

Coombe Bissett Parish Council
Parish Council Meeting Minutes
No Parish Clerk attending – parishclerkcoombebissett@gmail.com

Confirmed Minutes of the Ordinary Coombe Bissett Parish Council meeting held Tuesday 13th January 2026 at Coombe Bissett Village Hall. The meeting started at 7.15pm.

Present; Cllrs A Bird (Chair), S Boxall (Vice Chair), M King, L Reed, B Archer, S Gledhill, D Scott.

Also present: Cllr R Clewer and 9 members of the public

No Clerk attendance due to staff change over.

Public Session

Two Parishioners spoke of their concerns regarding the Neighbourhood Plan and the upcoming Referendum taking place on 28th January 2026. These concerns were also in conjunction with the planning application for The Old Vicarage.

A Parishioner raised a request for a replacement Bus Shelter by the Fox & Goose. It is understood that Wiltshire Council have a budget of £8 million for such shelters, the Parishioner asked if CBCP would support a request for the shelter. CBCP agreed that support for this should be considered.

Agenda

112.25 To receive and consider acceptance of apologies for absence. None

113.25 Vacancies in Parish Council Office: None.

114.25 Declaration of Interest: None declared.

115.25 To consider any urgent matters raised in the public session, and any other urgent matters or items from Councillors. (For discussion only, no decisions can be taken)

Neighbourhood Plan. In response to the issues raised in the Public Session it was noted that no changes will be made to the plan. There will be a community briefing to be held on 19th January at 7.30pm at Coombe Bissett Village Hall, where Parishioners are welcome to attend, for the purpose of seeking clarity on the purpose of the NP before the Referendum on 28th January 2026.

116.25 To agree any items on the agenda that are to be dealt with following the exclusions of the press & public. None

117.25 Appointment of new clerk. All Cllrs Agreed to the appointment of Christine Nielsen.
Approve to add Christine to the CBPC Bank Accounts. Approved
To Agree the SLCC Subscription for one years membership. Agreed.

118.25 Minutes. To review and approve the Minutes of meeting held 11th November 2025 and 12th December 2025. **Approved**

119.25 Replacement bus shelter application (request from Chris Chelu)

This was raised in the Public Session. It was agreed that CBCP should review the application process and support a replacement Bus Shelter if deemed possible.

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120.25 Playpark. To consider the quotes received for replacement equipment.

Cllr A Bird (Chair) has obtained quotes ranging from £7,776 - £24,800 depending on the extent of the work, for the cost of removal of current Swings/replacement swings and removal of old bark chipping and replacement chippings. It was agreed that these need to be replaced in order to meet the safety requirements of the Playpark.

To reduce costs, it was agreed that if CBPC could arrange for the chippings to be cleared with help of Cllrs and Parishioners, this would reduce the overall costs. A discussion was had on the logistics of clearing the bark and how and when this should take place, with any risks to be taken into consideration.

Cllr Bird (Chair) will request new quotes less the cost of removal of the old bark chippings.

121.25 Shutts Lane Noticeboard. Deferred to March.

122.25 Speed Bumps for drainage. Deferred to March

123.25 The Old Vicarage

Cllr Archer requested clarification from Cllr Gledhill and the Parish Council on the previously confirmed approval of the Old Vicarage planning application (PL/2025/06872) and the contradicting recommendation made by an Independent Examiner that the Old Vicarage should be classed as a non-designated heritage site. Cllr Archer Attended the Southern Area Planning Meeting on behalf of the Parish Council at which the Old Vicarage planning application was to be discussed. Cllr Archer was of the opinion that the meeting was a disappointment due factually inaccurate content. Cllr Clewer advised that he did not agree that the decision made was sound. Cllr Clewer has challenged this to great extent, and it is anticipated that a private meeting is expected to take place ahead of the next planning meeting to highlight potentially factually incorrect information with regards to the Old Vicarage planning application. Cllr Archer noted his disappointment that a letter written by him on behalf of the CBPC, expressing his concerns and frustrations as a result of the meeting he attended, had not been sent to the Director of Planning at Wiltshire Council. Cllr Bird (Chair) responded that there were insufficient responses from the other Parish Councillors to allow for the letter to be sent on behalf of CBPC, however the letter could have been sent in a personal capacity.

124.25 Clerks Report/standing items

a. Parish Steward visit. 6th January and 3rd February 2026. New Farm Vactor visit - pending – Cllr Reed to follow up. The Parish Stewards visits are postponed due to sickness. Expected to resume at the end of January.

b. CHAVS. Homington Bench – MK to obtain price for replacement bench

c. Flooding. No update

125.25 Planning:

a) To consider any new planning applications received. None received

b) To consider any new planning applications received between publication of agenda and meeting. None received

c) To confirm any planning application responses determined by email for applications received since last meeting: Comments can be viewed on the Wiltshire Council Planning Portal

d) To note any planning application decisions made by Wiltshire Council.

PL/2025/08616: Karelea, Coombe Bissett SP5 4LZ. *No objection.*

PL/2025/08144: Land on Southwest of Chalk Pitt Cottage, Coombe Bissett. *Objection*

PL/2025/08054: Hillview, Blandford Road, Coombe Bissett. *Approved with conditions*

e) The Old Vicarage: The Southern Area Planning Committee met to discuss this planning application. Decision deferred and awaiting further information.

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126.25 Coombe Bissett & Homington Neighbourhood Draft Plan. Update from Cllr Gledhill.

Cllr Gledhill confirmed the date, time and venue for the upcoming Community briefing on 19th January at 7.30pm at Coombe Bissett Village Hall. The purpose of the meeting is to provide clarification and answer any questions regarding the Neighbourhood Plan (NP), ahead of the Referendum on January 28th 2026. It was confirmed that the NP is in place to protect our parish and the content of the plan will not be changed.

The meeting will not be a forum to debate the content of the NP.

The NP has been written in alignment with Wiltshire Council.

Cllr Bird (Chair) noted that Notice of Poll will need to be published by 20th January 2026.

127.25 Finance.

a) To note bank accounts Current a/c £9434.00 - Savings a/c £33,446.21

b) To approve Schedule of Payments - All payments considered approved

c) Bank Reconciliation – 3rd quarter – Approved by Cllr Gledhill.

128.25 Parking Request

17th January 2026 – Private event

23rd January 2026 – Sales of Sales

28th February 2026 – Cricket Club Jazz evening.

129.25 Forthcoming Meetings

LHFIG: 17th February 2026, TBN

Southern Wiltshire Area Board Event: 12th March 2026

130.25 Correspondence Received. (circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting)

Briefing Note no. 25-10: Us Girls Melksham Pilot, Summary of a successful programme

PCC Newsletter 15

Request for additional headstone inscription (Val Roper) approved by email.

131.25 Items to be carried forward to the next Parish Council Meeting.

Shutts Lane Notice board

Playpark

Speed Bump

New Farm

Bus Shelter

Homington Bench

132.25 Date of next meeting - Tuesday 10th March 2026 7.15pm

133.25 To close the meeting. Meeting closed at approx. 8.30pm