

Minutes of Compton Bishop Parish Council Meeting held on January 12th 2011 at Cross Memorial Hall

Present: Parish Councillors Farley (Chairman), Parker (from 21.00hrs.), Rolfe, Warner and Windmill, Paul Passey (Parish Clerk).

Public Participation: *There was none. One member of the public attended.*

1. **Apologies for absence:** Apologies had been received from Cllrs. Rix and Passmore. These were accepted.
2. **Approval of minutes:** The minutes of the monthly meeting held on December 8th. 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 a personal interest concerning item 7.2 below. Cllr. Farley declared prejudicial interest in item 5.4.
4. **Matters arising from minutes of the previous meeting:**
 - 4.1. **Min. ref. 10.1:** The clerk was asked to locate the whereabouts of enclosures mentioned in a letter dated 18th November from Anne Fraser (Chairman of Hinkley C Connection Group)
 - 4.2. **Minute references - various:**
 - 4.2.1. It was noted that there had been no reply to the chairman from either SDC Cllr. Filmer in respect of Newlands Farm, or from Mrs Munt MP on deficiencies in the planning process or from Cllr. Ham concerning the cost of footway repairs on A38 at Weare.
 - 4.2.2. The clerk was asked to enquire of PC Wills at Cheddar Police, the results of the "no cold-calling zone" survey and whether or not it was to proceed.
 - 4.2.3. Cllr. Warner was asked to confirm with Cross Memorial Hall Management Committee that it is content to join in with the Parish Open Meeting set for 8th. April.
5. **Finance:**
 - 5.1. **Monthly reconciliation:** The Council RESOLVED unanimously to approve the monthly reconciliation to 25th December 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 Pt 20 and includes "sundries") £245.39
 - It was RESOLVED that the council would pay up to £350 to Somerset Highways for a Speed Indicator Device (SID) to be installed in Old Coach Road 3 times during 2011, subject to its being installed on a new post as agreed at a site meeting before Christmas. The clerk was instructed to contact Mr. Grabham (SCC) accordingly. The preferred method for recording installation outcomes was by coloured histogram rather than tables.
 - The clerk was asked to confirm total expenditure on grass-cutting during 2010 for the February meeting.
 - 5.3. **Somerset County Council (SCC) Library Service cuts:** The possible closure of the library at Cheddar had been discussed by email prior to the meeting and the chairman had written to the Cheddar PC Chairman expressing Compton Bishop's verbal support in their efforts to maintain a service. The clerk was asked to contact SCC Library service to find out its plans, as they affect Compton Bishop where it is proposed to reduce the number of mobile libraries from 6 to 2. What will be the service for our village? Cllr Ham (SCC) had suggested a co-ordinated response from Weare, Badgworth and Compton Bishop but in view of the consultation period ending within days, this was thought impractical.
 - 5.4. The clerk confirmed that personal accident insurance cover had been arranged for the chairman whilst on council business at no increase in premium.
 - 5.5. It was noted that SDC was holding a sum of £17,299 in its RLT3 fund, available for parishes to spend on sports and recreational items. Bidding for this money must be made through the Cheddar Valley Cluster Group.
6. **Planning:** The Planning Advisory Group had held a site meeting with the applicant to discuss the following application:
 - 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 and applicant had come to mutually acceptable compromises about the application. The subsequent report was endorsed by council and the recommendations forwarded to the planning officer at SDC.

Paul Passey

7. Environment:

- 7.1. **Pylons:** The Parish Council's membership of the local parishes' action groups and district/county council's consultation forums has forced a re-consultation on the National policy Statements regarding power transmission and a new review of undergrounding feasibility and costs. A meeting was held with the Department for Energy and Climate Change at SDC's offices on 12th January to review the National Planning Strategy EN-5. The main issues were that the presumption is for transmission to be overhead: new and proven technologies are not included: the Department fails to understand the environmental impact on communities, AONB's and Somerset Levels: and the document fails to require financial transparency. The meeting was positive and DECC would review the points raised. There was considerable confusion over the out-dated "Holford Rules" and also where NPS's align with planning policy and planning law. The latter was agreed by DECC to be wanting.
- 7.2. **Hinkley C Connection Group (HCCG):** Parish Councils are not represented on this group as consultees or observers. We have been advised that a single representative of Parish Councils may be permitted. This council approved the nomination of Cllr. Peter Gregory, Mark Parish Council, to be the Sedgemoor representative. Cllr. Chris Ambrose, Chairman of Wraxall and Failand Parish Council, has been nominated to represent North Somerset parishes
- 7.3. **Waste collection during recent bad weather and holiday period:** There was a general feeling that whilst Somerset Waste Partnership had been faced with difficult circumstances, some of them could have been predicted and an alternative plan implemented. In particular there had been a lack of information about how the programme of collections would be amended during this period. The chairman would write to SWP accordingly.
- 7.4. **Update of Parish Emergency Plan:** It was noted that the current Parish Emergency Plan had been drawn up in response to a County Council request to indicate how the parish would organise in the event of the breakdown of county and district authority services. It did not purport to be a plan to deal with such matters as severe weather. It was RESOLVED that Cllr Passmore be invited to review the plan and make suggestions for amendments or additions to address this lesser emergency situation.
- 7.5. **Reinstallation of boards near the White Hart Inn:** The clerk was given authority to ensure that both the SDC display board in the car-park and the council's display cabinet on the grass verge were reinstated within 14 days of the meeting at a cost not to exceed £150.
- 7.6. **Dog mess bin at the Scaurs Path:** Crawford Estates had agreed to the installation of a bin at the foot of the path beside Old Coach Road and SDC had been sent this confirmation together with a site map. RESOLVED that SDC be asked to proceed.
- 7.7. **Transfer of ownership of the Scaurs path:** It was agreed that the clerk should act as "go-between" in trying to encourage National Trust to accept ownership of the Scaurs Path as Crawford Estates is willing to consider a transfer. The walls bordering the path could be excluded from any transfer deed.
- 7.8. **Litter picking:** Cllr Warner advised that he would be away on the selected date, 12th March. His role will be covered by other Councillors.

8. Highways:

- 8.1. **A38 crossroads improvement:** The chairman had made SCC aware that the costings presented by the Highways Department for the installation of an electronic sign by the northbound carriageway before the junction was considerably higher than that established by a neighbouring authority. No reply had yet been received from SCC.
- 8.2. **Snow clearance, salting/gritting and associated matters:** SCC had been informed that along Webbington Road there were now only 2 jumbo bags with depleted supply and with one in Big Tree Close/Church Lane. Additional supplies of road grit had been made available to Compton Bishop. Councillors considered there could be merit in organizing local snow-clearance with local farmers who have snow ploughs in the early stages of bad weather, as it was obvious that only the A38 in the parish would be cleared and salted/gritted by SCC. The dangerous situation that developed in the main through-route of Axbridge was also commented upon, particularly access to the Surgery and Pharmacy. Councillors noted with satisfaction that 4 roadside dump-bags of salt had helped free-up Webbington Road and the Parish Councils delivery of 18 smaller 20 kg. bags had also proved valuable.
- 8.3 **Other highways issues:**
- 8.3.1 Following a water pipe burst Bristol Water had advised that the area of mud around the Westbound bus-stop in Cross Lane would be attended to.

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8.3.2 Council felt it important to re-establish if Somerset Highways was responsible for the verges opposite the White Hart Inn. Some concerns had been expressed about this area being used as an extension to the drinking and smoking area of the public house to the intimidation of some residents. This would be investigated further.

8.3.3 SCC Highways had been informed of the damaged signage at the A38 junction with Cross Lane.

8.3.4 Cheddar Police had been made aware of an untaxed vehicle on the highway at Big Tree Close.

9. **May elections:** Councillors were anxious that residents should be encouraged to stand as candidates for the parish council elections in May 2011. Preliminary posters would be put on village notice boards.
10. **Carol singing:** The clerk was asked to write to the chairman of Cross Connections to congratulate the group on their pre-Christmas carol singing event.
11. **Web site:** There had been 38 visits to the website scanning 3.34 pages per visit.
12. **Correspondence:** All items had been dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.
13. **Date, time and place of the next monthly meetings:** February 9th at Cross Memorial Hall at 19.30 hrs.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.40 hours.

^ SIGNED AS A TRUE RECORD:.....*A. J. P.*.....Chairman X

DATE:*09-02-11*.....

Minutes of Compton Bishop Parish Council Meeting held on February 9th 2011 at Cross Memorial Hall

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

Public Participation: *There was none.*

1. **Apologies for absence:** An apology for absence had been received from Cllr. Farley. This was accepted. In the absence of the chairman, the Vice-chairman conducted the meeting.
2. **Approval of minutes:** The minutes of the monthly meeting held on January 12th, 2011 were approved unanimously by those present at that meeting and were signed by the Vice-chairman as a true record.
3. **Members' Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Windmill declared a personal interest concerning items 5.2 and 7.2 below.
4. **Matters arising from minutes of the previous meeting:**
 - 4.1. **Min. ref. 4.1:** The clerk had forwarded to all councillors by email the enclosures mentioned in a letter dated 18th November from Cllr Anne Fraser (Chairman of Hinkley C Connection Group)
 - 4.2. **Minute references - various:**
 - 4.2.1. The clerk reported that the total sum paid for grass-cutting for 2010 had been £220
 - 4.2.2. Somerset Library Service provision of mobile libraries would not be decided until mid February.
 - 4.2.3. PC Wills had confirmed that he had not received any objections to the 'No Cold Calling Zone' proposals. The clerk was instructed to ask PC Wills to proceed with implementation.
5. **Finance:**
 - 5.1. **Monthly reconciliation:** The Council RESOLVED unanimously to approve the monthly reconciliation to 25th January 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 Pt 20 and includes "sundries")	£204-30
Cross Memorial Hall – invoice to end of March	£105.00
Dean Harvey – reinstatement of notice board opposite White Hart	£76.00
 - 5.3. **Somerset County Council (SCC) and SDC budgets:** There would be a briefing meeting for councillors and others at Bridgwater House on 24th February when SDC budget cuts and changes in service provision would be set out in some detail.
 - 5.4. **Speed Indicator Device (SID):** It had been agreed with SCC that the next installations of the SID would be on a new 30 mph repeater sign post to be installed in Old Coach Road, opposite Quarry House in accordance with the parish council's agreement with SCC. Under those circumstances the parish would fund three installations of the SID during 2011. It was noted however that the new post will not be ready in time for the first SID installation in April, therefore on that occasion it will be necessary to revert to the previously used location in Webbington Road.
 - 5.5. **Council's Internal Accounts Examiner:** It was RESOLVED that Mr John Gravell should be asked if he would be willing to act as the council's internal accounts examiner at year end 2010/11.
 - 5.6. **Dog waste bins:** It was noted that a new bin had been installed at the foot of the Scaur's path. It was agreed that the bin there should be emptied just once per week and the second bin at Bow Bridge twice each week. The clerk was asked to inform SDC accordingly and to get a revised costing for doing so for the year 2011/12.
 - 5.7. **"Contact" magazine finances:** The council felt that the current donation of £250 per annum was more than a fair share of the production costs of the magazine and that the clerk should write to the magazine treasurer to remind him that the donation could be made at the April meeting for the year 2011/12.
 - 5.8. **Insurance costs:** The clerk was asked to obtain a quotation from Zurich Insurance to provide comparable cover to that currently provided by AON.
 - 5.9. **Renovation of notice boards:** The clerk was asked to renovate the stained pin-boards within the parish display boards by the insertion of "Corex" material.
6. **Planning:** There were no current applications.
 - 6.1. The clerk was asked to request a visit by the Enforcement Officer to Riverside Farm as there had been unsubstantiated reports of further development in the area, including the apparent establishment of a separately named farm.
7. **Environment:**
 - 7.1. **Pylons:** There had been no major developments since the last meeting but this matter and HCCG (below) were on the next Cheddar Valley Cluster Group agenda.

- 7.2. **Hinkley C Connection Group (HCCG):** There had been no major developments since the last meeting. It was noted that HCCG was prepared to admit only one representative for all parish councils along the proposed connection route, and that this will be Cllr Peter Gregory of Mark PC.
- 7.3. **Review of Parish Emergency Plan:** Cllr. Passmore had been put in touch with the Axbridge councillor responsible for the town's Emergency Plan and would liaise with him and Cllr Parker who had a digital copy of the existing Compton Bishop plan. It was felt that a better awareness of the vulnerable in the community would be valuable.
- 7.3.1. The clerk was asked to write to SCC and copy to SDC and Axbridge Town Council to express the council's concerns at the lack of snow clearance and gritting within Axbridge. The town was designated as a "Key Rural Settlement" but access to doctors, pharmacy and shops by foot and car had been extremely dangerous and impossible by bus.
- 7.4. **"Solar Park" at Bleadon:** The clerk was asked to write to North Somerset Council Planning Department to express concerns about a proposal to create a 25 hectare "solar park" of photo-voltaic solar panels in an area of South Hill Farm at Bleadon. This would be close to the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and it was a concern that should this development occur a precedent may be set for other more sensitive areas.
- 7.5. **Somerset Waste Partnership (SWP):** The clerk was asked to reply to SWP pointing out that there were still concerns about the need for good forward planning at such times of pressure as Christmas, bad weather and combinations of Bank Holidays when schedules were likely to be disrupted. Councillors were concerned that there should be better communication of changes or delays to collections through SWP's own website, via email to the parish clerk and then on to the parish website and the likely health hazard of waste food bins in particular not being emptied regularly. It was noted that the current arrangements are allegedly part of a pilot scheme and so adjustments could reasonably be expected where failures occur.
8. **Highways:**
- 8.1. **A38 crossroads improvement:** The chairman, Cllr. Farley was authorised to write a letter to all councils involved in the Joint Parishes Group to ensure they are fully aware of the current situation in respect of the crossroads.
- 8.2. **Bow Bridge:** Members expressed thanks to Mr. Peter Laney and to SDC for their work on the clearance of ivy from Bow Bridge.
- 8.3. **Drainage problems in Old Coach Road:** Members felt that the recent correspondence and inspection of the drainage system at the corner of Old Coach Road (October House) had failed to identify the cause of recent drainage problems. The clerk was asked to invite SCC Highways officer Liam Gill to a site meeting. A more detailed inspection and the input of local knowledge was felt to be necessary.
9. **May elections:** Councillors discussed how best to encourage residents to stand for election to the Parish Council in May. Councillors agreed that a "flyer" to advertise both the election and the Annual Parish Meeting would be useful.
10. **Celebration of the Royal Wedding:** Members felt that the role of the Parish Council should be to offer help to any group or individual wishing to organise a celebration of the wedding between HRH Prince William and Miss Kate Middleton. The chairman would be asked to discover if there were any plans within the community. Cllr. Parker would be willing to serve on any organising committee.
11. **Wildlife site:** There was nothing to report but the clerk was asked to contact SDC about the need to trim an overhanging willow.
12. **Annual Parish Meeting and AGM of Memorial Hall:** The Annual Parish Meeting was booked for 8th April but the Memorial Hall Committee this year would hold a separate meeting on May 6th to give sufficient time for prior preparation of its annual accounts.
13. **Website:** Cllr Parker produced data showing "hits" on the site and the keywords used to search for the site.
14. **Correspondence:** All items had been dealt with elsewhere on the agenda. The clerk was asked to consider scanning some items of correspondence as they arrive and emailing as attachments to councillors and also sending the Correspondence List out with papers prior to meetings.
15. **Date, time and place of the next monthly meetings:** March 9th 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:09-03-11.....

Minutes of Compton Bishop Parish Council Meeting held on March 9th 2011 at Cross Memorial Hall

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

Public Participation: *There was none.*

1. **Apologies for absence:** An apology for absence by Cllr. Rix had been received and was accepted.
2. **Approval of minutes:** The minutes of the monthly meeting held on February 9th, 2011 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 a personal interest concerning item 7.2.
4. **Matters arising from minutes of the previous meeting:**
 - 4.1. **Minute references - various:**
 - 4.1.1. The clerk had confirmed to PC Wills that the council was ready to undertake the next stage of establishing the agreed "No cold-calling zone". The clerk was asked to request any papers that might need distribution.
 - 4.1.2. The editor of "Contact" magazine had been informed of the council's intention to donate £250 to the magazine from the 2011/12 precept.
 - 4.1.3. The clerk had written to members of Somerset, Sedgemoor and Axbridge councils and the local MP to point out the unsatisfactory arrangements for salting and gritting within Axbridge.
 - 4.1.4. The clerk had contacted North-Somerset Council planners on the matter of a proposed "solar farm" at South Hill Farm, Bleadon, to express concerns about its visibility from the AONB.
 - 4.1.5. The Chairman reported that a meeting, to discuss celebrations of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012 had been called by Mrs Margaret Jordan on 7th March. It had been well attended and a committee may well be formed, to include Cross Connections. Many activities had been suggested.
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. (Scale Pt 20 and includes "sundries")	£199.31
Somerset Association of Local Councils annual subscription	£140.60
Community Council for Somerset annual subscription	£35.00
 - 5.3. **HMRC requirement to register employees:** The council agreed that in the light of information received from Came and Company and confirmed by SALC, the clerk should take steps to register the council's employee with HMRC in order that recently introduced regulations effective from 6th April 2011 in respect of PAYE payments should be met. In the event that PAYE payments are required in future, it was noted that there are organisations willing to manage this aspect of council work at a reasonable fee.
 - 5.4. **SCC and SDC budgets:** The council had not been informed of any specific changes.
 - 5.5. **Council's Internal Accounts Examiner:** It was noted that Mr John Gravell had agreed to act as the council's internal accounts examiner at year-end 2010/11.
6. **Planning:**
 - 6.1 The council considered the following application and recommended that it should be APPROVED by SDC. The clerk would send the Planning Advisory Group's report and draw attention to concerns that the building in question may be a summer roost for Greater Horse-shoe bats.

Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (As Amended)
Town and Country Planning General Development Orders 1995
Proposal: Change of Use and conversion of studio annexe to holiday accommodation, formation of a new vehicular access and parking/turning area.
Location: Rose Cottage, Church Lane, Compton Bishop, Axbridge, BS262HB
Applicant: Mr & Mrs N Campbell
 - 6.2 SDC response concerning Yeo Bridge and A38 Riverside Farm was noted. It was agreed that the chairman should write to SDC and confirm the numbers of mobile homes and caravans currently on the sites.
 - 6.3 The withdrawal of the application for Bramble Farm was noted. It was expected that a revised application would be submitted later on.
7. **Environment:**
 - 7.1. **Pylons:** Cllr Parker reported that National Grid is reviewing its approach to the undergrounding of cables and work on this should be complete by 16th March. There are independent reviews of the costs of such an approach. The proposed Atlantic Array off-shore

wind-farm (off North Devon coast) will most likely link into the Hinkley Point distribution system rather than run sub-sea to Avonmouth.

- 7.2. **Hinkley "C"** Cllr Parker reported that EDF has updated its 'Preferred Proposals' in the light of public consultation. These proposals will be subject to further consultation until 28th March. The new documents indicate increased numbers of workers, night-time working and where the workforce is likely to be housed. There is mention of funding being made available to local communities, for which Compton Bishop could apply.
- 7.3. **Review of Parish Emergency Plan:** Cllr. Passmore reported that progress was being made on updating the previous plan, a copy of which she had received from Cllr Parker. The Clerk was asked to obtain a copy of the flood risk survey.
- 7.4. **"No cold-calling zone"** The clerk was asked to inform PC Wills that any further papers on this matter for distribution throughout the parish could be carried out at the same time as councillors distribute agendas for the Annual Open Meeting. The zone had been approved at a poorly attended PACT meeting held in the Memorial Hall on 25th February. This had not been widely advertised.
- 7.5. **Drainage in Old Coach Road:** The clerk had contacted Liam Gill at SCC Highways and asked for a site meeting to discuss a variety of drainage problems in the parish.
- 7.6. **Ordnance Survey Licence:** The clerk was asked to register the parish council as a licenced user of Ordnance Survey maps under the new Public Services Mapping Agreement (PSMA) on the condition that this was cost-free as a recent email had indicated.
- 7.7. **The Scaurs Path:** The clerk was asked to contact Mr James Crawford once more to offer help should he still wish to transfer ownership to the National Trust. It had been confirmed that the lower part of the East wall was long established and the top maintained in recent time.
- 7.8. **Litter Pick:** The annual "Litter Pick" would take place on Saturday March 12th at 10.30 a.m. The Chairman expected to receive extra high-visibility jackets and litter-picking tools from SDC. All volunteers would be given clear instructions for their safety whilst out on the highway.
- 7.9. **Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue:** Cllr Windmill agreed to complete a questionnaire from Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue on behalf of the council. The final date was 10th April.2011.
8. **Highways:**
 - 8.1. **A38 Joint Parishes Group:** The chairman, Cllr. Farley had written a letter to all councils involved in the Joint Parishes Group. Councillors approved its content.
 - 8.2. **Bus route 126:** It was noted that changes to the bus route 126 timetable would mean cuts being made to the service in the evenings. The chairman had written to Mr Cursio at the bus company to ask about a possible change to the bus route so that it would come through the community via the turning at Lower Weare on A38 and along Old Coach Road. A reply was awaited.
 - 8.3. **Road Status report:** The members approved a road status report prepared by Cllr Farley. With a few amendments, the report would be forwarded to Liam Gill at SCC Highways.
 - 8.4. **Dangerous tree at the Webbington Hotel:** The clerk was asked to contact the Webbington Hotel management about a dead tree on the bank bordering Webbington Road. This would need clearing before it fell completely and obstructed the road.
9. **May elections:** Councillors approved the text of a letter produced by the Chairman inviting residents to stand for election to the Parish Council in May. This would be combined with the agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting and delivered to all households. The clerk would display official notices in respect of the elections to both Parish and District Councils and he had copies of nomination papers for anyone wishing to stand for Parish Council places. The last day for nominations would be 4th April.2011.
10. **Visit of the Mayor of Weston-super-Mare:** Members confirmed that they had no objection to the Mayor of Weston-super-Mare visiting the parish in full regalia to attend a charity function at the Webbington Hotel.
11. **Wildlife site:** Dr. Sarah Ayling had produced a report on the site for which councillors expressed their thanks.
12. **Annual Parish Meeting:** An agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting on 8th April was approved and would be distributed to all households.
13. **Website:** There was no report.

14. Correspondence:

14.1. The Chairman was asked to contact SCC to obtain data relating to the fixed speed camera at Shute Shelve Hill on A38, which with others in the county may be de-commissioned. Members felt that the effectiveness of the camera in preventing accidents at the crossroads was valuable and with the A38 North carriageway Vehicle Activated Sign installation delayed, could not be simply dismissed.

14.2. All other items had been dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.

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

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.40 hours.

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

DATE:13-04-11.....

MINUTES of Compton Bishop Parish Council Meeting held on April 13th 2011 at Cross Memorial Hall

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

Public Participation: *There was no public participation.*

1. **Apologies for absence:** There were no apologies.
2. **Approval of minutes:** The minutes of the monthly meeting held on March 9th 2011 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 a personal interest concerning item 7.2.
4. **Matters arising from minutes of the previous meeting:** There was none.
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:

Woodspring Resource Centre	£16.25
Clerk's salary etc. (Scale Pt 20 and includes "sundries")	£273.27
Sedgemoor District Council (SDC) invoice for installation of a dog bin	£157.78
Somerset County Council for Speed Indicator Device	£350.00

Note: *A further invoice from SDC, in respect of the emptying of dog-waste bins, was to be queried by the clerk as it seemed not to be in accordance with instructions given to SDC that the bins should be emptied less regularly. He was not authorised to pay this invoice.*

5.3. **HMRC requirement to register:** The clerk had registered the council with HMRC as an employer and in view of the impending "non-quorate council" situation, when no financial transactions would be possible, had stated that the first payment to the clerk would be in June.

5.4. **Payroll management:** The council instructed the clerk to make arrangements with SDC to manage the council's payroll for the year 2011/12. This would be on the understanding that the fee for doing so would be less than £100 per annum; that the clerk would be paid monthly at his current point on the salary scale; that SDC would deduct the required amount to meet the clerk's annual salary from the first half-year precept payment. Sundries and mileage will be dealt with separately. It was noted that a pay freeze existed currently.

5.5. **Changes in County/District Council budget and services:** The council noted the changes in opening times at the Cheddar re-cycling centre and the specific charges being introduced. This information would be put on the council's website.

5.6. **Insurance:** The council now had received the schedule of cover and an invoice for £647.54 for the insurance premium from AON. The clerk would seek quotations for comparable insurance cover from other insurers. It was resolved that the account should be paid subject to there being no lower rate available. A decision about which insurer to use would be made at the next council meeting in May.

5.7. **Future event funding** Whilst the council had committed to support the celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012, no formal specific application for funding, or assistance with insurance cover had yet been received.

5.8. **Annual Audit:** Mr John Gravell would begin the internal audit examination process on Monday 18th April and the notice explaining electors' rights to examine financial papers would be displayed on notice boards on 14th April. No fee would be due to Moore Stephens for the annual audit until September 2011. The chairman to write a letter of thanks for Mr Gravell's services.


6. **Planning:**

6.1 The council noted that an application covering a change of use at Rose Cottage Compton Bishop had been withdrawn and that a Tree Preservation Order had been made by SDC to cover one specimen sycamore tree on the site.

6.2 SDC had responded to correspondence about Yeo Bridge and A38 Riverside Farms. A formal inspection of the site was due over the next few months and the council would be kept fully informed. The Enforcement Officer at SDC had responded to concerns over the primary use of Newland Farm. Her letter was considered to be unsatisfactory and the chairman was asked to write to Mrs Berry to note and record the situation as observed currently in reply.

7. **Environment:**

7.1. **Pylons:** Cllr Parker reported that Liam Fox MP had recently made a public statement setting out his support for the need to "underground" National Grid cables. There was now a growing national debate on this matter.

- 7.2. **Hinkley "C"**: Cllr Parker reported that a letter had been sent to EDF to enquire if a grant might be available from the group's Community Fund for local infrastructure improvements. No reply had yet been received.
- 7.3. **Future representation on Community Forum**: Cllrs Parker and Windmill both agreed to continue to attend Community Forum discussions until the new Parish Council is in a position to make new arrangements.
- 7.3. **Review of Parish Emergency Plan**: Cllr. Passmore reported that this work was still in hand.
- 7.4. **The Scaurs Path**: The clerk had heard from Mr. James Crawford that he would check his deeds to the land over which the Scaurs Path runs.
- 7.5. **Hanging Basket competition**: The clerk was instructed to write to Crook Peak Gardening Club to invite its members to take over the organization of the annual hanging basket competition.
- 7.6. **Grass-cutting**: It was resolved that Mr. Tim Baker be invited to continue to cut grass around the parish in accordance with the schedule produced for 2010/11. The Clerk will write to instruct and seek confirmation that his costs would remain the same.
- 7.7. **Broadband in Somerset**: There is an online questionnaire to encourage the establishment of superfast broadband in the county. Cllr Parker would ensure there is a link within the parish website.
- 7.8. **Bristol Airport**: Cllr Parker reported that the government has just published the first stages of a consultation on new airports policy, and it admits that the previous Air Transport White Paper was fundamentally flawed and gave too little weight to climate change and local environmental impacts including noise. It condemns the aviation White Paper stating it is 'fundamentally out of date' and has 'got the wrong balance'.
- 7.9. **Local Development Framework**: The Core Strategy Consultation process is now ended and there would be an invitation to look at the results in an exhibition at the end of May, which Cllr Parker will do.
- 7.10. **Localism Bill**: Members were told that CPRE is pressing the government to include within the Bill a provision to give parish councils the right of appeal against planning decisions by district authorities.
8. **Highways**:
- 8.1. **Bus route 126**: The chairman would contact Mr Cursio at the FirstBus company once again to ask about the suggestion made previously that bus route 126 would come through the community via the turning at Lower Weare on A38 and along Old Coach Road.
- 8.2. **Meeting with Highway Engineer 4th April**: As a result of a site meeting held on 4th April, SCC would investigate once again the drains under the road outside October House. Local residents present at the meeting were pleased at this suggestion. The parish council would invite the owner of "Sunny Ranch" Old Coach Road to cut back the overhanging hedge fronting the roadway so that the ditch could be cleared.
- 8.3. **Dangerous tree at the Webbington Hotel**: The clerk had contacted the Webbington Hotel management about a dead tree on the bank bordering Webbington Road. This appeared to still be in position. The clerk was asked to write again.
9. **May 5th elections**: Councillors were told that two candidates had been elected unopposed to the council for the next four years. However, the council would not be quorate and so there would be the need to advertise for new nominations for an election in June. If there were five or less nominations for that election, then no ballot would be required and no costs incurred by the parish. If more than five candidates were to stand then a ballot would be necessary, and would cost the parish probably in excess of £1,000.00. The clerk was asked to write an explanatory piece for the parish website.
10. **Wildlife site**: Cllr. Rolfe would be present at the working party at the site on Sunday 15th May.
11. **Issues arising from the Annual Parish Meeting**: At the Annual Open Meeting there had been a suggestion that the verge alongside the western side of Cross Lane between A38 and the Public Right of Way leading to Axbridge should be levelled to make it safer for pedestrians to walk on. Liam Gill of SCC Highways had been asked to have this done.
12. **Website**: There was no report. Cllr Parker would ensure that details of Mendip Community Transport and its proposed expansion into Sedgemoor District would be added to the site.
13. **Correspondence**:
- 13.1. The response of SCC and SDC to the isolation of Axbridge during the winter snow was deemed generally unacceptable, especially as bus-routes were omitted from the first phase of gritting and snow clearance.
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14. Date, time and place of the next monthly meetings: May 6th at Cross Memorial Hall at 19.30 hrs. when the agenda will be limited to approval of minutes and issues vital to the smooth transition from the present council to its successor.

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

SIGNED AS A TRUE RECORD: Chairman

DATE:

.....06.05-11.....

Minutes of Compton Bishop Parish Council Meeting held on May 6th 2011 at Cross Memorial Hall

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

Public Participation: *There was no public participation.*

1. **Apologies for absence:** There were no apologies.
2. **Approval of minutes:** The minutes of the monthly meeting held on April 13th. 2011 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.
4. **Matters arising from minutes of the previous meeting:**
 - 4.1. Cllr. Parker reported that the expected report from National Grid on its approach to the "undergrounding of cables" as distinct from pylons was said still to be due in Spring 2011.
 - 4.2. The Clerk was asked to contact the manager of the Webbington Hotel again to ask that the dead tree overhanging the Webbington Road should be cut back.
 - 4.3. The clerk was asked to contact Crook Peak Gardening Clb to request that the club take over the "Hanging Basket Competition" for the current year.
 - 4.4. The chairman would contact Mr Cursio at the FirstBus company once again to ask about the suggestion made previously that bus route 126 would come through the community via the turning at Lower Weare on A38 and along Old Coach Road

5. **Finance:**

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

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

Woodspring Resource Centre (written between meetings)	£27.00
Clerk's salary etc. (Scale Pt 20 and includes "sundries")	£151.20
St. Andrews Church for churchyard maintenance	£350.00
Cross Memorial Hall	£45.00
SDC – part payment of dog-bin emptying invoice (see note below)	£28.94
Insurance premium (see 5.5 below)	£546.16

Note: *Council resolved to pay to Sedgemoor District Council a sum that reflected the agreed emptying schedule of the dog-bins at the Scars (1 visit per week) and Bow Bridge (2 visits per week). The clerk was asked to write a covering letter that made it clear that the remaining amount of the invoice (Ref: EV008491) would remain in dispute.*

5.3. **Future payment of the clerk:** The clerk gave details of the payroll arrangements that Sedgemoor District Council (SDC) was able to offer in order to meet the requirements of HMRC in respect of the clerk's pay and tax. In view of the non-quorate council that was likely to exist until early June it was RESOLVED that SDC should act as Payroll Manager for the Parish Council from 25th June 2011 on the following terms:

- 5.3.1. The clerk's salary would be paid as presently at Scale Point 20 on the basis of his working 20 hours per month.
- 5.3.2. A sum equivalent to half the clerk's annual salary would be deducted at source by SDC from each of the Parish Council's half-yearly annual precept transfers.
- 5.3.3. The clerk would be paid 1/12 of his annual salary by SDC on 25th day of each month.
- 5.3.4. Casual user mileage allowance would continue to be paid to the clerk at the present rate and the monthly mileage undertaken by the clerk would be approved by the Parish Council each month. The clerk would inform SDC of the sum due after each monthly meeting of council.
- 5.3.5. The annual sum allowed to the clerk for the use of his telephone, office equipment and office space would be paid by the Parish Council directly to the clerk in two half-yearly amounts, subject to HMRC having no objections to this arrangement.
- 5.3.6. The clerk's paid-holiday entitlement would continue as detailed in his contract of employment.

5.4. **Annual Audit Return:** The council had received a satisfactory report from its Internal Finance Examiner, Mr John Gravell. He had examined all relevant papers, vouchers, minutes and documents and was satisfied with the proposed submission by the council to Moore Stephens as External Auditors.

5.4.1. Council RESOLVED that the Chairman should sign Section 1 and Section 2 of the Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2011 and that the clerk submit the completed document, together with any further information required by Moore Stephens before 30th June.

5.4.2. It was noted that all financial papers were available for public inspection until that date.

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5.5. **Insurance policy:** The council RESOLVED to effect insurance cover for the Parish Council through the offices of Came & Company and with Aviva Insurance at an annual premium of £546.16. This policy and premium would be reviewed in early 2012 to ensure that the best value for money was obtained on renewal in June 2012.

5.6. **Precept:** It was noted that the first half of the annual Precept had been transferred by BACS payment to the council's account subject to the deduction of the half-yearly cost of dog-bin emptying (£250.20 incl.VAT). The sum therefore transferred was £2,999.80. SDC would invoice for the dog-bin costs shortly.

6. **Planning:**

6.1 The council RESOLVED to support the following application subject to the comments contained in the Planning Advisory Group's report which the clerk would forward to SDC.

21/11/00002/LE

Erection of an Agricultural Worker's dwelling at

Bramble Farm Webbington Road, Compton Bishop by Mr B. Flood

7. **Queen's Golden Jubilee - 2012:** The clerk was asked to contact Mrs Margaret Jordan to outline the ways in which the Parish Council could help in any proposed event organised in 2012 to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee. In particular the council would be able help in the matter of public liability insurance, if certain procedures were agreed between organisers and the council.

8. **Non-quorate council:** The clerk explained that within 35 days of 5th May a new election would be called for Compton Bishop Parish Council. Within 14 days of the date set for such an election, a new council would be summoned by the clerk. A ballot, at parish expense, would be necessary if more than 5 candidates were to be nominated for this second election; otherwise a system of co-option would be possible to fill any vacancies, always provided at least one further councillor is elected "unopposed" at this second election.

8.1. It was noted that the present chairman, even though not being a member of any post-5th May council, remains chairman until a new chairman is elected from amongst the new council, when it is quorate.

8.2. Until a new council is formed, the clerk and Cllrs. Rolfe and Passmore would be the "points of contact" for residents and both the website and the parish notice boards would have information to that effect.

9. **Vote of thanks:** Councillors passed a unanimous vote of thanks to the outgoing Chairman Cllr. Eddie Farley. His dedication to the task of chairman and his wide spectrum of involvement in parish council matters had seen the council strengthened from a very difficult situation at the start of his term of office. Cllr. Farley thanked his colleagues for their kind remarks and placed on record his appreciation for their hard work and support over the past four years. He also thanked those volunteers in the community who had assisted the Council in its work over the past 4 years.

10. **Date, time and place of the next monthly meeting:** The next Parish Council Meeting will be advertised on Parish Notice Boards and the website. It is anticipated to be in early- to mid-June.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 19.20 hours.

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

DATE:11-07-11.....

Minutes of Compton Bishop Parish Council Meeting held on July 11th 2011 at Cross Memorial Hall

Present: Parish Councillors Farley (Chairman of previous Parish Council), Passmore, Rolfe, Campbell and Bell; Paul Passey (Parish Clerk).

Public Participation: *There was no public participation.*

1. **Apologies for absence:** There were no apologies.
2. **Election of Chairman** The previous Chairman sought nominations for Chairman of Council. There was just one nomination and Cllr. John Bell was duly elected Chairman.
3. **Approval of minutes:** The minutes of the monthly meeting held on May 6th 2011 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.
4. **Election of Vice-Chairman** Cllr Campbell was elected Vice-Chairman of Council, there being no other nomination.
5. **Members' Declarations of Acceptance of Office** All councillors completed their Declarations of Acceptance of Office and Notifications of Financial and Other Interests. These were duly witnessed by the clerk.
6. **Members' Declarations of Interest:** Cllr. Campbell declared a Prejudicial Interest in Planning Application Ref: 21/11/00010/LE Should this be discussed at this meeting she would leave the meeting and take no part in the discussions.
7. **Matters arising from minutes of the previous meeting:** There were none.
8. **Finance:**

- a. **Monthly reconciliation:** The Council RESOLVED to approve the monthly reconciliation to 25th June presented by the clerk.
- b. **Mandate for cheque signatories:** The Council RESOLVED that the clerk should arrange for an amended list of cheque signatories to be arranged with HSBC Bank. The following will be the new signatories: John Bell, Allison Campbell, Michael Rolfe, Susan Passmore, Paul Passey. Three signatories from these persons will be required on cheques. Other subsequently co-opted councillors may be added to this list in due course. All existing signatories, unless in the list above, will be removed from the bank mandate.
- c. **Payments due:** Council RESOLVED that all payments due and listed below should be made:

SDC – payment of dog-bin emptying invoice (FN009136)	£250.20
CPRE subscription	£29.00
Tim Baker – grasscutting (Invoice 607)	£45.00
Tim Baker – grasscutting (Invoice 628)	£80.00
SALC training course – Cllrs. Bell & Campbell	£50.00

9. **Future payment of the clerk through Sedgemoor District payroll:** The clerk presented a paper setting out the payroll arrangements confirmed with Sedgemoor District Council (SDC). The following resolutions were then passed:
 - i. That Sedgemoor District Council (SDC) be authorised to pay the clerk, Mr. Paul Passey, a monthly salary of £191.82 per month, being one twelfth of the agreed annual salary of £2301.84; that SDC be authorised to deduct the total annual salary sum from the Parish Council's Precept ; that SDC be authorised to pay the clerk mileage allowance at 60.1p per mile at three-monthly intervals, the amount to be paid having been authorised at an appropriate Parish Council meeting.
 - ii. That SDC be informed that salary for April, May, June and July, and mileage payments for April, May and June, are due on 25th July.
 - iii. That the clerk is paid a sum of £100 per annum for the use of his home for office purposes and that this sum is paid, by cheque from the Parish Council, in two amounts of £50 in September and March each year.
 - iv. That the clerk shall keep a Petty Cash account for stationary materials. No item over £20 shall be purchased without prior agreement of the Parish Council and that a sum of £25 is paid to the clerk by cheque forthwith for Petty Cash purchases.
- b. **Mileage payments:** Council approved a sum of £35.45 for mileage travelled by the clerk for the three months April, May and June.
- c. **Presentation and voiding of previously written cheques:** Council approved the proposal that the clerk should present his salary cheque for his March salary in the sum of £273.27,

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but that the cheque for April was voided by striking through. This would ensure that his salary and other payments for 2011/12 would be made entirely through SDC payroll

10. **Clerk's absence:** The clerk would be away from 28th November 2011 to 22nd February 2012. Mrs Sandra Broadbent, a previous clerk to the council had agreed, informally to the clerk, to carry out clerking duties during this period. It was resolved that she should now be asked formally to do so by agreeing a temporary contract similar to the one she had signed on a previous occasion and that she be paid through SDC payroll for that period.
11. **Co-option of further councillors:** The council RESOLVED to display a notice inviting residents to apply to be co-opted to one of the three remaining places on the council. Letters of application should be completed and delivered to either the clerk (by email) or to 2 Chardet Place by 19th July. Co-options would take place at the council meeting immediately following (see item 14 below).
12. **Planning Applications:** There had been a considerable number of applications in the period when council had been inquorate and so comments by the council had not been possible, or may not be possible. The clerk had sought to gain extensions of time to comment from SDC but had largely received no agreement to do so.
 - a. A report on Application 21/11/0003/STH from the previous Planning Advisory Group was presented to council and the recommendation for refusal was endorsed. The clerk was instructed to inform SDC accordingly.
 - b. Cllr. Rolfe undertook to make reports on all remaining applications, with advice from Mr. Richard Parker, a former member of the Planning Advisory Group and to present his recommendations by email to all present councillors. Should these recommendations meet with no objections, the conclusions would be forwarded by the clerk to SDC before the next Parish Council meeting, with a comment that formal approval would be sought at that next meeting.
13. **Correspondence:** The clerk read out a letter from Mrs Margaret Jordan outlining plans for the celebration of the Queen's Jubilee on 2nd June 2012. The request for financial assistance from the organizing committee would be considered in more detail at the next Parish Council meeting and Mrs Jordan would be invited to attend. She would also be reminded that insurance costs could be met through the Parish Council Public Liability cover if a member of the Council was a part of the organizing committee. A more detailed breakdown of projected costs would also be requested.
14. **Date, time and venue of next meeting:** 20th. July at 7.30 p.m. at the Cross Memorial Hall

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

DATE: *29 July 2011*

Minutes of Compton Bishop Parish Council Meeting held on July 20th 2011 at Cross Memorial Hall

Present: Parish Councillors Bell (Chairman), Campbell (Vice-Chairman), Passmore, Rolfe, Paul Passey (Parish Clerk).

Public Participation: *There was no public participation.*

1. **Apologies for absence:** There were no apologies.
2. **Approval of minutes:** The minutes of the monthly meeting held on July 11th, 2011 were approved unanimously by those present at that meeting and were signed by the Chairman as a true record.
 - 2.1. It was RESOLVED that the clerk's minutes should reflect decisions made by council with less emphasis on the discussions leading to the decisions being made.
3. **Members' Declarations of Interest:** Cllr. Campbell declared a personal interest in Planning Application 21/11/00008/STH as land belonging to the applicant abuts her own property and a prejudicial interest in Application 21/11/00010/LE as she herself is one of the applicants. (Item 9)
4. **Exclusion of the Press and public:**
 - 4.1. It was RESOLVED that due to the sensitive nature of the business to be conducted under item 5 of the agenda, the press and public should be temporarily excluded from the meeting for that item.
5. **Co-option of new councillors**
 - 5.1. After consideration of letters of application from four residents and following a secret ballot, it was RESOLVED that the following residents be co-opted to the Parish Council: Mr. Richard Parker, Ms. Annie Vickerstaff and Ms Caroline Woolley.
6. **Completion of appropriate legal documents:**
 - 6.1. Mr. Parker and Ms. Woolley then signed Declarations of Acceptance of Office and Notifications of Interest forms which were witnessed by the clerk.
 - 6.2. It was RESOLVED that the clerk should make contact with Ms. Vickerstaff and ensure that she completes all necessary declarations.
7. **Matters arising from previous minutes:** There were none.
8. **Finance matters:**
 - 8.1. Cllrs Bell, Campbell, Passmore and Rolfe completed the appropriate parts of a bank mandate form and provided, or undertook to provide, the clerk with appropriate utility accounts as proof of identity for presentation to HSBC bank.
 - 8.2. It was RESOLVED that the clerk be given authority to pay invoices submitted to the Council between meetings, subject to the signatories to the cheques also signing across each invoice as proof of approval; such payments are to be listed for information at the parish council meeting immediately following payment.
 - 8.3. It was noted that the invoice from Sedgemoor District Council (SDC) presented at the previous meeting had subsequently been withdrawn by SDC. It was RESOLVED that the clerk should therefore not issue a cheque although agreed at the meeting on 11th July.
 - 8.4. It was noted that Mrs Sandra Broadbent had not yet agreed to take on the role of temporary clerk during the clerk's absence from November to February.
 - 8.5. It was noted that the council's insurers, Aviva, had provided a new insurance policy.
9. **Planning matters:** The following planning applications received from SDC for consultation were discussed. A report on each was presented by Cllr. Rolfe. It was noted that the large number of applications had built up during the period when the council was non-quorate and that therefore some of the comments to SDC were "out-of-time". However it was RESOLVED that the clerk should forward the council's resolved recommendations in respect of the following applications:
 - Ref: 21/11/00011/NM** Barn at Rackley Farm: Compton Bishop Estates
It was RESOLVED to recommend that the application be APPROVED subject to recommendations
 - Ref: 21/11/00008/STH** Compton House, Coombe Lane: Mrs C Crawford
It was RESOLVED to recommend that the application be REFUSED.
 - Ref: 21/11/00010/LE** Rose Cottage, Compton Bishop: Mr & Mrs Campbell
It was RESOLVED to recommend that the application be APPROVED.
 - Ref: 21/11/00009/CJA:** Cherry Tree Cottage, Bourton Lane: Mr Brown
It was RESOLVED to recommend that the application be APPROVED subject to recommendations
 - Ref: 21/11/00007/CG** Clover Farm, Webbington Road: Mr. & Mrs Head
It was RESOLVED to recommend that the application be REFUSED.
 - Ref: 21/11/00006/DRT** The Cedars, Old Coach Road: Mr & Mrs Lane
It was RESOLVED to recommend that the application be APPROVED.

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Ref: 21/11/00004/LE Sherwood House, Webbington Road: Mr & Mrs Acland

It was RESOLVED to recommend that the application be APPROVED.

Ref: 21/11/00012/JB *RM* ~~Sherwood~~ Rose Cottage, Compton Bishop: Mr & Mrs Campbell *PH*

It was RESOLVED to recommend that the application be APPROVED.

Note: In all cases full reports produced by members of the Parish Council were also to be submitted and these are available from the Parish Clerk on request.

10. AONB: It was RESOLVED to invite Nigel Taylor, the local AONB Management Group representative to a future meeting for an update and more information about "Volunteer Projects" to be run by Owen Jones AONB Volunteer co-ordinator.

11. 2012 Jubilee Celebrations:

11.1. It was RESOLVED to invite Mrs Margaret Jordan and a member of the 2012 Jubilee Celebrations organising group to address the next council meeting.

11.2. It was RESOLVED to suggest to the group that Cllr John Bell, as Parish Council Chairman should be invited to become Patron of the organising group as this would ensure insurance cover through the council's own policy.

12. Future Council Meetings:

12.1. It was RESOLVED that council meetings will be held bi-monthly on the second Wednesday of each month, unless matters of urgency are notified to the clerk.

12.2. There will be no planned meeting in August or December.

13. Advisory Groups and representatives of the council on other bodies

13.1. It was RESOLVED that Advisory Groups be set up as follows:

- Planning Advisory Group: Cllrs. Rolfe, Parker, Woolley, Campbell
- Finance Advisory Group: Cllrs. Passmore, Vickerstaff, Bell
- Highways Advisory Group: Cllrs. Campbell, Rolfe, Parker
- Environment Advisory Group: Cllrs. Parker, Woolley, Passmore

13.2. It was RESOLVED that the clerk should invite - Mr Ian Tabrett to act as Public Rights of way representative as he had done this in the past; - Dr. Sarah Ayling to maintain oversight of the Springfield Wildlife Site; Mr. Robert Woolley to consider being co-opted to an Advisory Group.

13.3. It was RESOLVED that the clerk should enquire about the need for Parish Council representatives on the Cray Charity and on the Memorial Hall Management Committee.

14. Correspondence: The clerk had received an invoice in the sum of £90 from SDC to meet the costs of the election scheduled for June 23rd, but which did not require a ballot. Whilst recognising that costs would have been involved in advertising council vacancies, results and other matters, councillors felt this was a high cost to pay. It was RESOLVED that this invoice be paid subject to the District Member Cllr. John Denbee obtaining a breakdown of costs from SDC.

15. Date, time and place of next scheduled meeting(s):

Wednesday 14th September, 7.30 p.m. at Cross Memorial Hall

Wednesday 9th November, 7.30 p.m. at Cross Memorial Hall

SIGNED:

X *J. Bell* X
CHAIRMAN

DATE:

.....17-08-11.....

Minutes of Compton Bishop Parish Council Meeting
held on August 17th 2011 at Cross Memorial Hall

Present: Parish Councillors Bell (Chairman), Campbell (Vice-Chairman), Passmore, Vickerstaff, Woolley, Parker, Rolfe, and Paul Passey (Parish Clerk).

1. **Apologies for absence:** There were no apologies. All councillors were present.
2. **Approval of minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held on July 20th. 2011 were approved unanimously and were signed by the Chairman as a true record.
3. **Members' Declarations of Interest:** There were no declarations.
4. **Matters arising from previous minutes:** The clerk would ensure that each councillor had a copy of his report on actions taken following the July 20th meeting, which would then be discussed and noted at the September meeting.
5. **Planning matters:** The following planning applications received from SDC for consultation were discussed. A report on each was presented by Cllr. Rolfe. It was RESOLVED that the clerk should forward the council's recommendations in respect of the following applications: (*Note: In all cases full reports produced by members of the Parish Council's Planning Advisory Group were to be submitted to SDC and these would be available from the Parish Clerk or SDC on request*).
 - 5.1. **Ref No: 21/11/00014/CJA** Southcroft Farm, Cross Lane, Cross, Axbridge. BS26 2ED Jan's Free Range Eggs
It was RESOLVED to recommend that the application be REFUSED but with a suggestion that an amended application be submitted.

Before consideration of the following application it was RESOLVED to close the meeting for the public to speak. The applicant, Mr. Lang then explained the rationale behind the design of the proposed extension. The meeting was then reconvened.
 - 5.2. **Ref No: 21/11/00015/RM** Summerfield, Webbington Road, Compton Bishop, BS26 2ER Mr & Mrs Lang
It was RESOLVED to recommend that the application be APPROVED
 - 5.3. **Ref No: 21/11/00016/CG** 21 Big Tree Close, Compton Bishop BS26 2EY Mr. J. Deacon
It was RESOLVED to recommend that the application be APPROVED
 - 5.4. It was RESOLVED that the clerk should contact County Councillor Alan Ham with a request that he investigate the attitude of County Trading Standards Officers in respect of the sale of garden produce at the front of a resident's property. Concern was expressed at a recent example of how a local resident had allegedly been severely adversely treated.
 - 5.5. Cllr Parker agreed to email all councillors with details of the ongoing consultation by SDC on its Local Development Framework Core Strategy Options.
 - 5.6. The clerk was asked to make copies of the Village Design Statement available to all councillors
6. **Co-option:** It was RESOLVED to co-opt Mr. Robert Woolley to the Council's Highways Advisory Group.
7. **Public Rights of Way Representative:** It was RESOLVED that, Mr Ian Tabrett, should be the council's nominated Public Rights of Way Liaison Officer and that SCC be informed accordingly. The previous Representative, ex-councillor Warner and the clerk had agreed to meet Mr Tabrett and ensure that he had all necessary materials and information.
8. **Springfield Wildlife Site Liaison Councillor:** It was RESOLVED that Cllr. Annie Vickerstaffe should be the council's Liaison Representative for the Springfield Wildlife Site and that the clerk should inform both SDC and Dr. Sarah Ayling accordingly
9. **Cray Charity Representative Trustee:** It was RESOLVED to re-confirm Mr John Stuchbery as the Parish Council's nominee as a Trustee of the Cray Charity and that the clerk should inform him accordingly.
10. **Cross Memorial Hall Management Committee Representative:** It was RESOLVED to appoint Cllr. John Bell as Parish Council nominee on the Management Committee of the Cross Memorial Hall in the place of Mr. James Warner and that the clerk should inform Mr Warner and the Management Committee accordingly
11. **Urgent Correspondence:** The clerk brought to the attention of members the following:
 - 12.1 A request from Tessa Munt M.P. to have all councillors' contact details. The clerk is to refer her to the Parish Council's website.

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- 12.2 Email from Mr Dave Grabham, SCC Highways, offering to re-site the Speed Indicator Device on the 30 mph repeater sign pole near "Broadlands" in Old Coach Road as had been previously agreed. This would be done free of charge. The offer is to be accepted.
- 12.3 Email correspondence about road markings and parking near the New Inn and A38 junction. The clerk to email SCC Highways seeking a site meeting and satisfactory completion of the central white line markings and also those obscured by the recent road resurfacing in Old Coach Road.

12. Date, time and place of next scheduled meeting(s):

Wednesday 14th September, 7.30 p.m. at Cross Memorial Hall

Wednesday 9th November, 7.30 p.m. at Cross Memorial Hall

Wednesday 11th January 2012, 7.30 p.m. at Cross Memorial Hall

Note: Council Meetings are scheduled bi-monthly, with other meetings called if planning, or other time-constrained decisions are required of the council.

SIGNED:

.....*J. Bell*.....
CHAIRMAN

DATE:

.....14-09-2011.....

Minutes of Compton Bishop Parish Council Meeting held on September 14th 2011
at Cross Memorial Hall

Present: Parish Councillors Bell (Chairman), Campbell (Vice-Chairman), Passmore, Parker, Rolfe, and Paul Passey (Parish Clerk) and 3 members of the public.

Public Participation: *Mr Graham Cooke addressed the meeting on behalf of a group of residents who wish to see a parish celebration of the Queen's Jubilee in 2012. He outlined the group's thinking in terms of events, venue and finances and invited the Parish Council to consider making a donation of £500 towards the costs of the event. He felt sure that a number of the present informal group that he represented would be willing to become members of any Parish Council sub-group formed to oversee the management of the event.*

Sarah Ayling reported on the Springfield Wildlife site and asked for volunteers to help with recording wildlife species seen there. She was content that the physical management of the site was progressing well.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllrs Vickerstaff and Woolley had sent apologies for their absence. These were accepted.
2. **Approval of minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held on August 17th. 2011 were approved unanimously and were signed by the Chairman as a true record.
3. **Members' Declarations of Interest:** There were no declarations.
4. **Matters arising from previous minutes:**
 - 4.1. The clerk had provided each councillor with a copy of his report on actions taken following the August 17th meeting, which was noted. The clerk would place a copy of the report with the approved minutes of the September meeting.
5. **Finance matters:**
 - 5.1. It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council should, in principle, make a sum of £500 available to the organisation that would promote the Jubilee Celebrations on behalf of the whole community. This sum would not be made available until after April 1st 2012 and would be taken into account when deciding the 2012/13 precept.
 - 5.2. It was RESOLVED that a sub-group of the Parish Council should be formed to oversee the financial management of the event. The Council Chairman, Councillor John Bell, would ensure that detailed reports from the sub-group would be brought to full council for approval.
 - 5.3. It was RESOLVED that the following residents should be invited to become members of the sub-group: Charley Higman, Ryan Scantlebury, Margaret Jordan, Robert Jordan, Pauline Warner and Patrick Simpson. **GRAHAM COOKE.** *
 - 5.4. It was RESOLVED to approve a current financial reconciliation provided by the clerk.
 - 5.4.1. This showed working balances in the Community Account of £2516.16, in the Business Money Manager Account of £1073.61 and in the Community Project Account of £5003.53. There were no uncleared cheques or outstanding invoices for payment.
 - 5.4.2. The clerk reminded members that SDC had not yet deducted the clerk's annual salary amount which with car-user allowance would be in the region of £2500, which he anticipated would be deducted from the second half-yearly precept amount of £3001.00.
 - 5.5. It was RESOLVED that the Finance Advisory Group would meet before the November meeting to review current expenditure, to set a budget for 2012/13, and to recommend a precept figure for 2012/13. The clerk would attend the meeting and provide members with all necessary financial information.
 - 5.6. It was RESOLVED that in the event of invoices being presented by Mr Patrick Freeman for website costs and from Mr. Tim Baker for grasscutting, these sums should be paid and reported to the next meeting.
 - 5.7. It was RESOLVED to consider a donation to Citizens Advice Bureau at the next council meeting in the light of the budget setting process (5.2 above)
 - 5.8. It was RESOLVED that the clerk should inform Sedgemoor District Payroll Section that a sum of £63.72 is due to him for casual car-user allowance for the months of April to September inclusive.
 - 5.9. It was RESOLVED that the clerk should be paid by the Parish Council the sum of £50 being the half-yearly amount agreed for the use of a home office at "Somerhayes" Jubilee Road. (Minute ref: July 11th Item 9.iii)
 - 5.10. It was RESOLVED that Mrs. Sandra Broadbent should be invited to sign a temporary contract as clerk for the months of December, January and February at the same rates of pay and allowances as the present clerk. The Chairman would amend a copy of the contract signed by Mrs. Broadbent when she previously took on this temporary role (2008/9) and ensure her signature.

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- 5.10.1. It was RESOLVED that the clerk should arrange for SDC to have details from Mrs Broadbent to ensure payments can be properly made.
6. **Planning matters:** There were no current plans for consideration.
- 6.1 It was RESOLVED that members of the Planning Advisory Group should formulate a response to the SDC Planning Development Manager Mr Steve Atkinson concerning the unsatisfactory handling of a planning application by his department. The proposed response would be circulated to all councillors for agreement before onward transmission by the clerk.
- 6.2 Cllr. Parker asked all councillors to consider the implications of the Localism Bill now before Parliament. He felt this may have impacts on the council's future role.
7. **Highways matters:**
- 7.1. It was noted that Mr. Tima Baker had cut the verge grass between Bourton Lane and Newtown at the clerk's instruction. It was RESOLVED that the clerk should now ask him to cut the verge on the south side of the road opposite Wavering Down House.
- 7.2. The Highways Advisory Group had met Mr Chris Betty from Somerset County Council Highways to discuss parking problems on 13th September. It was RESOLVED that the Highways Advisory Group should formulate a response to Mr Betty and write to Mr Liam Gill of SCC Highways on matters arising from the meeting that require further action.
- 7.3. It was RESOLVED that the clerk should obtain costs for bicycle racks.
- 7.4. It was RESOLVED that Mr Robert Woolley as part of the Highways Advisory Group should undertake a review of redundant and obscured road signs in the parish and report to the November meeting.
8. **Environmental matters:**
- 8.1. It was RESOLVED that discussion of internet websites showing aerial and street-view photographs of properties should be deferred to the November meeting.
- 8.2. Dr. Sarah Ayling had made a report as a member of the public. It was RESOLVED that the clerk should produce a poster for notice boards seeking volunteers to help record wildlife.
- 8.3. It was RESOLVED that the council should give support to those opposed to the proposed erection of wind-turbines at Pilrow. Cllr. Parker would attend the next Cheddar Valley Cluster Group meeting to voice this support.
- 8.4. Cllr Parker informed the meeting that National Grid had changed its policy statement in respect of preferred types of transmission cables and there would now be no predetermined preference for overhead pylons – all transmission means would be given equal consideration.
9. **Items for the agenda:** It was RESOLVED that councillors wishing to place items on the agenda should first notify the clerk who would then agree an agenda with the Chairman.
10. **Newsletter:** It was RESOLVED that Cllr Parker would begin production of an autumn newsletter and a draft version would be circulated to all councillors by email for their amendments or additions.
11. **Parish Council website:** It was RESOLVED that material giving details of not-for-profit events in the locality that may be of interest to residents may be included on the website at the discretion of Cllr Parker, the clerk and the webmaster. Cllr Parker would also ensure that copies of policies and documents of interest to councillors and the public should be uploaded to the site in pdf. Format.
12. **Urgent Correspondence:** Prior to the meeting the clerk had circulated a list of correspondence received since the last meeting and so there were no items of which councillors were unaware.
13. **Date, time and place of next scheduled meeting(s):**

Wednesday 9th November, 7.30 p.m. at Cross Memorial Hall

Wednesday 11th January 2012, 7.30 p.m. at Cross Memorial Hall

Wednesday 14th March 2012, 7.30 p.m. at Cross Memorial Hall

Note: Council Meetings are scheduled bi-monthly, with other meetings called if planning, or other time-constrained decisions are required of the council.

SIGNED:

X.......... X
CHAIRMAN

DATE:

.....09-11-2011.....

Minutes of Compton Bishop Parish Council Meeting held on November 9th 2011
at Cross Memorial Hall

Present: Parish Councillors Bell (Chairman), Campbell (Vice-Chairman), Parker, Rolfe, and Paul Passey (Parish Clerk), co-opted member of the Highways Advisory Group Mr. Robert Woolley and 1 member of the public.

Presentation: Mr Owen Jones from the Mendip Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty addressed the meeting on the subject of the work done by volunteers to help maintain the AONB. Work included repairing walls, scrub clearance, path repairing. He sought volunteers from the locality and offered to bring groups to the parish to undertake work. He provided his contact details. Cllr Nigel Taylor, the local councils' representative on the AONB also spoke.

Public Participation: *Mrs Margaret Jordan thanked the Parish Council for its support of parish celebrations of the Queen's Jubilee in 2012. She then asked that action be taken to improve free passage of traffic in Cross in the area of Charvet Place. She considered that part of the problem was caused by the untidy hedge and verge on the north side of the road at that point.*

District Councillor: Cllr Mrs Liz Scott, one of the two SDC District Councillors, introduced herself to members. She would be happy to work on behalf of the parish. She reported that the hedgerow on the west side of Cross Lane would be cut back during the winter months.

Tribute: A one minute silence was held in remembrance of County Councillor Alan Ham and tributes were paid to his genuine interest in the affairs of the parish and to his hard work on behalf of both council and residents over a long period.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Passmore had sent apologies for her absence. These were accepted.
2. **Approval of minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held on September 14th. 2011 were approved unanimously, subject to the inclusion of the name of Mr Graham Cooke at item 5.3, and were signed by the Chairman as a true record.
3. **Members' Declarations of Interest:** There were no declarations.
4. **Matters arising from previous minutes:**
 - 4.1. The clerk had provided each councillor with a copy of his report on actions taken following the September 14th meeting, which was noted. The clerk would place a copy of the report with the approved minutes of the November meeting.
 - 4.2. Cllr Parker asked what action councillors wished to take about an autumn newsletter. The general feeling was that a regular "Parish Council matters" section in the "Contact" magazine would be a more cost effective way of communicating with residents. As Cllr Parker acts as the Cross correspondent for the magazine, he was asked to produce material for the next issue, to include comments about improvements at the A38 crossroads and the availability of 25kg salt bags from SCC Highways.
5. **Finance matters:**
 - 5.1. It was RESOLVED to approve a current financial reconciliation provided by the clerk.
 - 5.2. It was RESOLVED to pay Cross Memorial Hall a sum of £60 against an emailed invoice (dated 01/11/11), a sum of £5 to Tim Baker (Invoice ref. 710) and a sum of £50 to the clerk as a half-yearly payment for use of his home as office.
 - 5.3. A report from the Finance Advisory Group set out projections for expenditure in 2012/13 and this was discussed by members and generally accepted as a basis for setting the precept for 2012/13.
 - 5.4. It was RESOLVED that the clerk should inform Sedgemoor District Council (SDC) that the Precept request for 2012/13 will be £6,500, the same figure as for 2011/12.
 - 5.5. It was RESOLVED that the clerk should request HSBC bank to review the interest currently paid on both Business Money Manager and the Community Project Accounts as these did not match the rates on offer from NatWest for seemingly similar accounts.
 - 5.6. It was RESOLVED to make a grant of £250 to "Contact" magazine for the year 2011/12.
 - 5.7. It was RESOLVED to make a donation to Citizens Advice Bureau of £50.
 - 5.8. It was noted that Mrs Sandra Broadbent had signed a contract as temporary clerk and that the Parish Clerk would be meeting her on 14th. November to ensure that she had all necessary information and files to carry out her duties.
6. **Planning matters:**
 - 6.1. The following applications from SDC were considered and recommendations made:

6.1.1. Planning Ref:	21/11/00022/RM
Applicant:	P.R.S. Scott and E.B. Scott
Proposal:	Erection of hay barn
Location:	On land to the south of Cross Lane, Cross.

Parish Council's recommendation: That the application be refused

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- 6.2. Members noted the outcome of a meeting with Mr Steve Atkinson on 19th October and it was RESOLVED that the Planning Advisory Group would formulate responses to be sent to both Mr Atkinson and Mr Rickards (Chief Executive SDC).
- 6.3. After discussion about the previous history of the applications for development at Clover Farm, and agreement that there had been a long and confusing history to the applications, it was RESOLVED to re-submit the council's previous comments to the Inspector due to hear the current Appeal by the applicants. This report had recommended refusal of the application.
- 6.4. The clerk was asked to contact SALC to enquire what events were planned to discuss the implications of the Governments "Localism Bill".
7. **Highways matters:**
- 7.1. It was noted that Mr. Tim Baker had agreed to meet the clerk on 15th November with a view to cutting the verge grass at the lower end of Cross lane and possibly cutting back the overhanging hedgerow. This work might then allow pedestrians to walk on the verge away from passing traffic.
- 7.2. It was RESOLVED that the Highways Advisory Group should write to Ivis Brothers (contractors) Mr Derek Parrett (tenant farmer) about the recent problems of mud on the Webbington Road. Suggestions for future actions by the farmer and contractor would be made.
- 7.3. It was noted that the signage identified by Mr Robert Woolley as being either inappropriate or redundant had been dealt with by Mr Bob Kondys at SDC.
- 7.4. It was noted that an "H" marking had been put on the west side of Old Coach Road opposite the New Inn as an indication to motorists that they should not park there. The clerk was asked to ensure that Mr Gerald Hellier at Cheddar gave an estimate for the construction of simple iron cycle racks for possible installation at the same corner.
- 7.5. The clerk was asked to reply to a letter from Mr Stone of Sunny Ranch, Old Coach Road about the hedging and drainage ditch outside his property and to offer council help in persuading SCC Highways to erect bollards along the verge. It was felt that this might go some way towards alleviating the concerns expressed by Mrs Jordan, who had addressed the council on this matter. The clerk was also asked to write to the owner of Rosewell Cottage about overhanging vegetation and to SCC Highways about obstructed speed limit signs in hedgerows.
8. **Environmental matters:**
- 8.1. Councillors discussed the recent photographing of areas of the parish by Google to add to their website. It was pointed out that householders, who had fears about this, could contact Google online and ask for deletions to be made.
- 8.2. It was RESOLVED that the clerk should produce a poster for notice boards seeking volunteers to help record wildlife and join work parties on the each third Sunday of the month.
- 8.3. Cllr Parker had attended a Community Forum Meeting at Yatton with National Grid to discuss the issue of pylons. There would be another forum meeting in December. Compton Bishop would need to be represented at two of the local forums. Some progress had been made nationally, in that the National Planning Statement now included the requirement that the option of buried cables be always considered; a Bill was now before Parliament which also sought to gain validity for buried cables as an option. Cllr. Parker would continue to monitor.
- 8.4. Members were urged to take a look at the "test rig" wind turbine at Pilrow as seen from Brent Knoll; the proposal is to build 6 turbines each twice the size of the rig.
- 8.5. Cllr Parker would reply on behalf of the council to the new Minerals Extraction Options paper.
- 8.6. A sack of bulbs would be delivered by SDC to the clerk shortly. He would pass them to Cllr Parker for planting in suitable sites around the parish.
- 8.7. The clerk was asked to contact PC Pete Wills to discover the current situation in respect of making a "No Cold Calling Zone" in the parish; especially what notices had still to be displayed.
9. **Parish Council website:** It was noted that the clerk and Cllr Parker were to meet Mr Patrick Freeman with a view to the clerk taking on the role of webmaster.
10. **Urgent Correspondence:** Prior to the meeting the clerk had circulated a list of correspondence received since the last meeting and so there were no items of which councillors were unaware. However items of interest to councillors were distributed and it was agreed to display notices about our MP's surgeries in the district on all notice boards where that was possible.
11. **Date, time and place of next scheduled meeting(s):**

Wednesday 14th December, 7.30 p.m. at Cross Memorial Hall
 Wednesday 11th January 2012, 7.30 p.m. at Cross Memorial Hall
 Wednesday 14th March 2012, 7.30 p.m. at Cross Memorial Hall

SIGNED:

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 CHAIRMAN

DATE:

..... 14-12-11

Minutes of Compton Bishop Parish Council Meeting held on December 14th 2011
at Cross Memorial Hall

Present: Parish Councillors Bell (Chairman), Campbell (Vice-Chairman), Parker, Rolfe, Vickerstaff, Woolley and co-opted member of the Highways Advisory Group Mr. Robert Woolley.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Apologies were received from Cllr Passmore, Mr Paul Passey (Parish Clerk) and Mrs Sandra Broadbent (Temporary Parish Clerk). These were accepted.
2. **Approval of minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held on November 9th 2011 were approved unanimously, and were signed by the Chairman as a true record.
3. **Members' Declarations of Interest:** Cllrs Parker and Rolfe declared a Personal Interest regarding a planning application in agenda item 6 for Crook Peak House.
4. **Matters arising from previous minutes:**
 - 4.1. The clerk had provided each councillor with a copy of his report on actions taken following the November 9th meeting, which was noted. The clerk would place a copy of the report with the approved minutes of the December meeting.
 - 4.2. It was noted that we are awaiting a response from PC Wills regarding Cold Calling notices.
5. **Finance matters:**
 - 5.1. Nothing to report.
6. **Planning matters:**
 - 6.1. The following applications from SDC were considered and recommendations made:
 - 6.1..1. **Application Number: 21/11/00018**

Applicant: Mr D Heal
Proposal: Installation of 16 photovoltaic solar panels to the south facing roof of the house
Location: Reeve Haye, Webbington Road, Compton Bishop, Axbridge
Parish Council's Comment : This application was withdrawn and replaced with a new submission (see below) and no action was required.
 - 6.1..2. **Application Number: 21/11/00021**

Applicant: Mr D Heal
Proposal: Installation of 16 photovoltaic solar panels
Location: Reeve Haye, Webbington Road, Compton Bishop, Axbridge
Parish Council's Comment : This application was for a Certificate of Lawful Development and was approved by Sedgemoor Planners.
 - 6.1..3. **Application Number: 21/11/00023**

Applicant: Mr Stuchbery
Proposal: Installation of 12 No ground mounted photovoltaic solar panels
Location: Crooks Peak House, Webbington Road, Compton Bishop, Axbridge, BS262HW.
Parish Council's recommendation: The council had no comment to submit. The Planning Advisory Group would write to the Planning Officer with regard to photovoltaic panel installation which appears exempt from general planning rules.
 - 6.2. It was noted that Mr Rickards has yet to respond to the Council's concerns regarding Compton House change of use. It was also noted that a member of the parish whose written comments, regarding application number 21/11/00011, had been amended by planning officers.
 - 6.3. The meeting with SDC regarding Electronic Consultation will be attended by Cllrs Rolfe and Parker.
7. **Highways matters:**

Cllr Rolfe raised the issue of the absence of a Group Leader for the Highways Advisory Group. The Council reviewed all the Advisory Group members prior to continuing with Highway matters. It was resolved that the Advisory Groups have the following members assigned :

Finance : Cllr Passmore (leader), Cllr Bell and Co-opted member Mr R Woolley.
Planning : Cllr Rolfe (leader), Cllrs Campbell, Parker and Mrs C Woolley
Highways : Cllr Bell (leader), Cllrs Campbell, Parker, Rolfe and Mr R Woolley.
Environment : Cllr Parker (leader), Cllrs Passmore and Vickerstaff

 - 7.1. Cllr Parker presented a report covering three months statistics from the Speed Indicator Device (SID). It was agreed that the SID did help reduce speeding through Cross although 85% of all the traffic exceed 37mph. SCC are providing all the available readings and Cllr Parker will request the data from the temporary traffic counter which was installed with the previous SID installation. Payment for next year's SID is not required until April 2012 – this will be discussed at the next Council meeting.

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- 7.2. There was no further information regarding the cost of cycle racks for the grass verge at The New Inn. This topic will be reviewed at the next Council Meeting.
- 7.3. The overhanging vegetation at Sunny Ranch, Old Coach Road has been removed by Mr Stone. The overhanging vegetation outside Rosewell Cottage was a shrub growing out of a drain (SCC Highways responsibility) but has been removed by Mrs Wilson.
- 7.4. A quotation was received for Mr T Baker to cut back the overhanging hedge at the A38 junction, south side. Mr Woolley agreed to discuss the matter of clearing the footway with the owner.
- 7.5. Mr Allnutt from Highways House, Old Coach Road, Cross Has asked for a review of the white hatching lines at the Old Coach Road junction opposite the Hall. The hatching should extend to the west side of his drive which would also provide a safer access to his property. Cllr Rolfe agreed to draft a letter to Highways (Mr Chris Betty) describing the problem and suggesting a solution.
- 7.6. Small bags of grit, for use on pavements and minor roads, are available from SCC. Cllrs Rolfe and Campbell will arrange to collect and deliver to suitable locations i.e. Chardet Place, Rackley, Coombe Lane (by Mr Thorne's) and St Andrew's Church.
8. **Environmental matters:**
- 8.1. Springfield Wildlife Site – There was no report. However it was noted that the poster on notice boards seeking volunteers to help record wildlife and join work parties on the each third Sunday of the month displays the incorrect contact telephone number it should read 732484. Clerk to amend accordingly.
- 8.2. Cllr Parker presented his update report on the National Grid consultation. The prime issues for Compton Bishop are that if Pylons are installed they will severely damage the visual aspects of the parish. If underground cables are installed then each end of the undergrounding will have a 'Sealing End Compound' of 50x50 metres. Its location has not been discussed although there is a fear that it could be located near to Kennel Lane. This Council is represented on the Community Forums by Cllr Parker who indicated that during the next phase of consultation there will be a need for additional administrative help require. The National Grid agreed to meet any of the cost for holding Local Community Forum meetings.
- 8.3. Fracking – It was agreed that the Council would monitor the proposals to use the 'Fracking' process for the capture of gas in the Mendip area. Cllr Parker proposed that this council should support Cllr Nigel Taylor (Mendip Council) in addressing concerns regarding the potential damage to water sources in our area.
- 8.4. The daffodil bulbs have been planted in the following locations : Church seat and entrance, verges opposite Chardet Place, verges at Springfield Close and Rackley Lane.
- 8.5. Cllr Campbell reported that Somerset Waste stated that each household would receive a circular on 'bad weather advice' which has not been received. The Clerk to contact the Somerset Waste Partnership for information. Councillors were advised that the Parish website contains this information.
- 8.6. Ian Tabrett produced a report on satisfactory state of footpaths.
9. **Parish Council website:** It was noted that the clerk and Cllr Parker have taken on the duties to maintain the Parish website. Councillors were urged to use the site, encourage other to use it and provide feedback and suggestions on how this could be improved.
10. **Urgent Correspondence:** Prior to the meeting the clerk had circulated a list of correspondence received since the last meeting and so there were no items of which councillors were unaware. However items of interest to councillors were distributed and it was agreed to display notices about our MP's surgeries in the district on all notice boards where that was possible.
11. **Date, time and place of next scheduled meeting:**

Wednesday 25th January 2012, 7.30 p.m. at Cross Memorial Hall

SIGNED:

J. Rolfe
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CHAIRMAN

DATE:

25 Jan 2012
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