Churchill Gardens Community Association
Wednesday 15th April 2026
Open Members Meeting Minutes – 15th April

1. Attendance

Committee: Becky, Adam, Abi, Patrick, Shell, Julie
Members: Mike, Rachel, Katlin, Cath, Marie
Apologies: Jack, Nick

2. Welcome & Introduction (Becky)

Becky welcomed everyone and thanked attendees for coming.
Committee members introduced themselves.
Members in attendance also introduced themselves.

3. Announcements

3.1 Playground Redevelopment Update

- Total Investment: The initial £3.9 million for Phase 1 has been bolstered by an additional £293,000, raising the total investment to over £4.6 million for improvements.
- Churchill Gardens has been allocated £50,000, with an additional £10,000 CIL funding, bringing the potential total to £60,000. The cil application is submitted but they have not got back to us with a final answer regarding our ability to combine the funds.
- Funding is confirmed and secured.
- Thanks were given to Patrick for his work on the project.
- Phase 1 completion is targeted for October half term.
- A portion of the budget may be used to repair or remove existing equipment.
- Additional grant funding is being explored to increase available budget.

3.2 Café Tender Update

- **Café tender to be released within the next two weeks.**
- A four-week application window will be available.
- Aim is to appoint a tenant by June.
- Shell has volunteered to do some weeding on behalf of the committee in the upcoming weekends as maintenance.

4. Community Engagement Session

- Attendees broke into groups to share ideas for improving the park and introducing new features.
- Feedback was gathered via written suggestions. Attached document has ideas brought forward.

5. Park Improvements & Community Initiatives

5.1 Lighting

- Martin has contacted the relevant council department regarding appropriate lighting options.
- Options and costings will be shared.

Action: Patrick to follow up on progress.

5.2 Litter Picking Initiative

- Joy will resume organising litter picking sessions.
- Becky noted that providing ice pops for children last summer worked well as an incentive.

5.3 Community Partnerships & Activities

- Exploration of partnerships with local organisations to bring activities into the park:
    - AFC Bournemouth – potential football club or wellbeing activity
    - Active Dorset – potential collaboration?
    - Local organisations engaging young people in community-based activities
    - Outreach to "Charitable Friends of Churchill Gardens" and similar groups to relocate or expand activities into the park

5.4 Rotary Club Engagement

- Rotary Club interested in increasing involvement locally, similar to their work in Southbourne.
- Mike has a contact (Chris Knight) and will introduce Becky.

Action: Mike to facilitate introduction to Rotary Club contact.

6. General Actions & Next Steps

- Continue exploring grant funding opportunities.
- Jane Joy from BCP Council is happy to advise on funds and grants but a form needs filling out to guide her advice.

Action: Becky to complete form for Jane Joy

NEXT MEETING - Next committee meeting is Wednesday 20th may 6:30-7:30pm.