**Your Parish Council- January 2020**

**The Chairman of the Parish Council, Tom Hitchings would like to wish all residents of Broad Chalke a very happy New Year and to take this opportunity to say that if you have any issues or suggestions as to things you would like to see your Parish Council address in 2020 to make contact with him or any Member of the Parish Council.**

**December Parish Council Meeting**: Minutes of the Meeting are published on the Council’s website**. Topics discussed included**: Approving the Code of Conduct for Councillors; discussion on the 2020/21 Budget and Precept agreed at the November meeting and priorities for the Council in the coming year; review on the frequency and dates on Parish Council Meetings; approval of the monthly playground inspection process. The Parish Council would ask that if residents notice any issues with the playground equipment they report it to the Clerk or to Councillor Tim Cave-Gibbs.

The Parish Council welcomed Katie Fielding to the December meeting. Katie is Secretary of Wiltshire Association of Local Councils, of which Broad Chalke Parish Council is a member. Katie was able to answer questions from the Council as to the legislative and decision-making framework that parish councils operate within and the ‘modernisation’ agenda the Parish Council is going through.

**Parish Precept:** The Parish Council will be submitting the 2020/21 precept to Wiltshire Council this month. Broad Chalke’s current year precept is £6,950 and, whilst it is likely to remain one of the lowest precepts levied by a parish council in the local area, an increase higher than in recent years has been approved by the Parish Council. This increase is as a consequence of a number of new costs that have previously been absorbed outside the Council’s budget. The new precept is £8,468 which is an increase of £4.74 per year from £21.57 to £26.31 or 21.97% for a Band D property. This compares locally with (based on 2019/20 Band D precept before any increase): Bishopstone £32.02; Bowerchalke £30.23 and Ebbesbourne Wake £32.60.

**Royal Mail Post Box, Knighton Road:** This went ‘missing’ in September and, following a number of attempts to get a response from the Royal Mail, the Clerk received a letter advising the matter had been passed to the Collections Planning Manager to carry out the necessary investigations to determine if a post box is required. The letter went on to say that as part of the current regulatory requirements, Royal Mail must ensure that there’s a post-box within half a mile of at least 98% of all delivery points (usually a customer’s letter-box). Nothing further has been heard. Continued efforts will be made to get a resolution.

**Parish Councillor Vacancy:** Following the resignation ofCouncillor Robert Hitchings formal Notice of Councillor vacancy was posted by Wiltshire Council and on the Parish Council Notice Board at the Village Hall, with a closing date of 19 December. At the time of writing this update no new applications had been received.

**Parish Council Meetings** The next meeting is Wednesday 8 January 2020 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

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

Tim Cave-Gibbs can be contacted on Timcacegibbsbroadchalke@gmail.com

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

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