

**In this issue:** Welcome to the new Parish Council Clerk – Margaret Weston – now in post; an update note about Planning considerations; an update on the Local Government Devolution thinking for Hampshire County Council and information on tree felling and clearance on the Bramshaw Commons

### ***The Parish Council Newsletter***

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

### ***Our new Parish Council Clerk, Margaret Weston Introduces Herself:***



I am very pleased to be joining Copythorne Parish Council as the new Clerk.

I was appointed to commence work on the 12<sup>th</sup> September which has allowed me a month to learn about the Parish and how the Parish Council works from Mike before his departure on 12<sup>th</sup> October. I am very grateful to the Councillors and to Mike for allowing me to take over the reins gently and hope that this will allow a seamless changeover.

I have many years' experience as a Clerk/RFO firstly with Ashurst and Colbury Parish Council and latterly at Lyndhurst where I was employed for 13 years. I can honestly say that I have enjoyed nearly every minute of this varied role and there is always something new to learn.

I live on a smallholding in Fritham with husband Mike, son Nick, two dogs and three ponies and

have spent nearly all my life in Forest villages, coming to love the area and to have a great interest in it.

I fully intend to do my very best for our Councillors and the residents of this lovely parish and I hope you will find me approachable and easy to work with. Having said all that, at the time of writing BT are doing their best to thwart this so I will have to wait until next month to give you my full email and telephone contact details.

If you do need to contact me have a look at our website at [www.copythorne.org.uk](http://www.copythorne.org.uk) for an update.

### ***....And from the Parish Councillors...***

We are very pleased to welcome Margaret as our new Clerk! We look forward to working with you.

As this Newsletter will be published after the meeting of the Parish Council on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2016, Councillors would also like to take this opportunity to extend our warmest of thanks to Mike Mortimer, the outgoing Clerk for all his extensive and hard work for us while in post.

Thanks Mike and good luck for the future!

### ***A Note About Planning Matters***

As we wrote in the last edition of the Parish Newsletter, as a result of the change of Parish Council meetings frequency to once a month, Planning matters will now be considered at the start of every meeting for a 30 minute session, prior to the remainder of the agenda.

Therefore, we intend that there will be a clear timetable for any representations by applicants to the Council on behalf of specific Planning Applications. We have been asked about how the Council develops a view on Applications given the amount of time available.

All Members of the Council receive paperwork and information about Planning Matters prior to the meetings taking place.

Where there do not appear to be any reasons why Councillors would not recommend their approval to the Planning Authority, then these applications would pass through the meeting swiftly.

Only where Councillors wish to discuss an application or seek more information, would we expect a presentation to be made. We would allow up to three minutes for the presentation, prior to a Council discussion and finalisation of its recommendation to the Planning Authority.

### ***Devolution in Local Government – Consultations and Information Update***

As many of you will know, Hampshire County Council undertook a consultation exercise recently on the Devolution proposals which you may have seen or heard about in the media. The consultation is now closed.

HCC has now embarked on a series of workshop meetings around the County to speak with Town and Parish Council representatives about some of the possibilities. HCC was very keen in these sessions, to state that it does not have a preferred model for any form of Devolution to take place. However, what it is keen to do, is understand what might be good principles for any revision to a Local Government structure between centralised unitary powers and greater devolution of powers to more formally 'localised groups', such as Parish Councils.

Copythorne Parish Council Chairman and Vice Chairman attended one of these sessions on 20<sup>th</sup> September. While the prospect of any localised Devolution may have some real

potential, all attendees were very keen to state that this would not be possible without far greater resources of time and money to enable these bodies to undertake any new tasks. HCC will be collating all the meeting and consultation feedback and publishing a report later this year. – Watch this space!

### ***Upcoming Tree Thinning Works on Bramshaw Commons***

The New Forest Ranger Team of the National Trust has advised us of upcoming tree works on the Bramshaw Commons.

In the next couple of weeks coloured markings will be appearing on tree trunks on the Bramshaw Commons; Half Moon, Furzley, Blackhill and Cadnam. The National Trust will be undertaking a series of tree thinning and tree removals in this area.

The New Forest Northern Commons are designated as Special Sites of Scientific Interest (SSSI), as well as being protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981). The Trust must undertake this work to comply with its duty to maintain the common under 'favourable' status as part of these requirements.

Tree thinning will be carried out during the Autumn and Winter months of 2016-17. The commons will remain open to all, but temporary signs will be erected in work areas to notify visitors.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this work please do not hesitate to contact the National Trust Ranger Team on 01425650035 or email: [info.newforest@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:info.newforest@nationaltrust.org.uk).

### ***Parish Council Meetings***

The Council meets on the 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 27 <sup>th</sup> September 2016	Full Council Meeting
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> October 2016	Full Council Meeting
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2016	Full Council Meeting
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	Full Council Meeting

\*The new Clerk to the Council (Margaret Weston) can only be contacted at the moment via the outgoing Clerk, (Mike Mortimer), at Riverside House, Riverside Gardens, Romsey SO51 8HN. Telephone and fax 01794 511379, e-mail [copythornepc@btinternet.com](mailto:copythornepc@btinternet.com). Website: [www.copythorne.org.uk](http://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.