



COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER: AUGUST 2016

In this issue: Responsibilities of property owners / Riparian Owners in respect of hedges, streams and watercourses – update; a new Clerk to the Council is appointed; new benches have been donated and installed in the Parish; some brief information about Flood Re and further notifications about the changes to the meeting schedule of the Parish Council for a trial period of 6 months.

The Parish Council Newsletter

Welcome to the August edition of the Parish Council Newsletter. A copy of the Newsletter will also be available on the Council's website early in August. (A brief apology, to readers: the last edition of the Newsletter in Stanley's Own included a few typo errors. This was due to the wrong version being sent to the magazine editorial team. A corrected version was placed on the Parish Council Web Site, however!)

Updates From The Parish Council

Hedges, Trees, Watercourses and Ditches: In our last Newsletter, we included a section on the maintenance of hedges, trees, watercourses and ditches, mentioning in particular the responsibilities of 'Riparian Owners'.

The Parish Council is now in the process of preparing standard letters to be sent to property owners where there may be issues in respect of the above areas (such as trees overhanging roadways and resultant restricted views of junctions, hedges obstructing pathways, watercourses overgrown and presenting a potential flood hazard etc).

The letters are designed to advise property owners of an identified issue and request their help in resolving the problem by undertaking necessary maintenance.

If any Parishioners are aware of any circumstances relating to the above, the Parish Council would be pleased to hear from you so that we can contact the property owner seeking help to resolve the situation. Please contact the Clerk to the Council (details at the end of the Newsletter).

A New Parish Council Clerk Has Been Appointed: The Parish Council is very pleased to announce that, following an advertised recruitment process, it has appointed Margaret Weston as the new Parish Council Clerk, taking over from our current Clerk, Mike Mortimer, in

September this year, the exact date of which is yet to be confirmed.

We are very pleased to welcome Margaret to the role. She is a very experienced Parish Council Clerk, having been the Clerk to both Lyndhurst Parish Council (13 years) and Ashurst and Colbury Parish Council (7 years).

Margaret brings a wealth of experience and knowledge which we are sure will help the Parish Council in its future work programme and in the development of our role within the Parish.

Mike, our current Clerk, has kindly agreed to remain with us for a handover period of one month, to ensure a smooth transition for Margaret into her new post.

We will be very sorry to see Mike leave us after all his excellent work on our behalf, but equally, extend a warm welcome to Margaret!

New Benches Donated to the Parish

The Parish Council is very pleased to announce that it has received and now installed two new wooden benches to enable weary Parishioners to rest themselves!

The benches are a part of a legacy made by Mr. John Trewavas to the New Forest Ramblers Association and are engraved to acknowledge the gift.

We are indebted to Cllr. Mike Moriarty for making the connection for us with the New Forest Ramblers Association so that we could take on two of the benches.

Installation of the benches was undertaken by Kevin Bennett, the Lengthsman for the Parish, at the request of the Parish Council, on the playing field at the Parish Hall. This is a good example of the type of work that the Lengthsman does beyond general maintenance of the highway.

The benches are now 'ready for use' and are positioned in such a way to provide a restful view for all who use them.



One of the two benches in position on the playing field

Flood Re

As many readers will know, Flood Re was announced by the Government in 2013 and implemented in April 2016. Flood Re is designed to combat expensive flood insurance for those who find themselves in the unfortunate position of being in an area of potential surface or drainage flooding, which, as many Parishioners will recognise, is on the increase within our area

As the name suggests it is a joint insurance industry and Government sponsored reinsurance scheme for domestic houses in owner occupation built before 2008.

Insurance companies are now using flood risk mapping such as those published on line by the Environment Agency or where there are

previous recent high claims levels, to adjust premiums upwards and often beyond reasonable affordability boundaries. Therefore, it is well worth knowing about this scheme if your insurers are making an additional premium levy as a result of perceived flood risks.

However, not all insurers are yet up and running with the scheme, particularly affecting policies renewed prior to April 2016.

Parish Council Meetings

As we reported in an earlier Newsletter, the Parish Council is moving to a schedule of meetings on a once a month basis, as of September this year. Many Parish Councils meet only once a month and our current use of two formal meetings a month, one for Planning and one as a Full Council, places a significant administrative resource burden onto our work, notably that of the Clerk.

We have been researching how other Councils operate and have created a structure which we are now going to put in place for a trial period of 6 months to see how well it works.

All the normal processes regarding the notification of meetings and publication of agendas and minutes will remain as before. See below for the revised dates for the next 5 meetings, looking forward.

Planning matters will be dealt with, if required, in the Full Council Meeting.

Parish Council Meetings – Note new Schedule of Meetings as of 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). **As of 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 9 th August 2016	Planning Meeting
Tuesday 23 rd August 2016	Meeting cancelled
Tuesday 27 th September 2016	Full Council Meeting
Tuesday 25 th October	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 community notice board.