

**Minutes of Compton Bishop Parish Council Meeting**  
**Held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at Cross Memorial Hall**

**Public Participation:**

*There were two members of the public present who addressed the Council.*

PCSO Matt Hawker introduced himself and confirmed that the Crime Rate report had been received and noted the recent meeting between PC Tracy Stiles regarding unsociable behaviour outside The White Hart. Kim Wilcox introduced herself as our Village Agent (Community Council for Somerset) and described her role in the community. The CCS has received funding which ensures their support until 2018. Her role is free, confidential and provides help, guidance and support for connecting people with services and support ranging from advice on community transport, aids for comfortable living, eligibility for support services, using trusted trades people, dementia help groups, etc.

**Present:** Cllr T Mason (Chairman), Cllr M Pritchard, Cllr D McCarthy, Cllr K Glimstead,  
Clerk (Temporary) Mr R Parker

The meeting commenced at 7.47 pm

**1. Apologies for absence**

1.1. Apologies were received from Cllr E Parker.

**2. Approval of minutes**

2.1. The minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2016 were found to be incorrect in the statement of Cllr Pritchard leaving and that the resolution in item 12.2 had not been publicly posted on the agenda and so was invalid. The corrected minutes were **approved unanimously**.

**3. Matters arising**

There was none

**4. Declarations of Interest**

There was none

**5. Casual Vacancy and Clerk Vacancy**

5.1. There were no applicants received from the formal advertisement for the casual vacancy. The Council is able to co-opt two members onto the Council. There are four people who indicated interest and two had completed application forms but had not submitted them.

5.2. There are two applications for the vacancy for a Clerk, both do not reside locally. The Staffing Committee of Cllrs Mason, Parker and Pritchard will arrange to meet and arrange interviews.

**6. Finance matters**

**6.1. Approve Payments**

6.1.1. Invoices from T Baker for grass cutting – numbers 2138 and 2182 for the sum of £185 were **approved unanimously**.

6.1.2. Invoice 49 for the hire of Cross Hall hire for CBPC Meetings from October to March for the sum of £105 was **approved unanimously**.

6.2. **Audit of Accounts** - The policy which enables small authorities where income or expenditure does not exceed £25,000 can be exempted from using an external auditor. Accounts would need to be published and an exemption form completed. It was suggested that an internal audit of accounts be retained and it was **unanimously resolved** to approve the opting out of the external audit arrangement.

6.3. A request from Mendip Community Transport was deferred until the March meeting.

**7. Planning Matters**

7.1. The appeal against the unsuccessful application 02/15/00019 for a solar farm was noted and no further actions were required.

7.2. It was noted that application 21/16/00001 was received prior to this meeting for a Certificate of Lawfulness. The details were not known. The Clerk was asked to circulate details should action be needed.

7.3. The Clerk had received an email from Cheddar Parish Council (Chairman of Planning) regarding an application for 110 houses on land that is not designated for development on their emerging Parish Plan. SDC Planners appear to have ignored the Plan, misinterpreted the housing need requirement, failed to include newly built and unsold affordable homes and failed to consider the Parish Plan and views of the Parish Council and residents (required in Policy P4 and P6). Cheddar Parish Council has asked that Compton Bishop PC supports Cheddar PC and their challenge against the SDC Planning Officers lack of consideration for Parish Plans and policy P4/6. It was **unanimously resolved** to support Cheddar PC in this matter.

**8. Highway Matters**

8.1. **Anti-Social behaviour at The White Hart after midnight** - The Clerk had spoken to The Landlady who agreed there was noise which she had done her best to control. However she maintained that the problem was with late night drinkers bringing their drinks to their car park. A visual inspection of the car park supported this view although it was apparent that customers from The White Hart were joining the visitors. Some gas canisters were also found. It was agreed that the anti-social behaviour should be reported to

Signed: .....Chairman

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> March 2016

Page 1 of 2

the police when it occurs. The Clerk contacted the police who agreed that this should be reported and that they (police) would investigate late night drinking and noise disturbance in that area.

## **8.2. Coffin Lane Campaign**

- 8.2.1. A report from Tess Gill was read out requesting that because of the lack of progress, a meeting is arranged with Compton Bishop Parish Council, Cllr John Denbee (SCC), Cllr Liz Scott (SDC0 and representatives from Axbridge Town Council. It was **unanimously resolved** to request this meeting.
- 8.2.2. A letter to Peter Hobley (SCC Rights of Way Service Manager) was read out. This called for the application for modification of the definitive map regarding the former permissive path at Cross Lane. It was **unanimously resolved** to support the request that Cllr Denbee be requested to have our application taken out of turn. The alternative appears to wait for the application to be considered after a wait of 45 years.
- 8.2.3. Cllr McCarthy had attended a meeting with the manager of Callow Hill Quarry and reported that he was interested in the Coffin Lane Campaign objectives and offered to supply aggregates for surface dressing. He had requested a meeting with the relevant people whom he would contact.

**8.3. Revocation Request** - A letter from Mr Warren (SCC Traffic Engineer), in response to a revocation request for a 40mph limit on Webbington Road, was read out. The extent of requirements, cost and consultation did not appear to accord with the perceived ease and lack of consultation (with CBPC) that the revocation on Cross Lane required. Cllr McCarthy requested a site meeting with Mr Warren to include the current numbers and size of signs on Webbington Road. It was **unanimously resolved** to arrange a meeting on a vote of three members for and one member against.

**8.4.** The latest SID report shows a daily average of 500 vehicles travelling east on Old Coach Road with a median speed of 32 mph and an 85%ile speed of 37mph which is 1 mph above the intervention limit. The Clerk has spoken to The Police who will contact the enforcement unit to take action.

**8.5. Contract farm vehicles** – a letter had been sent to Thatchers and Alvis regarding the speed of agricultural vehicles through the parish. Thatchers have not yet replied but Alvis has high standards for their staff and has asked that residents note the registration and time and report it to Alvis. If drivers are using phones while driving this must also be reported.

**8.6. Finger Posts** – It was noted that SCC are planning to cease maintenance of 'Finger-Posts'. The Clerk was instructed to seek clarification and obtain typical maintenance costs.

**8.7. Maintenance – repair of Village Signs.** Cllr McCarthy has volunteered to repair the broken 'Webbington' village sign. The material for posts would be approximately £18 plus and 'post-crete' required. It was **unanimously resolved** to approve that Cllr McCarthy's husband carries out the repairs and submits the VAT invoices for all materials used.

## **9. Environmental Matters**

**9.1. Hinkley C Connection** – Mr Parker had previously submitted a report on the approval of The Secretary of State for National Grid's proposal for a predominantly overhead connection for Hinkley C to Seabank, with undergrounding through the AONB. A proposal for a judicial review is being pursued. The first stage is to establish the probability of success. Funds need to be raised to meet these costs and a meeting with James Heapey MP is being arranged for Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February to review the situation. A request for funding was not considered appropriate expenditure for such a small parish with very limited funds.

**9.2. Bulb Planting** – Cllrs Pritchard and McCarthy suggested that the time for planting bulbs was over but suggested that the Parish should have flower troughs. Discussions or proposals were deferred until the next meeting.

## **10. Communications**

**10.1.** Parish Link - no report

## **11. Correspondence.**

**11.1.** **Bristol Water** will be laying a new water main from Barrow Gurney to Cheddar. This will pass through Shute Shelve railway tunnel and across the A38.

**11.2.** **Somerset Waste** is proposing to extend the re-cycling items which should help reduce the black bin collections to three weekly.

**11.3.** **Somerset Library Service – Mobile Library** have written to advise that, because their policy is to withdraw stops where there are 3 unused consecutive visits, the Harbourne House site (Compton Bishop) will be withdrawn from April 2016

## **12. Any Other Business**

**12.1.** **Celebration of The Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday** – Cllr Parker reported that feedback from residents has been positive and with no objection. The initial forms have been sent to Jeff Bunting (SCC Highways).

**12.2.** **Annual Open Parish Meeting** – The date of 22<sup>nd</sup> April was confirmed. Cllrs will discuss the format at the next Council Meeting.

**12.3.** **Cluster Group** – The next Cluster Group Meeting is at Cheddar Church House

## **13. Next Meeting**

**13.1.** Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9,16pm