

**MINUTES OF COPYTHORNE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 9th MARCH 2016 AT 7.30 P.M. IN THE PARISH HALL (Rear Extension)**

Present: Councillor John Goodwin (Chairman), Councillor Joe Reilly (Vice Chairman),
Councillors Steve Herra and Simon Lucas.

In Attendance: County Councillor Keith Mans. District Councillors Diane Andrews, Les Puttock
and Derek Tipp. NFNPA Quadrant Representative Sally Arnold.
2 members of the public.

Clerk to the Council: Mike Mortimer

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillors Lady Kara Hawks, Mike Moriarty and Sarah Coombs.

2. Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 11th March 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th March 2015 were signed by the Chairman.

3. Parish Council Report

Councillor John Goodwin, as Chairman, reported on Parish Council matters for the past year:-

- At the elections in May 2015 the Chairman Stuart Bullen-Jarvis, Councillors Geraint James and Charley Riddock did not stand for re-election. The current Chairman thanked them for their service to the Parish Council and community;
- Sarah Coombs, Steve Herra and Simon Lucas joined the council restoring it to its full strength of seven members;
- Mike Derrick, the Clerk to the Parish Council for 11 years, announcement in early June 2015 his intention to retire. Mike Mortimer was appointed as the Clerk from 1st September 2015;
- The precept for the year was set at £14,995, being an increase of £295, amounting to less than 1% increase on the council tax charged for parish council services;
- Updates on the potential of the provision of Affordable Housing, the Parish Council's Communications and Flooding will be presented later in the meeting;
- The submission of appeal statements on behalf of the Parish Council in relation to the possible breach of the NFNPA's Planning Policies in respect of land near the Bartley Lodge Hotel;
- Objecting to the Local Government's Boundary Commissions' proposal for Hampshire County Council electoral divisions. The Parish Council objected to the continuing split of Copythorne Parish Council into different HCC divisions. These proposals are still under review, and finally;
- Mike Mortimer our Clerk has recently tendered his resignation and confirmed that this will be effective from 30th April 2016.

4. The Parish Council website and improving communications with residents:-

Councillor Simon Lucas reported that the Media and Communications group, with the brief to look into how the Council can improve its communications and flow of information to the community had met 4 times. Proposals include upgrades to the CPC website, print publications, mailing lists together with the use of notice boards etc.

5. County Councillors reports:

Councillor Mans reported that it was another difficult year with the revenue support grant to the County Council being cut again. Adult services/elderly care being of particular concern. The County Council had again tried to restrict reductions in front line services and continued to look for efficiencies. He also referred to the further roll out of high speed broadband by BT.

6. District Councillors reports:

Councillors Derek Tipp and Les Puttock reported that NFDC council tax had been increased by 1.7%. This being, for a band D property, an increase of £2.60 per year or £0.05p per week. This is the first increase for 6 years. Bob Jackson had been appointed the new CEO of the NFDC.

Councillor Diane Andrews outlined her responsibilities as Chairman of the Planning and Development Control Committee as well her appointment as the NFDC representative on Community First New Forest which co-ordinates the voluntary groups that provide a wide range of community care services throughout the District.

6A. NFNPA NE Quadrant Representative:

Councillor Sally Arnold reported on the review process for the Draft NFNPA Local Plan which started in summer 2015 with a formal public consultation on the main issues to be addressed through the new plan. Following consideration of the consultation responses the draft plan will be published for an eight week period of public consultation in October 2016.

7. Affordable Housing:

Councillor Simon Lucas reported that there had been continuing debate on this subject with the pre-conditions set by the Council being reconfirmed and communicated. The Affordable Housing working group has met 3 times. Following the exhibition on 28th January 2016 the open forum was postponed due to the impact of the Housing Bill currently being considered by the government.

8. Broadband services in Copythorne and the New Forest:-

Glenn Peacey was unable to attend to give his presentation.

9. Flooding Update:

Councillor John Goodwin reported that it had now been confirmed that over 30% of all the government flood resilience grants approved by New Forest District Council, following the flooding during the Christmas 2013/ New Year 2014 period, were to home owners in the Parish of Copythorne. Just over 15% of the grants went to properties in our neighbouring Parish of Netley Marsh.

10. Parishioner's participation session:

There were no matters raised under this item and the Chairman thanked those present for attending and closed the meeting at 8-55pm.

Chairman _____

Date _____