

Churchill Parish Council



Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on 7th April 2025

Present: Councillors D Johnson, J Murray, R Baker, R Jeacocke, M Simpson, B Wilkinson, J Monoclonals Parish Clerk S Diaz, Parish Orderly M Miles and 22 members of the public.

- 25/APM4A Welcome
Vice Chairman D Johnson welcomed residents and advised he was standing in for to chair the meeting as Chairman J Bush was on annual leave.
- 25/APM4B To receive any apologies of non-attendance.
Councillors J Bush and M Baker sent their apologies.
- 25/APM4C To confirm and sign the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 8th April 2024.
It was resolved to confirm and sign the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 8th April 2024.
- 25/APM4D Chairman's Address
Councillor D Johnson thanked Michele the Parish Orderly, Becky the Communications Officer and Sally the Clerk for their hard work and continued support to the Council.
The improvements made in the Parish during the last 12 months by the Parish Council are as follows:
Solar panels were added to the Community Club with aid of a grant and reserves.
Improvements to the Community Club included a new referee shower and access to the gents toilets for users of the Market Kitchen. Due to water damage through the fire exit door the flooring in the changing rooms was replaced and the hallway painted. Improvements to prevent further flooding were carried out. Phase two of the drainage system on the recreation field was completed and this showed improvement to the pitches during the football season. A new Cricket protection net for the houses in Turnpike Close was erected and the skate ramp at the skate park was replaced.
The car park was extended allowing for a further 16 car parking spaces for uses of the facilities. These projects were funded through Community Infrastructure Levey money and Parish Council reserves.
The challenges received by the Council are as follows:
Three solar farms have been approved in the parish with a fourth in the pipeline. The Hilliers Lane

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development was approved after the Council working hard alongside local residents to list material planning considerations and objected to the application. This was approved by North Somerset Council. Further challenges have included the new roundabout plans at Churchill gate and the Banwell Bypass. The Parish Council continually work as advocates for the parishioners knowing that their opinions are often overlooked and discounted.

25/APM4E To receive the financial statement for year ending 31st March 2025.

The Councillors work endlessly in the best interests of the village to keep it a village and one we are proud of. Many are not aware that this is a volunteering role, and this work is carried out alongside full time posts and other local commitments. The Councillors work in various areas to cover as much as possible in the County and to represent the Council in the various committees and forums in North Somerset. Many are not aware of the time dedicated to being a Councillor and this Parish are very fortunate to have proactive, forward thinking and considerate individuals who want to make a difference.

It has been a pleasure to work alongside our Councillors who are passionate about what they do and want to improve the Community for others to enjoy.

Michele our Parish Orderly works tirelessly on keeping the villages tidy and litter free. She is a great asset to have on the team and we are grateful for all she does.

Becky, our Communications Officer continues her brilliance by producing our monthly newsletter and provides regular updates on the Parish website and Facebook to keep the villages informed.

As the clerk, my role is to guide and advise, administer, update, and correspond with members of the community and Council. As the Responsible Financial Officer, I control and monitor the Council finances to ensure the best use of the Council Tax paid by the community. The Parish Council's finances remain healthy due to the sound financial management of the Council.

At the start of the financial year the Council's bank balance stood at £188401. At the end of March, the balance was £198135.16. A VAT refund of £13303.74 due for 2024-25 which will be applied for after the Annual Parish Council Meeting on 12.5.25.

The Parish have earmarked funds which total £157502.37 and general reserves of £40632.78

The Parish Council have spent funds on the Community Club and completed phase 2 of the drainage on the recreation field.

The Council have received CIL funds of £47472.34 this year.

Village grants for 2024-2025 have totalled £2100.

The Parish Council received grants from North Somerset Council for the Parish Orderly of £333.69. Wayleaves income from Western Power of £29.33. Miscellaneous receipts £554.46.

The precept demand has increased from £110565 to £130466. This will mean that a band D house will pay 27p a week more than last year.

This decision to increase the Precept was taken to cover the cost of inflation which has meant an increase in costs to maintain all areas the Parish Council are responsible for in the parish.

I am very confident that all financial decisions taken by the Parish Council have been the correct ones.

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25/APM4F To present the Community Champion Awards

Kim and Ian Mason's Incredible service to our villages

Many of you will remember Kim as the familiar face of the post lady in Churchill—always running from house to house with a smile, delivering the post with unwavering dedication. But Kim's generosity didn't stop there. With a heart full of compassion, she was always on the lookout for those in need. Whether it was taking the time to read essential letters to a blind gentleman or helping out in any way she could, Kim's kindness knew no bounds.

After retiring from the Post Office, Kim and her husband Ian took on the vital responsibility of managing the Churchill and Langford Minibus. They didn't just drive—Kim and Ian ensured the minibus was always in pristine condition, ready for countless trips to ensure the community could get where they needed to go. From hospital appointments in Weston, Southmead, or the BRI, to local errands, their dedication is unmatched.

Their tireless commitment is done entirely on a voluntary basis, always with a smile, and a willingness to help without hesitation. This invaluable service often goes unnoticed, but the Parish Councillors recognize it.

Thanks to Kim and Ian's unwavering support for our villages and the selfless spirit they bring to everything they do.

Wilfred Maitland-Round's service to our villages

A True Community Champion 🌟

Wilfred Maitland Round, a Year 12 student at Churchill Academy, is an inspiring example of the best qualities in our young people. Always ready to lend a hand, Wilfred is a true volunteer, stepping up without hesitation whenever there's a job to be done. Whether it's baking a cake for a fundraising event or assisting before and after Churchill Music concerts, Wilfred is always there with a smile on his face and a willingness to help. His dedication to our community is consistent, and generous.

Wilfred also embraces opportunities to give back in unique ways. Through Churchill Academy's Wednesday afternoon volunteer programme, he has taken the initiative to teach brass instruments to a group of nine pupils at Churchill Primary School. With the support of Lions Brass for Youth, Wilfred is not only sharing his love for music but also helping these children develop new skills and the possibility of progressing to the Lions Brass starter band. His energy and enthusiasm make the lessons a joy for the students, who look forward to every session with excitement.

But Wilfred's contributions don't stop there—he has been a key volunteer at Messy Church, helped out with Wrington Drama Club, and even shaved his head at just 12 years old, much to the surprise of his parents and through doing so managed to raise £500 for Cancer Research.

His commitment to our villages, his kindness, and his spirit of selfless service make him a true role model for all.

Peter Morris commitment to community safety

Peter has been awarded Community Champion for his continued efforts at keeping Langford clear of leaves to ensure pedestrians can walk safely in the village. He also has dedicated his time to Community Speedwatch and works continuously to reduce speeding drivers entering Langford on Langford Road and Blackmoor.

25/APM4G Representatives from community groups in Churchill will share information on their

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activities.

Winscombe & Churchill Football

Andy Flint reported that the two clubs merged last year. There are two senior teams in the Western and District League in divisions 1 and 3. As Chairman for the last 19 years he and the team focus on keeping football going for generations. The club has 500 members ranging from under 3 to 63 years old. More pitches are required to accommodate games. 30-40% of members are from Churchill and the remainder from the surrounding villages. Both juniors and seniors are doing well. The club is a Football Association 2 accredited club in the top 2% of the country. The club likes to ensure the children play in a safe and cohesive environment. The teams include under 5's through to seniors, ladies, 4 girls' teams and a veteran's team. The previous year has seen the club go from strength to strength.

Churchill Cricket Club

On the plus side our Ladies and Youth cricket has gone from strength with some youngsters on the County pathway. We now have a number of qualified coaches who oversee a large number of children at the ground on Sunday mornings throughout the summer. Some of our Juniors actually played in a festival at the County ground in Taunton last season and the club also ran a successful Under 9's Festival. A very enjoyable Club Day and Annual Dinner once again took place. Our Safeguarding procedures were upgraded, and this was recognised by the Somerset Cricket Foundation. We managed to attract a number of new Sponsors to the club which is becoming increasingly important as the club continues to grow and our running costs increase. We now have a first-class electronic scoreboard which enhances the matchday experience. We are grateful to the Parish Council for the improvement to the Safety Net at the end of Turnpike Close which has improved things for the residents there. The cricket square has again seen significant work done to it and is of a very good standard for a village cricket club although we were hindered by roller problems in 2024 but these have now been resolved.

On the negative side of things our 1st XI Men's Somerset League team suffered another relegation and the club is always on the lookout for players as at times our playing resources are stretched. This coming season, however, some of our talented youngsters will be able to play in our senior teams. We were disappointed to find in mid-summer that some significant vandalism to the area around the pavilion had been committed and it is to be hoped that this was a one-off. An upcoming challenge for us is to the outfield which will need to be improved in order to meet League requirements.

Leaving the best to last: The pavilion has been significantly upgraded over the winter months at considerable cost to the club along with an ECB grant. It now has a great facility with a bar for its members and opposition players to enjoy. There are clear signs that the club is making huge steps forward and thanks the Parish Council for its continued help and support in this regard. Churchill Cricket Club looks to make further progress both on and off the field of play in the future to enhance the cricketing experience for Churchill residents.

Churchill Skittle Club-report from Enid Plumley

We have had another successful year within the Club. All teams did well with Wrington Vale B team winning promotion at the end of last season and this year have produced the winner of the pairs and individuals' competition. We still have two teams playing in the Weston and District Men's League, two in the Weston and District Ladies League, two in the Wrington Vale League

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which is mixed and two in the Legion League which again is mixed. In the Summer we have three mixed teams playing. Later this month we will be having a Presidents Trophy competition which all members can enter, and the winner receives a trophy and a cash prize from the President. We have been lucky through the season to host many cup matches for all Leagues, we have also had events to raise money for Pancreatic Cancer, Children in Need and Red Nose Day. We also run a very successful Bingo evening.

The Club is also available for bookings from outside the Club and we have hosted several events. We just require a small fee and a list of names attending so that they are temporary members for the night. Regrettably we cannot cater for children's parties.

If anyone is interested in joining one of our skittle teams, please get in touch.

Churchill & Langford Village Fund-report from Ian Beadle

Annual Chair's Report 2025 The focus of the Village Fund this last year was the Fireworks Event which, I must confess, gave me the odd sleepless night as we ran up to the date. But any worries were unfounded as the entire committee brought our organisational skills to the fore to host a spectacularly successful evening. Around 650 members of our community attended and the feedback we received, not to mention the profits made, were beyond all expectations. So well did we do that there is every chance we have now started a 'tradition' with plans already well advanced for 2025 with the excellent FireMagic team booked for Saturday 8th November. In addition, we held 2 relatively small events, a Summer Barbeque and the Quiz Night, which were well attended by many. It was lovely to see so many new faces and families enjoying a relaxed afternoon in the sunshine and the Quiz Night was again a success, being sold out in advance of the date. We will be lighting the beacon for the VE 80 Commemoration on Thursday 8th May at 9:30pm with the Cricket Club bar open for refreshments from 8pm. We will also be reprising the summer BBQ which was such a success last year on Saturday 28th June. Events will be restricted to a bar, bouncy castle and BBQ with the emphasis on attracting local families for a fun afternoon/evening get together.

We are now the proud owners of a shipping container for storage which is already enabling us to purchase equipment for future events, safe in the knowledge that it can be kept clean and dry with no risk of damage. I would like to record our thanks to the PC for allowing us to use parish land and to our 2 benefactors who were instrumental in paying for and siting the container.

Grant wise, we have supported Churchill and Langford Minibus Society in their purchase of a new bus which will see our logo resplendent on the rear doors; helped Churchill Cricket Club fit new flooring in their pavilion and assisted St John's Church re-equip their stable rooms as a kitchen. A bid has also been approved for Churchill Preschool to improve their outdoor play area. Whilst grants have been relatively few in number the Village Fund is proud to have contributed nearly £3500 to local community projects in the last 12 months.

The fund is in a good state financially and we welcome bids from parish organisations or individuals (requests from individuals must be for educational purposes) that require financial assistance. Please write to Ian Beadle – thevillagefund@outlook.com

We are a small, friendly committee that does a lot of good for our community by organising events and distributing funds. If you feel you could attend around 5 meetings a year and would enjoy helping at fun events why not join us? You would be most welcome! Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 3rd June from 7:30pm at The Langford Inn.

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Churchill & Langford Minibus Society

Trevor Smallwood reported that the Society had carried out 450 trips, transporting 3400 passenger journeys which is up 20% from last year. There have been 150 hospital trips, with 9 out of 10 requests being achieved. Jai the Community Support Worker has been with the Society for 3 years and works closely with elderly and vulnerable residents. During the last year she has focused on Langford residents who have been unable to go out and socialise. Jai organises lunches and coffee mornings to help residents get out to meet other parishioners.

A new bus is on order and will cost £70000, funded through grants from Bristol Airport and Thatchers and a contribution from the Society. Trevor thanked the Parish Council for their continued support and village grant toward insurance costs. The new minibus has an underfloor wheelchair lift and will be parked at St Monica's Trust in Sandford as it does not fit under the arch at the Methodist Church.

An Impact Alliance Group is being formed with Churchill, Winscombe and Banwell Parish Council to study loneliness projects to find ways to help local people. There is a huge need for volunteers and the welcome anyone interested in joining to help.

Churchill & Langford Action for Green Spaces-(An offshoot of the Churchill and Langford Jubilee Woodland Association which was hoping to save the field on the corner of Ladymead Lane and Pudding Pie Lane)

Colin Farnworth shared the group's vision:

They want to create a 'necklace of pearls' around our growing villages – a ring of protected green spaces so that the wildlife can thrive and move from one to another in safety and we, the community, can enjoy them, learn about them and help to protect their habitats and migration routes.

Our aims:

- To promote the creation of community woodland and meadowland in and around Churchill and Langford
- To acquire, improve and maintain such land for the purposes of protecting and enhancing biodiversity and habitat, and allowing members of the public access to the land for relaxation, exercise and the study of nature

How can the community help?

We are planning a litter-pick very soon to get the community together, thinking about their surroundings and taking action. We will work closely with Angela on this.

Later on, we hope, there will be trees, native hedges and bulbs to plant and wildflower seed to sow. And we can all learn more about our local wildlife and how best to protect it.

In future years, there will be orchards to tend to, fruit to pick, wildflower meadows to cut and, no doubt, more litter to pick up!

We can all become guardians of our remaining green spaces, increasing wildlife biodiversity and providing future generations with the chance to roam, relax and learn in wilder places within walking distance of their homes.

Next meeting- Parish Council Meeting Monday 14th April 2025 at 7.30pm, Churchill Community Club.

End of minutes