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The Parish Council Newsletter

Welcome to the August 2018 edition of the Parish Council Newsletter. This version of the Newsletter is also available on the Council's website. Paper copies of the colour version are available from the Bartley Post Office and the Courtesy Filling Station shop, Romsey Road.

Two major events make for a very busy month in the Parish!

First – The New Memorial Bench Dedication

On Saturday 30th June, which was also Armed Forces Day, a modest but very important ceremony took place at the War Memorial. Attended by members of the community, the British Legion, Church Wardens, Members of the Parish Council and Reverend John Reeve together with Joe Reilly, Chairman of the Parish Council, the newly installed Commemorative Bench, marking 100 years since the end of the first World War, was dedicated.

The Bench, designed and manufactured specifically for this Commemoration and funded by the Parish Council together with a generous grant by County Cllr Edward Heron, was installed alongside the War memorial by Joe Reilly and local builder, Dave Moulard, who gave his time for free, is intended as a location for restful contemplation. The Reverend John Reeve undertook a moving and reflective dedication, followed with a short speech by Cllr. Joe Reilly, Chairman of the Parish Council.

Although on a busy road, the bench is there for all to use and provides for a welcome resting point for those visiting the Memorial or simply passing by.



Second - Job Done! Children Cut Ribbon for Grand Opening of New Playground!

After 25 years of attempts and 2 years of energetic fundraising, the community in the Parish of Copythorne are finally able to celebrate the grand opening of their brand new playground!



About 150 people joined the Friends of Copythorne Playground, (FOCP), in glorious sunshine on Sunday 1st July, at last, to see the playground formally open. The honours for the opening went to the two mums who through their determined efforts and enthusiasm started the whole fund raising drive off, Holly Green and Laurie Gibbs, who later formed FOCP with others, but the stars of the show were the children who, with a little bit of help, cut the ribbon with gigantic scissors and declared the playground open – followed by a stampede of youngsters to get on in there and play!

The event, which was designed to be a family picnic and outdoor party, included a bouncy castle, face painting, children's tattoos, a barbeque, (provided by the scouts), a teddy bear raffle (provided by Friends of Cancer Research UK New Forest and Waterside), a veritable mountain of cakes and drinks served by the Women's Institute and last but not least, ice cream provided by Le Chateau, who also kindly sponsored the event. The happy crowd were also well entertained through the event by local singer, Sophie Penwill.

A sea of smiling young faces through the whole event proved the playground was a success and was being well used into the late afternoon – proof positive of joy the new playground has given!



Thank you to everyone who helped to make this happen – We Got There!

Your Parish Hall – The Future! Your Chance to Have Your Say

Exciting times lie ahead for Copythorne Parish Hall

After many years of successfully providing a venue for community groups, activities and events, the Parish Hall Committee have, after discussion with existing users, decided to start a project to find out what the Parish community wants from its Parish Hall into the future. A major focus will be on the type of facilities available, so the Parish Hall can meet future demand and secure the flexibility, comfort and welcome needed for a diversity of existing and new users and events.



Therefore, the Parish Hall Committee want to know what **you** think the future should look like. To that end, two major events are planned.

The first of these will be an Open Day drop-in event, to be held at the hall on:

Saturday 15th September from 11.00 am to 2.00 pm

where members of the Committee and existing users will be on hand to talk about what they do and where thinking on the future is, at present and to show some initial ideas for possible improvements.

Most importantly, however, will be the feedback you provide on what you want to see in the future. All your ideas and suggestions will be reviewed by the Committee and at a second community focussed event towards the end of the year, the Committee will feed back to you on its thinking about possible future plans based on what you've told them!

It's your Parish Hall, so this is your chance to have a say in the future!

Have Your Say - Clean Air Zone for Southampton and the New Forest

Southampton City Council and New Forest District Council are working together to improve local air quality as directed by Government. Extensive studies have been undertaken to determine pollution levels and the possible impact of a number of options to improve air quality, with a preferred option being considered for implementation in 2019.



The preferred option is for a charging **Clean Air Zone within Southampton** which targets the most polluting classes of HGV's, buses, coaches and taxis every day the vehicle enters the Zone. However, both Councils are currently consulting on the Clean Air Zone work and encouraging everyone to read the supporting documentation and make their comments. Details can be found via the **Environmental Health** section on the NFDC web site.

The consultation closes on **13th September 2018**

Finally – Long-Standing and Highly Respected Parish Councillor Resigns

It is with extreme regret that the Parish Council has received the resignation of Councillor Joe Reilly, Chairman of the Parish Council and a North Ward member of the Parish Council. Joe, a stalwart of the work of the Council within our community, has decided to take a well-earned break from undertaking civic duties.

The Parish Council now has to undergo a process defined by the Local Government Regulations, to fill a vacancy. Initially, this involves a call for Parishioners to say if they wish to have an election. Relevant notices have been placed on Parish noticeboards and a notice is also posted on the home page of the Parish Council web site. The closing date for a submission to request an election is **6th August 2018**.

If no request is submitted for an election, then the Parish Council will advertise for a Co-Option of a Councillor, to be in place as soon as possible. An article in appreciation of Joe's work will be included the September edition of the Newsletter. Cllr. Simon Lucas will be temporary Chairman until the September meeting.

Date of the Next Parish Council Meeting:

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on **Tuesday 11th September at 7.00 p.m.** in the **Parish Hall Annexe**. There is no meeting being held in August

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.