

# CHURCHSTANTON PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES/ACTION NOTES

<b>Name of meeting:</b>	Annual Parish Meeting - Churchstanton Parish Council
<b>Date meeting held:</b>	Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> May, 2023
<b>Meeting location:</b>	Churchinford Village Hall
<b>Present:</b>	Cllr. Ian Foxwell, Cllr. Tristan Phillips, Cllr. Ken Pearson, Cllr. Paul Carter
<b>In attendance</b>	County Councillor Ross Henley, Joe Knowles, Linda Knowles, Marcus James, Eamonn Platt, Ruth Marshallsay, Lisa Turner, Nicki Dowson, Nick Strange, Stephan Lehner
<b>Chair</b>	Cllr. Ian Firth
<b>Clerk</b>	Julie Wardle
<b>Apologies</b>	Cllr. Raadiyah Rifath
<b>1. Welcome</b>	Cllr. Firth opened the meeting and welcomed everyone in attendance.
<b>2. Minutes of Previous Annual Parish Meeting - Approval</b>	Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> May 2022 - <b>Approved</b>
<b>3. Reports from Representatives from Village Clubs and Societies</b>	<p>Reports were provided by the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Churchstanton Parish Council – Cllr. Ian Firth</li> <li>• Somerset County Councillor – Cllr. Ross Henley</li> <li>• The Blackdown Practice – Written report provided by Practice Manager, Mark Dodds</li> <li>• Blackdown Support Group – Nicki Dowson</li> <li>• Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) – Lisa Turner</li> <li>• Otterhead Lakes Trust – Written report provided by Nigel Griffiths</li> <li>• Outdoor Space Management Group (OSMG) - Joe Knowles</li> <li>• Churchinford &amp; District Community Shop – Ruth Marshallsay &amp; Nick Strange</li> <li>• Churchinford Village Hall – Linda Knowles</li> <li>• Public Paths Liaison Officer – Written report provided by PPLO, Peter Allfrey</li> <li>• Churchstanton Primary School – Marcus James, Parent Governor</li> <li>• Churchinford Preschool – Written report provided by Gemma Sparkes &amp; Andrea Gibbs</li> <li>• Imagine Churchstanton in 2030 – Written report provided by Trisha Comrie and read by Stephan Lehner</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Churchstanton Parish Council - Councillor Ian Firth</u></b></p> <p>Cllr. Firth introduced himself as the newly elected Chairman of the Parish council. He went on to introduce those Parish Councillors present, provided names of those who were absent and notified those present of a vacancy currently on the Parish Council.</p> <p>Cllr. Firth commented on how pleased he was with what the Parish Council had achieved over the past year and provided a summary of their work in this time.</p>

The Platinum Jubilee and Coronation Celebrations – Whilst the Parish Council hadn't organised these events, the funding for both had been provided from the Parish precept. Cllr. Firth commented on the success of both weekends and thanked those involved in the community for their organisation. All children under the age of 16 received a commemorative Jubilee coin and a Coronation mug from the Parish Council to commemorate these two events.

Somerset County Council Chairman's Award – Sue Little contacted the Parish Council and put forward a nomination for Dan Prettejohn to receive this award. The Parish Council were pleased to support Sue's nomination and were delighted when the nomination was successful. Dan received his much-deserved award at a ceremony in February presented by the Chairman of Somerset County Council and accepted this on behalf of all his team at The York Inn.

Litterpicking in the Parish – Cllr. Firth asked for thanks to be recorded to the DeHaan family for their ongoing work collecting litter within the Parish. Three of their children are currently working towards their Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh awards and have been completing this as part of their service over the past 10 months. Amelia, who is working towards her gold award had organised the community litterpick on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May as her contribution the 'The Big Help Out'.

Community Larder – The Parish Council funded the purchase of the larder and continue to provide £50 / month to ensure that stock is maintained. Thanks to Liz Feehan who has set up and continues to maintain this community facility.

Repair Café – A grant of £1,500 was given to the Repair Café by the Parish Council to support the provision of their new repair shed. This facility will enable them to repair larger items and store those for which they are awaiting parts. The repair café does a great job ensuring that less is sent to land fill.

Vacancy on the Parish Council – Due to the resignation of Cllr. Crabb, there is currently a vacancy on the parish council. If anyone is interested, please do contact the parish clerk for further information. Cllr. Firth encouraged anyone who might be interested to attend one or two meetings in order to understand what is involved. Candidates must live in the parish or within three miles of the parish or work in the parish.

#### Coming Up

- Two additional dog waste bins (one is Stapley and another in Churchinford)
- Two Speed Indicator Devices will be installed in Churchinford, one on Honiton Road and one on Taunton Road.
- Space on Parish Council website for local historic information.

In addition to all of the above the Parish Council have regular items on the agenda at their monthly meetings for instance, Planning, Climate Change and Public Paths & Highways

#### **County Councillor Ross Henley**

New Station for Wellington - Ross had attended a meeting in Wellington immediately prior to the Annual Parish Meeting regarding a new railway station in Wellington. He updated those present on the progress of this project and commented on the positive advantages to this.

Unitary Council – Ross explained how Somerset West and Taunton District Council which was only established in 2019 had now been abolished on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 following the switch to a Unitary Council 'Somerset County Council' which took over on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023. Local Community Networks have now been formed and Churchstanton Parish will be part of the Chard & Blackdowns LCN. Parishes within each network, and in this case, similar rural parishes, will be able to work together in order to ensure that their voice is still heard at County Council level.

Local Support – Ross continues to support everyone within Churchstanton Parish with any local issues including housing, roads etc.

Marcus James who was present at the meeting raised his concern with Ross, regarding the speed of traffic on the main road at the top of Red Lane and Church Road, particularly during school drop off and pick up times.

**The Blackdown Practice – Mark Dodds (Practice Manager)**

**Written report provided**

Thank you for inviting me to your meeting and my apologies I could not attend in person, but I am on holiday today. I am pleased to be able provide this written update for you and hope it goes someway to making up for my absence.

I joined the Practice in April last year and replaced Karen Button who led the practice successfully for many years. I was appointed partly because I managed a similar Rural Border Practice in Shropshire since 2016 and have experienced a number of issues that are prevalent in the Blackdown Hills.

There have been some other staff changes in the team over the past 12 months but in the main these have been more administrative rather than clinical, although we will see one of our senior Nurses retire this year. Thankfully we have been able to replace her with another experienced nurse who joins us from the District Nursing team, so I do hope this change is fairly seamless.

We are also pleased to have secured the services of a Clinical Pharmacist who will be joining us in June, Adam Griffiths. This is a new post and provides additional capacity, allowing Adam to carry out medication reviews with patients, and also support both our GP's and Dispensers with his extensive pharmaceutical knowledge.

With regard to Medical services I am pleased to say that as we are now very much post covid, all services that the practice offers are available to all patients. We were able to provide in excess of 53,700 appointment during the year to March 2023 across the three sites, a high proportion of these were face to face consultations. We are pleased to be able to offer a mix of on the day appts, these can be face to face, telephone or via econsult along with bookable non urgent appointments with patients own Doctor in many cases. We have invested in our buildings during the year to ensure essential repairs have been completed but due to funding restrictions are finding it difficult to keep all three sites maintained and decorated to the standard we would wish to maintain. We do monitor repairs and maintenance issues closely, but due to the age of the buildings, there configuration and the high utilisation we have in terms of room use, we do anticipate some further deterioration until additional estates funding can be secured. This is part of an ongoing project being carried out across the UK and we do not expect a resolution in the short term.

Finally, I have to close by saying that the Practice is now operating at maximum capacity and has been for some months. Due to increased building activity in the area and the closure of a practice in Chard, additional patients have been accommodated, but this has resulted in increased waiting times for appointments. In addition to this many of you will probably be aware that Dr Barnes has had an accident and is currently unable to work, with an anticipated return date of August. I therefore have to say that all three surgeries will be operating at times with reduced staffing levels over the next three months and we will be utilising Locum Doctors to cover a significant number of appointments. Looking forward, as best we can, we have been able to keep all three surgeries open across their normal working hours and will continue to strive to maintain that position until Dr Barnes returns.

**Blackdown Support Group – Nicki Dowson (Trustee)**

The Blackdown Support Group is a local registered charity, established in 1991. We have an office at the Blackdown Practice in Hemyock and work very closely with the GPs and the Practice team across the three sites at Churchinford, Hemyock and Dunkeswell, and with residents from across the Blackdown Hills.

The services we operate are as follows:

Community transport service to health, wellbeing, and social appointments

Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle hire  
Wheelchair loans  
Prescription and shopping delivery for the housebound  
Social groups such as low-cost lunches, coffee mornings and afternoon teas  
Volunteer social visiting service  
Shopping trips  
Bereavement support - one to one and group services  
Sitting service for carer respite  
Form filling and benefits advice/signposting  
Low-cost toenail cutting service  
Advice and Guidance – helping people to navigate and connect with other sources of support

We currently have 64 dedicated volunteers, many of whom perform multiple roles. We are always looking for new volunteers and try to provide a range of volunteering options which can be flexible and fit around other commitments. There are many benefits to volunteering including gaining new skills, making new friends and connecting with others. There are also proven benefits to mental and physical health from giving something back to your community in this way, so do get in touch with us if you would like to find out more.

Our transport service is the most well used with volunteers completing 35-40 trips every week using their own cars, across the Blackdown Hills area. In addition to this we are able to transport less mobile passengers in our wheelchair accessible vehicle ensuring they are able to access important social and medical services. We are currently supporting 58 clients in the Parish of Churchstanton with transport services.

Our small office team of 4 staff members co-ordinate these volunteer services as well as providing one to one advice for people who may not have friends or family able to support them locally.

As an addition to our popular coffee morning, we also successfully launched a Churchinford lunch club this year. Thanks to the York Inn for agreeing to cook for us, we enjoy a delicious 2 course lunch on the last Tuesday of every month. The lunch is subsidised by the charity and costs £6.50. It is an opportunity to meet and make friends as well as enjoying a meal together. Please let us know if you, or anyone you know, would be interested in helping or attending. Booking is essential for lunch, we can host up to 20 people. Transport can be arranged for the lunch or for other social events, please get in touch to discuss your requirements.

The Blackdown Support Group started as a collaboration between our local GP Practice and volunteers from the community and our relationship with the Practice is as strong as ever. We are once again providing volunteer support for upcoming Covid vaccine clinics in the next few weeks. We also continue to operate a prescription delivery for anyone who is housebound.

Our bereavement, toenail cutting, sitting and befriending services are also popular. Please contact the office for more information.

We are in the process of reviewing our services post-Covid and would like to be able to offer mental health peer support and one to one dementia services in the future as we feel these are areas of significant need at a local and regional level.

If you would like to get involved, or if you or someone you know need help or advice, or if you would like to chat to us about a particular service, please contact the office team on 01823 681 036, email [d-icb.bsgadmin@nhs.net](mailto:d-icb.bsgadmin@nhs.net) or complete the contact form on our website <https://blackdownsupportgroup.org.uk/contact/>

### **Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) – Lisa Turner**

Here is a summary of some of the work of the past year, highlighting things of relevance to Churchstanton, and a look ahead.

#### **Staffing, management and office**

**Office:** in Healthy Living Centre in Hemyock still, but not staffed all the time. Team is still working remotely, out on site visits, meetings, etc.

**Team:** Some changes to note;

- Jackie Vaughan, office manager, about to retire after c20 years
- Gavin Saunders now project development and delivery officer in core team
- Replaced by Jane Robertson as farm adviser (FiPL)

**Management Group:** In November Partnership chairman Bruce Payne stood down and replaced by Bob Nelson, chair of Broadhembury PC and representing Blackdown Hills Parish Network. John Greenshields (Blackdown Hills Trust) is vice-chair. New Somerset Council representation on management group is still to be determined (all 3 reps of old councils are also new councillors). Paul Diviani, previous chairman for several year, died in January. He was a staunch advocate for the Blackdown Hills.

#### **Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL)**

The majority of the AONB's core funding comes from Defra. In addition they fund the FiPL programme in national parks and AONBs, and this has been extended to March 2025.

It is available to all farmers and landowners

It is managed locally by each landscape

We can fund works which;

- Enhance the environment
- Protect against climate change
- Help wildlife
- Provide better access for people
- Enhance the historic environment

Last year we were able to support 33 projects – including a soil carbon study, pond and orchard creation, hedgerow restoration, watercourse protection (fencing).

One of the projects we were able to help fund was **footpath restoration at Otterhead lakes**. A further phase to complete and by the summer we will have upgraded the riverside path and replaced 3 bridges.

This also made possible through Defra Access funding (other additional funding for protected landscapes specifically for access projects). This also allowed us to replace missing, damaged and rotting signage along the **Herepath**.

Other funding news of local interest – Countryside Fund, for small community projects and administered by Devon Community Foundation, gave grant for work at the old Quarry.

Pleased to report that 2 local people joined the fund panel after last year's meeting.

#### Projects

Much going on project-wise relating to the water environment and catchment-scale approach. With Connecting the Culm, the original EU co-operative programme has finished, however work continues using a range of other funding and links with different initiatives with more to come we hope, addressing flood and drought resilience and water quality through a nature-based approach. The top end of the catchment around Churchstanton is an important element of that.

#### Looking ahead

Priority over next 2 years is reviewing and preparing new **AONB Management Plan**. Feeling is that look and feel quite different, but we are waiting for guidance on expectations from Defra and Natural England. We will be starting some consultation and preparation later this year.

Look out for **new logo and new name** later this year, as the family of AONBs adopt some of the recommendations from the 2019 Landscapes (Glover) Review - to be known as National Landscapes with a common style.

#### Otterhead Lakes Trust – Written report provided by Nigel Griffiths

We are finally nearing the installation phase for this project.

Towards the end of 2022, the House Meadow was excavated and a new 300mm pipe was laid to replace the collapsed culvert. Major work, successfully completed.



After further clearance work on the open leat, the entire system was connected for testing in early May and we are delighted to say that there is an excellent flow of water all the way from the spring to the point where the Forebay tank will be (just to the left of the access road near the Coach House). This provides filtration and control.



The image above shows the outfall from the Forebay area - where the supply pipe to the turbine will be fitted. . There's still plenty of water going over the cascade - the impact of this scheme is minimal.

We've also repaired the stone wall at the entrance to the culvert - so that all the water from this channel can go through the clay pipe and into the hydro system.

During May and June we will be building:

- Foundation for the turbine itself - near the river, about 50m below the bridge
- The Forebay tank - to include filtration
- Stops to existing clay and cast iron pipes to enable quick and safe drain down of the leat for maintenance
- A sluice to control the water flow on the open section of the leat. This will be constructed near the culvert entrance.

In July/August, subject to the availability of our installer, we should be installing the turbine itself.



After a long period of effort, we're very pleased that the end is in sight and that we will soon have a power supply at the Coach House. It's too early to think about celebrations, much work still to be done, but we greatly look forward to being able to provide a facility to the wider community when FS are not using the Coach House.

## **Outdoor Space Management Group (OSMG) - Joe Knowles**

### **Community Field**

We have seen a continued increase in usage over this past year by all age categories particularly youngsters and the older years. The field provides a safe, tranquil area to relax and play.

The field has been used for 'older men's football' and ladies exercise classes.

There have been numerous picnics and family gatherings over the summer.

The new wildflower meadow was very impressive with lots of positive comments.

The raised bed allotments have been well used.

We held a hedge laying day in January and with the help of 12 experienced hedge layers from as far afield as Bristol were able to lay the Church Road hedge.

There has been a complaint to the CPC regarding a dog-on-dog attack and whilst we have no power to deal with such matters, we will investigate this issue.

Overall, another successful year for the Community Field

### **The Quarry**

This area of natural woodland which is owned by the CPC is a natural environment for the community use.

We obtained two grants during the year. One which has funded the new entrance and security barrier, and which will make access to the car parking area easier. The second which is funding the quarry clearing and development. On May 8th there were over twenty people helping to clear the area of old metal, fencing and debris.

The Community Food Garden group are considering using part of the allotment to produce food for the community.

The Quarry is an ideal area for forest walks, off-road bike rides, picnics, play areas and potential forest school and with the new access is much easier to access.

### **Churchinford & District Village Shop – Nick Strange**

You will be aware of the current squeeze that the retail sector is currently experiencing and unfortunately our wonderful village shop is not immune to this pressure.

The figures (still being prepared) for the last financial year will show a modest surplus, but this current year will be a struggle. Our new electricity contract has doubled our electricity bill and with turnover taking a dip, costs soaring and margins waning, the shop is not in a terribly happy place.

Of course, it is not just our shop which is feeling the pinch, the same is true nationwide for all the reasons which we all understand far too well.

However, despite this, the community shop remains the focal point for the wider community. We have 50 + volunteers who spend a lot of time and effort keeping the shop running for the benefit of all. It provides a lifeline for many and a go-to place for information and advice as well as for local produce.

We have plans – Solar panels is one project currently being investigated. These will strengthen our 'green credentials' and reduce at least some of our outgoings. The initial cost is obviously an issue. We are also looking at ways of increasing revenue – our new business card board is a case in point.

We would not wish anyone to think all hope is lost, it isn't and thanks are due to all who support our community shop in any shape and form.



### **Churchinford Village Hall – Linda Knowles**

Report parish council 2023 It has fortunately been a busy year for the V Hall and Committee. We welcomed 3 new members to the committee Sean Dyer as booking Clerk, Stuart Wardle as Parish Council Representative and Nick Jarett as PCC Representative. Sean has settled into the position very well and has taken good care of our hirers, many new one-off bookings and regular ones. We now have 2 yoga and 3 Pilates classes each week as well as the regular meetings. We continue to have musical evenings and shows from Take Art which have been excellent and are very well attended. Hall for All is still running as a fund-raiser for the hall, I hope you all have your numbers, application forms on the windowsill! Mandy from the shop is now organising the stall holders for the monthly market. Unfortunately, the December and May markets were cancelled due to other similar bookings in December and the Coronation in May. The repair cafe is now held in the hall on market days. Because of the increased number of cars parked during the day and overnight in the car park it has been necessary when the hall is booked to put on Facebook and display notices requesting people to leave the car park free for people attending an event in the hall. The village shop continues to rent the room at the end of the building and the pre-school to rent ground space. Thanks to Peter our secretary applying for grants we have a healthy bank balance, but the funds will all be needed to carry out necessary work to the hall and car park. As you can see, we have had 'acoustic baffles' installed made of sheep wool, windows from the hall to Churchstanton room and storeroom have been replaced and work is ongoing to repair a leaking roof over the ladies' toilets. After frequent filling of potholes in the car park it has become necessary to re-surface the front part of the car park, a date was set but as the committee have very recently been told of problems with the underground water pipes involving local dwellings and running under the car park, it may be necessary to re-think the timing. The committee are also looking at replacing the heaters in the main hall but finances will dictate the outcome of this. As you will also have seen the land around the hall is need of a 'weed elimination' day which will happen when the pre-school is next on holiday. The hall has an amazing committee to look after and run it with each member carrying out their responsibility exceptionally well. We would like some younger people to come on to the committee as some present members are 'getting near to committee retirement'. The committee also very much appreciate the support they and the hall get from the people of the parish to enable them to keep the hall running smoothly.

### **Public Paths Liaison Officer – Peter Allfrey**

- Whilst it is not a designated public footpath, the footpath alongside the lower lake at Otterford has recently been refurbished. The designated footpath from the Royston Road end is still very wet and muddy, despite drainage work.
- Concerns have been raised by horse riders regarding the bridleway T633 between Broad Street and Buttles Lane. The gate at the Broad Street end is impossible to open on foot never mind when sat on a horse. In addition, the hedges are only cut back to a height of 6ft, making it difficult to ride the bridle way without getting caught up in the hedges.
- Unfortunately, Sarah Henderson who was also a PPLO for the parish has recently stepped down from this role due to other commitments and therefore if anyone is interested in assisting Peter with this role, please contact the Parish Clerk directly.

*The Parish Council would like to convey their thanks to both Peter and Sarah for their time and good work looking after our public paths in the parish.*

### **Churchstanton Primary School – Marcus James**

- Unfortunately, the school meal provision had been poor but The York Inn is now providing meals for the children and the feedback from the children and staff has been very positive.

- Work is currently taking place to re-do the outside of Fox class.
- A full time Caretaker has now been employed.
- The issue with the fire doors has now been resolved.
- The kitchen has now been removed and replaced with a sensory room.
- 2023 SATs have just been completed.
- The school thanked the Parish Council for the Jubilee coins and the Coronation mugs purchased for all the children.

#### **Churchinford PreSchool - Written report provided by Gemma Sparkes**

Currently, we have 28 children on role ageing from 18 mths - 4+ who are supported by 4 members of staff.

We have plodded our way through a tough couple of terms (Winter & Spring) with the huge increase in utility bills and the living wage rising by quite a substantial amount. This has been supported by our local community grants which have helped us significantly. You the parish council being one and for this we are very grateful. Sadly, the first grant we applied for and received did pay our electricity bill so now applying again this time so that some well needed new items can be purchased. Thank you again!

Our children love the outside space we have at preschool and are all busy being green fingered at the moment helping prepare /plant the garden. The children also enjoy trips to the local shop to purchase plants and seeds to go into the garden. We feel very lucky having this on our doorstep and even better within walking distance.

Regular visits continue with Rev Nick, Hummingbird Care home and an invitation from Dan at the York spoiling us all with freshly made pancakes and scrumptious fruit and a cup of hot tea for all staff!

A quick cycling visit was also made from Mr Watson the new primary school headmaster which was nice.

Our yearly big fund raiser again is always so well supported by our community with cakes from the nursing home and fantastic raffle prizes from Dan at The York and also our community shop. Also our regular bags 2 school collections are essential for us as a small independent business and again we really appreciate all our community support.

These past 2 years have been a very challenging time with settling children who have been born in very strange times and general finances hitting all in different ways but with our fantastic committee and staff we are continuing to step forwards.

#### **Imagine Churchstanton in 2030 – Written report provided by Trisha Comrie and presented by Stefan Lehner (Blackdown Hills Repair Café)**

Recent meetings have led to the creation of 3 groups focussing on a) energy and transport, b) food growing and food security and c) wild spaces, biodiversity and wildlife gardening. Judging from the lively discussions at each table, there was no shortage of ideas and enthusiasm, as summarised by a spokesperson from each group below.

##### **Energy and transport**

“Initially the group discussed the many different ways that Churchinford residents can reduce their energy bills and also reduce their carbon footprint. In particular two members discussed their personal positive experiences with their Air Source Heat Pump heating systems and answered common questions/misconceptions about the technology. Discussions then moved onto local transport and ideas to improve transport access, reduce journey costs and emissions. The group plans to create literature on the benefits of different technologies, with direct personal experience, to provide a source of unbiased information to help the Churchinford community transition to net zero in a viable way.”

	<p><b><u>Food growing and food security</u></b></p> <p>“Our group focussed its discussions on the possible use of spare land at the Quarry for growing vegetables for the whole village. The idea is to Grow, Pick and Sell (via the Village Shop and possibly the monthly market), at affordable prices, with any profits being ploughed back into the project. Help and advice will be sought from the Blackdown Hills Gardening Club and other vegetable growers in the area. In time, we also plan to share cooking and recipe suggestions via the Churchinford website, with leaflets displayed in the shop as well.”</p> <p><b><u>Wild spaces, biodiversity and wildlife gardening</u></b></p> <p>“Our group plans to engage with individuals, schools, landowners, farmers and councils to encourage the widest possible help for the recovery of our biodiversity in general and insect populations in particular. We shall be actively seeking the expertise and experience of neighbouring towns, villages and groups, and offering opportunities for local residents to visit wildlife gardens and other wild spaces in Churchstanton and further afield. We also plan to create guideline literature, including on medicinal herbs and their benefit for our health and wellbeing.”</p> <p><u>These groups would all love to hear from you!</u> Do you have a particular skill or relevant experience to share? Perhaps you have some brilliant ideas to contribute? Or maybe you are just curious to know a bit more? If so, please send me an email, indicating which group(s) you are interested in, and I’ll be very happy to put you in contact with them.</p> <p>Next meeting: Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023</p> <p>Two other events of interest which will be taking place in July:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Nicola Peel is an international award winning activist and ‘solutionist’ who presented at this year’s Oxford Real Farming Conference. The Blackdown Hills Eco Hub is hosting her on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July from 4-8pm for a discussion about Regenerative Agriculture and all things Biochar (followed by a BBQ). More information is available at: <a href="https://www.trimplants.co.uk/bh-eco-hub-news/">https://www.trimplants.co.uk/bh-eco-hub-news/</a></li> <li>- On Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June Trisha will be opening her wildlife garden (Churchinford) hopefully to inspire people to take similar steps of their own. Her 4 years old wildflower meadow should be looking a picture by then and of course there will also be cake!</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Blackdown Hills Repair Café</u></b></p> <p>Stefan went on to mention the Blackdown Hills Repair Café which is now in it’s 6<sup>th</sup> year in Hemyock and it’s 2<sup>nd</sup> in Churchinford at the monthly village market. We have received over 3000 items for repair and managed to fix over 2700! The café have recently secured the rental of a shed in Hemyock which will enable them to take larger items and store those for which they are awaiting parts. The Parish Council had supported this new venture with a grant of £1,500.</p> <p>Greg Slee who was present at the meeting offered his service as an Electrical Engineer to anyone in the community, including the Repair Café who may be able to use his advice. In particular, Greg mentioned the installation of Solar Panels.</p>
<p><b>4. Churchstanton Community Fund</b></p>	<p>Three grant applications had been made in the spring window to the Churchstanton Community Fund as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Churchstanton Public Open Space Management Group (OSMG) – To cut grass in community field (£1,000)</li> <li>• Churchstanton Primary School – Materials to reinstate outdoor area (£902.42)</li> <li>• Churchinford Pre-school – Replace multi-sensory play equipment (£1,000)</li> </ul>

	All three were presented to those present for their information and consideration and all three applications were approved. This will now be ratified at the next Parish Council meeting on 14 <sup>th</sup> June 2023.
<b>5. Meeting Close</b>	Cllr. Firth thanked everyone for attending and for their reports. The meeting had provided an opportunity to hear about the great work that takes place in our community.