

CHRISTOW ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Friday 25th April 2025 AT 7.00 PM

Councillors present- Cllrs Archer, AJ Orme, J Orme, G Read, R Slack, A Cook, B Green, clerk Mrs C Retallick and 9 Members of the Public.

Welcome and Apologies received.

Cllr T Archer welcomed everyone to the meeting - received from Cllr Swaine, Cllr H Tucker, I Pfister (DCC Highways Engineer)

Chairman's Report for the year 2024/2025.

I SUPPOSE THE BIGGEST THING THAT HAPPENED IN THE VILLAGE THIS PAST YEAR IS THE COMMUNITY SHOP, DRAWING UP THE LEASE WAS CHALLENGING BUT EVENTUALLY WE AGREED A 5 YEAR LEASE FOR THE TIME BEING, IT HAS BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL THE COUNCIL ARE AWARE THAT THE CAR PARK IS NOW BEING USED MORE, SO WE SHALL BE LOOKING AT WAYS TO MANAGE IT MORE EFFICIENTLY.

AS ALWAYS OUR COST'S ARE GOING UP TO MAINTAIN OUR ASSETS WHETHER IT BE THE ALLOTMENTS, CEMETERY, RECREATION FIELD, OR PLAY AREAS, THE PLAY PARK IN PARTICULAR IS GETTING VERY TIRED AS IT WAS MOSTLY CONSTRUCTED IN WOOD, WHICH IS NOW GETTING ROTTEN ON MUCH OF THE EQUIPMENT, WE MAY ON SOME ITEMS WHICH ARE NOT USED MUCH NOT REPLACE IT, AND ONLY KEEP THOSE THAT ARE USED THE MOST.

ELLIOT OUR LENGTHSMAN IS GIVING UP THE END OF THIS MONTH, HE HAS BEEN WITH US FOR MANY YEARS AND HAS DONE AN EXCELLENT JOB KEEPING OUR ROADS IN THE VILLAGE CENTRE TIDY, AND KEEPING THE GULLIES AND DRAINS CLEAR SO THAT THE WATER DOES NOT FLOOD SO MUCH, JACK IS TAKING OVER AND WE ARE HOPING HE WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP IT TO THE SAME STANDARD

FINALLY, I WOULD LIKE THANK THE COUNCILLORS FOR THE WORK THEY HAVE PUT IN DURING THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS, AND TO WELCOME BARRY GREEN WHO HAS JUST BEEN CO-OPTED ON TO THE COMMITTEE, ALSO OUR CLERK WHO MAKES SURE EVERYTHING IS RUNNING SMOOTHLY

Reports from Clubs and local Organisations

1st Teign Valley Scout Group report from Paul French - In Jan 2024 we were able to restart Beavers after a year or so with none. Thanks to Angela Sims for taking that on and to Carilyn Govier, who has agreed to assist, along with other parental support.

Cubs are still thriving, thanks to Andy Turner's leadership, supported by Gareth de Graaff, with occasional help from Andy Cook and Malcolm Jones.

Both Sections are currently full with waiting lists, due the popularity created by the imaginative programmes provided by the leaders.

Lack of Leaders has been a persistent issue since the Group started in 2008, at times, in different Sections, so we would welcome any new volunteers willing to help out in any section. There is no need to have a child in the Group, or have any previous Scouting experience. It would be great to restart Scouts again, so there is somewhere for the Cubs and Beavers to progress towards.

Please contact me, Paul French on paul.n.french@btinternet.com or 01647252721, if you want to find out more, or get your child on the waiting list for either Beavers or Cubs. I will also be hanging up my woggle in July after over 40 years as an adult in Scouting, so keep an eye on Unity for updates.

ACORN- The organisation continues to be successfully they have client as far as from Cheriton Bishop and the whole of the Teign Valley with approx. 410 clients. They offer volunteers to take clients to medical appointments with 900 passengers using the minibus for shopping and monthly outings to various locations, lunch clubs and coffee clubs. The group also hold memory lane events mainly aimed at clients with dementia. The befriending programme offers volunteers to give rest bite to other carers and at them moment there are approx. 4 befrienders. Volunteer also will be delivering prescriptions. Bridford and Cheriton Bishop Parish Councils supported a grant given from the locality budget to the Rainbow Club this was aimed to benefit Carers, which is a great group and safe space for carers to share experiences and worries. Extra funding from NHS of £17,800 was received to cover staff costs and extra funds become available for Balance classes to help prevent falls. Their biggest challenge, however, is getting volunteers within the Teign Valley, but ACORN does keep advertising. The annual community event is popular especially the Carol Concerts and in June there will be a come and sing day at Exeter University, there will be more advertising form this soon. Other events organised are walks and afternoon tea. A recent survey sent out to clients to get feedback about the services offered. The Charity are looking to upgrade their IT including offering and taking card payments in the future. The founder of ACORN Mary Howe passed away but the organisation are proud of her vision creating such an amazing service for the last 36 years.

Annual TVCH Report for Christow Parish Council Meeting. 25.04.2025 – by Jill Arthur.
TVCH Chair

These past twelve months, have seen the completion of our five year long major restoration of the hall.

- We are very pleased that our efforts to recruit new management committee members has been successful. We now have 9 trustees (full committee members) and 11 community group representatives. We are hoping that some of the reps will, in time, agree to become trustees and full members. We always need more people to help, especially with the more hands-on tasks such as showing prospective hirers round, helping to manage the heating app schedule, or learning how to mount and use the stage lighting.
- Our bookings continue to be healthy with some new, regular groups such as cardio drumming using the hall, and other new groups such as a Lincolnshire based folk band who have expressed interest in a longer booking for a folk festival next year.
- As an addendum to our refurbishment project, we were able to secure an additional Green Impact grant of £14,274 via Devon County Council to install an extra 8 solar pv panels and a battery. We can now generate and use even more of our own power, and thus reduce our electricity bill.
- In a further effort to reduce energy use, we have had nearly all the remaining old-style lights replaced with LEDs. Motion sensors have been fitted in the toilets, kitchen and corridors, reducing the risk of lights being accidentally left on overnight.
- We have paid from our own funds for a new fire alarm system to be installed. This major cost (£10,000), together with our contributions to the refurbishment work, mean that our reserve fund is now lower than it has been for many years. We have however put in place a plan to rebuild the reserve fund to £35,000 by May 2030. As nearly 90% of our income comes from room hire, we will achieve this by incrementally increasing hire charges and working to attract new customers. The more extra use the hall gets, the less we'll need to put up the charges each year, so do please promote the hall if you know of anyone looking for a venue. Thank you to all our regular users for their understanding over the hire increases.

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Chair of Christow Community Shop from Jude Jones -

Christow Community Shop opened on the 5th November and has been well supported since day 1. It has become a place not only to buy groceries but indirectly a social hub for all ages. We are so grateful to the community for their support in using the shop and we recognise that we are still on a steep learning curve.

It has always been an aim to support local producers, and we now have 10 that are located within the Teign Valley and we continue to look for more. Do contact us if you can think of someone else that might like to be one of our suppliers. During 2025, we will be looking to selling more gifts, if we can squeeze anymore shelves into the shop.

We also try to ensure that we can supply basics at minimal cost to save those car journeys to other shops. Although we know we will never compete with supermarkets for price or speed, we add a friendly face and a chat for free!

We would not be able to operate if it were not for the volunteers who help in the shop and behind the scenes. We now have over 70 volunteers, but we are always looking for more, as there are often gaps in the rota that need filling. Please speak with someone if you would like to join the team, no skills required and you decide when you help, so no pressure.

Since opening we have sold 3,000 litres of milk, 1,600 boxes of eggs and over 3,500 pieces of cake and this plus all other sales have helped us to be in a steady financial position. Jerry Davison, our Finance manager who is a chartered accountant has written this summary:

We wanted to share an update on the shop's fundraising and trading in the first five months to 31 March 2025 with you, and to brief you on how much the start-up and build costs compared with the original budget.

Amount raised by the project

The total funding received for the shop was as follows:

Shares	£	48,530
Grants + donations	£	16,527
Given by CCLT	£	8,000
TOTAL	£	73,057

Trading

*In the original financial forecast/budget we anticipated that sales for the first five months would be **£39,580** but the actual sales total is some **£89,650**. We anticipated a net loss of - **£18,821** over the same period but the actual result is a profit of around **£6,105**. We have made an average of 25% gross profit on product sales.*

Start-up and build costs

*The costs of planning, design, raising funding, and then the build and fit-out of the shop are included in this category. The total costs to date are **£34,350** (excluding VAT). The original financial forecast/budget for the start-up and build phase was **£44,500** including a contingency so we were well under budget.*

SEIS tax relief

We raised £48,530 by share purchase of which £46,140 was under SEIS (seed enterprise investment scheme). Those investors can reclaim 50% of their investment against their income tax.

If you have any questions or ideas, please contact either me or someone on the management committee.

Christow Larder – the service has not changed recently other than the need in Ashton and Doddiscombsleigh has reduced, and the larder do not supply those areas anymore. Bridford, Christow and Dunsford larders have been active for 5 years and over the last 18 months they have provided on average 1000 meals a month. It is hoped that the need will reduce but at the moment it is still very much needed. There are approx. 40 volunteers working within the larder group and the users really appreciate the support that they receive.

Short mat bowls Club – The Club won the Teignbridge league; the club play twice a week in the TVCH and this winter two of their players played in the National singles competition and one player in the Mixed 4's and finally one Lady represented England in a competition. They club has over 20 members.

Teign Valley Tennis Report to the PCC 25/4/25 from Malcolm Jones

This year has seen tennis continue to be enjoyed on the 3 courts near the Hall. The newly surfaced Court 3 is due to be painted soon and has already seen plenty of use.

We are grateful to Tim our coach who as continued to encourage skill levels in all of our players.

This summer he will be again organising the very popular junior club tournament event called "The Journey to Wimbledon" and many of the children will be participating in this Wimbledon themed singles & doubles event. The winning children will progress to the Devon County finals, which will be held at a regional indoor centre and represent TV in both the 14&U Girls & Boys singles events.

This summer we will also be returning to participate in the Devon junior national tennis league putting in a representation in 4 events: 8&U mixed event, girls 12&U, girls 14&U and boys 12&U

Fran Laugharne is our new Families representative on the Tennis Committee, which has also seen a few changes this year. We thank Nick Kirkland for all his dedication in leading the club, and he has now stepped down as Chair, to be replaced by Malcolm Jones. Lucie Hall was also thanked as she steps down as Secretary and we are still looking for someone to replace her.

A Successful "Mini" mixed Tournament was held on the 12th of April the Club will continue with the main Tournaments from June onwards for the membership players. We continue to play across the County and beyond in the local Mixed and Ladies Doubles Leagues, which have been good social events and closely fought matches played in a good spirit.

The Club will once again be represented at the Christow Show on Saturday 16th August, and a date for the diary is the **Barn Dance 2025** - to be held on Saturday 15th November.

Malcolm Jones also reported from the Teign Valley Runners run for 1 hour's various lengths on meet Saturday mornings 8.30am start from several different venues and all details on their website.

****** Break for Refreshment ******

Open Forum for parishioners.

Concerns were raised regarding speeding vehicles especially at the entrance to Village Road car park, it is reported that cars don't slow down until the old post office site. It is mainly cars but few delivery drivers as well.

Speed bumps were suggested, and some local residents have offered to fund them in the past, however they were warned off as if vehicles were damaged, they would have been liable for damage and accidents.

The meeting discussed different ways of slowing traffic down. Cllr Archer reminded the meeting of the children's signs that were made a few years ago. Road narrowing was thought to be an effective way of slowing traffic down.

Cllr Read noted that speed bumps tend to show that motorists speed up after the bump. He also mentioned that DCC is responsible for highways. White lines being painted at the entrance of the car park may improve the situation at the junction?

The meeting then discussion the 20's plenty campaign used in other areas and if it had been successful.

Cars parked in the village - Cllr Archer noted that there are always a few cars parked near the Artichoke which makes it difficult to get through especially for emergency vehicles get access through the village.

During the CLT's process of planning they were advised that DNPA are looking for less car parking spaces.

Parking permits were discussed but the issues would be how this could be managed?

Advertising in Unity to raise awareness was mentioned but using the WhatsApp group may be more effective as well as the village notice boards.

Cllr Green wondered if a solution could be the warning flashing lights for the school time, it was agreed however that education for the children about being aware of traffic awareness is very important.

The Chair of the CCLT thanked the Parish councillors for the work they do within the parish from the whole of the Community.

Chair of the Parish Council, Cllr Tom Archer will present the Parish Award, and closing remarks.

Cllr Archer was pleased to award the award this year to a lady whose work to get the shop ready really stood out. He thanked her for all her hard work and awarded the shield to Jude Jones.

Meeting closed 20.31pm