

**In this issue:** Looking Forward to 2019 – The Annual Parish Meeting; Cadnam Business wins 2 prestigious New Forest Business Partnership Awards; Parish Council Precept Setting for 2019-2020 and A Reminder – Riparian Responsibilities *plus* a New Address for the Parish Council Clerk

### **The Parish Council Newsletter**

Welcome to the January 2019 edition of the Parish Council Newsletter. This two page version of the Newsletter is available on the Council's website. Paper copies of this version are also available from the Bartley Post Office, Woodington Feeds and the Courtesy Filling Station shop, Romsey Road.



2019

### **First: The Parish Council wishes all in our community a very happy and prosperous new year....**

We are keen to promote events affecting our community in our Newsletter as well as our own activities. If you have something you'd like the Parish Council to know about and support, please do let us know via the Parish Council Clerk, Suzanne Middleton. Her details can be found at the end of the Newsletter.

### **Looking Forward to 2019 – The Annual Parish Meeting**

In our December issue, we published the dates for the next year of Parish Council and other related meetings, including for the **Annual Parish Meeting**, which is set to take place at:

**7.30 p.m. in the main Parish Hall on the 26<sup>th</sup> March**

The Parish Council facilitates this meeting on behalf of the Parish, but it is very much focussed on the Parish and its community and is not a Parish Council meeting – **it's yours**.

We are considering the possible detailed agenda for the meeting and, following the success of the meeting format last year, hope to have a range of presentations from local groups, detailing activities and celebrating success.

The final agenda will be published in mid to late February. We welcome any suggestions or offers for presentations from our community. Please let the Clerk know if you have anything you'd like to offer.

The meeting is currently planned to break into two sections – the first being the **local group presentations** and the second will be the start of a consultation with the community on a **Five Year Local Plan for the Parish**. This is designed to set out priorities for future developments within the Parish which the Parish Council can support, framed in the context of **'Have Your Say'** about what our Parish future looks like.

This is an exciting development as we have not previously had such a plan, but we feel that the time has come for us to develop a plan to help with future budget setting and identification of projects which the Parish Council together with its community, has identified. We hope to have the consulted and agreed plan in place by September 2019.

Please make a note of the date for the Parish Meeting in your diary – **we'd love to see you there!!**

### **Cadnam Business Strides Into Pole Position to Win 2 New Forest Business Partnership Awards ....**



Local Cadnam business, the Forest Foot and Health Clinic, set the pace in the list of winners of the New Forest Business Partnership Awards 2018.

24 New Forest businesses celebrated their success at the thirteenth annual **New Forest Brilliance in Business Awards** at Carey's Manor Hotel on Thursday 06 December 2018. Eight businesses won awards, presented by Matthew Lawson, Chairman of the New Forest Business Partnership.

### **Local Business Wins Awards – (cont.)**

As a first step, the Clinic was the successful winner of the **New Forest District Council Award for Outstanding Customer Care**.

But even more impressively, the Clinic placed a firm foothold on the awards, by securing The New Forest Business Partnership prestigious '**Business of the Year Award**'!

**Our Congratulations go to this established local business!**

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### **Parish Council – Precept Setting for 2019-2020**

At its meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> December, the Parish Council considered the establishment of its budget and the resultant setting of the Precept (local Parish Council charge) for 2019-2020.

There are some major items which arise next year for which the Parish Council must make provision. These include the contribution the Parish Council must make to **the costs of running the Local Government elections in May 2019**, at which a new Parish Council will be elected. These costs are set by the New Forest District Council which manages elections for all the Parish Councils in its area. The Parish Council has a reserve fund for this but must also build a new fund for future elections.

In addition, the Parish Council, as a result of major changes to how it receives information as well as communicating with all the bodies with which it has to work, needs to consider **moving to 'paperless working' to save on major administration costs** caused by using a paper based system. This involves an investment in the relevant IT systems and software, which we believe will, should it be adopted, pay for itself via administrative savings within 2 years. We have made a provision for this, subject to final decision.

We also have to make sure we have started putting some money aside over the next and future years to look after our wonderful new **children's playground** at the Parish Hall and ensure it is kept in great condition, is safe and always available.

Approximately half the costs would come from Parish Council reserves to support these activities, but we still need to make a proposed increase in the Precept to implement them. Therefore, the 2019-2020 Precept was agreed via a majority Parish Council vote, as **£20,924.00** which equates to an **annual increase of 99p per registered voter / £1.79 on a band D property (3.4p per week) / 12%**. We have now made the submission and await confirmation from New Forest District Council.

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### **Finally, A Reminder.....Riparian Responsibilities**

A timely reminder for the winter months: As we have mentioned in various Newsletters over the years, this is the time of year when we need to pay particular attention to under and overgrowth issues on watercourses. Especially in the light of the recent very heavy rainfall, combined with a large volume of falling leaves.

If you have riparian responsibilities – you have a watercourse / ditch either forming a boundary with another property or a public walk / highway - now is the time to start clearance of watercourses. To check on riparian responsibilities and requirements, details can be found on the HCC web site at [www.hants.gov.uk](http://www.hants.gov.uk) - '**Planning and Environment – Flooding**' section.



### **Date of the Next Parish Council Meeting:**

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at 7.00 p.m. Parish Hall Annexe**.

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The **Clerk to the Council, Suzanne Middleton**, can be contacted by post at: **Amberley, Wellands Road, Lyndhurst, SO43 7AD**, or by telephone: **02381120150** or by email at: [parishclerk@copythorne.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@copythorne.org.uk); website: [www.copythorne.org.uk](http://www.copythorne.org.uk). Details of individual Parish Councillors, and information on District and County Councillors, can also be found on the Parish Council Website and on community notice boards.

**PLEASE NOTE THE ADDRESS CHANGE FOR THE CLERK**