

**Highways** - throughout the year the Council has liaised with the GCC Highways Department. A site visit in November looked at the following areas:

**New Road/Clarks Lane Junction** - A mirror opposite the junction has been requested again. To be reviewed.

**Triangle of Highways Land at New Road Junction** - As per the latest minutes, the issue of the overgrown path was raised, however as there is a good path to the perimeter there is no plan to spend money on a path that goes nowhere.

**Blakeney Hill** - The various overgrown hedgerows were viewed again. Highways will be contacting landowners to request that they cut them back where necessary.

**Blackpool Brook (behind Post Office)**  
A request has been made to County Highways to clear the undergrowth from the wall as they are the riparian owners.

**Drains, Ditches and Gullies** were reviewed throughout the Parish. There are many issues which the Local Highways Manager will be adding to the schedule of works.

**Meetings** are held on the third Monday each month at Awre Village Hall (AVH), apart from during school holidays when meetings are held at Blakeney Youth Club (BYC). The dates for 2020 until August are as follows:

20<sup>th</sup> January – AVH; 17<sup>th</sup> February – BYC;  
16<sup>th</sup> March – AVH; 20<sup>th</sup> April – AVH; 18<sup>th</sup> May – AVH for the Annual Parish Council Meeting; 15<sup>th</sup> June – AVH; 20<sup>th</sup> July – AVH; 17<sup>th</sup> August – BYC.

The date for the Annual Parish Meeting is to be confirmed but will probably be in April. This meeting is an opportunity for parishioners to come along and hear about the work/activities of local organisations/groups as well as the Parish Council.

Minutes are published on the Parish Council website within 30 days of the meeting date.

Contact details for the Parish Council are as follows:

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## NEWS

### Review of the Year

As we welcome in 2020, here is a review of the 2019. The new year started with a full compliment of Councillors (9) and following the retirement of David Preece, a new Clerk, Ursula Deighton. 2019 was an 'election year' for Parish Councils all over Gloucestershire; something that happens every 4 years. Seven Councillors were elected unopposed. Sadly, Chairman Mark Marshall died on 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2019 before the new Council took office at the Annual PC Meeting in May. At the Annual Parish meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> April, as well as hearing tributes to Mark and from local community groups, Harry Clarke was presented with a hamper as a 'thank you' for all the years of service given to Awre Parish Council as Clerk and as a Councillor. As 2019 drew to a close, the Council welcomed two new Councillors, namely, Mrs. Sarah Smith and Mr. Peter Muldrew.

**Hanging Baskets** – these were increased from 6 to 10 in Blakeney this year and added a lovely splash of colour through the Village during the Summer. Thanks go to Will Hale for making sure the planter reservoirs were kept topped up.



Baskets in full bloom  
Summer, 2019



**General Maintenance** – a row of bollards was installed to the green on Brook Street in March to prevent vehicles from continuing to drive onto the grassed area and causing extensive damage.

**Grass cutting** to the green behind the Post Office and Collins Garden proved to be difficult to resolve, but it is hoped that the Council has now found someone to look after these two areas in the future.

**Memorial Bench** - the Council plans to install a bench in memory of Past Chairman, Mark Marshall, in recognition of all his hard work for the Parish, and in particular as he was instrumental in wanting to make the Villages prettier by installing the planters. The bench will be installed on the green behind the Post Office.

Renovation of the **telephone box** at Awre will be undertaken in 2020 and funds have been allocated for this project.

The Council is in the process of adopting the telephone box behind the PO as BT were planning to remove it.

### **Cemetery Maintenance**

The Cemetery is looking tidy and the grass and hedges were kept trimmed throughout the growing season. Moss on the pathways has been treated twice and it is hoped that the Japanese Knotweed has been eradicated but this will be reviewed again in 2020.

**Planning** – during 2019, the Council considered and responded to 73 planning applications.

### **Blakeney Weir/Eel &**

**Lamprey Pass** – this was installed earlier in the year alongside the weir to help lamprey and eel travel over it and access another 4-5kms of potential spawning ground. A group of volunteers have received training to inspect and keep the pass clear and monitor its usage.

### **Road Safety**

The **School Safety Zone** was completed in September following the Council's liaison with Highways to ensure the installation happened.

**Traffic Data** continues to be collected by the management unit attached to the speed sign and is analysed periodically by the Council.

The residents of **Furnace Valley** undertook a speed survey over a period of 2 weeks and as a result of this, a black box will be installed on New Road at some point in the near future by Gloucester Road Safety Unit.

### **Annual Donations**

In October, the Council approved a total of £1,080 in annual donations to All Saints Church, Blakeney; St. Andrews Church, Awre; Blakeney Duck Race; Blakeney Youth Club; Lydney Dial-a-Ride and the Cobalt Unit.