

**Minutes of the Meeting of Compton Bassett Parish Council
Held on Thursday, 19th February 2026
At 7 pm at the Benson Hall, Compton Bassett**

Those Present: Cllr Szczesiak Chair (PS), Cllr Lloyd-Davies (RLD), Cllr Barnett (PB), Cllr Budge (EB), Cllr Barlow (JB), D. Zeitzen Clerk (DZ)

County Cllr O'Neil (AN)

A. Elmer (AE) – Website provider Item 25/145 only

AGENDA

Sophy Fearnley-Whittingstall –Advice on gaining funding for local initiatives from solar energy companies.

Sophy answered questions from the parish councillors concerning solar farms that look to extend/develop existing sites and the potential for parish councils to request additional local funding from the solar farms' owners.

It was noted hedgerows at the Penn Hill Solar farm also need improvement/ replacing and cutting.

Sophy is also happy to give advice to the parish council regarding submitting a request for local funding.

PS thanked Sophy for attending the meeting.

Action: JB and Eb will contact Penn Hill Solar Farm owners, the Foresight Group to request extra local funding

25/128 Apologies for absence Cllr Reis (CR), Cllr Waite (LW)

25/129 Minutes – The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 15th January 2026 were unanimously approved and signed by PS – circulated before the meeting

25/130 Declaration of Interest in items on the Agenda None

25/131 Receipt of Public Questions- None

25/132 Finance and Accounts

- a. Bank statement and Income & Expenditure balance as at 19 February £10,998.22
Building Society statement £23,000.00

Invoices

Lawnmower service – war memorial £65

SID Laptop £466.61

Compton Bassett Village History website annual hosting and website domain £275

War memorial ballast and cement £43.37

MH Tree Services -pollard tree by war memorial £750.00

All previously agreed and paid

Clerk wages and HMRC February £326.24 (this covers the back pay)
EB to release payment

Clerk salary review -DZ left the meeting for this to be discussed,
In line with the Local Government Services pay agreement 2025/26
It was unanimously agreed the clerk's wages should be back dated to
£14.35 per hour from April 2025

- b. CIL payments from Calne Without update –no change from last meeting
- c. Precept request £9,500 submitted to Wiltshire Council

Documents item 5 emailed to councillors before the meeting

25/133 Matters Arising Parish Steward Visit Thursday 5 March- all parish
steward visits have been cancelled at present to enable them to concentrate on
repairing potholes.

Bridleway and works to mitigate flood issues on going

Dog waste bins Penn Wood, Penhill JB advised WWT are awaiting a quote for
waste bins and will get back to him. It was unanimously agreed by councillors
to look into the potential for the parish council to arrange emptying of dog
waste bins. AN advised several local parish councillors use Grist. **Action:**
DZ to contact Cherhill Clerk for details of Grist contact.

New noticeboard to be erected shortly by PS and LW.

25/134 Highway matters

The footpath running down towards Rosemary Cottage is very badly damaged,
we assume by heavy vehicles parking or driving over the path. The flagstones
are lifting and are a danger to pedestrians.

20.06.25 Request submitted for all white lines, slow signs written on road etc in
Compton Bassett to be refreshed. On Wiltshire Council's programme

Tarmac pavement between Compton Farm and 34, Compton Bassett eroding
away- reported to Wiltshire Council Highways will not be completed until 2027-
28 as 2026-27 programme booked. The pavement will be monitored by
Highways for any safety defects.

PS advised some residents feel they are not given notice of road closures
through the village, he explained the amount of notice the parish council
receives varies. The notice is put on the village Facebook page, in future any
road closure notices will also be put on the old noticeboard

The road through the village will be closed by Manor Farm from 13th to 15th April
2026

Action: PS to meet with highways engineer to discuss state of road through
village

25/135 Planning

PL/2025/02426 Land North of Abberd Lane. Outline application with all matters
reserved for residential development of up to 300 houses. Comments by
24.04.25. This area of lane will fall within Compton Bassett boundary after
01.05.25. After discussions on 10 April, parish councillors unanimously agreed
to object to the development, backing Calne Without Parish Council's comments
and objections to the application.

PL/2024/11469 High Penn Solar Farm, Calne SN11 8TE. Removal/variation of conditions. (Installation of 25.53Ha 12MW Solar park, including Transformer housing, Security fencing and cameras, Landscaping and Associated works) to adjust the proposed operational lifespan of the project from 25 to 40 years. Comments by 22.05.25

Letter sent asking for meeting with owners to discuss solar park (letter to be signed for sent on 09/05/25, delivered and signed for 8.27am 12.05.25) No response has been received. Advised planning officer of this and hence no comments submitted

Letter sent to planning officer voicing disappointment over solar park owner' not responding to parish council letter.

CBPC have had response from Solar Farm Real Assets Team.

JB, PS and EB visited site on 18.11.25

Action: JB and EB to request additional funding from Foresight Group

PL/2025/05844 The Chalk Barn, Buttle Farm, Compton Bassett SN11 8RE
Change of use of holiday let to permanent use. Comments by 14.08.25

PL/2025/05943 Land east of Spitfire Road 20 dwellings comments by 28.08.25, Comments/objection submitted. 11.11.25 plans amended, any further comments by 02.12.25

PL/2025/09192 Land at Penn Hill, Calne. Outline planning application with all Matters reserved (except for access into site) for proposed development of up to 210 residential dwellings and 0.75 ha employment land. CBPC have objected
Comments by 25.12.25

PL/2025/09676 47 Compton Bassett, Calne, SN11 8RG Notification of proposed works to trees in a conservation area. Yew tree - Reduce two thirds of the crown to where the tree mushrooms out. Comments by 01.01.26. No objection from Wiltshire Council 14.01.26

PL/2026/00135 Land off Spitfire Road, Calne SN11 8TE Approval of reserved Matters. Demolition of existing structures and construction of 90 homes. Compton Basset Parish have been granted an extension for date to comment by to 26 February from 19 February. **EB/DZ to submit comments to Wiltshire Council.**

Compton Bassett House, Compton Bassett Wedding venue

25/136 Correspondence Wiltshire Council latest news, Lower Compton and Sands Farm Teams meeting 22 Jan, Groundwater Flood warden lunch 22 Jan, Wiltshire Council Deputy Leaders Vlog budget webinar, Wiltshire Local Nature Recovery webinars, Storm Chandra flood warden update, Calne area board extraordinary meeting 5 Feb, Planning Town and Parish Council Forum 10 March, Royal Wootton Bassett Area Board Q&A, Next steps Wiltshire Council local plan, Road safety update Wiltshire Council, Wiltshire Police Cyber Protect team, Wiltshire Police approval for policing budget, Town and Parish Council updates, Wiltshire Council Leader's cabinet update, Neighbourhood watch scam alert newsletter

All noted

All emailed to councillors before the meeting

25/137 Feedback from meetings Lower Compton and Sands Farm Liaison Committee meeting 22 January – minutes forwarded to CBPC
PS A large amount of the meeting was spent discussing the proposal to close the recycling facility at Lower Compton.

EB advised there is a lot of litter/rubbish on landfill against fence by cycleway 403
Action: DZ to email Hills

25/138 Closure of Lower Compton Recycling Facility closure has now been postponed.

25/139 NHP Review – Discussion of wider role of NHP in light of proposed changes to the National and local planning frameworks. AO was of the view that a review of the CB NP was a waste of resource based on the limited value the document has following changes in national policy since it was originated. He explained that it no longer forms protection for communities in matters involving planning and design and therefore has limited value. **Ongoing Action:** JB and EB will attend Wiltshire Council Town and Parish Council planning forum on 10 March and will report back to the March parish council meeting.

25/140 Traffic Consultation and Management Traffic survey completed October 2025. Post for SID on going. RLD advised the next LH Fig meeting is on 23 April.

25/141 Parish Council Grants Policy The application form and policy have been approved by the parish council. Applications to be submitted to the clerk

25/142 Asset List Old SID laptop will now be used by PS, Old noticeboard will now be used for road closure notices. Asset list to be updated, old SID now replaced by 2 solar powered ones. It was unanimously agreed to see if any local parishes would be interested in purchasing the SID. **Action:** DZ to contact Derry Hill Parish Council to see if interested in purchasing redundant SID which has been replaced by newer solar powered SIDs

25/143 War memorial hedge Eugenie Brooks has taken over as lead of the war memorial group. She has submitted a quote of £210 from T I Garden Works to trim the side and back hedges and reduce the front hedge to allow people a view over the fields opposite when sitting on the 2 benches, this was the plan when the war memorial was first built. This was discussed and unanimously approved.
Action: DZ to advise Eugenie Brooks of decision

25/144 Fly tipping on verges PS Wiltshire Council drainage engineers voiced their concerns over fly tipping on council verges in the village, environmental enforcement was contacted, no manure is to be spread on Wiltshire Council verges without permission.

25/145 Gov.uk emails, website AE advised he had been unable to upload Compton Bassett Parish Council grants application and policy document due to problems he is incurring with co-pilot. Any enquiries about grants please email the clerk

25/146 Communications JB the next newsletter will be produced April

25/147 Councillors Observations

With regard to the potential sale of the White Horse Pub, the interested parties have no comments at this stage.

PS and DZ have tidied the filing cabinet at the Benson Hall that holds parish council documents.

Future archiving of these documents to be discussed at the next parish council meeting

RLD apologised as will not be able to attend the next parish council meeting.

Meeting closed 8.45pm

Saturday Morning 21st March Village Litter Pick, further details available from Laurie Waite

Next Meeting : Thursday March 19th 2026 Parish Council Meeting