

NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2020

Precept 2020/21 - Our annual precept has been agreed and is to be increased by 9.7%. The precept is the funding provided by Stroud District Council to enable the Parish Council to keep our Parish clean, safe, help local organisations and charities with grants, maintain and update recreation grounds and equipment and generally ensure that Chalford continues to be the Parish we all love to live in. Although the percentage sounds a lot, it actually works out at only £5.03 per annum.

Chalford Champions – we are introducing a new annual award to recognise and celebrate those unsung heroes in our local community who work on a voluntary basis and drive forward activities and initiatives which benefit the wider community. It doesn't matter what form this takes – we are looking for people who have gone the extra mile, made things happen for others and have helped make Chalford a great place in which to live.

We probably all know of people like this so why not nominate them for the award. Nomination forms can be obtained from the Parish Centre or downloaded from the Parish Council's website. Closing date for nominations is end of February.

Tesco Express car park – we have received numerous complaints about the broken/sunken drain in this area that has resulted in significant flooding. The area is privately owned and a management company 'maintains' the land. After many phone calls and emails, they have now assigned a contractor to fix the problems. By the time you read this we are hoping the repairs will have been carried out and the issue resolved.

Parking – many of you have expressed concern at vehicles parking on verges causing damage and, in some cases, obstructing footpaths. We would ask residents to please park considerately. Obstruction of footpaths is an offence and perpetrators could be fined.

Footpaths:

Path through Frith Wood - Those who walk regularly along the main path through Frith Wood, will, it is hoped, have noticed that the worst of the muddy patches have been filled with stone. As this is being written, there are still some smaller bits to do, but we expect to have finished by the end of January. As well as making walking easier, it is hoped improving the surface will reduce the need for walkers to stray off the path and so help the plants beside the path survive and flourish.

Thanks to a generous parishioner - Erosion had created a big drop at the start of the path in France Lynch leading to Strawberry Banks. The Footpath Volunteers had been planning to put steps in to make the path easier to use, but a public-spirited parishioner has fixed the path for us by filling the ravine a large quantity of stone. We are very grateful.

For the record - is this a record? - On our first Thursday working session after Christmas, two-thirds of the Volunteers (six out of nine) improving paths were called Peter. People with other names are welcome to join us!

Library – Gloucestershire County Council has reinstated a library service that commenced in January. It will be based at the Parish Council's offices in Gerald's Way and will be available from 1.15 to 2.45 p.m. on a Monday on the following dates: 10 February, 9 March, 6 April, 11 May and 8 June. You can reserve books to collect, return items and browse a small collection. To reserve books, visit:

<http://capitadiscovery.co.uk/gloslibraries/home>

Please choose **Chalford Community Access Point** as your collection site.

Contact: E-mail: libraryhelpline@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Website: www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/libraries Telephone: 01452 426973

Why Not Come Along to a Meeting?

All our council meetings are open to the public and you are very welcome to come and view a Full Council Meeting in action. You can see the full schedule of forthcoming meetings on our website. Our next Full Council Meeting will be held on Thursday, 6 February 2020 at 7.00 pm. Please contact the Clerk beforehand to let her know if you would like to attend, particularly if you wish to speak, so that she can make time for your issue on the agenda.

Our contact details are: Tel: 01453 887204. Email: info@chalford-glos.gov.uk. Web site: www.chalford-glos.gov.uk or follow us on Facebook