

Churchill Parish Council



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 15th January 2024

Present: Councillors J Bush, D Johnson, M Simpson, R Baker, J Ronicle, J Murray, M Baker, R Jeacocke, B Wilkinson and Parish Clerk S Diaz.

Public Questions-there were no members of the public present.

24/FC1A To receive any apologies of non-attendance.
All Councillors were present.

24/FC1B To receive any declarations of interest on agenda items.
There were no declarations of interest.

24/FC1C To confirm and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11th December 2023.
It was agreed to sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11th December 2023.

24/FC1D North Somerset Matters

At least week's full Council, a report was brought to councillors in relation to emergency budgetary pressures. (<https://n-somerset.moderngov.co.uk/documents/b3385/Supplement%20-%20Emergency%20Budget%20Decisions%20-%20Urgent%20Council%20report%2009th-Jan-2024%2018.00%20Council.pdf?T=9>)

The latest budget monitoring report forecasts a budget shortfall of £2.3 million.

This is mainly driven by increased demand and continued rising costs for care (Adults and children) and Home to School transport, as well as increased costs for waste services.

Although high interest rates have increased returns on investments, and savings within departments have already been identified, additional action is required to ensure the books are balanced at the end of the financial year.

In summary, these include:

- Freeze on recruiting to fill vacant posts, unless required to fulfil a statutory requirement.
- New controls to ensure spending is only on the delivery of statutory services and non-essential spending is deferred.
- Review of reserves, so that these can be released to support the provision of statutory services.

Churchill Parish Council

While these measures will help to balance the books this year, this will become increasingly difficult in future years.

The Local Government Finance Settlement to be voted in Parliament in February does not go far enough to address the fundamental challenges, which is why North Somerset Council are asking our local MPs to vote against the government on this bill. NSC receives £37 million less from the Government grants than the average English council and decisions of previous administrations have left the Council with a very low Council tax base.

North Somerset Council has also written to Michael Gove outlining these issues and requesting he review the situation. Writing to our MPs expressing these concerns would be much appreciated by North Somerset Council.

- 24/FC1E To consider the draft budget and precept request for 2024-25.
The Parish Council discussed the budget at length and agreed to increase the precept to £110565 for 2024-25. The Parish Council have been asked what non statutory services they could take over from North Somerset.
- 24/FC1F To consider the request for Community contribution from the Solar Farm.
It was agreed to ask for a community contribution to support a new MUGA and/or extension of the community club.
- 24/FC1G To consider the quotes to restore the railings at the clock tower.
It was agreed to accept a quote for £2100 to restore the railings at the clock tower.
- 24/FC1H To consider the cricket club plans to the pavilion.
It was agreed to support the cricket club plans for the new floor at the pavilion.
- 24/FC1I To discuss the water damage to the car park at the burial ground.
It was agreed that the clerk would write to the owners at Pitchbury Barn and contact North Somerset Council regarding their responsibility of the damage caused to the burial ground car park and to resolve the issue.
- 24/FC1J To receive and authorise the payments for January 2024.
It was agreed to approve the January 2024 payments.
Receipts-£179.94 donation for Christmas lights from Coln Residential.

D DEBITS: -		£	REF	Cllr Bank Signatory 1	Cllr Bank Signatory 2
NEST	Pension contributions for 2023	£173.59	DD		
EE	Clerk Telephone Taken 23 rd of each month	£23.99	DD		
BT	Internet – Community Club Taken on 17 th of each month	£52.46	DD		
Water 2 Business	Taken 2 nd of each month-allotment water	£28.00	DD		
YU Energy	Gas community club	£180.76	DD		
YU Energy	Electricity community club	£1023.23	DD		
-TO PAY:-					

Churchill Parish Council

Staff	Salaries	£2552.24	BACS		
HMRC	PAYE	£841.29	BACS		
VSA Cleaning	Community Hall Cleaning	£90.00	BACS		
Becky Walsh Courses	Marketing & Communications	£500.00	BACS		
S Diaz (Clerk)	Expenses (mileage, printing).	£55.35	BACS		
M Miles	Expenses (mileage)	£20.70	BACS		
St Andrews Press	Newsletters	£64.00	BACS		
Local Government Pension Scheme	Pension	£726.42	BACS		
West Country Groundcare	December grass cutting	£680.00	BACS		
K Lovell	Misc works to play area, community club and allotments.	£1447.55	BACS		
WSM Town Council	December dog bin emptying	£374.40	BACS		
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Rapide	Toilet rolls for Community club	£17.40	BACS		
IRH Electrical	Socket installation for the Christmas lights	£120.00	BACS		
Equals card	Top up funds	£500.00	BACS		
Newo Electrical	Socket repair and fault with supply to boiler.	£120.00	BACS		
GB Sport	December playground inspection	£90.00	BACS		
TOTAL	TOTAL PAYMENTS	£ 10055.78			
Equals card	December 2023				
Amazon	Caution tape	£5.99	Card		
Amazon	Christmas lights and cable protectors	£179.94	Card		
	Total	£185.9	Card		

24/FC1K To consider the local plan.
Councillors prepared a draft response which will be circulated for additional comments and submitted by the deadline of 22.1.24.

24/FC1L To consider the following applications:

Planning application number	Location	Proposal

Churchill Parish Council

23/P/1837/FUL	Land Opposite Churchill House, Churchill Green, Churchill	Proposed change of use of 2 no existing holiday lets to dwellings. Erection of a bin store and cycle storage alongside creation of a new site access and hardstanding. Churchill Parish Council object to this application as it is retrospective and the work has been carried out. The Council does not support any retrospective application. This should be a matter for planning enforcement. The gravel spills on to the road and we agree with the points raised by Highways. The hedge has already been removed.
23/P/2747/CQA	Barn adjacent to Stoneycroft House Stock Lane Langford BS40 5EX	Prior approval for the conversion of existing agricultural barn into 2 no dwellings with operational development including the insertion of new windows, door and rooflights and timber cladding. Churchill Parish Council object to this application as the access is not suitable for further vehicles, the height of the roof is inadequate and there are concerns regarding the right of way as it is being rerouted. The design of the application does not fit in with other existing properties.

- 24/FC1M Clerks report
The clerk sent their report prior to the meeting.
- 24/FC1N To consider the Financial Risk Assessment.
It was resolved to approve the Financial Risk Assessment.
- 24/FC1O To consider the PCAA response to the North Somerset Council green belt consultation.
It was agreed to support the PCAA response to the North Somerset Council green belt consultation.
- 24/FC1P To receive matters for information
Councillor Johnson reported an encouraging and sympathetic response from the executive member for highways at North Somerset Council, who met with Councillors and Churchill Academy staff in December. Concerns were raised by both Councillors and Churchill Academy regarding speeding and safety issues regarding the bus stop on Dinghurst Road when the Banwell Bypass is built, for students crossing the road. These concerns were raised by Churchill Parish Council to North Somerset Council and the Banwell Bypass Team and at the Public Examination of the CPO's.
Councillor Jeacocke wrote to Councillor Hannah Young at North Somerset Council about parked vehicles on Hilliers Lane and the effect on traffic, which she understood the concerns raised.
Councillor Murray asked for the Parish Orderly to tape off the damaged area of the car park. The Clerk will enquire about trees from the Woodland Trust.

The next Parish Council meeting will be Monday 12th February 2024 at 7.30pm End of minutes.