

Minutes of Compton Bishop Parish Council Meeting
held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 8 July 2015 at Cross Memorial Hall

Public Participation: Tess Gill, PC Tracey Stiles.

Present: Cllr K Mace (Chair), Cllr M Pritchard, Cllr D McCarthy, Cllr K Glimstead, Cllr E Parker, Cllr J Denbee (SCC & SDC) and Mr R Pring (Clerk)

1. **Apologies for absence:** Apologies received from Cllr T Mason
2. **Approval of minutes:** The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10 June 2015 were previously circulated to all Councillors. These were approved by those present and signed as a true record of the meeting by the Chairman.
3. **Matters arising.** None

The Chairman adjourned the meeting and welcomed PC Tracey Stiles, Beat Manager for Cheddar and Shipham Ward which includes Compton Bishop. She explained that she would try and attend council meetings twice a year but would submit a monthly policing report by e-mail. She informed the members that 38 crimes had been reported in her area during June. It was not possible to issue statistics for individual parishes. She was asked about "rural crimes" which she said were high on her agenda and she was encouraging local farmers to join a "Farm Watch" scheme in order to reduce thefts of livestock and machinery. She also reported that "boy racers" in Cheddar Gorge was another issue that was being dealt with by Police and local partners. The Chairman thanked her for her attendance.

The Chairman then welcomed Tess Gill who was representing the residents action group concerning the "coffin lane" project to get a safe crossing for pedestrians and cyclist across the A 38 at Cross. She gave an update on the situation thus far and reported on a very successful cycle event held recently to raise awareness for the project which now had the support of the local MP. Cllr John Denbee offered his support to the project and the matter would be further discussed later in the meeting. Mrs Gill was thanked for her attendance.

4. **Declarations of Interest:** None

5. **Finance Matters.**

5.1 **RESOLVED** the following invoices be paid:-

Cheque no.	Payee	Reason for Payment	Amount
100741	Zurich Mutual	Annual council insurance	£326.30
100742	R Pring (Clerk)	Clerk's expenses	£33.79

5.2 The Clerk reported that following the last meeting a cheque payable to Zurich Insurance had been returned by HSBC claiming the signatures did not match the specimens held on file. This was agreed and the cheque re-issued. (It was noted that four other cheques with the same signatures had been presented without issue !)

6. **Recommendations from Finance Advisory Group:**

7.1 Cllr Mason had recently reviewed assets owned by the Parish Council and these had been circulated to members. They agreed with the list currently shown on the Council insurance policy. The Chairman noted that a bench near one of the pubs appeared to be in a state of disrepair and this would be further looked at and discussed at the next meeting. **RESOLVED:** the asset list as produced be adopted by the Council as an accurate record.

7. **Planning Matters:**

7.1 The Clerk had received an application 24/15/00016/CG relating to a proposal to site a wind turbine at White House Lane, Loxton. This matter was for consultation only as it was sited in a neighbouring parish. Councillors had not had the opportunity to view the application and decided that details would be placed on the village website so that any interested residents could view the plans or make comment direct. Once Councillors have had an opportunity to view the application, any further action could be considered.

7.2 It was noted that a recent application 15/00011/LE, Alcasta, Old Coach Road had been refused permission by Sedgemoor DC. The Chairman said that it had come to his attention that the applicant had been under the impression that he had full Parish Council support when this was obviously not the case. He reminded members carrying out site visits not to make any comments which could prejudice full council decisions at a later stage

8. **Highway Matters**

8.1 Grasscutting contract. The Clerk advised that a new contract had been signed with Tim Baker whose costs remained the same as last year. It was suggested that a new tender be issued for 2016. Cllr M Pritchard agreed to monitor the work to ensure the contract was being fulfilled.

8.2 Cllr D McCarthy gave details of a response she had received from County Highways concerning the proposal to extend the 30mph limit at Webbington Road. This matter was being progressed in her capacity as a private citizen and resident, in conjunction with other concerned residents. She was disappointed that they were not prepared to progress the matter. Cllr John Denbee offered his support. **RESOLVED** a letter of support be sent to Bev Norman supporting the residents' proposal.

8.3 Coffin Lane project. Following the earlier presentation by Tess Gill, Cllr J. Denbee expressed his frustration at the lack of communication between the Highways Officers, the local residents group and himself over this matter. He had been waiting for a response since December last year and was pleased to hear that a petition was being submitted to County. He was having a meeting next week with the Highways team and would expect some action to be forthcoming. **RESOLVED:** a letter of support be sent to Cllr D Fothergill and a copy to Axbridge TC requesting similar support for the project.

9 Environmental Matters:

9.1 The Clerk reported on a SCC proposal "Adopt a Footpath" scheme to encourage local residents to cut back brambles etc. and report serious issues back to them. It was agreed that the local Parish Footpaths Officer, Annie Vickerstaffe be invited to the next meeting to report on her duties and the state of local paths.

9.2 Cllrs E Parker and D McCarthy agreed to join Richard Parker on the Environment Advisory Group.

9.3 National Grid and Hinkley C proposals. A report from Richard Parker had been circulated and was noted. It was agreed that he be thanked for all he does in connection with this project.

10. Communications

10.1 Cllr M Pritchard reported that she was working with Richard Parker to set up a "Parish News Link" with an e-mail database of local residents to disseminate urgent information.

11. Correspondence. Nothing further to report.

12 Representation:

12.1 The Clerk reported that he had recently attended the local Parish Cluster Group meeting at Badgworth where an explanation of the new Community Infrastructure Levy had been explained. This was a fund paid for by land developers and planning applicants towards local community benefits. He would circulate papers from the meeting to members at the next meeting.

13 Date of next meeting Wednesday 12 August at 7.30pm in Cross Memorial Hall

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55pm.