



COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER: APRIL 2017

In this issue: A report on the Annual Parish Meeting on 14th March 2017.

The Parish Council Newsletter

Welcome to the April 2017 edition Parish Council Newsletter. An enlarged version of the Newsletter will also be available on the Council's website early in April. In addition, paper copies will be available from the Bartley Post Office, Mace Store at Cadnam and the Courtesy Filling Station shop, Romsey Road.

The Annual Parish Meeting, 14th March 2017: Report

The Annual Parish Meeting took place at the Parish Hall. The Parish Council Chairman presented his annual report and we were joined by one of our Community Police Officers, Richard Williams, who kindly attended on his 'day off'! This is a chance for Parishioners to come along and raise issues of concern or interest. The major item on the agenda was Affordable Housing. All Parish Councillors attended as did 2 of our District Councillors. More than 40 members of our community attended and we were very pleased that so many were able to come.

The Chairman presented a full and diverse report including:

- The general activities of the Parish Council over the past year. The Parish Council continues to receive for review and comment, many Planning applications and also representations from members of the community on planning matters. To that end, he raised the issue of current Enforcement and Appeals actions and urged Parishioners to express their views regarding current Enforcement Action to the relevant National Park officer.
- The major achievement of the Friends of Copythorne Play Ground (FOCP) in getting fund raising under way for the Play Area which is now formally supported by the Parish Council and due to open in 2018 at the Parish Hall site. The Chairman expressed major thanks to all those involved: the FOCP, the Parish Hall Committee, County and District Councillors for their grant support and the Parish Council itself and finally the major donation being made by Paultons Park to the fund. The funds raised already amount to nearly 30% of what is required to get the project completed and he urged the community to continue with support in achieving the target funding by the end of the year, for this excellent project.
- The Parish Council Precept for the forthcoming Financial Year, which is now set at £17,060.00 which represents an increase of approximately £1.64 per band D household from the current year.

PC Richard Williams made a short presentation on behalf of the Community Beat Officer Team, in which he highlighted;

- The planned introduction of the Community Speed Watch Scheme back to Copythorne. We have 3 volunteers for one 'team' but would welcome more volunteers to make up a second 'team'.
- Being continually alert to any suspicious people, vehicles or activity within the Parish, and letting them know of any concerns about such activity.
- In the light of the number of burglaries from garden outbuildings and garages, ensuring home security is good. He recommended alarmed padlocks as a great way to secure outbuildings and well worth the investment.
- He also stressed the 'localness' of the Community Beat Officer team and that they are contactable, if you need to alert them, via their mobiles – PC Richard Williams on 07554 775469 PC Steven Norris on 07554 775477

The Annual Parish Meeting, 14th March 2017: Report – continued:

Affordable Housing: This was a major item on the agenda and was a chance for a discussion about the current investigations on feasibility for any such project in the Parish. Following a brief introduction by Cllr. Simon Lucas, this was a very good, lively discussion with many varied contributions from those attending. It was also a chance for any of those attending to express views on the investigations into the feasibility of any project and the fundamental issue as to whether or not Affordable Housing should be considered for the Parish.

A number of specific issues were raised all of which have been noted, but including:

- A request for more and better organised information on the website into one area – at present information is distributed in different sections. This will be undertaken shortly;
- A better understanding of the funding structures which could be used and how they impact on the core 6 Principles for any development agreed by the Parish Council in 2014. Recent withdrawal of Government grant implies, potentially, a need to include approx.1 property in every 7 for sale to provide the ‘leverage’ for a Housing Association to obtain the loans to fund the development of the rental properties project;
- A clear expression of concern about how the project is being managed at present in terms of information, accuracy and location issues and the potential of a local poll to determine Parishioner views was raised and noted;
- More understanding of how this might fit with the National Park and NFDC plans.

All the points made have been taken on board by the Parish Council’s Affordable Housing Working Group. Further investigations on funding options available to support any projects will now be undertaken as well as discussions with both New Forest District Council and the National Park, in respect of their intentions and soon to be published Local Plans and how these might impact on the Parish.

A report with responses to these points will be presented to the Council at a near future meeting. This is now probably going to be the June meeting at the earliest.

The Clerk to the Council, Susan Brayley, can be contacted by email at clerk@copythorne.org.uk or by post at: Spinaway, Wootton Road, Tiptoe, Lymington, SO41 6FU, Temporary tel. no. 01590 683660. Website: www.copythorne.org.uk. Details of individual Parish Councillors, and information on District and County Councillors, can also be found on the Parish Website and on community notice boards.

Future Meeting Dates:

Tuesday 25 th April 2017	-	Full Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday 23 rd May 2017	-	Parish Council Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 27 th June 2017	-	Full Parish Council Meeting

All meetings take place at the Parish Hall Annexe Meeting Room at 7.00 p.m.