Compton Bishop Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday 9th September 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, Clerk, and three residents.

26/09/A Apologies and Declarations of Interest
Apologies were received from Cllr. G. Hancock and Unitary Cllrs. B. Filmer and T. Grimes. There were no Declarations of interest.

26/09/B Minutes of 8th July 2026
It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 8th July 2026 be approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

26/09/C Public Speaking
The Chair suspended the meeting at 7.02 p.m. to allow residents to speak. Members of the public raised concerns about speeding and road safety in the village and discussed possible mitigation measures. The Council noted their comments, asked questions, summarised previous efforts to address the issue, and agreed to consider the relevant matters under the corresponding agenda item. The residents left at 7.20 p.m., and the meeting resumed.

26/09/D Planning

- 21/26/00009/JMS, Glebe House, Vicarage Lane, Compton Bishop, Axbridge, Somerset BS26 2HL: The Council considered the variation of Conditions 2 and 3 of Planning Permission 21/21/00024. It was resolved to offer No observations.

Planning decisions and those awaited: The Council noted the following updates.

- 21/24/00006 Land North of Cross Moor Drove — Permission granted for 3 years until 31st July 2029.
- 21/25/00002 Land to the East of Manor Farm, Cross, Axbridge — Granted permission.
- 21/26/00003 Harbourne House, Church Lane, BS26 2HB — Permission granted at Committee level.
- 21/26/00006 Old Manor House, Cross, BS26 2ED —Granted permission.
- 21/26/00008 Land to West of Kennel Lane, Webbington, BS26 — Awaited.
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26/09/E Correspondence
The Clerk had circulated most correspondence by email and was asked to join Cross Connections to ensure that the Council's contact details and new website were publicised. Chris Packham's film on climate change was due to be shown at Winscombe Community Centre at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday 16th September.

26/09/F Unitary Councillor Report
The Unitary Councillor submitted a report with an update from Somerset Council, which will be published on the Parish Council website.

26/09/G Financial Report, Bank Reconciliation and Payments
The Council received the financial report and considered the bank reconciliation and payments for August and September. It was resolved to approve the bank reconciliation and payments as circulated. The Council noted the Clerk's national pay award of 3.3% at SCP 27, equivalent to a 65p per hour increase, backdated to 1st June 2026 to reflect the start of employment.

August payments:

- Parish Council Websites (New website) £803.82
- Clerk Expenses = £35.80
- Salary= £550.84
- HMRC (Tax and N.I.) = £178.55
- Bank charges = £4.25

September Payments:

- Parish Council Websites (old domain renewal) =£18.00
- Clerk Expenses = £34.00
- Salary= £551.04
- Payroll (PATA)= £55.35
- HMRC (Tax and N.I.) = £178.35
- M. Peel (fuel exp) = £25.36
- Scribelite= £14.40
- Bank charges = £4.25
- J. Cheek (Grounds Maintenance) = £80.00

The account balances after September payments are:

- Current Account=£762.67
- Deposit Account= £47,196.03

It was noted that the second half of the Precept had been received and the majority transferred to earn interest.

26/09/H Clerk Report
The new website is generating interest, and the Clerk would welcome updated photographs from Members to refresh the images from the old site.

The Clerk has reviewed previous years' accounts to gain a clearer understanding of the Council's finances and will present a draft budget forecast at the October meeting, enabling Members to begin considering the 2027–2028 budget. Members are invited to suggest projects for consideration in the next financial year.

She has prepared a draft list of 2027 meeting dates, which will be considered at the October meeting.

26/09/I Councillor Reports
Cllr. McCarthy raised concerns about overgrown hedgerows, particularly at the Webbington Hotel, where one was partially obscuring a speed limit roundel. It was suggested that an extension arm could resolve the issue. She also referred to the Draft Local Transport Plan and efforts to ensure the community was included, as it was not currently mentioned.

26/09/J Solar Panel Suggestion for the Memorial Hall
Chair Mason updated the Council on the proposed solar panels for the Memorial Hall. The Hall Committee had prepared an updated constitution, submitted energy-usage data to the Climate Action Group, who had obtained three assessment quotes.

26/09/K Fire-Risk Prevention on the Mendips
The Council considered the National Trust's response on future fire-risk prevention inadequate in view of increasingly hot, dry summers. It was agreed that the Clerk would invite the National Trust to a Parish Council meeting and that the Chair would invite the Fire Commander to discuss future fire-prevention measures.

26/09/L Speeding in the Village and SID Posts
The Council considered residents' concerns about speeding and discussed installing new and/or replacement SID posts at suitable locations. It agreed to proceed and explore all feasible measures to address the growing problem.

26/09/M Replacement Footbridge over the River Yeo
The Chair updated the Council on the replacement footbridge over the River Yeo. The Bridges Officer had recently returned from prolonged sick leave and needed to obtain a licence before work could proceed because of the salmonid season issue, resulting in a further delay to completion.

26/09/N Overgrown Hedges and Trees Affecting Highway Signage
The Council considered concerns raised by Mike Peel, CSW Coordinator, about vegetation obscuring highway signs and speed roundels on rural roads across the parish.

For Webbington Road and other affected locations, the Council discussed commissioning and funding hedge-cutting by a suitably equipped contractor. It agreed that the Chair would liaise with a contractor and provide the locations to the Clerk, who would contact any known landowners. For safety reasons, the Council also agreed to fund necessary work where the landowner was unknown.

26/09/O Mandatory Recording of Staff Holidays
The Clerk updated the Council on the mandatory requirement to record staff holidays from 1st April 2026. The Council noted that the Clerk would maintain the record using a form to be signed off at the end of the financial year.

26/09/P Clerk's Request to Attend WordPress Training
The Council considered the Clerk's request to attend a WordPress training course in October, with the cost to be shared. It resolved to fund 50% of the course fee, and the Clerk thanked the Council.

Date of Next Meeting
The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 14th October 2026 at 7 p.m.

The meeting closed at 8.33 p.m.