**Broad Chalke Parish Council**

**Covid-19: The impact on our village. Tom Hitchings, Chairman.**

The Coronavirus problem has only really hit the day to day life of our village in the last week or so, and has already shown what a great and caring community we live in. We are indebted to Nigel & Nicki Tinkler for setting up and organising the Support network in the village - and huge thanks to those who have volunteered to keep an eye open for any self-isolating residents. Chalke Valley Families Facebook group is awash with offers to do shopping for vulnerable people, and chains of helpers can be seen outside and inside the Hub ferrying essentials to safe-distance self-isolators. Good old Broad Chalke!

The Hub fantastically seems to have more on its shelves than Tesco, and as long as we only buy what we need when we need it this will hopefully continue. Please do continue to support our community shop, but take care with contact within what is a fairly confined space.

Very sad to see the doors of the Queens Head closed so soon after its new lease of life. They are now offering takeaways at really excellent value, so please do support them if you possibly can during this tough period.

I had a brilliant suggestion made to me recently as a way to keep children occupied and doing something positive. How about a group setting up to work an allotment or two and grow vegetables for sale in the village? Seeds could be put in now to get started whilst the ground is dug over. If anyone is keen on helping to organise this, please do call (780238) or email me - tomhitchingsbroadchalke@gmail.com.

Clearly, we have had to take the decision that monthly Parish Council formal meetings in the village hall have been cancelled until further notice, and the Annual Parish Meeting scheduled for early May will also be postponed. Please do keep your comments coming in to your Parish Councillors as we will still be going about our business of reviewing planning applications and Wiltshire Council business etc., albeit slightly ‘virtually’!

Keep safe; Keep your distance; Keep smiling!