

Churchill Parish Council



Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on 18th April 2023

Present: Councillors J Bush, D Johnson, J Murray, M Simpson, B Wilkinson and R Jeacocke. Parish Clerk S Diaz, Parish Orderly M Miles and 16 members of the public

- 23/APM4A Welcome
Chairman J Bush welcomed residents and thanked them for attending.
- 23/APM4B To receive any apologies of non-attendance.
Councillors M Baker, R Baker and J Ronicle sent their apologies.
- 23/APM4C To confirm and sign the minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 25th April 2022.
It was resolved to approve the minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 25th April 2022.
- 23/APM4D Chairman's Address
The Chairman thanked the Councillors and staff for their hard work during 2022-23. She reported that the Council had carried out works to opening the entrance of the car park at Ladymead Lane and drainage work to the pitches are planned to improve them due to the increased number of sports team using the facilities. She advised that plans to change the paddock next to Turnpike Close into a Multi-Use Games Area is being considered due to the increased need in training areas during the winter months.
- 23/APM4E To receive the financial statement for year ending 31st March 2023.
The Parish Council have continued to face many challenges during the last year. The Banwell Bypass planning application has been considered and approved by North Somerset Council. The Council has worked tirelessly listing concerns and mitigating circumstances to safeguard the villages. The development on Dinghurst Road has been approved and the SEMH School application is under consideration.
The Parish Council have continued to make improvements, work on widening the entrance to the recreation car park has been completed to reduce congestion on Ladymead Lane due to the increased use of the facilities. Work to improve the pitches and recreation ground has begun with further drainage work scheduled. Both projects have been funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). The Council have installed a new defibrillator in Langford outside Pro-Heating, which provides lifesaving equipment to both Churchill and Langford. A lease was drawn up

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between the Parish Council and the Cricket Club to help their funding applications to progress the club facilities and training plans.

The Parish Council provided basic first aid training alongside sponsorship from the Village Fund and Minibus Society for 36 residents.

The Parish Council are hugely proud of James and the Market Kitchen and the transformation he has made to the space at the Community Club. The Café provides a fantastic central hub for residents and local people to enjoy with wonderful food and hospitality.

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. The time dedicated to being a Councillor is selfless and we 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 has been an excellent addition to our team and created our monthly newsletter and provides regular updates on the Parish website and Facebook to keep the villages informed. The Council is thrilled to have her, and we appreciate all she does.

A huge thank you to the Village Fund for organising the Queens Jubilee celebrations which was well supported by the villages.

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 £161033.99. At the end of March, the balance was £197879. A VAT refund of £9720.89 due for 2022-23 which will be applied for after the Annual Parish Council Meeting on 9.5.23.

The Parish have earmarked funds which total £186968.81 and general reserves of £10,910.27.

The Council have received CIL funds of £8463.55 this year.

Village grants for 2022-2023 have totalled £1652.40.

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 £60000 have been earmarked for a multi-use games area.

The precept demand has increased by £82565 to £85565. This will mean that a band D house will not pay any more than last year due to the increased number of homes in the parish.

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This decision to increase the Precept was taken to cover the cost of inflation which as meant an increase in costs to the grass cutting contract, dog bin emptying and utility bills in the parish.

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

23/APM4F

Representatives from community groups in Churchill will share information on their activities.

Ian Beadle from the Village Fund informed attendees that the fund is an organisation that is not a charity but is not for profit and raises funds to give back to the community. It can provide grants to support the residents of the parish in areas including educational, environmental and community. They have provided grants to Rainbows, the Market Kitchen the School this year. They provide community events including the Queens Jubilee celebrations last year and a village quiz. Plans for the Kings Coronation include Jackie Bush lighting the beacon on Friday 5th May and a BBQ organised by the Cricket Club. There will be a Community Tea and family day on Saturday 6th May and a picnic on Sunday 7th May. The fund welcomes volunteers, please contact Ian for further details on churchillian67@gmail.com

Trevor Smallwood, the Chairman of the Churchill Minibus Society reported that the society is now in their 50th year. They have 2 minibuses that provide transport for shopping trips and days out. They also do trips for the Primary and play school and has at least one bus out each day. They also provide transport for hospital and medical appointments. The minibuses are supported well by the local villages and they are aiming to get more residents out and about this year. They have carried out over 2000 passenger journeys in the past year. Volunteers are always welcome, and information is available from Trevor on 01934 852589.

Trevor thanked the Parish Council for grant funding toward the minibus insurance.

Trevor reported that the food bank at St Mary's Church in Langford has been in operation for 3 years and is open every Monday. It has provided help with finance to local residents and provides a social occasion for those who use it.

Jai has been the Community Support worker since last May and It has focused on the needs of local vulnerable residents and how to help, providing support on activities and wellbeing. Jai has worked on a project to collate all local groups in the area which was produced in a booklet and distributed to all houses in the parish and is available on the parish council website. Funding was obtained for Jai from Quartet Community Foundation, St Monica Trust and North Somerset Council.

Jan Murray organises Churchill Music and Sing for Fun and is an active Parish Councillor. She thanked the chairman and clerk for all their work throughout the year and reflected how lucky the villages are to have the Minibus Society and Village Fund and all they do.

Churchill Music has been running for 30 years and holds 5 concerts yearly which are mainly classical. Trevor Smallwood is the Chairman. The educational side of

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Churchill Music is 30 years old this year. It is a charity which brings world class musicians to perform for us at affordable prices. It also has a strong education 'wing'. It made a film 'Music helps us learn' sponsored by Arts Council England through the National Lottery and shows how music helps in so many ways. The science is there to prove that music helps academia. Churchill Music launched it's 'Power of music' project aimed at year 5's and takes just two, one-hour sessions one week apart. In a nutshell it teaches children that if film-makers and advertisers can use music to change your perception of a situation, then so can we all. The arts are included in the new English Baccalaureate and aided by the effects of the Pandemic, many schools are now finding that there is little take-up for GCSE music courses. Churchill Music sponsors ~~are~~ violin projects in Wrinton and Churchill primary schools and the Churchill Music Young musician Of The Year for advanced music students at Churchill Academy takes place each year in St. John's Church. Churchill Music also represents 'Partners' on the West of England Music Alliance's (WEMA) Strategic Development Advisory Group. Visiting professional musicians also take workshops and masterclasses in local schools whilst they are here.

Churchill Music also organises 'Sing for Fun' which takes place every Friday 1.30-2.30 at St Mary's Church, Langford. It is grateful for a grant from Age Concern that helps with the cost of printing. It welcomes all who simply want to open their mouth and sing well-loved songs and not care what sound comes out or when! Words are provided and we are accompanied by a professional pianist. We just have fun. JM is astonished at the benefits that it has demonstrated on health and wellbeing. The group has 30+ people regularly attending, and no music knowledge is required! No pressure to come each week. It is free, but if people can make a contribution each time it is extremely welcome.

The winners of the we love Churchill quiz were drawn and the Council wish to thank Murray and Co, The Dough, Dough Pizza Company, Beauty by Jodie, Churchill Music, Market Kitchen, and Jan Murray for their gift donations.

Next meeting-Annual Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 9th May 2023 at 7.30pm, Churchill Community Hall.
End of minutes