

## **Parish Council Notes – Council Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

**Riverside Walk:** The older benches along the grass verge are scheduled to be re-painted as part of their ongoing maintenance, and to complete the “face-lift” for this part of the village centre. 5 new benches have been, or are being, installed on the vacant plinths – at the time of writing only one plinth therefore remains available for sponsorship of a new bench.

**Community Centre:** A number of commercial leases have been renewed and new leases established recently which secures the rental income stream for the Centre over the next 3 years. Interest in the public rooms for hire remains good, and residents are encouraged to consider the Centre when looking for a local meeting room or event location. You are welcome to look around to see if our range of accommodation would be suitable. The Council has recently instructed a significant body of works to repair and restore the roof, guttering and windows of the building; these works were identified prior to Council purchasing the building and will therefore be financed from earmarked reserves and grants. They are part and parcel of the work needed to maintain a building of this age and stature, and should ensure it remains in good and serviceable condition for the foreseeable future as a continuation of George Moore’s original and generous legacy.

**Youth Club:** Interest in the Club remains good, and whilst the Royal British Legion Hall provides an excellent base for activities at present the Council is considering whether a more permanent home can be found in the longer-term that will enable the Club to meet on additional evenings, and to provide a winter base for Outreach sessions. Outreach sessions have now begun, and experienced Youth Supervisors go out into the community to engage with young people wherever they gather. The sessions will continue until the end of August, and it’s hoped this regular engagement throughout the Spring and Summer months will have some impact in reducing anti-social behaviour.

### **Village traffic and congestion:**

The Traffic and Footpaths Committee had to postpone the meeting in March with Councillor Paul Hodgkinson and the Gloucestershire Highways Manager, Danny Taylor, however, this is now taking place on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2018. Once we have an overview of how we can proceed to address various issues, we will share this information with residents and take views as a final proposal is developed.

**Council Taxes:** The Council is pleased to note that the precept set this year has resulted in a 4% reduction, and has dropped us 2 places lower down the “League Table” of Council Tax payments in the Cotswold District. As an example, the annual sum of £75.72 which will be paid to the Parish Council in 2018-19 by a Band D household in this village is virtually half that paid by a Band D household in Stow.

**Village Green:** The Council has now approved the submission of revised bye-laws to the Dept for Communities & Local Government in order to put in place bye-laws which are more relevant to modern life, and which will also be more relevant when trying to regulate unauthorised activities on the Village Green each Summer. The process is a lengthy one, but it’s hoped the new bye-laws will be in place later this year.

**New Councillor:** The Council is pleased to advise that Sharon Coventry was co-opted onto the Council at the April meeting. Sharon was born in the village and her local knowledge will be greatly welcomed in the administration of Council’s various responsibilities.

**Parish Council AGM:** Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May at 7pm in the Community Centre. Sue Cretney, Clerk. Tel: 01451 820712; Email: [clerk@bourtononthewaterpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@bourtononthewaterpc.org.uk). Website: [www.bourtononthewaterpc.org.uk](http://www.bourtononthewaterpc.org.uk)