**Your Parish Council- October 2020**

**September Parish Council Meeting**: We were all set to have our first face to face meeting back in the village hall when the announcements about new restrictions and the Rule of 6 were made and so the meeting was held remotely using Zoom. There were no requests by members of the public to join the meeting.

The meeting received a presentation from Nicki Tinkler and John Nicholas on the Business Case for an Emergency Plan for the villages of Broad Chalke and Bowerchalke. Nicki set out the context and what was envisaged from a Plan, not a weighty tome but a succinct document providing information on contacts, resources and information cascade should there be an emergency when swifter community response can be given at a parish level. The Council agreed the Business Case and to the draft Plan back to its November 2020 meeting.

**Doves Meadow Surgery**: The Meeting received an update from both the Chairman and from Nicki Tinkler as C-19 Network Co-ordinator on communication from the Surgery as to reopening following the letters that had been sent to the Practice. On the whole, a more positive position then had been received to date, if not the absolute clarity and level of service that the Council was looking for. The information is that the surgery will be reopening as soon as it can (likely to be October) but for a limited range of services of prescription collection, blood tests and nurse appointments.

**Annual Governance Review:** The Clerk reported on the feedback from the External Auditors and that their conclusion is that the Council has met the requirements of the Proper Practices required. Details are published on the Council’s website.

**Fibre to The Premises Broadband:** Do you need a faster internet connection? Last month we let residents know that a voucher scheme is available, to help with the cost of installing FTTP. We would be interested to know if any local residents would like to be involved in a Community Fibre Partnership - thus enabling them to make use of the voucher scheme as a group, and arrange for a fibre connection to their properties. There would be no commitment at this stage, but if superfast broadband is something you would benefit from then do get in touch. If a number of households are interested, we will be in a position to further investigate what is available and at what cost. Please let Emma Richter know by emailing at emma@richter.org.uk

**Other Matters**: The Clerk reported on a number of matters that had been raised since the last meeting:

* The Council considered a resident’s request for a roadway down through Doves Meadow and agreed that this was not a Parish Council matter.
* A street name plate had been requested for The Causeway but the Council did not feel this was needed.
* Agreement was given for participation in a Christmas Tree Festival in the village and Mrs Newman will give some thought to how to present the Council on a Christmas Tree!
* The National Joint Council for Local Government Services had agreed salary increase of 2.75%. It was noted that the Council had made budget provision of 2% increase so there will be a small overspend.
* It was noted that there had been a significant amount of activity by Wiltshire Council in the village on gulley and drain clearance and on patching repairs, particularly on Manor Farm Road and Bulls Lane following parish council involvement and the support of County Councillor Jose Green. This was welcomed.

The clerk updated on the financial position of the Council and costs incurred since the last meeting.

Planning applications were considered and supported and information on a pre application consultation for Clock Cottage on South Street for which there were no objections.

**Village Handyperson**: Justin Alison has now been appointed and commenced duties on 1 September.

**Parish Council Meetings** The dates of future meetings will be kept under review, but the intention is to hold a meeting on 14 October.

**Contact Details:** The Chairman of the Council, Tom Hitchings can be contacted at: Tomhitchingsbroadchalke@gmail.com

The Parish Clerk is Chris Rothwell and can be contacted at: **Clerkbroadchalke@gmail.com**

The Parish Council Website is: **www.broadchalkeparishcouncil.com**