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The Parish Council Newsletter

Welcome to the September edition of the Parish Council Newsletter. A copy of the Newsletter will also be available on the Council's website early in September.

Update from the Parish Council – More Information about changes to Parish Council Meetings

In previous editions of the Newsletter, residents were made aware of the proposal for Parish Council meetings to only take place once a month, rather than the two meetings held until now (one as a Full Council and one for planning matters)

We are treating this change as a trial for a new meeting format which we will review after 6 months of operation. The first Full Council meeting will be held on **Tuesday 27th September at the Parish Hall**. In moving to this new format, below are some key points regarding the timing for the meeting:

- The Parish Council meeting will commence as previously at 7.00 p.m;
- Following the introductory agenda items, the Planning session will begin and is scheduled to last no more than 30 minutes. Members of the public with a Planning interest at the meeting will still be able to attend and if they wish to speak in support of their application, will be allocated a maximum of 3 minutes;
- The remainder of the agenda will then operate as for a Main Parish Council meeting as of 7.30 p.m. General representations/presentation from members of the public can be made at this point, with a maximum of 3 minutes for any individual presentation.

Copythorne Parish Council is unusual at the present in meeting twice a month. The majority of Parish Councils manage with one meeting a month and we have been looking at how they organise this. As stated earlier in the section, this is for a trial period of 6 months, at which point we

will review the changes and see how well, or otherwise, they have worked.

A Note about the Parish Council and Planning

It has become clear from various interactions with residents over the past year that there may be some confusion about the role of the Parish Council in Planning Matters. Therefore, we thought we would seek to rectify this in this Newsletter.

The Parish Council is sent all Planning Applications, together with Officer Reports by the relevant planning Authorities.

The Parish Council reviews the Applications and has the ability to express a view according to a range of specific statements as to whether or not it supports the Application.

The Parish Council *does not*, however, approve Planning Applications as it is not a Planning Authority. That rests with the New Forest National Park Authority or New Forest district Council. Our job is to consider an Application within the context of the community it affects and make the relevant comments.

In some cases, a Planning Officer will have advised the Parish Council that an Application is contrary to planning policy, which the Parish Council must take into account when considering its response.

Parish Newsletter Publication

The Parish Newsletter is currently published in hard copy as a part of the Stanley's Own monthly publication and also on the Parish Council website. In addition, some local groups circulate it as part of their own monthly emailing.

However, we are aware that a significant minority of residents don't take Stanley's Own or have access to email / the internet.

As a result, the Parish Council will, as of September, make a very limited print run of the Newsletter and leave it for free access at three locations in the Parish:

- Four Ways Post Office in Bartley
- Mace on the corner of Winsor Road, and
- The Cadnam Texaco Courtesy Filling Station

There will be limited copies printed and we will monitor whether or not this proved to be popular before extending it to a wider circulation. We expect to undertake this trial for three months from September.

Footpaths, hedges and ditches

In the last two newsletters, we had drawn landowners attention to their responsibilities to keep hedges cut back and ditches cleaned out. A number of residents have reported hedge obstructions and potentially blocked ditches to the Parish Council. Further enquiries and investigations are being undertaken whereby some residents will be receiving letters from the Parish Council asking them to cut back hedges, which are obstructing footpaths and pavements and or clean out ditches. A number of matters have also been reported to Hampshire County Council and New Forest District Council, where it is considered that they are responsible for undertaking work.

The Parish Council would ask those who receive letters over the next few weeks to carry out the requested works as soon as possible.

Land adjacent to the Bartley Lodge Hotel

Many residents, especially those who live near to Bartley Lodge Hotel, will be aware that the New Forest National Park Planning Authority served enforcement notices on the occupiers of land near to the hotel for activities that were being carried out without planning permission. The occupiers had appealed against the two enforcement notices.

Following a site visit by a Planning Inspector on 12th July 2016, the Parish Council has been advised that the planning inspector “considers the appeals should be determined by **Public Inquiry** to enable the Appellant’s case to be heard and tested under oath.” The appeal against the two enforcement notices is to be held on Tuesday 1 November 2016 at the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Avenue Road, Lymington, SO41 9ZG commencing at 10:00 am

Anyone who wishes to make representations to the Planning Inspector in respect of this matter should do so by 16th September 2016. Representations can be made on line by using the following link:

<https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/ViewCase.aspx?Caseid=3136274&CoID=0>

or writing to Lee Richards at The Planning Inspectorate, Room 3/23, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Bristol, BS1 6PN . Three copies of any representations made should be sent and should bear the following appeal references which are APP/B9506/C/15/3136274 & 3140428

Parish Council Meetings – Note new Schedule of Meetings with effect from September 2016

The Council currently meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 7.00 pm in the Copythorne Parish Hall (rear extension). **From September 2016, it will meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month for a trial period of 6 months.** Members of the public are very welcome to attend the meetings and speak on any matter of concern at the start. The dates of the next few meetings are:

Tuesday 27 th September 2016	Full Council Meeting
Tuesday 25 th October 2016	Full Council Meeting
Tuesday 22 nd November 2016	Full Council Meeting

The Clerk to the Council (Michael Mortimer) can be contacted at Riverside House, Riverside Gardens, Romsey SO51 8HN. Telephone and fax 01794 511379, e-mail copythornepc@btinternet.com. Website: www.copythorne.org.uk. Details of individual Parish Councillors, as well as information on District and County Councillors, can also be found on the Parish Website and on the community notice boards.