

The Tower

Churchill Parish Council newsletter

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ANNUAL REPORT

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Report by the Chair of the Parish Council

Here we are again at the end of another very busy council year. Our new clerk, Martin Dolton has completed his first year with us and I'm sure it has been a baptism of fire for him. We however have been extremely grateful for his experience and tremendous knowledge during some challenging times.

At the start of the council year many of you will be aware that a car caught fire in the car park next to the Memorial Hall. Thankfully all of the occupants escaped unharmed, not so the car or car park surface! The owner of the vehicle contacted me and gave all the necessary information to enable us to claim from his insurance. Of course all these things take up a huge amount of time and effort.

We were very sorry when one of our long serving councillors Valerie Langley decided to retire from the council to spend more time doing things with her family and for herself. Valerie was always the first to put her hand up when a volunteer was needed and of course all the lovely planting around our parish was her project, this has now been left in the very green and capable hands of our new open spaces chair, Sue List and Michele, our village orderly. Thank you Valerie, enjoy the rest.

The leisure committee have been working hard this year keeping all the facilities in good shape, you will of course see the new exercise equipment that has been installed with more to follow (you can read about it in their report).

In September we travelled to Woolavington for the Somerset Playing Fields Awards and were delighted to receive the Bronze Award.

As we all know a huge amount of time has been taken up with planning applications and the new strategies that are emerging on the future development in our area. The council decided it was such an important issue we needed to dedicate more time to it than we could at our monthly council meetings, we have now set up a new committee to deal with all strategic and all large scale plans. See their report in this issue.



Future Circulation of The Tower

The Parish Council are currently reviewing how we communicate within the village, its effectiveness and cost efficiency. One idea is to make the next issue of The Tower a digital copy with hard copies being made available at the Post Office, all three Parish Churches, Budgens and maintain a small delivery to the Jubilee Homes residents, Sydney Hill residents and Stockmead home residents.

We would welcome any comments on how the Parish view this and any suggestions for the future. We have formed a small group to oversee this transition and any feedback would be discussed and actioned. If we decide to implement this idea you will be able to receive a copy via email (if you provide us with one) via our facebook page or downloadable on our website.

We will be available to discuss in person any questions or concerns at the Annual Parish Meeting or you can email clerk@churchillpc.org.uk with any feedback.

We hope to make our communication more effective with better use of our community notice boards, social media, email, website and organised public meetings!

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A great deal of time has been given by the council, and in particular the working group who have worked with the clerk to finalise matters relating to the lease at the former doctors surgery in Ladymead lane, hopefully, as I write this matter should be nearing completion.

The clock at the clock tower is once more chiming after being completely renovated. The wall around the enclosure on the Front Street side, which is listed, has deteriorated badly and the order is in for its repair.

As a council we are very mindful of the need to communicate well with all parishioners, to this end we have set up a small group to consider the best way forward to improve our communication. This will also form the theme of our Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 24 April 2017 at 7.30pm at the Memorial Hall, which we hope many of you will attend.

Jackie Bush – Chair

Finance and Personnel Committee

Martin Dolton joined us as the Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer on the 6 of April 2016, just in time to set up Auto Enrolment, the Governments pension requirements. A difficult task performed very well. Throughout the year we have benefited from his experience and contacts.

During the year there have been many repairs and additional maintenance work to the council's land and building assets. There were also unexpected costs for consultancy work relating to planning issues. However, we have arrived at the year-end within our budget for the year.

Both internal and external audits have been excellent. Similarly the quarterly reconciliations and checks carried out by the Finance Committee members have been thorough and raised no issues at all. I thank the members who conducted this work for their efforts.



The precept for the coming year rises by 1% to £58,295. Bank balances as at the 1 March 2017 (when going to print) stood at £60,066.

There are exciting projects being considered for the future so please keep in touch via the council minutes and website.

Finally, a thank you to our Village Orderly, Michele, for all her hard work in the community.

Dev Clutterbuck – Chair of the Finance and Personnel Committee

Leisure Committee

The Leisure Committee have continued to develop and improve the recreation facilities within the Parish. As well as providing cricket, football and children's facilities, we have installed three new items of fitness equipment suitable for adults. We have also decided to expand this to include a trim track which will be around the whole recreation field, so watch this space.

During September we were advised that we had won yet another award through the Somerset Playing Fields Association. Members of the committee attended the AGM and we have added another Bronze to our Gold, Silver and Bronze awards that we received in previous years.

Work that has been carried out over the past twelve months has included the first part of works to provide a separate electricity supply to the Cricket Pavilion and the provision of a paved area outside the Pavilion for use on match days.

For some time the Leisure Committee has had a desire that the Cricket Club changes its name from Banwell and Churchill Cricket Club to Churchill Cricket Club, and subsequently a formal request was made to the Club. The reasoning behind this was that Churchill Parish Council provide all of the services and facilities and we felt that the name should reflect this. During the autumn we received confirmation that this had been approved by the Cricket Club committee, so the name is now Churchill Cricket Club.

We have also continued with a maintenance programme of the two play areas to ensure that any issues highlighted in the quarterly reports are quickly actioned. During the coming year we are planning to replace the current safety matting with something that is less prone to sinking.

I would like to thank all members of the committee and Martin our Clerk for the hard work and support over the past twelve months.

Brenden Hill – Chair of Leisure Committee

Open Spaces and Allotments Committee

Sadly this year we had to say good bye to our Chair, Valerie Langley, as she retired from the Parish Council. We would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her dedication and hard work she put in while chairing the Open Spaces and Allotments committee over the years.

Allotment news

The main project for the allotments last year was the provision of water to the fields. This has now been installed and allotment holders are able to reap the benefit of this supply.

Allotment holders have also built a community area, which contains a recycled shed with space to sit and browse gardening books and have a quiet cup of tea/coffee. There is also a patio area and two wood chipped seating areas. It is expected that this new community area will host barbecues and become a main gathering place for allotment holders from both fields in the future. This area is going to have an opening event early spring, so if you are thinking of becoming an allotment holder in the future why not call in and see what goes on there? There are very limited plots remaining so if you are interested please email the Parish Clerk
e: clerk@churchillpc.org.uk

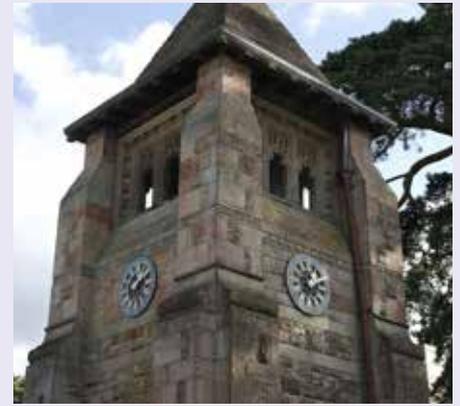
Open spaces news

We are still in the process of refurbishment of the various signs around the parish, we now have refurbished all the finger post signs with the help of our Parish Orderly, Michele, and will be hoping to complete this work once we can source a new replacement post on which to fix the signs back onto, so if you know of a new or second hand finger post please contact the Parish Clerk.

Work has been carried out to repair and service the clock tower clock, which was removed during its period of repair but has now been reinstated and looks wonderful.

Work is presently being carried out on the clock tower wall enclosure (Front Street side) to rebuild this listed status wall to its former glory.

A new project for the year ahead is to renovate and redevelop the raised beds at the Hand Statue, making this a more floral focused area within the Village. We will also be carrying out



other floral planting around this area during the coming year.

Looking ahead to the end of 2017, we are hoping that this Christmas we will be able to install a Christmas tree and lights to our village - this is a project still in the early stages but hopefully will make an uplifting and decorative addition to our village scene.

I would like to thank everyone involved for their hard work and support over the past year.

Sue List – Chair of the Open Spaces and Allotments Committee

Planning and Development Strategy Committee

The committee was formed this year in response to the considerable amount of work which is being generated by a wave of development applications in and around the village. North Somerset Council is facing unprecedented pressure from Central Government to build an unrealistic number of houses in the region with the result that they are now granting applications for substantial developments in rural communities which would never have been considered two or three years ago.



In spite of detailed objections from the Parish Council and many residents, three substantial developments have been granted planning permission in Churchill in the last year (two in Pudding Pie Lane for 141 and 35 houses and one off Says Lane for 43 houses). Further applications for large and smaller developments are likely.

The Development Committee is made up of five Councillors tasked with monitoring and responding to developments of over ten houses. This involves reviewing a significant amount of correspondence, planning policy papers and inputting into various planning processes such as the Joint Spatial Plan which is an overarching planning process for North Somerset, Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol and South Gloucester. The recent iteration of the JSP included a proposal for a Garden Village of up to 5,400

houses in our area. We have submitted a rigorous objection to this through the consultation process and will seek to have further input over the coming months.

We are working with CALRAG, Churchill and Langford Residents Action Group, who are doing splendid work to generate interest and involvement locally in this planning battle. A public meeting led by CALRAG is planned for May and the village will be advised of this soon.

Not surprisingly, the committee would welcome any volunteers to swell its ranks. Please also be as active as you can in responding to requests from the Parish Council or CALRAG to take action from time to time over the rest of this year.

Simon Hegarty – Chair of Planning and Development Strategy Committee

Litter in the parish



Our village orderly Michele does a tremendous job of keeping our streets and spaces as clear as possible of litter. However, to keep our village looking as good as possible the Parish Council urge everyone to do all you can to help by picking up any stray litter and putting it in the bins provided. Everyone living and working in the Parish has a right to feel extremely proud of how the village looks, lets keep it that way.

Front Street telephone kiosk

Many of you will remember how the Parish Council had the telephone kiosk in Front Street re-painted and spruced up by our village orderly last year. Very recently BT informed the council that it intends to remove the telephone equipment and decommission the kiosk.

Due to the heritage nature of the kiosk and its aesthetic appearance in the area the Parish Council have now adopted the kiosk to preserve and ensure its future, albeit not as a telephone facility.

The Parish Council will be considering what use the kiosk can be put to for the benefit of the village, and would welcome any suggestions and ideas from residents - email the clerk at clerk@churchillpc.org.uk. As they say 'answers on a postcard please'!



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Your councillors

Mrs Jackie Bush (Chair)

01934 853 215
langford.madhouse@gmail.com

Mr Bill Carruthers

01934 853 066
carr0208@gmail.com

Mr Dev Clutterbuck

01934 852 219
devereux.clutterbuck@yahoo.com

Mr Graham Fortune

01934 852 825
gefortune2014@gmail.com

Mr Simon Glanfield

07957 174 058
smg4299@hotmail.co.uk

Mr Simon Hegarty

01934 852 678
simon.hegarty@btconnect.com

Mr Brenden Hill (Vice Chair)

01934 853 553
brenden.c.hill@btopenworld.com

Mr David Hurst

01934 852 784
davidhurst@btinternet.com

Mrs Sue List

01934 853 568
sue.list@interserveps.com

Mr Alan Lovell

01934 852 249
lovellalan57@gmail.com

Mrs Trudy Silvertown

01934 852 240
trudysilvertown@hotmail.com

Mrs Elizabeth Wells

(District Councillor)
01934 852 227

Other contacts

Clerk of the Council:

Martin Dolton
07399 523 961
clerk@churchillpc.org.uk

Parish Orderly: Michele Miles

07799 642 676

Tree Wardens:

Kate Johns 07753 809 482
Ben Vosper 01934 852 679

Police: Non emergency 101

Police: Emergency 999

War Memorial Hall booking

Mimi Simpson 01934 853 282
inspector2006@hotmail.co.uk

