

Minutes of Compton Bishop Parish Council Meeting
held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 12 August 2015 at Cross Memorial Hall

Public Participation: Mr R Parker, Mrs A Vickerstaff

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

Prior to the meeting commencing, the Chairman allowed Mr Parker to address the council and he updated members on the present position with National Grid and Hlnkley C project. It was noted that James Heapey MP had been appointed to the Climate Change Committee. He also updated members on the "high speed" Broadband programme. Parts of Axbridge and Cheddar could now receive this but 20% of local residents were unable to do so. As Editor of the Parish website, the Coffin Lane minutes and accounts were now available for public viewing.

Mrs Vickerstaff explained that she had recently taken over as Paths Liaison officer for the Parish and was available to deal with any issues reported by local residents. Matters that were more demanding would be referred to SCC Footpaths Department for action. It was reported that a path near the Webbington had been closed by SCC but the Council had not been made aware of this. The Clerk would check with Chris East at Taunton. It was also noted that the footpath/pavement from Cross to Weare on the A 38 was overgrown. The Clerk was asked to report this matter to Highways. The Chairman thanked both Mr Parker and Mrs Vickerstaff for their comments.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Apologies received from Cllr T Mason
2. **Approval of minutes:** The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8 July 2015 and the Extraordinary Meeting held on 29 July 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.** Cllr McCarthy produced an e-mail from a resident of Webbington Road supporting the request for an extension of the 30mph limit. This would be acknowledged and filed with other correspondence.
4. **Declarations of Interest:** None
5. **To consider a Freedom of Information request from Cllr Grimstead.** Deferred to next meeting.
6. **Leadership and responsibilities.** Cllr Pritchard asked if members would take responsibilities for certain areas of the parish to collate and report information concerning hedges, highways and other issues which could affect road safety and detract from the beauty of the local area. After a lengthy discussion she agreed to hold informal talks with other members to consider a way forward. It was accepted that anything requiring District or County Council action should be channelled through the Clerk.
7. **Sedgemoor DC Gambling Policy.** The document running to some 19 pages had been circulated to members. **RESOLVED:** To note the contents of the policy and to make no further comment.

8. **Finance Matters.**

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

Cheque no.	Payee	Reason for Payment	Amount
100743	R Pring	Clerk's expenses	£27.09

8.2 **To consider a request from Sedgemoor CAB for a grant.** Proposed by Cllr Pritchard, seconded by Cllr Parker that £50.00 be granted. **RESOLVED:** The Council make a grant of £50.00 to Sedgemoor CAB towards running costs.

8.3. **To consider a grant to St Andrew's Church towards grass-cutting.** It was noted that a grant of £375.00 had been made in December 2014. Proposed by Cllr Grimstead, seconded by Cllr Pritchard that a grant of £375.00 be made. Members agreed to consider this grant at the August meeting of the council to avoid any further confusion of dates. **RESOLVED:** To make a grant of £375.00 towards grass-cutting costs.

9. **Planning Matters:**

9.1 It was noted that application 21/15/00008, 7 Church Lane, Compton Bishop was subject to appeal. Members agreed to submit written comments to the Planning Inspectorate to support their opposition to the application.

9.2 To consider the latest position with regard to the stage 2 complaint in respect of application 21/14/00001. Deferred to September meeting.

9.3 The Clerk had circulated details of an application 21/15/00014, Crossways House, Cross which had been received yesterday. Deferred to September meeting.

10. Highway Matters

10.1 Coffin Lane. Cllr McCarthy updated members on the latest situation. She had attended a meeting last night and a request would be made to the Parish Council to pay £100 for tree stump clearance on Clements Corner. The Clerk asked that a VAT invoice be produced for consideration. She also updated members on her meeting with Cllr Fothergill at County Hall concerning the need for safety measures at the A 38 junction. It was noted that a feasibility study would have to take place

They had stressed the urgent need due to extra traffic being generated by housing developments at Axbridge and the Hinkley Point construction project. The Coffin Lane committee were considering holding a public meeting to update local residents on the current situation. The Chairman said he had received a request from a local resident to submit a comment on a planning application objecting to a proposed housing development at Cheddar which could result in extra traffic on the A 371/A38. Cllr Grimstead pointed out the matter was not an agenda item and therefore could not be formally resolved. The Clerk concurred with that view and advised that it would be unconstitutional to proceed with this as the matter had not been an agenda item and the council could be subject to criticism. The Chairman agreed not to pursue the matter but reminded members that they were entitled to state their personal views on-line.

10.2 Cllr Pritchard expressed concerns about the number of trees and bushes obstructing footpaths and highways and drainage channels being blocked with weeds. It was generally accepted that householders had certain responsibilities as this type of maintenance work was not a priority for the Highways Department. It was suggested a timely reminder be placed in the local village newsletter.

10.3 Cllr Pritchard pointed out that no buses currently visited the village but the bus shelters were still used by walkers and were in need of refurbishment. She agreed to carry out some of the work herself and was authorised to purchase paint etc. the cost of which could come from council funds.

10.4 Cllr Pritchard asked if the council would agree for home produced dog fouling notices to be produced and distributed to local residents. This was agreed providing they were lawfully displayed.

11. Environmental Matters

These matters were dealt with by Mr Parker and Mrs Vickerstaff earlier.

12 Communications

12.1 Cllr Pritchard reported that good progress was made in collecting e-mail addresses for the transmission of urgent notices and warnings. She was currently updating noticeboards but photos of members were required.

12.2 Website. A discussion took place as to whether the Council should have a dedicated website or continue with the existing link from the Parish website operated by Mr Parker. SALC had pointed out that it was not mandatory to have a "stand alone" site as long as what was being displayed was transparent and editorially controlled. It was agreed to remain with the present site but the Clerk would be given password access to update the Council's page as required.

13. Correspondence. Nil

14 Representation:

12.1 Cllr McCarthy would attend the Kings of Wessex Awards evening subject to her availability and Cllr Mace was looking for a member to accompany him to the lunch preceding the Blackberry Carnival in Axbridge.

13 Date of next meeting Wednesday 9 September at 7.30pm in Cross Memorial Hall

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm.