the Advisory Group's recommendation is adopted. This procedure is covered by the council's present Standing Order 5.6 which states;
Where a response by the Council is required to be issued before the next scheduled Parish Council meeting and does not compromise either the Village Design Statement or District planning statements, the following shall apply.
Where the Application is considered by the Clerk, Chairman and Planning Liaison Councillor to be of a minor nature and where no Councillor or member of the public has made comment or representation in writing, (through the Clerk or a Councillor or directly to the Planning Liaison Councillor) the response shall be prepared and issued by the Clerk based on the Planning Liaison Councillor's notes referred to in 5 above and such response shall be deemed the decision of the Council.

10. Environment:

- 10.1. **Response to the National Grid pylon proposals.** The council approved a response to the National Grid proposals produced by Cllr. Parker and directed that the clerk should provide copies to Sedgemoor District Council, Somerset County Council, The Infrastructure Planning Commission, Tessa Munt MP, National Grid, Mendip Hills AONB and the "No Moor Pylons Group"
- 10.1.1. It was noted that a new round of "drop-in" exhibitions was planned. Advertising posters were on the parish boards.
- 10.1.2. The chairman had produced an updated version of the diary of events attended by councillors in respect of the pylons issue. It was RESOLVED that the most affected residents in the Webbington area should receive a leaflet notifying them of the local NG "Drop in" meetings. The chairman would arrange printing and distribution at a cost no greater than £50.
- 10.2. **Maintenance of benches:** Council directed the clerk to write and thank Mr Dean Harvey for his work on the Lodge Memorial seat, which was now once again in position. In response to an enquiry from the Memorial Hall Management Committee, it was confirmed that at no time had Mr Harvey access to the Memorial Hall where a mess had been discovered on the floor. This appeared to be varnish. Cllr. Rolfe was thanked for his work on treating the bench in Springfield Wildlife site.
- 10.3. **AONB representation:** It was noted that Cllr Nigel Taylor from Cheddar Parish Council had been elected as the parish representative on the re-constituted AONB management committee. Cllr. Parker would write to congratulate him on his election and to remind him of the need to take forward the views of all the parishes in the AONB in an effective and unbiased manner.

11. Highways:

- 11.1. **A38 crossroads:** SCC had written to say that the analysis of responses at the May drop-in exhibition was underway. Councillors commented on the unsuitability of Old Coach Road from Weare (A38) to Webbington Road junction as a designated route within SCC's proposed no entry' scheme. Pedestrians would be in danger and the Bow Bridge was too narrow. The Chairman would write again to SCC to make these points.
- 11.2. **Classic car rally:** Council noted the intention of the "Frankie Howerd OBE Trust" to host a classic car rally on September 5th. In response to a letter from the Secretary of the Trust, the chairman had advised the organisers to seek police advice on parking issues.
- 11.3. **Weare footpath:** It was noted that the footpath alongside the A38 required spraying to reduce weed growth.

Note: The meeting was suspended (21.47hrs) in order that Mr Peter Ormerod might be invited to comment about joining one of the Council's Advisory Groups. The meeting was then re-convened (21.51hrs.)

- 11.4. Council RESOLVED that Mr. Ormerod should be co-opted to the Highways Advisory Group and that to that end the clerk should provide him in future with appropriate highways-related documents.
12. **Updated Model Standing Orders provided by SALC:** Council resolved to set up a Working Party to produce a revised set of Standing Orders, which would be concise and appropriate to the council's needs. The Working Party would consist of Cllrs. Rolfe, Farley, Windmill and the clerk. Cllr. Farley would discuss the matter of Standing Orders at the next SALC meeting on 26th June.
13. **Springfield Wildlife Site:** There was no report this month.
14. **Council's website:** Cllr. Parker reported some disappointment with the number of "hits" on the website and would look at ways of making the site better known in the community, perhaps by providing an up-dated (change-detection) system.
15. **Correspondence, not listed elsewhere on this agenda:**
- 15.1. The clerk was directed to contact David Grabham at SCC to ask the exact location of the SID as payment of the fee (£100) was thought to have been conditional on it not being in Old Coach Road Weare.
- 15.2. The clerk was directed to contact Melanie Wellman at SDC to ask if the Acceptance of Office declaration by a councillor could be changed to include words to bind them to observe the Parish Council's Standing Orders.
16. **Date, time and place of the next Council Meeting:** 14th July, 2010

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.15 hours.

SIGNED AS A TRUE RECORD:.....

E. Farley

.....Chairman

DATE:.....

14/07/10

Minutes of Compton Bishop Parish Council Meeting held on July 14th 2010 at Cross Memorial Hall

Present: Parish Councillors Farley (Chairman), Mrs. Rix (Vice-Chairman), Dr. Passmore, Parker, Rolfe, Warner and Windmill, Paul Passey (Parish Clerk).

Public Participation: Mr Peter Ormerod was present and offered suggestions and information on aspects of highways matters in the parish.

1. **Apologies for absence:** There were no apologies.
2. **Approval of minutes:** The minutes of the monthly meeting held on June 9th. 2010 were approved unanimously by those present at that meeting and were signed by the Chairman as a true record.
3. **Members' Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Windmill declared personal interest in a possible payment to Mr Dean Harvey (item 5.2 below) and Cllr Farley declared personal interest in item 8.1 (below) of which he was the principal author.
4. **Matters arising from minutes of the previous meeting:**
 - 4.1. Ref: Minute (15.2 – 06/10) The clerk reported that his enquiry of Ms Wellman at SDC about the wording of Declarations of Acceptance of Office as councillor had not yet received a reply. He would contact her again.
 - 4.2. Ref: Minute (10.1.2 – 06/10) It was noted that the £50 sum set aside under this minute was now no longer necessary, the circulation having been achieved by other means.
5. **Finance:**
 - 5.1. **Monthly reconciliation:** The Council RESOLVED unanimously to approve the monthly reconciliation to 25th June presented by the clerk.
 - 5.2. **Payments due:** Council RESOLVED that all payments due and listed below should be made:
Clerk's salary etc. (Salary claimed at Scale Pt19 and includes "sundries" - £14.59)
£252.08

Cross Memorial Hall hire as per invoice	£83.00
Tim Baker – grass-cutting	£50.00
CPRE subscription	£29.00
Dean Harvey – Lodge Memorial Seat materials against receipt provided	£22.63

Note: The Clerk will ensure that Mr Harvey is thanked for his work.
 - 5.3. **Transfer of funds:** Council RESOLVED to transfer the sum of £1,000.00 from the Business Money Manager Account to the Community Account immediately. The bank would be asked to inform the clerk once the transfer is complete.
 - 5.4. **Donation to St. Andrew's Church for churchyard maintenance:** Council RESOLVED to make a donation of £200 for the year 2010, having already made a retrospective donation of £150 in May of this year to cover 2009 expenses. It was the council's intention that for the foreseeable future annual donations should be of £200 and made after the annual parish precept has been received. The Clerk will write detailing the donation position as the Council understands it.
 - 5.5. **Annual Insurance premium:** After considering quotations for annual insurance from two other providers the council RESOLVED to continue for the current year with AON and to pay an additional premium of £62.58 to meet a request from the council to increase cover on street furniture.
 - 5.5.1. It was agreed to reconsider insurance provision in April 2011 well in advance of the next renewal date 1st June 2011.
 - 5.6. **Clerk's Contract of Employment:** All councillors had been provided with a copy of the clerk's Contract of Employment. It was RESOLVED that the chairman and Cllr. Warner would carry out an appraisal of the clerk's performance and report back to the council at the August meeting.
 - 5.7. **Memorial Hall fees:** The new fee structure for the hire of the Memorial Hall was noted. Monthly council meetings now cost £15 per session.
6. **Planning:**
 - 6.1. **Planning Application Reference 21/10/00004/NM** Marcombe, Old Coach Road; Council confirmed the Planning Advisory Group's recommendation that there should be no objection to this application. SDC had been informed by the clerk in line with Standing Orders.
 - 6.2. **Agricultural dwelling at Newlands Farm:** Councillors expressed their concern that a recent application to build a house at Newlands Farm had been permitted by SDC Planning Committee despite objections from the parish council, Axbridge Town Council, SDC planners, the Environment Agency and SCC Highways. In particular it was felt that the guidance in PPS7 had not been met. This states that there should be evidence that the "functional test" of economic viability had been met, although this had not been made available to the Parish Council. The guidance also states that dwellings that are unusually large in relation to the agricultural needs should not be permitted. A letter setting out these concerns has been sent to the chairman of SDC Planning Committee. It was agreed that a copy should be sent to Cllr Denbee who, it was felt, had been instrumental in persuading the Planning Committee to permit the development.
 - 6.3. **Possible contravention of planning rules:** Members were told that in response to an enquiry from the clerk SDC would be looking into the status of a large dwelling caravan parked at Bramble Farm.
7. **Environment:**

- 7.1. **National Grid routes for pylons:** The chairman had attended one of National Grid's open meetings on 16th June at Biddisham. A second opportunity for residents would be available on 23rd June. A comment questionnaire from National Grid had been completed. NG officials had made some mention of possible undergrounding of cables through the M5/Mendip gap at Webbington, but little reliance should be placed on these assertions at this stage. Three Councillors would attend a meeting at the Webbington Hotel on 22nd July. Letters had been received from Wraxall and Mark parish councils. A meeting at Yatton had suggested the setting up of a "fighting fund" in order to fund counsel in the event of any Public Enquiry. Cllr. Parker had produced a list of documents available on a CD provided by National Grid. The list was distributed to councillors.
- 7.2. **Somerset Levels and Moors Partnership:** Cllr Warner had attended a recent meeting of this group and had discovered that there were still funds available for the development of village, halls, small businesses etc. within the Partnership area. He had once again raised the issue of the development of the footpath between Cross Lane and Axbridge, which depends upon the decision to be taken about improvements at the A38 junction.
8. **Highways:**
- 8.1. **A38 crossroads improvement:** The Highways Advisory Group had produced a letter of response to SCC's latest proposals following the "drop-in" exhibition at Cross Memorial Hall on 17th. May. A meeting of the Joint Parishes group would be called in the near future.
- 8.2. **Speed Indicator Device (SID):** A site meeting was to be held with an officer from SCC on 21st July to agree the exact siting of the SID in August. Mr Peter Ormerod would be kept informed of the outcome, as he would be unable to attend.
- 8.3. **Matters for SCC Highways:** SCC had been informed of ivy growth on Bow Bridge, and of parking problems in Old Coach Road. Liam Gill (SCC) would be advised of vegetation obscuring speed limit signage in Webbington Road, one of which had been damaged and of a damaged direction sign at the A38. New bollards had been erected near the Coronation Bus shelter. The clerk was asked to discover from Cheddar Signs if the village sign in the company's possession could be repaired and held as a spare. The finger post at Big tree is facing the wrong direction and the rusty finger post outside village hall needs renovation.
9. **Standing Orders:** The chairman had been advised at a Somerset Association of Local Council's area meeting to adopt the Model Standing Orders recently provided. An appendix for local items would be the best way to proceed. A meeting of the Working Party on Standing Orders would be called by Cllr Rolfe as leader with Cllrs. Windmill, Farley and the clerk.
10. **Somerset County Council Chairman's Award for public service:** The chairman was delegated power to submit a nomination on behalf of the council for a local resident to receive this award.
11. **Springfield Wildlife site:** Cllr Rix reported that the site had been opened as part of the recent "Open Gardens" event.
12. **Website:** Cllr Parker was planning a meeting with Mr Patrick Freeman to re-vamp the website.
13. **Hauging Basket Competition:** Cllr Rix reported that she had arranged for a judge from Hutton (NAME??) to visit the village in mid-August. She had contacted Local Garden Centres to ask if they would donate small prizes.
14. **Correspondence:** Most items of correspondence had been dealt with elsewhere in the agenda.
- 14.1. It was noted that the recent proposals to change the District Council boundaries would make little difference to Compton Bishop other than Axbridge joining with other parishes becoming part of a larger ward having two members.
- 14.2. Attention of residents is drawn to the availability of the "Slinky" bus in the area.
- 14.3. The Clerk is to clarify the position regarding the emptying of the dog fouling bin by Bow Bridge.
- 14.4. The chairman is to write to Somerset Waste Partnership about the apparent waste of money when recently 6 vehicles and 14 people were seen weighing recycling bins.
- 14.5. County Councillor Alan Ham has organised the annual meeting at East Brent Village Hall on 22nd July, 2010. The chairman agreed to represent the Parish.
15. **Date, time and place of the next monthly meetings:** August 11th 2010 and SEPTEMBER 15th (3rd. Wednesday) at Cross Memorial Hall at 19.30 hrs

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.20 hours.

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

DATE:

.....11-08-10.....

Minutes of Compton Bishop Parish Council Meeting held on August 11th 2010 at Cross Memorial Hall

Present: Parish Councillors Farley (Chairman), Dr. Passmore, Parker, Rolfe, Warner and Windmill, Paul Passey (Parish Clerk).

Public Participation: No members of the public attended.

1. **Apologies for absence:**
2. **Approval of minutes:** The minutes of the monthly meeting held on July 14th, 2010 were approved unanimously by those present at that meeting and were signed by the Chairman as a true record.
3. **Members' Declarations of Interest:** There were no declarations of interest by councillors.
4. **Matters arising from minutes of the previous meeting:**
 - 4.1. Ref: Minute (14.3) The clerk had received no response in respect of the emptying of the dog-bin at Bow Bridge by SDC. He would contact Mr Aggett once more.
 - 4.2. Ref: Minute (8.3) The clerk had ascertained that the damaged village sign from the Webbington area could be repaired and was with Cheddar Signs. The company had confirmed that it would store the sign, at no charge, until such time as a spare was needed.
5. **Finance:**
 - 5.1. **Monthly reconciliation:** The Council RESOLVED unanimously to approve the monthly reconciliation to 25th July presented by the clerk.
 - 5.2. **Payments due:** Council RESOLVED that all payments due and listed below should be made:

Clerk's salary etc. (Salary claimed at Scale Pt19 and includes "sundries"	£194.19
Tim Baker – grass-cutting	£40.00
 - 5.3. **Annual Audit:** The clerk had been contacted by Moore Stephens and been asked for clarification on some matters. This having been satisfactorily done, he had been assured that the Audit Report was imminent. The Clerk was thanked for his efforts.
 - 5.4. **New cheque books:** The clerk had recently received new cheque books numbering from 100600, 100700 and 100800. The latter two books would not be required for a considerable time and the clerk would contact HSBC at Winscombe to ask that no more books be sent and to offer the unneeded books back to the bank. It was once again noted that cheques numbered 100500-100599 had not been received but HSBC now had sent confirmation that these have been cancelled
 - 5.5. **Clerk's Contract of Employment and annual appraisal:** The results of the clerk's annual appraisal were read out and approved. It was RESOLVED that the clerk's salary be increased from Point 19 to Point 20 of the relevant pay scale with effect from 1st April 2010. The clerk's work had been largely satisfactory and areas for change and improvement were noted. It was RESOLVED that the holiday pay element within the clerk's contract should be regarded as falling within the 20 hours per month for which he is currently paid.
 - 5.5.1. Members agreed that minutes of meetings produced by the clerk and chairman following meetings should be circulated and identified as "First Draft for comment by councillors". All councillor comments are to be received within 5 days of the circulation of this draft. A further amended set of minutes, which incorporates accepted councillor comments and which is to be identified as "Final Draft for Approval" will then be circulated for approval by councillors at the relevant meeting.
 - 5.5.2. Members asked that the clerk maintain a list of all relevant email correspondence and that this list be circulated together with the written correspondence list.
 - 5.6. **Devolution of service funding by SDC:** The clerk was asked to respond to SDC's suggestion of devolving the funding of some non-statutory services from district to parish councils. The council would consider funding the provision and emptying of dog-bins but was unable to make any further offers of help without knowing what currently is done by SDC within the parish and at what cost. The clerk would enquire particularly about the wildlife site, grass, trees and hedge cutting, amongst others.
6. **Planning:**
 - 6.1. **Planning Application Reference 21/10/00006/CJA** Erection of summerhouse, 11, Wavering Down Rise. The council recommended approval.
 - 6.2. **Planning Application Reference 21/10/00007/NM** Erection of 2 storey side extension 7 Church Lane, Compton Bishop. The council recommended approval.
 - 6.3. **Agricultural dwelling at Newlands Farm:** Members noted a further letter written by the chairman to Mr Atkinson (Planning) at SDC asking for further clarification about the decision making process in respect of the recent permission granted for Newlands Farm.
 - 6.4. **Possible contravention of planning rules:** SDC Planning Enforcement Officers had been looking into the status of a large dwelling caravan parked at Bramble Farm. The clerk was asked to find out what conclusions had been reached.
 - 6.5. **Planning Training:** Councillors would attend training at Bridgwater (28th September – Cllr. Rolfe) and Shipham (27th October – Cllrs. Farley Parker and Dr. Passmore).
 - 6.6. **New Government Planning Green Paper:** Cllr. Parker pointed out that the Local Development Frameworks, which previously guided local planning decisions, may be replaced under new Government proposals. Parish councils may be given powers to appeal against district council planning decisions.

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- 6.7. Cross Memorial Hall Management Committee wished to improve the appearance of the Hall reception area and requested that the Council Notice Board be stained to match. It was resolved that Council had no objection to this being undertaken by them.
- 6.8. A full planning application for a Haybarn at Shute Shelve had been requested by SDC.
- 6.9. The Government's new "Community Right to Build" proposal suggests that there will be a need to update or even replace the current Village Design Statement with a new Parish Plan. It was noted that there are no details for guidance yet published.
7. **Environment:**
- 7.1. **NG Connections - Pylons:** Sedgemoor District Council had invited the council to comment on Parish Council participation in a "Hinkley Point C Connection Group to comprise representatives from SDC, SCC and West Somerset. The clerk was asked to contact Paul Sobczyk by email to say that we consider our involvement on this group essential as the route, common to all current proposals, goes through the AONB in Mendip, in our parish. Cllr Parker would be nominated as the council's representative. The council's concerns are environmental, visual impact and the protection of the AONB and SSSI.
- 7.2. **National Grid connection:** A report and draft response to the Community Forums (CF) Inception Meeting was accepted. It was agreed that Cllr Parker and Cllr Windmill would apply to become members of the CF group to ensure the council is involved at all levels.
- 7.3. **Hinkley C Nuclear Development:** It was noted that the (public) community support meetings are in progress with the next ones at Bridgwater on 17th August, North Petherton on 19th August and Burnham on 26th August. Cllr Farley wished to represent the council at Burnham regarding the specific transportation issues. He was concerned that large quantities of quarried material might be required locally and moved by road along A38. The closing date for Stage 2 consultations is 4th October 2010.
- 7.4. NHS Somerset requested completion of a questionnaire concerning the local pharmacy. It was resolved that the chairman should reply with emphasis on the need for a safe footpath route to Axbridge.
8. **Highways:**
- 8.1. **A38 crossroads improvement:** A meeting of the Joint Parishes group had been called for 18th August at 19.30 in Cross Memorial Hall. An agenda was agreed.
- 8.2. **Speed Indicator Device (SID):** A report was tabled concerning a site meeting, which was held on 21st July. It was agreed to site the SID to the West of Cross Memorial Hall on the eastbound carriageway. The clerk was instructed to request that SCC review the legality of repeater signs and the need for posts in the Old Coach Road part of Cross. Future SID's may then be attached to them.
- 8.3. **Other Highways matters:** The chairman had completed a Winter Maintenance Questionnaire from SCC Highways. Concerns were expressed about parking at the New Inn. The chairman would contact the publican at the White Hart about items littering the highway. A collapsed drain had been reported in Butts Batch in Compton Bishop. A dangerous pothole had been reported at Newtown. It was noted that speed camera warning signs were to be removed within the county. SCC Highways would be asked to remove, as previously agreed, the redundant road name sign supports in the parish.
9. **Standing Orders:** This item was deferred to a future meeting.
10. **East Brent Ward Parish Chairmen's meeting:** The chairman's report of this meeting was noted.
11. **Cheddar Valley Cluster Group meeting:** Cllr Dr. Passmore reported on the meeting held at Shipham on 5th August. There had been discussion of the establishment of "No cold-calling areas" in parishes. This was thought to be a matter for inclusion in a council newsletter to establish if action was required.
12. **Community Transport:** The residents of the parish had been asked through a Neighbourhood Watch newsletter if it was felt there was a need for better volunteer community transport arrangements. To date there had been no clear response.
13. **Springfield Wildlife Site:** There was no report.
14. **Website:** Cllr Parker reported the number of "hits" on the site per week. 28 seemed to be less than encouraging. However there had been contacts from many parts of the world over the past few months.
15. **Correspondence:** The following issues were raised:
- 15.1. The clerk was instructed to discover how with the new insurance policy, the new schedule reflected the age profile of those covered by the policy for any personal accident whilst on council business.
- 15.2. Members would each complete and return individually a "Community Safety in Somerset" questionnaire.
- 15.3. An application for a partial road closure in Old Coach Road from the Frankie Howerd OBE Trust was noted. The closure would affect the long lay-by on 5th September. It would be used as parking for classic cars on a fund-raising rally. There was concern that residents in the affected stretch of road should be contacted by the organisers.
- 15.4. Information about grants for halls from Somerset Levels and Moors Partnership was passed to Cllr Dr. Passmore for onward transmission to the Memorial Hall Secretary.
16. **Date, time and place of the next monthly meetings:** September 15th (3rd Wednesday) at Cross Memorial Hall at 19.30 hrs

There being no further business the meeting closed at 22.05 hours.

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

DATE:.....15.9.10.....

Minutes of Compton Bishop Parish Council Meeting held on September 15th 2010 at Cross Memorial Hall

Present: Parish Councillors Farley (Chairman), Dr. Passmore, Parker, Warner and Windmill, Paul Passey (Parish Clerk).

Public Participation: *No members of the public attended.*

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr. Mrs Rix and Cllr. Rolfe had both apologised for absence, the reasons for which were accepted by the council.
2. **Approval of minutes:** The minutes of the monthly meeting held on August 11th, 2010 were approved unanimously by those present at that meeting and were signed by the Chairman as a true record.
3. **Members' Declarations of Interest:** There were no declarations of interest by councillors.
4. **Matters arising from minutes of the previous meeting:**
 - 4.1. Ref: Minute (5.6) The clerk was reminded of the need to obtain SDC's estimated costs for works/services carried out by the district council in the parish.
 - 4.2. Ref. Minute (6.3) The chairman had written to Mr Atkinson (SDC Development Control) and was awaiting further clarification about the process of granting planning permission recently at Newlands Farm.
 - 4.3. Ref. Minute (6.3) Cllr. Passmore asked that the matter of "no cold-calling" zones raised last month be included in the next council newsletter. The clerk would ask the local police to attend the October meeting to explain the procedure in setting up such a zone.
5. **Finance:**
 - 5.1. **Monthly reconciliation:** The Council RESOLVED unanimously to approve the monthly reconciliation to 25th August presented by the clerk. This included a pay adjustment backdated for a period of 18 weeks.
 - 5.2. **Payments due:** Council RESOLVED that all payments due and listed below should be made:

Clerk's salary etc. (Salary claimed at Scale Pt20 and includes "sundries")	£251.81
Clerk's pay adjustment (18 weeks since April on scale 20)	£28.44
Tim Baker – grass-cutting	£45.00
 - 5.3. **Citizens Advice Bureau:** Council RESOLVED to make a donation of £50.00 to Citizens' Advice Bureau.
 - 5.4. **Website costs:** It was RESOLVED that council would meet costs of renewing the website hosting and domain name in a sum of up to £50.00. The clerk could expect to receive invoices from Mr Patrick Freeman.
 - 5.5. **Transfer of funds:** Council RESOLVED that a transfer of £400.00 from the Business Money Manager Account to the Community Account should be arranged by the clerk as soon as possible.
 - 5.6. **Annual Audit:** Moore Stephens, the council's external auditors, had provided their report and there were no issues for action. It was agreed that the Audit Fee of £141.00 should be paid. The council expressed its thanks to the clerk and to Mr John Gravell (internal auditor) for their work on this.
 - 5.7. **Insurance for older councillors:** AON, the council's insurers, had confirmed that currently any councillor over the age of 75 would not be covered for personal accident whilst on council business. Cllrs. Farley and Warner declared a personal interest at this stage and took no further part in the discussion. In order to obtain cover, the councillors concerned would need to provide medical certificates from their doctors, or other evidence of fitness. It was RESOLVED that the council should meet all reasonable costs associated with obtaining personal accident cover for all councillors over the age of 75.
 - 5.8. **Budget setting:** The clerk was thanked for providing initial data to assist with budget setting and the Finance Advisory Group would meet shortly to produce a more detailed estimate for the year 2011/12.
 - 5.9. **New cheque books:** The clerk had discussed the excess of cheque books provided by HSBC bank. On the banks advice the spare books would be held safely by the clerk and used in sequence, although it was recognised that this may be over a substantially long period.
 - 5.10. **SDC funding workshop:** Two councillors and the clerk declared their intention of attending a meeting at Axbridge on 11th October to hear more about proposals by SDC to meet the cuts in expenditure that may be necessary.
 - 5.11. **Funding for volunteer groups:** The clerk was asked to forward material to the chairman of Cross Connections about a conference on funding advice. Mrs Settle would be asked to provide feedback to the council, should any member of Cross Connections attend.
6. **Planning:** The following applications forwarded by SDC were discussed as consultees:
 - 6.1. **REFERENCE:21/00009/NM**

Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (As Amended)
Town and Country Planning General Development Orders 1995
Proposal: Erection of two storey rear extension
Location: The Cottage, Kennel Lane, Webbington, Axbridge, BS2621IS
Applicant: Tiarks Property Developments Ltd
 - 6.2. **REFERENCE:21/000010/NM**

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Proposal: Erection of two storey rear extension
Location: The Cottage, Kennel Lane, Webbington, Axbridge, BS2621IS
Applicant: Tiarks Property Developments Ltd

It was RESOLVED to recommend to SDC that these applications should be refused; also that a letter received by council from the tenant of the property should be forwarded to the planning officer.

6.3. **Caravan at Bramble Farm:** Notification had been received from SDC that the dwelling caravan sited at Bramble Farm had the appropriate planning consent.

6.4. **Local Development Framework:** Cllr. Parker would attend a workshop at North Petherton on 18th November to gain further information about Local development Frameworks in the light of possible government changes to planning law.

Note: At this point (20.25) the meeting was suspended to hear from Cllr Nigel Taylor of Cheddar Parish Council as the local parish representative on the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership Committee. He assured council that he would take forward any views from the parish and report back regularly. Cllr. Taylor confirmed that parishes could send representatives to meetings but they could not vote. He would aim to visit all parish councils at least once per year. The meeting resumed at 20.45.

7. **Environment:**

7.1. **Community Project:** Cllr. Windmill confirmed that discussions were still ongoing with a local landowner about the possible occasional use of an area for sporting and similar events. It was anticipated that a best way forward would be to attempt to bring together the landowner and representatives of Cross Connections.

7.2. **NG Connections – Pylons:** The first phase of consultations was now ended and the Community Forums were being established. Other parishes were now beginning to join in but there had been some difficulty in ensuring a consensus of opinion on such matters as the possible undergrounding of cables, which might necessitate some very considerable and intrusive structures in open country above ground.

7.3. **Fly-tipping:** The instance of fly-tipping in Cross had apparently been dealt with.

7.4. **Listed buildings in the parish:** Cllr. Parker had a list of listed buildings which he would forward to councillors.

7.5. **AONB Annual Forum and questionnaire:** Cllr Parker would attend the annual forum on behalf of the parish. He would also complete an online questionnaire

7.6. **Cross Quarry problems:** Cllr Parker had informed the police of various inappropriate activities, including under-age drinking in a public place, taking place at the Cross Quarry on National Trust land.

8. **Highways:**

8.1. **A38 crossroads improvement:** Minutes of a meeting of the Joint Parishes group held on 18th August had been circulated to members of the Highways Advisory Group and had resulted in some disagreement between SCC officers and the council about the need to replace kerbstones on the west side of Cross Lane. Further discussions were ongoing. It was assumed that SCC intends to erect electronic warning signs on the approaches to the cross-roads and to re-mark the hatched areas on the A38.

8.2. **Site meeting at Cross:** The Chairman had met Chris Betty of SCC in Cross to discuss the present siting of 30 mph speed signage and the possible re-siting of some. The erection of new poles might permit the Speed Indicator Device to be put in a more suitable position in the village street. It was also suggested that some redundant signs might be removed where the hazard was not considered great if the speed limit were being observed.

8.3. **Bow Bridge ivy:** SCC had no plans to remove the ivy on Bow Bridge.

9. **Possible co-opted member for Advisory Groups:** The chairman would make contact with Mr Peter Laney to ask if he would care to become a co-opted member of the council's Environment Advisory Group.

10. **Springfield Wildlife Site:** There was no report.

11. **Autumn newsletter:** Cllr Parker would prepare an early draft newsletter and asked that councillors put forward ideas for topics to be covered.

12. **Correspondence:** The following issues were raised:

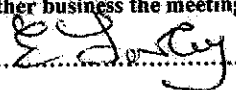
12.1. The clerk and chairman would ensure that copies of a recent letter from SDC setting out the criteria for acceptable roadside advertising and the penalties for illegal "fly-posting" were sent to local organisations and groups that advertised events in that manner.

12.2. Mrs. Tessa Munt MP had sent information in respect of her contact numbers and surgeries. A copy would be placed on the public board and information condensed for other parish council boards along with contact details for SDC and SCC councillors.

12.3. The SALC AGM would be on 25th September but no councillors would be able to attend.

13. **Date, time and place of the next monthly meetings:** October 13th at Cross Memorial Hall at 19.30 hrs

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.55 hours.

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

DATE:13-10-10.....

Minutes of Compton Bishop Parish Council Meeting held on October 13th 2010 at Cross Memorial Hall

Present: Parish Councillors Farley (Chairman), Mrs Rix (Vice-Chairman), Parker, Rolfe and Windmill, Paul Passey (Parish Clerk).

Public Participation: No member of the public addressed the council.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllrs. Dr. Passmore and Warner had both apologised for absence, the reasons for which were accepted by the council.

2. **Approval of minutes:** The minutes of the monthly meeting held on September 15th. 2010 were approved unanimously by those present at that meeting and were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

3. **Members' Declarations of Interest:** Cllr. Mrs. Rix declared a personal interest in the planning application to be discussed.

4. **Matters arising from minutes of the previous meeting:**

4.1. Ref: Minute (8.3) The clerk had contacted SCC Highways (Liam Gill) about the removal of ivy from Bow Bridge after the last meeting and was instructed to make contact again to seek authority to cut the ivy stems near their base noting that this may also require permission from the owner of a neighbouring property.

4.2. Ref. Minute (11) Cllr. Parker had produced a draft newsletter which was distributed to councillors for further comment or additions. It was intended to present a final draft for approval at the November meeting.

5. **Finance:**

5.1. **Monthly reconciliation:** The Council RESOLVED unanimously to approve the monthly reconciliation to 25th September presented by the clerk.

5.2. **Payments due:** Council RESOLVED that all payments due and listed below should be made:

Clerk's salary etc. (Salary claimed at Scale Pt20 and includes "sundries")	£195.59
Cross Memorial Hall – hire	£60.00

5.3. **Insurance for older councillors:** AON, the council's insurers had been contacted by the clerk and asked to quote for cover for any councillor over the age of 75 whilst on council business. To date there had been no response. Cllr. Farley had made arrangements to provide a letter from his doctor.

5.4. **Budget setting:** The Finance Advisory Group had met and submitted a report providing recommendations, which were noted. It was proposed that a lower precept be set than that for the current year. This was agreed in principle, subject to Sedgemoor District Council providing accurate information about the cost of services currently provided to the parish, for which the Parish Council may eventually take responsibility and for formal approval at its November meeting. The clerk was instructed to seek such information within the next 14 days and also to ask for exact details of the ownership, funding and responsibility for the maintenance of the Springfield Wildlife Site.

5.4.1. An amount had been set-aside in the 2011/12 budgets to cover the costs of a possible election. The clerk explained that this might occur should the full complement of 7 councillors not be forthcoming as a result of the May 2011 elections and unfilled places were not to be filled by co-option. This may not be possible if 10 electors of the parish were to request a subsequent election.

5.4.2. The Clerk confirmed that 20 hours per month was the required time he needed to complete Council work.

5.4.3. Present members of council were asked by the Chairman to let the clerk know, in confidence, whether or not they intend to stand for election in 2011.

5.5. **Request for donation:** The council RESOLVED to make a donation of £50, the same amount as in 2007 to Weare and District Scouts to help defray costs of scouts and leaders attending a Jamboree in Sweden.

Note: At this point (19.45) the meeting was suspended to allow a resident, Mr Peter Laney, to discuss with councillors his willingness to join, as a co-opted member, one of the council's Advisory Groups. He was invited to join the Environment Group and he accepted. The meeting resumed at 19.55.

6. **Planning:** The following applications forwarded by SDC were discussed as consultees:

6.1. Ref. no; 21/10/00012/NM
Erection of single storey extension to east elevation, conversion of further areas of loft to living accommodation, installation of bay windows, formation of covered porch and erection of detached double garage.
Location: Peak View Webbington Road Compton Bishop
Applicants: Mr & Mrs P Mohan

It was RESOLVED to recommend to SDC that this application should be granted.

6.2. **Newland Farm:** A letter from SDC Chief Planning Officer, Mr Steve Atkinson, had been received which explained that there was no appeal mechanism available against a decision to grant permission for a dwelling at Newland Farm, which had been opposed by all consultees, including the Environment Agency, SCC Highways and parish councils. The Planning Committee members had over-ruled the advice of officers that it should be refused and had appeared to mis-interpret parts of the Planning Guidance (PPS7). It was agreed that this matter should be pursued further and the Chairman would respond to Mr Atkinson, with a copy to the Chief Executive of SDC and the local MP to explain the council's dissatisfaction with the situation. Councillors were particularly concerned that professional and local advice can be set aside and the planning process subverted so easily.

6.3. **Local Development Framework:** Cllrs. Parker, Rolfe and Farley had attended a presentation at Axbridge Town Hall on 11th. October concerning the Local Development Framework Preferred Options for Sedgemoor. Cheddar has managed to change its designation, in the Core Strategy, from a Market Town to Village thus negating the proposal in the Core Strategy to set a target of 200 new houses. Amongst many requests was a requested change from Weare Parish to be considered as a "sustainable settlement" in order to increase local development opportunities. All of these possibilities would put extra strain on existing infrastructure – schools, medical facilities and transport, but there appeared to be no plan to create new infrastructure either in advance or alongside these developments and Council wished to emphasise that in its opinion infrastructure provision in advance of developments was a necessary requirement.

6.3.1. Cllr. Parker was asked to respond within the consultation process, which ends early in November, and to stress the particular effects such developments would have on the Parish of Compton Bishop in the light of possible government changes to planning law.

7. **Environment:**

7.1. **Community Project:** Cllr. Windmill reported that discussions with a local landowner had resulted in an offer to make land available, but not to sell or lease it, but allow its occasional use for an area for sporting and similar events. Cllr. Windmill was asked now to bring together the landowner and representatives of Cross Connections. The council felt that its role in both an allotment and a play area scheme had now been fulfilled, but would continue to be supportive of any future proposed ventures. The Chairman thanked all councillors for their efforts who had been involved with this work.

7.2. **NG Connections – Pylons:** The Community Forums had not been established and the process had not achieved its target. Neither the nominations for participants nor the formation of a Steering Group was moving forward. Cllr Parker was trying to establish whether he was to be regarded as a parish council representative on the forum or as an interested individual. He had suggested to a resident from Kennel Lane that a local action group should apply for membership of Community Forum Group 2. A very good report has been presented by Wraxall and Failand Parish Council, which set out the financial advantages of underground Gas Insulated Line (GSL). This option had not been considered by National Grid.

7.3. **Hinkley Point "C":** SDC had rejected a number of the proposals being put forward by EDF. After an enquiry by CBPC regarding airborne nuclear pollution, EDF has given assurances that the strict Government guidelines on possible fall-out from any nuclear incident at the site had been met in their proposals.

7.4. **"No cold-calling" zone:** PC Wills had indicated that he would be happy to attend the November meeting of the council to set out the procedure for creating a "no cold-calling" zone. The clerk was instructed to confirm his attendance and put posters advertising this discussion on notice boards.

7.5. **AONB Annual Forum and questionnaire:** Cllr Parker would attend the annual forum on behalf of the parish. He would also complete an online questionnaire

7.6. **Listed buildings in the parish:** Cllr Parker had circulated details of listed-buildings in the parish for the Clerk's and Councillors' future reference. The Bishop's Path was to be added to the list.

7.7. **Overhanging vegetation:** The chairman wished to thank the resident who had ensured that the excessive vegetation causing a sight-line hazard for Eastbound traffic on the north side of Old Coach Road, Cross had been cut back

7.8. **Criteria for the establishment of National Parks:** Cllr Parker had circulated the criteria, relevant to Compton Bishop Parish by which AONB's are designated.

7.9. **Bristol International Airport development:** Cllr Parker had enquired about SCC's action in response to North Somerset's approval of BIA's expansion plans for proposed development at the airport, with regard to the impact on local infrastructure. Cllr Alan Ham (SCC) has investigated and will report back on the proposed discussions between SCC and North Somerset Council. Cllr Parker expressed his thanks to Cllr Ham for his efforts.

7.10. **Cross Quarry:** PC Wills and a PCSO were thanked for visiting the quarry to investigate the misuse by visitors that had been previously reported. The police would like to be kept informed, especially when activities were taking place, so that they can check particularly on any under-age drinking. National Trust prefers to keep this issue on a "low-key" basis.

7.11. **Parish Plan:** Cllr. Parker informed the meeting that Village Design Statements (VDS) are accepted as a supplementary guidance for the parish. Parish Plans do not have the same status so there is no urgency to develop such a plan. It was suggested that a review of the existing VDS and the possibility of creating a Parish Plan would best be progressed by the next Parish Council after May 2011.

8. **Highways:**

8.1. **A38 crossroads improvement:** SCC officer Dan Martin had assured the Chairman that the Highways Authority would respond shortly to the latest council position on works at the A38 cross-roads.

8.2. **Alvis contractors:** A complaint had been received concerning the random discharge of load whilst "Fast-trac" tractors belonging to contractors who were undertaking corn harvesting passed through the village. It was agreed that the parent company should be advised of this situation and the Council's concerns, as this was not the first time.

8.3. **Highway encroachment:** SCC is to be asked whether or not the practice of curtilage marking with stones close to the highway is acceptable practice.

9. **Springfield Wildlife Site:** There was no report.

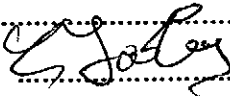
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10. **Council website:** There was no report. The council re-iterated its policy of not including material of a commercial nature on the site, either directly or as a website link and that every effort must be made to ensure any item published was as factual as possible..
11. **Correspondence:** All items of correspondence had been dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.
12. **Date, time and place of the next monthly meetings:** November 10th at Cross Memorial Hall at 19.30 hrs

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.45 hours.

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

DATE:


.....
10-11-10

Minutes of Compton Bishop Parish Council Meeting held on November 10th 2010 at Cross Memorial Hall

Present: Parish Councillors Farley (Chairman), Parker, Warner and Windmill, Paul Passey (Parish Clerk).

Public Participation: One member of the public was present together with PC Pete Wills, who explained the process by which a "No Cold-calling Zone" might be established in the parish (reported at agenda item 7.2 below).

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllrs. Rix, Passmore and Rolfe had apologised for absence, the reasons for which were accepted by the council.
2. **Approval of minutes:** The minutes of the monthly meeting held on October 13th. 2010 were approved unanimously by those present at that meeting and were signed by the Chairman as a true record.
3. **Members' Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Farley expressed a prejudicial interest concerning item 5.3
4. **Matters arising from minutes of the previous meeting:** There were none.
5. **Finance:**
 - 5.1. **Monthly reconciliation:** The Council RESOLVED unanimously to approve the monthly reconciliation to 25th October presented by the clerk.
 - 5.2. **Payments due:** Council RESOLVED that all payments due and listed below should be made:

Clerk's salary etc. (Scale Pt20 and includes "sundries")	£200.51
Tim Baker – grass-cutting	£85.00
 - 5.3. **Insurance for older councillors:** AON, the council's insurers had informed the clerk that personal accident cover for any councillor over the age of 75, while on council business, would not require additional premium if each councillor concerned could provide a letter from his doctor confirming his fitness to carry out council duties.
 - 5.3.1. Council RESOLVED to re-imburse Councillor Farley the sum of £15.00, paid by him to Axbridge Medical Practice for such a letter.
 - 5.4. **Sedgemoor District Council (SDC) budget:** SDC had confirmed that they intended to formally request parishes to take on the costs of dog-bin emptying, but no other of its non-statutory services in the next financial year. Compton Bishop had added a sum in its draft budget to meet the cost of installing one further dog-bin and the emptying costs of two.
 - 5.4.1. It was RESOLVED to request that SDC install, and maintain/empty a new dog-bin at the foot of the Scaur's Path and attach it to the existing PROW finger post. The landowner, Compton Bishop Estates would be informed of this request as a matter of courtesy and asked for a donation towards the cost of its installation. These costs had been included in the 2011/12 budget.
 - 5.5. **Arts funding in Somerset:** The council agreed to write to Somerset Arts Work to express support for its campaign against withdrawal of some financial support by Somerset County Council (SCC) and to write to local supporters of the arts in the parish to discover their views.
 - 5.6. **Precept:** Council RESOLVED to request a precept of £6,500.00 from SDC for the financial year 2011/12.
6. **Planning:** The following application forwarded to the council by SDC for comment as consultees was discussed:
 - 6.1. Ref. no: 21/10/00011/CJA
**Erection agricultural worker's dwelling and garage
Newland Farm, Cross Moor Drove, Axbridge
Mr & Mrs J Feltham**

It was RESOLVED to recommend to SDC that this application should not be granted. A copy of the Planning Advisory Group's report, together with a copy of the Village Design Statement would be sent to the Planning Officer.
 - 6.2. **Concerns about agricultural dwelling:** Council approved a draft letter from the chairman to SDC Planning Committee Chairman, Cllr. Filmer. This set out the council's serious misgivings about the way in which a decision to grant permission for a dwelling at Newland Farm had been dealt with. The lack of a simple cost-effective appeal mechanism for the parish council to invoke was seen as a major weakness in the process.
 - 6.3. **Local Development Framework:** Cllr. Parker would respond to the online consultation in respect of the Sedgemoor Local Development Framework - proposed submission Core Strategy document in the terms expressed at the October meeting of the parish council. He also gave out documents relating to our response which gave ^{the} authority to respond.
 - 6.4. **Planning Training meeting:** The chairman had attended a training session on planning at Shipham on 27th October. to hear about **forthcoming changes to planning regulations**. A number of questions of local interest were raised with SDC officers. The issues raised included agricultural dwelling permissions, establishment of infrastructure to support planned development, rules about advertising signs and about the installation of solar panels, which if protruding less than 200mm from the roof required no permission.
7. **Environment:**
 - 7.1. **National Grid Connections – Pylons:** The Community Forum was due to meet on 22nd. November. Representatives from the parish would be Cllrs. Parker and Windmill together with Mr Mike Peel of Kennel Lane. The councillors would need to establish if they were attending the forum as representatives of the council or as individual residents. National Grid will not now conclude its consultations until additional work has been done on underground and sub-sea options. The Community Forum was

due to meet for the first time on 22nd November at Yatton RFC, under the chairmanship of a 'Planning Aid' volunteer.

- 7.2. **"No cold-calling" zone:** PC Wills explained the process by which a "no cold-calling" zone could be established to cover the parish. Council RESOLVED to support the attempt and an explanatory letter to all residents, provided by Sedgemoor Safer Homes and the police, would be circulated with the forthcoming newsletter. If there were any objections to the proposal from residents these could be aired at the Annual Meeting in April. PC Wills also mentioned his intention to place a "letter box" in three places in Axbridge where residents could post notes about any policing issues for his attention.
- 7.3. **Newsletter:** Cllr. Parker informed the meeting that the newsletter was waiting on councillors for completion of one section. He requested everyone checked it out quickly as the chairman was concerned that the note on cold calling from PC Wills should be delivered, along with the newsletter, soon, to give parishioners chance to respond by the 24th December to the questions posed.
- 7.4. **AONB Annual Forum:** Cllr Parker and Mr Peter Laney had enrolled to attend the AONB Annual Forum but the meeting was cancelled due to a general lack of interest
- 7.5. **Farm machinery on parish roads:** The clerk had written to Alvis Brothers about uncovered harvesting trailers and alleged excessive speed along Old Coach Road. This had elicited a response and raised further questions to which the clerk and chairman would reply.
- 7.6. **Community Land Project:** Cllr Windmill reported that he had now facilitated discussions between Mr Brendan Flood of Bramble Farm and Mr Ryan Scantlebury of Cross Connections, regarding Mr Flood's willingness to consider making land available for occasional village events. This concluded the Community Land Project Group's work and Cllr Windmill was thanked by the chairman for his efforts in this matter.
- 7.7. **Severn Barrage:** Cllr. Parker reported that the proposal to build a Severn Barrage had been laid to one side until at least 2015.
- 7.8. **Hinkley "C":** The recent exhibitions organized by EDF to show proposals for the Hinkley Point "C" power station had attracted 3000 visitors. The council had received a letter, delivered to Cllr Parker, thanking council for its response to the consultation which is entering its next phase.
- 7.9. **Holiday period waste collections:** Somerset Waste Partnership's amended collection schedules for the holiday periods until May Bank Holiday 2011 would be displayed on the website and on parish boards.
3. **Highways:**
- 8.1. **A38 crossroads improvement:** Martin Mills of SCC had informed the chairman that no money was now available for any work on A38 cross-road improvements and that the anticipated warning lights for which councillors believed funding had been "ring-fenced" from the 2010/11 budget would not be installed for the time being. The chairman would write to SCC to express the council's concern at this decision.
- 8.2. **Winter gritting programme.** Only the A38 through the parish was listed as a "primary route" for the gritting and salting plan². SCC would be asked to place the school bus-route on any "secondary route" list - to be dealt with if there were to be prolonged snow/ice and to confirm what arrangements there are with local farmers. It was noted that four salt and grit bags had been supplied.
- 8.3. **Footpath to Axbridge:** Council was informed by the clerk that the improvement of the footpath and connecting public right of way from Cross to Axbridge was listed on the Local Transport Plan, but was a low priority.
- 8.4. **Road condition survey:** The chairman would carry out a full survey of roads in the parish before the next meeting and forward his observations to SCC Highways.
- 8.5. **Bow Bridge Ivy:** The clerk reported that SCC had no objection to the cutting back of ivy at Bow Bridge and it was reported that a neighbouring landowner had also agreed to this being done.
9. **Springfield Wildlife Site:** There was no report. It is believed that the site belongs to SDC.
10. **Council website:** Cllr Parker reported on the current hit rates and the keywords which were used to enter our site. He felt there was a need to encourage more people to look at the site.
11. **Boundary Commission changes:** The Boundary Commission had recommended that in future a new Ward of "Axe Vale" would be represented at SDC by two councillors with Axbridge now joining up with its neighbouring parishes to the west.
12. **Correspondence:**
- 12.1. Chairman would attend meetings of the Cheddar Valley Cluster Group (18th November) and that of Somerset Association of Local Councils (2nd. December)
- 12.2. Cllr Parker raised the issue of the Queens Diamond Jubilee celebrations for 2012, further consideration of this matter will be given at a later date.
- 12.3. All items of correspondence had been dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.
3. **Date, time and place of the next monthly meetings:** December 8th at Cross Memorial Hall at 19.30 hrs
There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.50 hours.

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

DATE:.....


Minutes of Compton Bishop Parish Council Meeting held on December 8th 2010 at Cross Memorial Hall

Present: Parish Councillors Farley (Chairman), Rix (Vice-Chairman), Passmore, Rolfe, Parker, Warner and Windmill, Paul Passey (Parish Clerk).

Public Participation: *There were no members of the public present.*

1. **Apologies for absence:** There were none
 2. **Approval of minutes:** The minutes of the monthly meeting held on November 10th. 2010 were approved unanimously, subject to the amendment of two typographical errors (6.3 & 8.5), by those present at that meeting and were signed by the Chairman as a true record.
 3. **Members' Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Windmill expressed a personal interest concerning item 6.2 of the agenda.
 4. **Matters arising from minutes of the previous meeting:**
 - 4.1. **Min. ref. 6.2:** Cllr Farley had written again to Cllr. Filmer at Sedgemoor District Council (SDC) with reference to an outline permission granted at Newlands Farm. To date there had been no reply.
 - 4.2. **Min. ref. 5.5:** Cllr. Farley had contacted the resident who had asked for support for a campaign to re-instate Arts funding in Somerset, but there seemed no practical way in which the parish council could assist.
 - 4.3. **Min.ref.12.1:** Cllr. Farley reported his attendance at the recent Cheddar Valley Cluster Group meeting at which District and County Council budget cuts were explained.
 - 4.4. **Min.ref.8.4:** Cllr Farley had not yet carried out the road condition survey in the parish due to the bad weather. Members noted the patch repairs to potholed areas in Old Coach Road, but were aware of a number of omissions. The recent road-works on A38 at Badgworth, and the likely costs were discussed and it was agreed this issue would be raised again under item 5.3 below.
 5. **Finance:**
 - 5.1. **Monthly reconciliation:** The Council RESOLVED unanimously to approve the monthly reconciliation to 25th November presented by the clerk.
 - 5.2. **Payments due:** Council RESOLVED that all payments due and listed below should be made:

Clerk's salary etc. (Scale Pt20 and includes "sundries")	£199.19
Woodspring Resource Centre – newsletter printing	£28.50
E. Farley – re-imburement to Chairman (5.3.1 Nov. minutes) subject to invoice or similar	£15.00
 - It was RESOLVED that the council would pay for the hire of the Memorial Hall on December 16th. to hold a meeting of members of local parishes involved in the National Grid Community Forum meetings.
 - 5.3. **Somerset County Council (SCC) budget:** SCC had written outlining its budget constraints and likely cuts in services for the coming year. Members also referred to the county council's newsletter "Your Somerset". Cllr. Windmill listed areas of reduced expenditure, which he felt could impact on the residents of Compton Bishop. These included lower spending on road maintenance, community waste disposal, bus subsidies, weed-killing, footpath and maintenance of Public Rights of Way, arts, PCSOs and youth work. At this point the chairman welcomed County Councillor Alan Ham.
- The council resolved to close the meeting, to allow Cllr. Ham to speak and answer questions.*
- 5.3.1. Councillor Ham explained in some detail the sources of county income from central government, which was to be reduced by 30% over the next 4-year period with the most severe cuts occurring in the short-term. The exact amount of grant for the next year would be known on, or shortly after 12th. December. As SCC was not increasing its council tax it would qualify for a 2½ % special grant from government. There was to be no limit on district and parish councils' precept-raising powers.
 - 5.3.2. In answer to questions Cllr Ham confirmed that the bus service 126, along with most others in the county probably did not "break-even". No decision had yet been

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taken on the mobile library service. The combining of "back-office" services under the private company umbrellas "South West 1" for SCC, Taunton Deane and Avon police and fire services had been partially successful in cutting costs in some areas. He confirmed that any attempt at inviting smaller councils to take on individual services was likely to increase costs as "economies of scale" would be lost. Cllr. Ham agreed to try to discover the cost of the footpath works recently carried out on A38 at the Badgworth junction. Members felt funds could have been used to improve the Cross Lane junction.

The chairman thanked Cllr. Ham for his attendance and the meeting resumed.

6. **Planning:** The following application forwarded to the council by SDC for comment as consultees was discussed:

6.1. **Ref. No.:** 21/10/00014/CJA

Proposal: Retention of two non-illuminated signs and display of one non-illuminated sign

Location: The Timber Yard, Shute Shelve, Cross, Axbridge, BS26 2EA

Applicant: Mr A Hutchins

Council RESOLVED to recommend that this application be refused on the grounds of visual intrusion and possible distraction of drivers at the dangerous A38 junction. The Advisory Group's notes would be forwarded to SDC. A site meeting would be requested as council wished, nevertheless to encourage local business and felt a compromise could be reached about the number and placement of advertisements.

6.2. **Ref. No.:** 21/00015/CJA

Proposal: Erection of agricultural worker's dwelling

Location: Bramble Farm, Webbington Road, Compton Bishop, Axbridge

Applicant: Mr B Flood

It was RESOLVED to recommend to SDC that this application should be granted. The Advisory Group's notes would be forwarded to SDC.

6.3. **Dog Waste bin at the Scaur's Path:** Council approved the costs provided by SDC for the erection of a dog waste bin at the foot of the Scaur's Path. The clerk was instructed to contact Crawford Estates with a view to gaining permission for the bin to be attached to an existing bridleway marker post.

6.4. **Land use alongside A38 at Southcroft Farm:** Cllr Farley had spoken to the landowner who expected to be occupying their new bungalow by around Easter 2011. It was then their intention to move the mobile home and create a machinery store where it had stood. The rubble was to be intended to be used to level the ground around the bungalow. The situation will be monitored.

7. **Environment:**

7.1 **Pylons.**

7.1.1. Cllrs Parker and Windmill had attended an inaugural National Grid Community Forum meeting invited by National Grid, to define the framework for Community Forums at Yatton RFC on 22nd November. Of 57 local parish councils invited, just 13 attended. NG is now required to re-assess its options to include sub-sea and undergrounding. Cllr Parker felt NG's presentation was not prepared and the Community Forum structure was questionable. Minutes had not yet been produced.

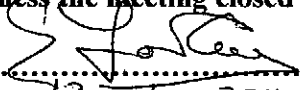
7.1.2. The more immediate local group of Parish Councils and organisations now includes over 30 members. Members recently attended a meeting in Bristol with DECC to discuss National (Planning) Policy Statements in respect of power lines. He felt that the outcome of the meeting was positive and should re-focus the National Policy Statement (NPS) on a more balanced approach to alternative connection options rather than the emphasis on the over head option which is against the SEA directive which is to adopt a presumption that electricity lines should be placed underground.

7.1.3. The local group had requested a further detailed meeting with DECC, Sedgemoor DC and Somerset CC. This has been arranged for 12th January. A pre-meeting of local councils has been arranged for the 16th December in Cross Memorial Hall.

SA 11/11/11

- 7.1.4. It was RESOLVED that Compton Bishop Council, as host, would pay the hall hire charges.
- 7.2. Hinkley Point**
- 7.2.1. The National Policy Statement EN-6 relates to Hinkley C proposals. Discussion of this NPS was included in the Bristol meeting (see item 7.1). Anti-Hinkley campaigners had disrupted this meeting.
- 7.2.2. It is noted that EDF have commenced site clearance work, at Hinkley, without planning permission.
- 7.3. Documents relating to Springfield Wildlife site:** The clerk had made members aware of legal documents relating to the wildlife site. Cllr. Windmill pointed out that these showed that SDC had ownership of the site and that the developers of the adjacent housing had not provided funds for the maintenance of the site. **Notice and display boards:** Council was told that Cheddar Signs had been invited to estimate for the repair and re-erection of a display board owned by SDC and a display cabinet belonging to the parish council at the White Hart car-park area. Once the estimates were to hand SDC would be invited to have their board repaired by the same contractor and then to reimburse the parish council for the work.
- 8. Highways:**
- 8.1. **A38 crossroads improvement:** Councillors asked that the chairman contact SCC Highways to express their concerns that a great deal of time and money had been invested in the investigation and consultation work for improvements to the A38 junction and that this had now all been abandoned.
- 8.2. **Salt and grit:** Councillors were told that it was the responsibility of parishes to inform SCC Highways if the large "dump-bags" of salt require refilling. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Rolfe for his help in the distribution of the smaller 20 kg. Bags around the parish.
- 8.3 **Tubs:** Concern remained about flower tubs and bollards standing on the highway. The Clerk will speak with SCC, Mr L. Gill to obtain clarification.
9. **Newsletter:** Councillors were each given a pack of newsletters and police notices about "no cold-calling" for distribution, as soon as possible according to the listings enclosed.
- 7.4. **Springfield Wildlife site:** Councillors were urged residents to do their best to keep birds fed and watered during the severe weather.
- 10. Correspondence:**
- 10.1. The clerk was asked to discover the whereabouts of enclosures mentioned in a letter dated 18th November from Anne Fraser (Chairman of Hinkley C Connection Group).
- 10.2. A request for funding by Mendip Hills AONB was felt not to be in the particular interests of the parish as National Trust were the main landowners on the hills in the parish.
- 10.3. Cllr Parker made fellow councillors aware that the Somerset Local Transport Plan made no mention of the need to include noise reduction schemes in its projects.
- 10.4. The clerk was asked to respond to Mr Dick Tyas, who had emailed to ask about the replacement of a newspaper collection box at the Memorial Hall. The original arrangements for the provision of the box were unconnected with the Parish Council and reference may be found in the minutes of the Memorial Hall Management Committee dated 3rd September 2002 under "Any Other Business". This was considered to be the responsibility of either the Memorial Hall or the few residents affected.
- 11. Date, time and place of the next monthly meetings:** January 12th at Cross Memorial Hall at 19.30 hrs. It was RESOLVED that in view of the Royal Wedding and Bank Holiday taking place on 29th April 2011 the Annual Open Meeting be held on Friday 8th April, 2011, subject to the Clerk confirming the Memorial Hall Committee's agreement and the availability of the hall for that date.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.45 hours.

SIGNED AS A TRUE RECORD:..........**Chairman**
DATE:12th April 2011.....