

Compton Bishop Parish Council

Minutes 8th July 2026

Minutes of the meeting of Compton Bishop Parish Council held at 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday 8th July 2026 at Cross Memorial Hall, Cross.

Present: Chairman T. Mason, Cllr. H. Dean, Cllr. R. Glyde, Cllr D. Ham, Cllr. D. McCarthy, Cllr. C. Settle.

In attendance: Sally Ferguson, Locum Clerk, Unitary Cllr. B Filmer and Unitary Cllr. T. Grimes.

26/07/A Cllr. Hancock sent apologies and there were no declarations of interest.

26/07/B Approval of previous minutes

The Council considered the minutes of the meetings held on 9th June 2026 and 17th June 2026. It was resolved to approve both sets of Minutes, which were signed by the Chair as a correct record.

26/07/C Public speaking

There were no Members of the public present.

26/07/D Planning matters

Planning applications: No planning applications had been received at the time the agenda was published.

Planning decisions and decisions awaited:

- 21/24/00006 Land North of Cross Moor Drove — awaited.
- 21/25/00002 Land to the East of Manor Farm, Cross, Axbridge — awaited.
- 21/26/00003 Harbourne House, Church Lane, BS26 2HB — committee referral (14/07/2026)
- 21/26/00006 Old Manor House, Cross, BS26 2ED — awaited.
- 21/26/00008 Land to West of Kennel Lane, Webbington, BS26 — awaited.

26/07/E Correspondence

Most correspondence had been sent by email. A request to provide expenses for a minor repair to the bus stop was approved.

26/07/F Unitary Councillor report

The Council received a report from the Unitary Councillor. This report will be displayed on the website.

26/07/G Financial report and payments

The Council approved the bank reconciliation of 30th June and payments for July. It was resolved to approve the following payments:

1. Hire of Memorial all for extra meeting=£20.00
2. Expenses for paint for Cross Bus Shelter (M. Rolfe) = £41.77
3. Clerk's expenses /Home allowance June 2026=£42.84
4. Clerk salary= £551.04
5. Scribe Accounting package (DD)= £14.40
6. Planter expenses (P. Ardiffe) = £82.30
7. Tax and N.I (HMRC)= £178.35
8. Payroll Services (PATA)=£55.35

9. Wells Medical (Defib battery) = £294.00
10. Grounds Maintenance (J. Cheek) = £90.00
11. Bank Charges (Lloyds)= £4.25

Contractual payments were noted and authorised for payment in August as there will be no meeting. Full breakdown of these will appear on the September Minutes.

The balances of the accounts after payment of the above are;

1. Current account = £348.58
2. Deposit Account= £42,159.85
3. Vat (to reclaim) = £107.60

26/07/H Clerk's report

The ICO has been notified of the change in data controller. No response has been received to the letter sent to a landowner about clearing vegetation in and around the River Axe to allow water to flow downstream without obstruction. The Clerk wrote to the Environment Agency for an update on Bleadon Sluice and received a prompt reply, including an offer to keep the parishes informed if investment in the project becomes possible. Two quotes have been obtained for a new website, and the Clerk will present examples of both at the meeting. Advance notice has also been received regarding the winter grit supply.

26/07/I Councillor reports

Cllr. McCarthy updated Members on several matters: parking concerns around The New Inn, including vehicles on yellow lines near a known dangerous junction; overgrown hedges and blocked drains; and the Local Transport Plan, which does not mention Cross or Compton Bishop. On a positive note, the pathway on the A38 has now been cleared of vegetation and is once again passable for walkers.

Members expressed concern about the vegetation obstructing the River Axe. As no response had been received to the Council's letter to the landowner last month, the Clerk was asked to obtain contractor costs and liaise with the Internal Drainage Board and Environment Agency regarding the permissions required to carry out the work and the legalities of recovering the costs from the landowner.

26/07/J

Chair Mason provided an update on the Memorial Hall solar panel request and surface water discharge issues at Cross Pumping Station. Members discussed community engagement as a possible next step. It was generally felt that further information should be shared with the Hall Committee, and that an open meeting with representatives from the Parish Council, Hall Committee and Axevale Climate Change Group would help improve communication about the long-term implications of the proposal, including its potential to reduce the Hall's carbon footprint. Funding opportunities, the issues already raised in the report and any further concerns from the Hall Committee could then be considered before wider community consultation. Members also discussed the Cross Pumping Station issues and noted that householders may be less receptive to engagement if costs were involved. It was also noted that heavy rainfall causes significant water run-off from the surrounding hills, which adds to the problem.

26/07/K Surface water issue by the Webbington Hotel

The Clerk provided an update on culverting solutions for the surface water issue by the Webbington Hotel. Highways had replied to say this would be resolved before the Winter. It was therefore resolved to remove this item from the agenda.

26/07/L August recess and next meeting date

The Council resolved to observe an August recess and confirmed the next meeting date as 9th September 2026.

26/07/M Replacement footbridge over the River Yeo

The Council had received no further update on the replacement footbridge over the River Yeo.

26/07/N Resident concern regarding Speed Watch

The Council considered an email from a resident raising concerns about speeding past his property. Cllr. McCarthy agreed to provide the Clerk with the Speed Watch Coordinator's contact details to pass on to the resident, as new volunteers are always welcome. It was noted that all Speed Watch locations must be approved by Highways for safety reasons, and that the Council may consider funding an additional SID post in the future.

26/07/O Staffing Committee update and formal appointment of Clerk

The Council received the Staffing Committee's update and considered the Clerk's formal appointment. It was resolved to appoint Sally Ferguson as Clerk and RFO from 1st July 2026, with a three-month review period, at 8 hours per week on SCP27.

26/07/P General Power of Competence

The Council reviewed its eligibility to adopt the General Power of Competence. It was not possible to adopt the power, as the requirement for at least two-thirds of councillors to be elected was not met.

26/07/Q Lloyds bank mandate

The Council considered updating the Lloyds bank mandate to remove the retired Clerk and add the new Clerk. It was resolved that the necessary actions would be taken.

26/07/R New compliant website.

The Council considered commissioning a new compliant website, as the current site does not meet accessibility requirements or align with the gov.uk email addresses. The Clerk provided examples and quotes. It was resolved to proceed with Parish Council Websites, as the example shown was professional and compliant. The Clerk was asked to progress this as quickly as possible, as the current website was due for renewal on 24th July. It was resolved that the renewal fee would be paid if the new provider needed more time to build the new site. It was also resolved to retain the old .org domain for security purposes.

26/07/S Redundant notice boards.

The Council considered repurposing redundant parish notice boards that are no longer used for agendas or minutes. It was resolved to change the locking mechanisms to allow public use and to use the Kennel Lane notice board to display Parish Council information, including details of the forthcoming new website.

26/07/T Parish Council documents and maps from former councillor Richard Parker.

The Council considered archiving Parish Council documents and maps received from former councillor Richard Parker. It was resolved to support the Hall Committee in creating an archive area once the items were ready.

Meeting closed: 8.37 p.m.

End of minutes

These Minutes were signed as a true record on 9th September