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Churt Parish Council Newsletter May

2026

May's annual meeting of the Parish Council took place once again in the Village Hall due to the Recreation Ground pavilion being closed for renovation - we are hopeful that we might be "home" for the next meeting. Thank you again to the Village Hall Committee for allowing the Council to meet in the Hall for a few months.

### **Annual Meeting - 13<sup>th</sup> May**

I was delighted to be re-elected as Chair, and Stephen Wright was re-elected as Vice Chair. All other Councillors who were continuing in roles were re-elected.

### **Retirement of two Councillors**

It was with great sadness but with huge appreciation that we bid au revoir to our two longest standing Councillors, Lisa Martin and Myra Johnson, both exceptional and hard-working members of the CPC for seven years.

Lisa was Vice Chair when I joined the CPC and she took on the Chair role in the saddest of circumstances on the passing of David Crossley. She rose to the challenge magnificently and was an effective and fair Chair for three years until the pressure of work meant that she had to step back. In addition, Lisa has maintained the roads portfolio with diligence and determination. Lisa, your wisdom, fresh approach and willingness to challenge maintenance of the status quo will be missed. I recognise how often Lisa brought us back to the proper and most appropriate use of our funds - ensuring equitable use of our funds for all residents is something I shall take forward.

Goodness what a super women Myra is! Having been a key player and supporter of the Scouts group for years, she has also been a School Governor and an important liaison between CPC and St John's School, she has a passion for environmental matters and has driven the Churt Zero initiative portfolio, has overseen the website updates and maintenance, and is a planning supremo. She brought a diligence and passion to all of her portfolios which will be hard to replicate. Her sense of what is right and fair and her passion for road safety will long be remembered. We shall miss Myra so much, but hope that she will enjoy a slightly more relaxed life with plenty more international trips and time with her family.

Lisa and Myra were each presented with a Frances Frith print of Churt centre from times past. Neither will be a stranger to us and both have offered to help on working parties as appropriate.



### **Two casual vacancies**

As a result of the resignations of Myra and Lisa, there are two casual vacancies for Parish Councillors. We are delighted to have received a few expressions of interest but as none of the candidates were able to meet us all in person, we have deferred the election until our next meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> June - this does mean there is still an opportunity to put your name forward if you would be interested in joining the Parish Council - please email Dawn Barrow, Parish Clerk at [parishclerk@churt.org](mailto:parishclerk@churt.org).

### **Wicket Wood**

On a lovely Sunday morning Churt Environmental Group volunteers were joined by Churt Scouts to clear invasive holly and bracken in Wicket Wood. The Scouts worked tirelessly and cleared an impressive area.

If you get the chance, have a stroll through the wood and enjoy the peace and tranquillity of this lovely spot.

Many thanks to the Scouts for all their hard work!



### **National Emergency Briefing**

You may have heard of the National Emergency Briefing <https://www.nebriefing.org> This is an initiative set up to encourage UK decision-makers to step up their response to the escalating climate and nature crisis and they are trying to highlight the immediate threat by having as many local communities as possible host a film setting out the risks we all face with a plea to viewers to write to MPs etc asking for a prime time emergency briefing on TV.

St Johns Church will be co-hosting with CPC a screening as part of their Eco Church initiative at 11.30am on 28th June - please do come along.

### **Village Fete**

We look forward to seeing you at the Village Fete at the Recreation Ground at 2pm on 13<sup>th</sup> June. As well as presentation of the Freedoms of The Parish, there will be stall at which you can "Buy a Brick" for the Pavilion, thereby helping with its renovation whilst maintaining a reference to you or someone else in perpetuity! Gift Aid has been successfully secured so if you are a tax payer any contribution you make can be enhanced by 20%.

The next meetings of Churt Parish Council and Recreation Ground Trust will be held in the **village hall** at 7.30pm on **Weds 10 June**. Everyone is welcome to attend but it is helpful to know in advance if you wish to make a presentation.

**Sally Shorthose**

**Chair, Churt Parish Council**

**May 2026**