Avonwick and North Huish Community Hall Project Report to Annual Parish Meeting 2022

After a period of hiatus caused by external factors, over the last year the Community Hall Project has gained new members and held a number of useful meetings.

Chief among these was a public meeting we organised in September 2021, at which the Community Hall Project, Church of St James and Avon Vale Tennis Club all gave presentations about their plans and opportunities for community space in the parish. The Community Hall Project explained the difficulties with the site allocated for a village hall, and clarified the issue with parking, demonstrating that only a small hall with minimum parking might be fitted on the site, and not the facility that the community survey had identified as wanted by the parish.

The meeting was very well attended, generated lively discussion and was described as “very helpful and informative” in the feedback we received. The vast majority of the feedback we received supported the concept of some sort of community space within the parish, with support for shared use of existing spaces but also continued support for a stand-alone facility.

The Community Hall Project has never set out to build a 'white elephant’, and there remains interest in a village hall for the parish. We are well aware that a stand-alone hall is not something that can be built quickly or cheaply. As we consider the best ways forward, we are looking at ways in which we can encourage community activities in the short term as well as the more distant future. With this in mind, we have been looking into organising additional community events and we hope that we will be able to make grants available later this year for more immediate community projects within the parish.

Gudrun Wiersum
Chairman, ANHCHP
May 2022