Churchill Gardens Community Association
Wednesday 20th May 2026

1. Attendance
Committee: Julie, Becky, Jack, Adam, Nick, Shell
Apologies: Patrick, Abi

2. Welcome (Becky)
Becky welcomed everyone and thanked attendees for coming.

3. Finance Update
- Current balance remains at £729.43.
- A painting invoice for £670 is still outstanding to be deducted from that total.

4. Community Service Workers & Litter Picking
- Jack confirmed Churchill Gardens is already included on the community litter picking list.
- Areas outside of the park boundary fall under the responsibility of street services.

5. Playground Line Repainting
- Katrina has offered to repaint her original playground artwork before the summer for £40.
- Nick confirmed he can provide the paint.
- Committee members agreed to personally fund the repainting.
- It was acknowledged that the surface may eventually be resurfaced, however members felt it would be beneficial to refresh the faded markings ahead of the summer period.

Action: Shell to email Rebecca W confirming the committee intends to repaint the faded tarmac lines.

6. Playground Procurement Process Update
- The playground project officially went live on 20th April.
- A site visit with potential suppliers took place on 23rd April.

- Suppliers have until 29th May to submit their bids.
- Design options are expected to be presented during the first two weeks of June.
- Preferred supplier selection is expected between 15th–19th June.
- Current aim is for construction works to begin in September.

7. Sutcliffe Meeting Update (Nick)

- Nick provided an update following a meeting with Sutcliffe.
- As discussions with Sutcliffe have been ongoing for approximately two years, they attended to present possible playground concepts while the park remains out to tender.
- Nick shared several proposed ideas, including new climbing frames and tunnel features.

8. Café Tender Update

- Café tender timeline is expected to follow a similar schedule to the playground procurement process, with bids due by the end of May, decisions in June, and intended commencement in September.
- Jack raised concerns regarding whether the future café operator would align with the original community-focused intentions and questionnaire responses connected to the building's original purpose.
- Becky confirmed that the tender process is heavily weighted towards community objectives and is confident these considerations have been recognised.

Action: Becky to share the café tender documentation with committee members who requested to review it.

10. Grants, Funding & Fundraising Ideas

10.1 Grant Opportunities

- Discussion took place around seeking funding for projects supporting underprivileged children.
- Jack suggested approaching the Rotary Club, as these types of initiatives may align with their funding priorities.
- Becky has begun exploring grant opportunities, including a B&Q volunteer/community grant scheme offering up to £1,000 towards equipment and volunteer support for repainting retained play equipment.
- Additional funding ideas discussed included:
  - JP Morgan / Chase community grants
  - Rotary Club support for an accessible pathway project

10.2 Fundraising & Donations

- Discussion took place regarding ways to generate income for ongoing committee running costs.

- Nick highlighted examples of additional features and upgrades that could be achieved with further fundraising support, emphasising the importance of increasing available funding beyond the standard playground package options.

Action: Adam to explore "Tap to Donate" options using Stripe.

10.3 Town Councillor Engagement

- Committee agreed to identify and engage with the local town councillor to better understand available support and involvement opportunities.
- UPDATE from Patrick: Please note that for Bournemouth Town Council the ward boundary covers a wider area. The elected councillors are George Farquhar (Labour) and Duane Farr (Reform).
- The Town Council has no responsibility for Parks. It does have a limited amount of money for grants.

11. Raised Beds & Planting

- Discussion held regarding raised beds, planting, and seed projects.
- Committee agreed it may be best to revisit this after the café tender process has concluded.

12. AGM Planning – 17th June

- AGM confirmed for 17th June.
- All committee positions will be open and available for nomination and voting. Meeting timings agreed as:
  - Event start: 6:00pm
  - Voting to begin: 6:30pm
  - Event end: 8:00pm
- Becky suggested combining the AGM/open meeting with a community garden BBQ fundraiser, including hotdogs and burgers, to help raise money towards committee running costs.
- Committee agreed members of the public must be informed in advance to allow attendance and participation in voting.

13. Next Steps

- Continue progressing playground and café tender processes.
- Explore grant funding and fundraising opportunities.
- Promote AGM and notify members regarding available committee positions.

14. Next Meeting

AGM/Open Meeting scheduled for 17th June.

NEXT MEETING - Next committee meeting is Wednesday 17th June 6:00-8:00pm.