

Clerks Report April 2021

Bus Shelter – opposite the school was vandalised which resulted in one of the end panes being dislodged. This has now been put back but I have booked Roman Glass to come and ensure that all the panes are secure – this will be carried out in mid-April.

‘Me to You’ swing – a youth had to be set free from the swing by the Fire & Rescue Service. (This is a tik-tok craze, but I am assured that the youth was suitably embarrassed). A small part had to be replaced but has now been reinstalled.

Ash Tree Dieback – replacement trees, as donated through a scheme run by Gloucestershire County Council to plant 35 million new trees in 10 years, have been planted along the St Swithuns boundary of the Playing Field.

Fallen Tree – a tree had fallen from the Saxon Gate boundary, over the stream and onto the fencing of a property in Castle Mead. I reported this to Trinity Estate Management who confirmed that they would be dealing with the issue.

Newsletter – I am delighted to report that there is a new editor for the newsletter, Annette, who is giving the newsletter a make-over.

Parking outside the school - concerns regarding inconsiderate/dangerous parking has been reported to the Police and Neighbourhood Warden, who have both agreed to attend when they can. A parents group is going to be working with the school to address these issues.

Village Hall reopening – following advice they have received from ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England), the earliest the hall will open is the 17th May 2021.

Village Noticeboards – I will be seeking quotes to replace all the Parish Council (x3) noticeboards as they are now no longer fit for purpose. The VHMC would like the one outside the VH to be larger, to enable them to use half of the noticeboard to advertise their events. This will be included on the May Agenda. I would also recommend that an additional noticeboard is installed at Beards Mill.

NHS National Diabetes Prevention Programme (NDPP) for residents within the Gloucestershire area. The Diabetes Prevention Programme is a behaviour change programme where people learn about, diet, physical activity and strategies to improve their overall health, all aimed at reducing their risk of developing Type 2 Diabetes.

Normally, people access the programme through their GP however, due to the pandemic and the subsequent pressure that our GP practices are facing, for a limited time we have enabled a self-referral option via the Diabetes UK ‘Know Your Risk Score’ – a check list of questions that can determine a person’s risk factors - This has also enabled the programme to become more accessible to people within the area. The risk tool can be accessed via the link below:

<https://riskscore.diabetes.org.uk/start>

Gloucestershire County Council – handed out over 250 Home Cooking Kits to families over the Easter holidays. The kits included all fresh ingredients to make family meals together – feedback from those who received them was very positive.

Gloucestershire Association Parish & Town Councils, AGM – is scheduled for Saturday 24th July, 10.30 am at Highnam Community Centre. A call for resolutions must be received by the 7th May and should not include any already on the NALC's policy register.

Elections – Elections are to take place on Thursday 6th May for the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gloucestershire, District Councillors (x 2 for The Stanley's Ward) and Parish Councillors (x 9 for Leonard Stanley Parish Council).

Nomination Papers **MUST** be submitted to the Election Officer at Stroud District Council by 4pm on the 8th April, for those wishing to be considered as a candidate.

Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council – At the moment the rules state that physical meetings should take place from the 7th May – but risk assessments, venue capacity (to ensure social distancing) and compliance with the Roadmap to ease lockdown still needs to be adhered too. However, there is a legal challenge to allow the continuation of remote meetings, by ADSO (the Association of Democratic Services Officers) and LLG (Lawyers in Local Government) - this should be ruled on prior to the 7th May.

I have provisionally booked the Village Hall for Tuesday 18th May in the event that remote are no longer permitted. Following the elections the Council **MUST** hold its Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council by the 24th May. If the meeting is to be held physically, then the room will be set out to promote social distancing, hand sanitiser should be used, masks should be worn, both external doors should be open to allow for ventilation, Members should bring their own paper work and the Agenda will be displayed for members of the public and the meeting should be kept short. You should **not** attend if you have a temperature or ANY COVID SYMPTOMS.