**Your Parish Council- August 2020**

**July 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 Chairman welcomed Emma Richter as a newly co-opted councillor.

**Year End Accounts**: The Clerk had received communication from the External Auditors on the year end accounts requesting further information on expenditure as these were more than 15% up on last year, largely due to costs on Neighbourhood Plan and some one-off expenditure such as tree works at the play area.

**Covid-19 Support Network:** The Council recognised the continued work of Nigel and Nicki Tinkler and the Area Co-ordinators. In order to build on the links and information gathered, the plan is that Bower Chalke and Broad Chalke will develop an approach that can be used in emergencies in the future and this to be reported in outline at the September meetings.

**Giant Sunflower Challenge:** The tallest sunflower reported on the third recording day on 15 July was 215cm. A taller specimen has been seen though… so the challenge is on!

**Playground:** This had remained closed throughout the C-19 lockdown but following a discussion on the risk assessment and looking at current Government Guidance and the mitigations that the Parish Council could reasonably take, the Council decided to reopen the play area from 15 July. The Council has displayed signage and will continue its normal safety checks, but it is the responsibility of users of the facilities to ensure safe use. The Council has stated that food should not be taken into the play area and all litter should be taken home to dispose of so that there is lower risk of virus being transferred from discarded rubbish.

YES, THIS MEANS YOU! TAKE ALL LITTER HOME.

**Village Handyperson:** One quote for the position had been received and was considered by the Council. In order to demonstrate value for money, the Council decided to further advertise the position to encourage additional quotes so that it could then evaluate to get the best use of public funds. The closing date for this extended advert is 15 August. Anyone interested should contact the Clerk. Details on the website.

**Mill Mead**: This is a fantastic resource that has been made available to the village by the Jowett family on a permissive access basis. Unfortunately, there have been reports of anti-social behaviour and littering that puts continued village access under threat should this continue. We all have a responsibility to look after this area and to be sensitive to the wildlife; the peaceful setting; and to others so that we might all continue to enjoy this beautiful haven in the heart of our village. Please use it respectfully and take all your litter home.

**Parish Council Meetings** The dates of future meetings will be kept under review, but the intention is to hold a meeting on 12 August. **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**