**Your Parish Council Update – February 2023**

**The January 2023 meeting considered a range of issues concerning the village. Two of significant importance are set out in Public Notices separately in this edition of the Broadsheet. These concern the improvement works planned for Low Lane and a Public Meeting jointly with the Wiltshire Police on crime prevention in the village.**

**Flooding. Cllr Pickford reported on various minor flooding issues in the village and the attendance by Wiltshire drainage to attend to standing water on highways.**

**Planning applications: The Council had no objections to the proposed developments at Deerchase (PL/2022/09655).**

**Coronation 6 May 2023: The Chairman invited thoughts as to how the village might celebrate/mark the Coronation of King Charles III. An additional Bank Holiday has been set on Monday 8 May 2023. The Clerk to contact village groups and to discuss at the February meeting.**

**Footpath No. 43: It was noted that the finger posts at both ends of this footpath have been dislodged. This has been reported to Wiltshire Council, but the Chairman will inspect to see if the Parish Council can undertake the work.**

**Clerks Report:**

* **The Chalke Valley Fete and Show will take place on Saturday 19 August at the Chalke Valley Sports Centre.**
* **Balance in the bank stands at £ £15,375.27**
* **Concerns about BT Digital Switch Over and the loss of land line and Wi-Fi connectivity when there is an interruption to power supply. Cllr Altham to make some further enquiries.**
* **The Clerk is working with the Village Hall Committee to identify the most cost-effective approach to replacing the hall presentation equipment.**
* **Wiltshire Council has written to councils about the costs they will pass on for administering elections from 2025. Provision to be made in the 2024/25 budget.**

**Playground. Councillor Altham reported on further preparatory work in connection with the raising of funds to undertake playground replacement and refurbishment in 2024. An initial meeting had taken place with parents and a further site meeting with a local play equipment company. The desire is to form a Friends of the Playground Group from residents that can help apply and raise funds over the coming months and then support the Parish Council in promoting the playground. Anyone interested in knowing more should contact** martinalthambroadchalke@gmail.com**.**

**Date of Next Meeting.** 8 February 2023 combined with a public meeting with Wiltshire Police starting at 6.15pm.

**Contact Details:**

Tom Hitchings (Council Chairman): Tomhitchingsbroadchalke@gmail.com

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Useful links:

Parish Council: <https://www.broadchalkeparishcouncil.com>

**Twitter: @BroadChalkePC**

Wiltshire County Council: <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk>

**If you have any issues or priorities that you would like the Council to consider, please raise with the Chairman or the Clerk.
A full copy of the minutes can be viewed on the Parish Council website - https://www.broadchalkeparishcouncil.com**

**LOW LANE FOOTPATH IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

Improvements to the footpath that runs along Low Lane (parallel to High Lane adjacent to the river) came from the Neighbourhood Plan that was approved by the village in the Referendum in July 2021.

Since that time the Council has been working with partners to put a costed and fundable scheme together. A scheme of work has been tendered, a contractor appointed, and funding is now in place.

Subject to weather and ground conditions the plan is to start works in March during which the footpath will be closed, and an advisory alternative route marked. It is anticipated that the works will take three weeks.

The work will involve re-establishing the drainage infrastructure that has largely become blocked and inactive and to dig out the muddy path and provide a firmer surface that is less prone to becoming a quagmire but that will maintain a rural feel.

Further information will be updated through the Council’s Facebook page and website over coming weeks.