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The Parish Council Newsletter

Welcome to the August 2020 edition of the Parish Council Newsletter. This two page version of the Newsletter is available on the Council's website. **Printed copies** will be available from our usual outlets at Forest Pharmacy; Fourways Stores; Budgen and Woodington Feeds. We will be making regular Newsletter updates to be found on our **web site** and our **Facebook** pages – type in **Copythorne Parish Council** on Facebook to get to our pages.

A Message from the Parish Council to All Our Parishioners – COVID-19

LIFE BEGINS TO LOOK MORE 'NORMAL' BUT WE STILL NEED TO TAKE CARE!

As with our previous recent issues, the Parish Council would like to express our sincerest wishes that all of you **stay safe and well** as the country continues to tackle, albeit with increased freedoms, the spread of the Coronavirus (**COVID-19**). The easing of the restrictions means far greater ability for us to undertake activities which are more 'normal', but we must all still **continue to be vigilant!** But, there are still many in our community who have to stay at home. As an individual, as well as from our now well-established support groups within the Parish, **you can still keep an eye out for neighbours you know can't get out and are in possible need of help.**

The Parish Council continues to provide **updates on our website and Facebook pages.**

Unless the guidance changes, the next Parish Council meeting on **8th September** will again be held **virtually via videoconferencing.** If you have an issue you'd like raised under the '**Public Session**' agenda item, please contact the Clerk; details below.

The Parish Hall plans staged reopening from September (the Pre School is already open) and

The playground is now open again and very popular!! (But please read the new signs!)

So everyone: Please Continue to Be Careful! - Be Safe! - Be Well!

A number of developments and activity in the Parish during July!

First – The Annual Parish Award is Presented:

A small gathering (observing the requirements for Social Distancing, of course!), took place at the Parish Hall to make the presentation of the Annual Parish Award, as announced in the last Newsletter, to the worthy recipient for 2019-2020: **Barbara Smith** for her long years of community service and support. Members of the Parish Council were in attendance, as were Barbara's husband and members of her family plus a couple of well-wishers, all of whom enjoyed the brief but touching ceremony.



Thank you again, Barbara, for all that you have done for our community over the years!!

Next up – A beautiful new Memorial Bench at New Inn Road



As reported in previous Newsletters, the Parish Council is undertaking a project to repair or replace Parish benches over this and next year – we have quite a lot of them! **However, a very special bench replacement has taken place at the corner of the cross road at New Inn and Southampton Roads.**

Following a very generous donation for its cost from Sylvia Wiggins, a very special **Memorial Bench** in memory of her late husband, **David Wiggins**, has replaced the original bench. This is a very special place for the memory of David and the bench is available to everyone to sit, pause and reflect in a shady, set back spot from the road.

Thank you Sylvia for this lovely new Memorial bench!

Thirdly – 4 of the 6 Parish Villages get their new signs!



Also as previously reported, the Parish Council has been undertaking a project to **replace the village signs** for the 6 villages which make up the Parish. For 5 of the signs, the work is undertaken in conjunction with the **National Park** and for the remaining one at Ower, solely by the Parish Council.

The project has now successfully seen the installation of the signs for 4 of the 6 villages at **Newbridge, Winsor, Cadnam** and **Copythorne**. The two in **Ower** and **Bartley** are coming soon!



Coronavirus – Further Update on Help from Our Local Community Shops

All our local shops and services are working in much the same way as previously, with **Local Farm Shops**: – **Alford's** open Thursday, Friday and Saturday (02380 812 269 for orders) and **Tatchbury Manor Farm** on Friday and Saturday for order collections (tatchburymanorfarm.co.uk); **Forest Pharmacy** weekdays 8.30 am to 5.30 pm and Saturday 10.00 am to 2.00 pm (023 8081 2734 for pharmaceutical delivery requests); **Budgens** normal 7 days a week opening and **Spar** normal 7 days a week opening. **Fourways Stores and Bartley Post Office** – the shop is open from **6.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.** every day and the post office from **9.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.** (02380 813 481 or johanne@fourwaysstores.com for orders / deliveries)

PLEASE NOTE: ALL ABOVE INFORMATION IS CORRECT AT TIME OF WRITING

A new development - towards a Copythorne Parish 'Village Design Statement'

Since last year with a view to improving and enhancing our community environment and services, Copythorne Parish Council has been working on a **Local Plan**. Early on, it became clear that one of the things Copythorne Parish doesn't have is a **Village Design Statement (VDS)**. (Copythorne Parish is comprised of 6 villages, so our document would be called a 'Parish Design Statement')

What is a VDS? A VDS is a way for local communities to propose guidelines for the design of any new development that may take place in their area. Once created, finalised and agreed, a VDS can be adopted as a **Supplementary Planning Document** to the NFNPA and NFDC Local Plans.

How do we create a VDS? Although the Parish Council has taken the initiative in starting this VDS project, it is something which should reflect the views of and belong to the whole community. Therefore, it needs to be led by **representatives of the whole community**. It was intended to announce the formal start of this project at the **Annual Parish Meeting (APM)**, back in March, which was, of course, cancelled. But as 'Lockdown' eases, we now intend to hold a special '**Parish Meeting**' in the Autumn as part of which the VDS 'roll out' can take place.

How can I become involved? This will be an exciting development for our community and we'd be really pleased to hear from anyone who'd like to be involved. This is an **initial call for volunteers** to sit on the community led Steering Group.

If you're interested, please contact the Clerk (details below) and leave your information.

....And a brief 'Stop Press' footnote: NFNPA 'Ambassadors Scheme' goes live

The National Park has introduced the New Forest Ambassador Scheme, which goes live from **1st August**. The scheme welcomes visitors back to the New Forest and at the same time helps them understand and respect it and avoid undue 'stress' on the environment. Volunteer Ambassadors, drawn from local people, will help with the encouragement of a positive attitude to the care of the Forest. Issues include **litter picking, verge parking, promoting the New Forest Code** and **reporting problems**. For more information visit: www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/nfambassadors or to download the code see: www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/app/uploads/2020/07/FINAL-nf-code-July-2020.pdf



Date of the Next Parish Council Meeting: The next Parish Council meeting will take place on **Tuesday 8th September** (there is no meeting in August), and at the time of writing, is planned to take place via video conferencing. Contact the Clerk for more information on how to access the meeting.

The **Clerk to the Council, David Rigby**, can be contacted by post at: **9, The Cleaves, West Totton, Southampton, SO40 8WL** or by telephone: **02381120150** 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 Council Website and on community notice boards.