**Your Parish Council- September 2020**

**August Parish Council Meeting**: Due to the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions the meeting was held remotely using Zoom. There were no requests by members of the public to join the meeting.

The meeting received a report from Emma Richter on Wiltshire Council’s improving broadband connectivity project. Further information is set out at the end of this update.

The Clerk reported that playground repairs had been undertaken and the playground was being used well, although littering continues to be an issue. The Parish Council have asked all playground users to take their litter home to help reduce risk of spread of Covid-19.

An update was provided on the Village Handyperson role and the Parish Council are pleased to advise that Justin Allison will be taking on this role from September.

A grant application was received from the Chalke Valley Playschool but was deferred pending some further information and a suggestion of funding accessible through the South West Wiltshire Area Board that could assist further.

Littering and anti-social behaviour at Mill Mead continues to be monitored. Any issues should be reported to the Clerk.

The Clerk reported on planning enforcement action and on some drainage issues on Bulls Lane that had been taken up with Wiltshire Council.

The Chairman thanked Michael Scott who was standing down from his voluntary role organising the speed indicator device. Graham Newman is stepping in but additional volunteers to assist in this key road safety role are being sought. Can you help?

We need someone to spare about 1/2 an hour once a fortnight to help keep the roads in Broad Chalke safe. We share the digital speed monitor that you will have seen around the village with Bishopstone and rotate it between the villages every fortnight. Can you help Graham Newman take the monitor down and put it up? It is an easy job but does need two pairs of hands.

Please contact the Clerk in the first instance.

County Councillor Jose Green briefed the meeting on the Ch4lke mobile project.

The meeting discussed concerns over the continued closure of the Doves Meadow surgery. Letters had been written to the Surgery Partners by both the Chairman of the Council and by the Covid-19 Network co-ordinators. Disappointingly no response had been received. It had since been observed in the Surgery Newsletter that there are plans to re-open the surgery in October.

**Giant Sunflower Challenge:** The ‘competition’ for the tallest sunflower in the Valley culminated at the end of August. Over 50 households took part with some reporting progress monthly and other keeping sunflower growth a closely guarded secret until the very end. The tallest reported sunflower measured in at a staggering 389cm on 22 August 2020. This fine specimen is featured on the front cover and was grown by Derek Brown. His secret apparently - 2 gallons of water a day and an occasional tomato feed!

Thank you to all that took part and entered into the spirit of the challenge.

**Parish Council Meetings** The dates of future meetings will be kept under review, but the intention is to hold a meeting on 9 September. **Contact Details:** The Chairman of the Council, Tom Hitchings can be contacted at: [Tomhitchingsbroadchalke@gmail.com](mailto:Tomhitchingsbroadchalke@gmail.com) The Parish Clerk is Chris Rothwell and can be contacted at: [**Clerkbroadchalke@gmail.com**](mailto:Clerkbroadchalke@gmail.com)

The Parish Council Website is: [**www.broadchalkeparishcouncil.com**](http://www.broadchalkeparishcouncil.com)

**Broadband Connectivity in Broad Chalke**

You may be aware that Salisbury was chosen as part of a national pilot to establish fibre broadband connections to each property (FTTP).

The Parish Council is working with other parish councils and John Glen MP, to establish where in the villages the fibre for this service has been laid and which parts remain on fibre to the cabinet provision.

If groups of individuals, or businesses, are keen to have FTTP provided, Wiltshire Council has also made us aware of a voucher scheme that can help with the cost of installation. It is, however, important to note that not all providers will connect FTTP even if has been laid in your road – so you would need to check with your individual provider to make sure you could be connected.

Emma Richter has been nominated by the Parish Council as its ‘Lead’ and will provide updates as and when these are available, but in the meantime more information about the voucher scheme and fibre broadband can be found at wiltshireonline.org and email enquiries at wiltshireonline@wiltshire.gov.uk