

The Tower

Churchill Parish Council newsletter

Issue 45
Spring
2019



ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL
2019



Report by the Chair of the Parish Council

2019 how did that happen, where did last year go?

Another busy year for the Parish with all the usual council business to attend to, grass and hedge cutting contracts to be awarded, planning applications to be looked at, mostly this year on nearly 50 residential dwellings with people wanting to improve or expand their homes. There were issues with our dog bin contractors causing residents to contact us about overflowing bins over the Christmas period. As a result of the poor service we received, we now have a new contractor in place with some of the most used bins being emptied twice a week.

The Trim trail around the recreation ground was finally installed and ready for use at the beginning of the year. It has been enjoyed and used by many and was a great hit with the ladies from the boot camp. We met with North Somerset Council's highways department to look at road safety in our Parish, paying particular attention to Front Street, Langford Road and Pudding Pie Lane. These are all busy roads where young children, young people and our more elderly residents need to walk or cross the roads on a daily basis. As a result we have had a traffic count and speed survey carried out, funded by this Parish Council.

We have had many requests for grants this year for a variety of causes ranging from a group of residents wanting to hold a tea party to celebrate the royal wedding,

the allotment committee to kick start their social fund, the minibus society to help with the cost of their insurance and the MS Therapy Centre which although outside of our Parish, we know helps a number of our parishioners.

On the recreation field we have unfortunately had to take down the tree that made our cricket pitch boundary unique, it had not been looking its best and after close inspection by a tree specialist we were told it was dying. We have also replaced the safety net this year running down the side of the pitch that borders Turnpike close. We now have a team of ladies who play rugby and use our facilities to train who will be making Churchill their home pitch. The community club has had its interior spruced up with a lick of paint and a deep clean and is now ready for hire for smaller functions or meetings. We were this year very fortunate to have not one, but two Christmas trees for the festive period, these were kindly supplied and donated by Crest Nicholson.

As always there have been comings and goings on the council, we have lost Alan Lovell who was chair of the Planning Committee and a fountain of knowledge on drainage. We thank him for all the time and effort he put in since joining this council. We have this year had two new members join us, Georgie Collett and Rev'd Tim Jessiman both of who will bring their own expertise but also a fresh pair of eyes to our group.

The new Assistant Clerk Ann Boote has settled in very well and certainly shown her true worth when Martin, our clerk was unfortunately taken ill and she competently stepped up and covered for him. Martin, I am pleased to say, is now back to full speed once more and we are keeping them both busy! As always our village orderly, Michelle is busy not only keeping our lanes spick and span but with lots of other jobs that often go unnoticed but are so necessary. You will notice the 'Hand' sculpture has had a coat of preserver recently. My thanks go to all of them, to all the members of the Council and all other volunteers who give their time to help make this Parish the great place to live that it is.

As many of you know in May we all come to the end of our four year term on the council and elections will take place to elect new members. Some of the members will stand again whilst others feel its time to take up new challenges or just that they have done their bit and wish to make way for new blood. Please consider putting yourself forward, we need to ensure we have a full council to continue all the good work that we do. If anyone wants to have a chat about what would be involved I would be happy to meet up over a cup of something as I'm sure would any of the other councillors. Our contact details are on the back of this issue of the Tower.

Councillor Jackie Bush – Chair

www.churchillpc.org.uk

Planning Committee

This year has been characterised by a large number of planning applications for residential development across the parish together with the on-going consultation process relating to the West of England Joint Spatial Plan (JSP) and the new local plan. The Planning Committee (PC) have generally taken a line of opposition to larger development schemes while seeking to support smaller applications by residents, where they are deemed not to be causing offence to neighbours.

We have, however, generally been unsuccessful in halting the tide of larger applications with reserved matters approval having been given to the Says Lane development by Bellway and outline consent having been awarded for a further 41 houses at the traffic lights. Additional applications, as yet to be decided, have been made for 25 houses on the other side of the A38 from Budgens plus a number of smaller applications along Front Street and Pudding Pie Lane which are at various stages in the decision-making or appeal process.

The PC is not objecting to the larger applications as a result of NIMBYism but is concerned about the further erosion of the rural character of our area, the lack of a defined and agreed site allocation strategy which has opened the gates to piecemeal and opportunistic development and a general failure to match population growth with investment into improvements to ever-more congested roads and public services. North Somerset Council (NSC) has pledged to central government, however, that it will deliver over 25,000

new homes across the district by 2036 and we have unfortunately been designated as a preferred development node, being outside the AONB, Green Belt and recognised flood zone.

Meanwhile the construction of 'Langford Fields' progresses apace with the first of 141 units already being handed over and the developers, Crest Nicholson, intending to continue to roll-out successive phases. At the same time Bellway is nearing completion of its first units at the junction of Says Lane and the A38, which has oddly been branded 'Blagdon Gardens'.

At the time of writing however, there is a strong sense of a slowing property market, which may have contributed to the noticeable fall in the number of planning applications which we have received over the last three to four months. There has also been a slow-down in the advancement of sites such as the Water Gardens site in Upper Langford, Lostwood on the A38 and the scheme at the traffic lights. While this may lead to a drop in immediate pressure from developers we should be aware that NSC will be falling ever-more behind its homes delivery targets which may lead to ever-more inappropriate applications being approved in the future.

The elephant in the room remains the Joint Spatial Plan (JSP) and the proposed 2,800 houses planned for the so-called 'Mendip Spring Garden Village'. The PC has constantly objected to this proposal which includes a new Churchill/Langford bypass, planned to run between Tower Head Farm and Havyatt Green. We feel that the

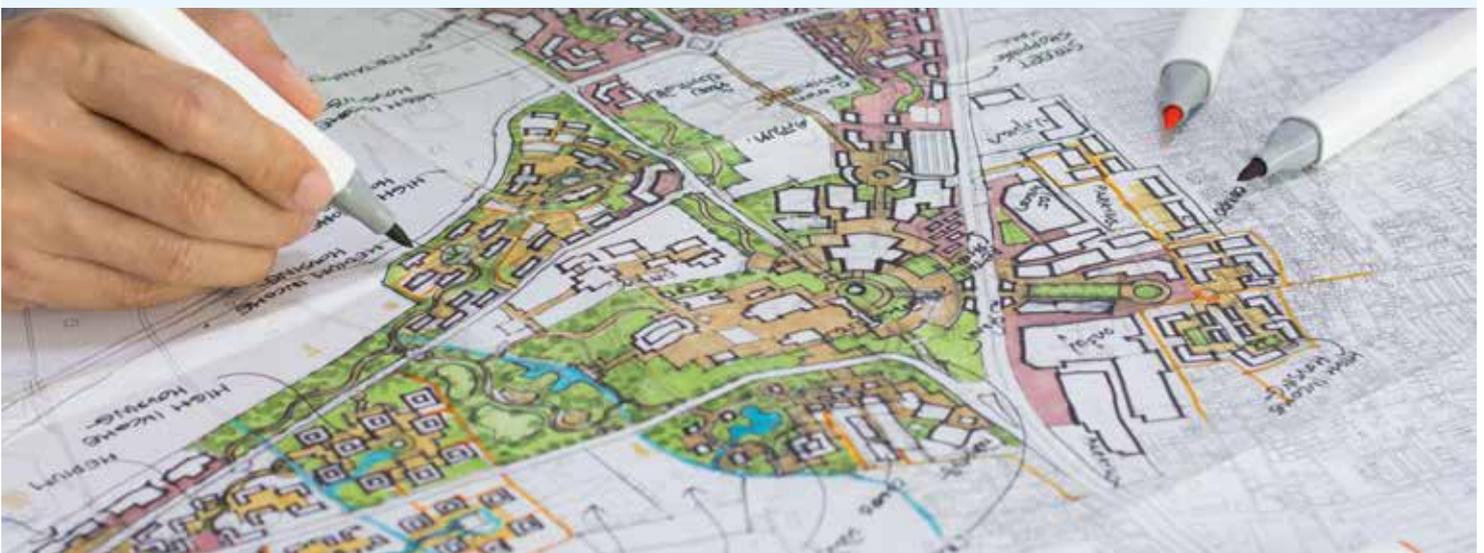
planned development will be unsustainable due to the lack of local employment; will destroy hundreds of acres of farm land and will put unacceptable pressure on local roads and services.

The latest information is that the plan will be reviewed by the planning inspectors in May/June when we are very-much hoping that the proposed garden village will be thrown out for being in breach of so many government and local authority planning policies. In lobbying against the garden village we have been working closely with the CALRAG team, which has been spear-heading a terrific local campaign against the development. We very much appreciate the considerable time that they have dedicated to protecting our community.

Other points to note are that we have been pushing back against the airport expansion application: not because we object in principle to the growth of this important facility, but because they have done very little to demonstrate that public transport accessibility or local roads will be improved to handle the extra traffic generated.

Finally, we have decided not to progress the development of a neighbourhood plan at this time. It is very time-consuming to produce the plan, which only has a lifespan of two years and we all felt that it will be meaningless to propose how we want the parish to develop while the enormous garden village proposal remains hanging over our heads.

Councillor James Hoddell –
Chair of Planning Committee





Open Spaces and Allotments Committee

As you may well have noticed the Parish Council has now erected fencing panels behind the Hand Sculpture at Churchill traffic lights, this is to enhance the view as we will be planting some new flowering shrubs in front of them to add colour and a nicer back drop to the Hand itself. The Hand will be undergoing a deep clean and a wood preserve applied by Michelle our village orderly before the new shrubs, bulbs and flowers are planted. Michelle has also undertaken the task of painting and varnishing all the wooden benches throughout the village along with varnishing some of the planters and a wonderful job she has made of them.

Dog bins have been a problem last year around the village due to our contractor letting us down, you will be pleased to know that we now have a new contractor carrying out this job and all dog waste bins are being regularly emptied at least once a week, and twice a week in some areas. We would remind dog walkers that should a dog waste bin be full please take your dog's waste home with you to dispose of and not leave it on the floor or throw it in a nearby hedge as this makes our village look unsightly and can cause a health and safety problem.

Two 20ft Christmas trees were kindly supplied and erected by Crest Nicholson this year, one was erected by the traffic lights and the other by the primary school in Pudding Pie Lane, The Parish Council would like to thank Crest Nicholson and Ann (our Assistant Clerk and her husband) for their generosity in giving our village a wonderful display at Christmas.



Down on the allotment

Once again it's been a fully and productive year at the allotment site in Pudding Pie Lane, with all allotments allocated and the waiting list ever growing, it seems that the news of the health benefits of having an allotment has spread throughout the village or is it the wonderful barbecues that seem to have taken place throughout this year's growing season. Yes, allotment holders enjoyed a Hawaiian themed summer barbecue, dressed to impress with their grass skirts and colourful Hawaiian shirts, it seemed like palm trees grow from nowhere overnight along with a new tikka bar. This

made a wonderful backdrop to the perfect setting. As the cocktails flowed and the wonderful barbecued chicken and ribs were eaten the allotment holders relaxed and enjoyed a fantastic social event.

The allotments have also got a new allotment committee, the point of this committee is to bring a proactive community at the allotment sites by running events and coming up with new ideas and going forward it is hoped that this committee will introduce new ideas into the running of the allotment site for the benefit of all, the founding members so far are Tanya Cooper, James Williams and Ruth Lamb, if you would like to join this committee please email sue.list@interserveps.com who will pass on your details to Tanya. They have already set up a facebook page called 'Pudding Pie Growers' and are talking about ideas such as holding a plant and veggie sale through the growing season, selling seedlings, flowers and excess produce once a month (Market Day). Please look out for the advertising posters in the near future and support this hard working local community.

Councillor Sue List –
Chair of the Open Spaces and Allotments Committee

Finance and Personnel Committee

I am pleased to report that the council remains within budget for the current financial year. Our general reserves are in accordance with governance and accountability and more importantly, Audit Commission rules. All audit reports both internal and external have been excellent. Budgeting is never easy and the amount of land and property owned by the council necessitates a fair amount of maintenance and repair (which cannot always be foreseen).

During the year a complete internal decoration of the community club building was completed. Several small grants were awarded to various committees', societies, and other organisations, all benefiting the community. Full details can be seen by referring to the minutes of the various council meetings. Regarding all the above my congratulations to Martin, who, as our Finance Officer, has carried out his duties with absolute diligence.

On a staffing level, one can only admire the commitment of Martin, Ann and Michelle, whether it be attending meetings, liaising with the public, inspecting play areas, getting quotations, dealing with North Somerset on a variety of issues and many more duties they are always professional.

Councillor Dev Clutterbuck –
Chair of the Finance and Personnel Committee



Leisure Committee

The Leisure Committee have continued to develop, improve and maintain the recreation facilities within the parish. We provide facilities which all members of the parish can use, which include cricket, football and children's facilities. During the first half of 2018 we had the fitness trail installed, which provides a number of pieces of fitness equipment for parishioners to use as they circumvent the recreation field. It is hoped to add to this over the coming years as funds become available.

During recent years we have been monitoring the cricket nets that border the cricket pitch and the end of Turnpike Close, as they have been showing signs of deterioration. By the spring of 2018 the nets had reached the end of life so the decision was taken to replace the nets and at the same time repaint the supporting poles. The new nets will reduce the impact of balls landing in Turnpike Close and should last for a number of years.

Sadly during the autumn we received a request from the cricket club to inspect an aging Sycamore tree near to the cricket

pavilion, as it was showing signs of advanced decay. Following inspection by a professional tree surgeon, it was recommended that the tree was felled, as it was becoming dangerous, and in late January the tree was no more.

The two play areas continue to be inspected weekly by our own staff and quarterly by qualified contractors, with any issues highlighted in the quarterly reports quickly actioned.

Following the Leisure Committee taking over the running of the Community Club, we have started a programme of refurbishment, with some decoration of the toilets being carried out of the winter months. These works will continue through 2019 and into 2020, so that the facilities are more appealing to possible hirers. I would like to thank all members of the committee, Martin our Clerk and Ann our new assistant Clerk for the hard work and support over the past twelve months.

Councillor Brenden Hill –
Chair of the Leisure Committee

Your councillors

Chair
Mrs Jackie Bush
01934 853 215
langford.madhouse@gmail.com

Vice Chair
Mr Brenden Hill
01934 853 553
brenden.c.hill@btoopenworld.com

Mr Bill Carruthers
01934 853 066
carr0208@gmail.com

Mrs Georgie Collett
01934 852 767
georgiealicecollett@gmail.com

Mrs Ruth Bruton
01934 852 796
ruthbruton@btinternet.com

Mrs Trudy Silverton
01934 852 240
trudysilverton@hotmail.com

Ms Sue List
07484 050 548
sue.list@interserve.com

Mr Dev Clutterbuck
01934 852 219
devereux.clutterbuck@yahoo.com

Mr Simon Glanfield
07957 174 058
smg4299@hotmail.co.uk

Mr James Hoddell
01934 853 572
jameshoddell@gmail.com

Rev'd Tim Jessiman
01934 863 067
tim.jessiman@btinternet.com

District Councillor
Mrs Elizabeth Wells
01278 287 055
liz.wells@n-somerset.gov.uk

Churchill Parish Council meetings - April to July 2019

All meetings are held at 7.30pm (unless otherwise stated) at the Community Club, Ladymead Lane. The Public are very welcome to attend.

Monday 8 April	Full Council
Monday 15 April	Annual Parish Meeting (open meeting for all parishioners)
Monday 13 May	Annual Meeting of Parish Council (elect chair/vice chair committees)
Monday 20 May	Open Spaces and Allotments
Monday 10 June	Full Council
Monday 24 June	Leisure
Monday 8 July	Full Council
Monday 15 July	Finance and Personnel



Other contacts

Clerk of the Council
Martin Dolton
07399 523 961
clerk@churchillpc.org.uk

Assistant Clerk
Ann Boote
asstclerk@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
emergency 999

War Memorial Hall booking
Mimi Simpson 01934 853 282
lnpsector2006@hotmail.co.uk



www.churchillpc.org.uk