



COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER: JUNE 2016

In this issue: A new Chairman and Vice Chairman for the Parish Council and an update on changes to the frequency of Full Parish Council meetings and Committees; a new Chairman for New Forest District Council; upcoming road closures in the Parish, and a new 'Forest School' starting in September, for the under 5's

The Parish Council Newsletter

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

Changes at the Parish Council

The Parish Council Annual General Meeting took place on 24th May.

First item of the meeting was to elect a new Chair and Vice Chair for the forthcoming year, resulting in:

**Cllr. Joe Reilly – elected as Chairman of the Council, and
Cllr Simon Lucas – elected as Vice Chairman of the Council**

Our thanks go to **Cllr. John Goodwin** for his work as Chairman of the Council in the year 2015 to 2016 – an eventful year with many different issues impacting the work of the Council.

The Council has also voted to move to a new pattern of meetings as of its meeting on 27th September 2016. There will now be 12 (monthly) meetings of the Full Council on the fourth Tuesday of each month and what are currently listed as Planning Meetings on the second Tuesday of each month will now become reserved dates for Formal Committee meetings. This is due to the new requirements placed on us in terms of Governance, where Committees have to be formally established and open to the public.

A full list of the revised meeting dates as well as the formally constituted Committees will be published on the Parish Council web site and on Parish Council noticeboards, in the near future, when finalised.

A new Chairman for NFDC

Councillor Godfrey (Goff) Beck has been elected the new chairman of New Forest District Council.

He was handed the chain of office at the annual meeting of the council on Monday 16 May. His Vice Chairman is Councillor Christine Ward.

A former Warrant Officer with the Royal Marines, serving 24 years and frequently stationed abroad including longer tours of duty in the Far East (Malaysia) and the Middle East, Goff was first elected to New Milton Town Council in 1995, becoming the town's inaugural Mayor. He was elected to New Forest District Council in 2001. He has held the Crime and Disorder Portfolio, has chaired the General Purposes and Licensing Committee, and serves as a Ward Member for Barton. The new Chairman announced his chosen charities for the year as New Forest Disability Information Service and First Opportunities.

The council's new Vice Chairman, Cllr. Christine Ward, is Ward Member for Becton and has been an NFDC Councillor since 2011.

The outgoing Chairman Cllr Alison Hoare, who raised £5,000 for her charities (Oakhaven Hospice, and the Firefly Orphanage in Kathmandu) was thanked by her fellow councillors for her work as a "true champion of the New Forest".

Temporary Road Closures

The Parish Council has been notified of a temporary road closure Order which has been raised by New Forest District Council in behalf of Hampshire County Council Highways, within the Parish.

The closures are being put in place at the length of **Shepherds Road, Bartley between its junction with Bourne Road and its junction with Chinham Road**, to allow manhole construction works to be carried out. The Order is in effect from **20th June 2016** for a period of 12 months or until completion of works whichever is sooner.

In reality, it is anticipated that the actual closure will be required for no more than 5 days.

NFDC / HCC advises that the proposed alternative route during the closure, is from the southern point of closure north via Bourne Road to its junction with Chinham Road, west via Chinham Road to the north western point of closure and vice versa.

Information boards will be placed at the location to give road users notification of the actual dates of the closures, once they are known.

If you have any queries about these works, the contacts are:

D.R. Groundworks Ltd Tel: 02380 268083 or New Forest District Council's Transportation Section, Tel: 02380 285260, traffic@nfdc.gov.uk

'Forest School' for under 5's starting Testwood Lakes in September

In September, Testwood Lakes Nature Reserve will be offering a 6 week Forest School programme for children aged 3-5 with their parents. Typical activities will include looking for minibeasts, building dens, making things from natural materials, sensory activities and much more.

Hampshire and IOW Wildlife Trust staff and volunteers, have been running monthly 'Wildlife Tots' events for local families for nearly ten years at the nature reserve and there is now a recognition that there is a demand for weekly sessions as well.

Forest School is similar to Wildlife Tots, in that many of the activities on offer are linked to the

different seasons and wildlife, and there will be plenty of exploring, discovering, creating, constructing, playing and learning in the woods. The monthly sessions will enable children to choose what they want to do, and have the same resources available to them each week as well as new ones at each session. They can also help to risk assess the woods and activities with the adults throughout the sessions. In this way they can develop their practical skills, confidence, independence, self-esteem and social skills, all in a safe outdoor environment.

To see what a Forest School session is like before committing to a six week programme, there are **Forest School Taster Sessions** taking place at Testwood Lakes on **Tuesday 2nd and Tuesday 16th August**.

To find out more call the Testwood Lakes Centre on 02380 667929 or email: testwoodlakes@hiwwt.org.uk.

Parish Council Communications - Update

During the next 6 months, the Parish Council will be moving to a new format for its web site.

We are hoping that the refresh of the web site will improve our communications overall and will also be designed to align with the new Committee structure which will be in place as of June 2016.

Importantly, we are also looking at the creation of an 'interactive' page on the website, to enable members of the community to communicate with Parish Councillors 'virtually'.

We will announce the 'launch' of the new website, when all our design work is completed!

Parish Council meetings

The Council currently meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 7.00 pm in the Copythorne Parish Hall (rear extension). 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 14 th June 2016	Planning Meeting
Tuesday 28 th June 2016	Full Council Meeting
Tuesday 12 th July 2016	Planning Meeting
Tuesday 26 th July 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 boards.