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The Parish Council Newsletter

Welcome to the April 2018 edition Parish Council Newsletter. This enlarged version of the Newsletter will be available on the Council's website early in April. In addition, paper copies will be available from the Bartley Post Office and the Courtesy Filling Station shop, Romsey Road.

The Parish Council Clerk – New Email Address

Please note that there is a new email address for the Parish Council Clerk:

parishclerk@copythorne.org.uk

This address is immediately in effect and should be used from now on for contacting the Clerk

Copythorne Annual Parish Meeting – Report and A Round-Up of the Presentations

The Annual Parish Meeting took place on Tuesday 27th March 2018 at 7.30 pm at the Parish Hall. Our theme for this year's event was:

A Celebration of Copythorne Civil Parish

..... and what a celebration it was, with an agenda specifically designed to hear from a variety of different groups and organisations around the Parish to celebrate their successes and achievements.

Our special thanks go to the Clerk to the Parish Council, Susan Brayley, for her extensive efforts to organise this year's Parish Meeting. Thank you Susan! Also, sincere thanks to the ladies of the W.I. who provided light refreshments at the end of the meeting. Thank you W.I.

The meeting was hosted by the Parish Council Chairman, Cllr. Joe Reilly, who introduced the meeting with a brief run-down of the Parish Council year. It's been a busy year! Activities included:

- a great deal of work, mainly undertaken by our Clerk, getting to grips with new local government policy compliance requirements for the effective running of the Parish Council;
- transfer, with the help of Cllr. Diane Andrews from NFDC, of the Affordable Housing development work to the National Park Planning Authority Planning and Policy Department, for inclusion in their 2016-36 Local Plan;
- our continued support for the development and fund raising work undertaken by the Friends of Copythorne Playground (FOCP), and our thanks to County Cllr. Heron and Districts Cllrs Andrews, Tipp and Puttock for community grants to the project - a report from FOCP later;
- our support for the re-launch of the Community Speedwatch (CSW), scheme, which, with the efforts of our local neighbourhood police officer PCSO Richard Williams, is now fully operational with a group of local volunteers, ably coordinated by Christina Egginton – again, more on this later;
- Cllr. Reilly also expressed, on behalf of the Parish Council, our thanks to our County and District Councillors for their continued support of our local community, attending our Parish Council meetings, keeping us all up to date with County and District Council developments and generally helping us to 'make a difference'.
- a specific mention was made of the work of Cllr Andrews in the 'battle of the waste bins' and her help in getting the replacement for the bin on the Pound Lane / Winsor Lane junction lay by as well as the new bin at the Parish Hall. (*cont. overleaf*)
- the work of the Lengthsman, which has been very extensive in recent weeks in the parish, was noted – see also a report towards the end of this Newsletter



Now a look ahead to some of the activities for the next Parish Council year:

- firstly, the Parish Council precept, which is a part of the Council Tax bill, will rise by £1,615.00 for the year across the Parish, equating to an increase of 2.6p per week on a Band D property, the increase helping us to maintain our activities, including for the new playground and it's maintenance, with the Parish Council taking responsibility for it, once built;
- secondly, we are also, with the help of a grant from Cllr. Tipp, looking to provide racks and shelves in our adopted telephone boxes to display local information about the Parish area, such as maps, footpath information and other useful items;



- finally, for the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War, with the help of a generous grant of £500.00 from County Cllr. Edward Heron, we are purchasing a commemorative bench, dedicated to all those who went to the War. Working with the Church and the Royal British Legion we hope to have the bench in place for the Remembrance Day Parade on Sunday 11th November 2018.

Councillor Reilly completed his report by thanking all his fellow Parish Councillors for their continuing hard work this year on behalf of the community.

Reports from Our District Councillors and County Councillor

We welcomed our District Cllrs. Diane Andrews and Derek Tipp to the meeting as well as our County Cllr, Edward Heron.

Cllr. Diane Andrews spoke about the highlights of her Council year including, as already mentioned, the successfully concluded 'battle of the bins'. Cllr. Derek Tipp gave us an insight on the lead in to and setting of the District Council budget and precept, as did County Cllr. Heron on Hampshire County Council's budgetary challenges.

Thank you to our District and County Councillors – we appreciate the work you do on our behalf.

Non-Native Invasive Plants – a Continuing Menace

A presentation on behalf of Catherine Chatters, New Forest Non-Native Plants Officer from the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, reiterated the importance of being on the lookout for, in particular, Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam, both of which have a strong foothold in areas of the New Forest. Information sources on how to spot the offending species and what to do if you find them were highlighted. While Japanese Knotweed requires very specialist treatment to remove it, Catherine organises volunteer work parties to help clear Himalayan Balsam. She has plans for further programmes in the future and if you'd like to participate, her full presentation along with her contact details are on the Parish Council website, but she can be emailed at: catherine.chatters@hiwwt.org.uk

A Special Award from the Parish Council – A New Annual Initiative!

Cllr. Reilly announced that the Parish Council was initiating a new '**Parish Award**' for outstanding support to our community.

In this, the inaugural year of the award, a unanimous decision had been made by the Parish Council to present it to **Jo and Brian Hole of Bartley Post Office / 4 Ways Stores**. The framed award certificate was presented by the Chairman to them accompanied by the appreciative and enthusiastic applause of the meeting. The Parish Council will announce a future opportunity for people to make nominations for the award for next year, on due course. Who do you think should be nominated?



In the meantime, thank you Jo and Brian, for all the support you give to our community!

Another great Year for the Stanley's Own Scout Group

The 2nd New Forest North (Stanley's Own) Group Scout Leader then gave us a fascinating presentation. Firstly covered, was a brief explanation of current activities undertaken by the various groups within Stanley's Own - and bravely, they had asked for feedback thoughts from the young people on what they liked about their part of the Scouts, whether Beavers, Cubs or Scouts, which elicited many highly complementary responses from all the different groupings! We also heard about the journey of one young man through all three groups to representing the UK in a global Scouting get together in the USA later in the year.



Secondly, a journey through the work programme and fund raising to deliver the refurbishment and improvements to the Scout Hall - an important heritage building, well past its 100th birthday and in need of some updating, as well as TLC. This is an important and extensively used building, not just by Stanley's Own, but also community groups and its role as a focal point for community celebrations.

The presentation finished with an inspiring talk on all the Explorer Scouts had achieved on their trip to the Gambia in 2017.

Thanking the Scout Leaders for their important contribution to the young people of Copythorne, Councillor Reilly presented them with a cheque for £500 on behalf of the Parish Council and community, towards the current phase of the building refurbishment.

The W.I. 100 Years of Service (and Great Fun along the Way....):

The W.I. then took to the floor, supporting their presentation with a series of video clips and a lively account of events to prove that they are more active than ever and that the 100 years of their existence have been a real focus of community life. They get up to a lot more than 'Jam and Jerusalem' having been ahead of their time on several issues, including those currently making headlines. They also proved, through their entertaining screen show of the 100th birthday celebrations, that they have a great deal of fun. As a crowning glory for this past 100th birthday year, they took first prizes for both their entries at the Copythorne Carnival – a well-deserved win!

The W.I. welcomes potential new members, so, pop along to a meeting and see what's on offer!

And Through the Round Window

Next up was a presentation by Martin Lander from the Friends of Copythorne Playground, (FOCP), which gave the meeting the great news that, despite some setbacks, the fund-raising goal had been reached. An astounding **54%** of the required funding, close to **£30,000.00**, was raised by the people of Copythorne by doing everything from a Mum running the London Marathon to the ballet "tots" doing a sponsored balance and contributions from local business, individuals and organisations. The meeting was told of the excellent news that NFDC had provided the remaining grant funding, awarded in February, after a competitive application process. Extensive thanks were given to all those contributing and NFDC to help achieve the **£50,000.00** target. All being well, and a successful supplier is identified soon, a "top spec" playground will be installed in time for the summer. **Well done to all involved!!**



The Parish Hall – Making Our Parish Hub 'Even Better'

The Vice-Chair of the Parish Hall Committee, Alan Catt, made a short presentation to the meeting on the proposals to update and extend the Parish Hall, humorously observing that like the Stanley's Own building, the Parish Hall was very much at the heart of the community and whilst not strictly a heritage building, its age certainly gave very similar challenges to those described by the Group Scout Leader earlier. Their work is just beginning and also the committee are looking to amend their constitution so they can add more people to their group – helping the Parish Hall in its journey to the next stage of its development

Keep Safe, Be Secure and Drive Carefully

Were the key messages from our local area neighbourhood police representative, PCSO Richard Williams. He told the meeting that Copythorne was generally a very safe place to live, based on national statistics. He gave some excellent advice concerning keeping cars and property safe, reminded the meeting of his regular beat surgeries at Bartley P.O. and that contact numbers for himself and his colleagues were available on the Parish Council website.

PCSO Williams then reported on the successful relaunch of Community Speed Watch in Copythorne, before handing over to the **CSW Co-Ordinator**, who was able to report the volunteers had been out every other week since the restart at the beginning of December with their faithful SID, (speed monitoring system). They have the dubious honour of registering the highest speed by one driver in a 30-mph area recorded in the Forest, of 84 mph! This scheme is a real asset for our community and she would welcome more volunteers. If you want to help, please contact her on email at: cke8163@gmail.com or via the Clerk.

Helping Care for Our Community

Our local Village Agent updated the meeting on their work. They are now supported by Age Concern, Hampshire. Village Agents are trained volunteers who work in rural communities across the county, signposting older people to the information they need on all manner of issues - helping them to remain self-reliant in their own communities. To find out more, visit the Age Concern – Village Agent website at www.ageconcernhampshire.org.uk/our-services/village-agent

Last, But By No Means, Least Your Chance to Make a Mark!

The Parish Council wants a **new logo** and we are really keen to achieve a logo that identifies with Copythorne Civil Parish and the fantastic area we live in.

So... we want your help, Copythorne residents, all of you, whether young, not so young or in the middle... and we are awarding prizes to both the winner and runner up! **Wouldn't it be great to design the logo which the Parish Council uses on all its information, into the future?**

The closing date is **Friday, 25th May 2018**. You can obtain more information, including the entry form, from our website.

A shortlisted designs, chosen by Parish Councillors, will be displayed at one of the summer Community events, where residents can vote on a winner and runner-up. The voting event location will be published on the notice boards and the Parish Council Website – www.copythorne.org.uk

Finally, huge thanks to all those who contributed to what was an excellent Parish Meeting – we've had lots of positive feedback!

A couple More Items Reported in Our One Page Newsletter - See It on the Website:

Cycling in the Forest – Upcoming Events:

We have been notified by **UK Cycling Events (UKCE)**, one of the organising bodies, of the first of the 3 which it will be promoting (other events have other promoters): **The Wiggle Spring – 14th and 15th April 2018 - 4,250 participants approx.: based at Somerley**. This event will affect **Bartley, Cadnam and Newbridge**. A map of the route will be posted on the Parish Council website at the end of March.

The Parish Lengthsman Scheme – Getting Things Done! If you are aware of any specific areas of need for the intervention of the Lengthsman, please let the Clerk to the Parish Council know (details below), for consideration to be included in the programme of work.

The Next Two Parish Council Meetings:

Are **Tuesday 10th April** and **Tuesday 8th May 2018 at 7.00 p.m.** both in the **Parish Hall Annexe**.

The Clerk to the Council, Susan Brayley, can be contacted by post at: Spinaway, Wootton Road, Tiptoe, Lymington, SO41 6FU, or by telephone - **01590 681228** or by email at: parishclerk@copythorne.org.uk; 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.