



COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER: DECEMBER 2023

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Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to all our readers

Affordable Housing in the Parish NFNPA Planning Committee

Last month, we reported that at the NFNPA Planning Committee meeting on September 26th 2023, the members of the committee voted unanimously to defer a decision on the planning application for Land to the East of New Inn Road (22/00498).

The deferral was to seek additional detailed information on the applicant's proposals for surface water drainage. All other possible grounds for refusal were considered by the Planning Committee to have been addressed by the applicant's submissions.

The applicant supplied the requested additional information in mid October and the application was scheduled to be on the agenda for the November 21st 2023 NFNPA Planning Committee meeting.

On November 17th 2023, the NFNPA Planning Team advised us that following recent representations from local residents to Hampshire County Council as the Local Lead Flood Authority, they had been advised that the County Council's Flood and Water Management Team would like more time to consider the additional information that has been submitted. As a result the application had been withdrawn from the NFNPA Planning Committee agenda for the November 21st 2023 meeting.

At the time of going to press with this newsletter we do not know the new date for the application to be placed before the Planning Committee (the next meeting is scheduled for December 19th 2023).



Splitwind Pond

Many residents will be aware that for many years the Parish Council has taken on the responsibility of maintaining Splitwind Pond (just north of Haydon Tyres on Romsey Road).

For the last nine years (since 2015), usually in May, the Freshwater Habitats Trust has taken water samples from the pond to test for the presence of Great Crested Newts (a protected species). I am delighted to report that for each of those eight years a positive result has come back to us.

In late October, the Parish Lengthsman, cut back the vegetation growth from the outside of the pond which enabled the Greening Copythorne group to start winter maintenance on the pond itself earlier this month.

The confirmed presence of Great Crested Newts limits the period in which work can be undertaken in the pond along with the extent to which the vegetation in the pond can be safely thinned out and how..

Accompanying this article are some photos taken before the Lengthsman's work and during the work undertaken by Greening Copythorne members to show you the difference. More will be done before the window for working in the pond closes at the end of January.

BEFORE



AFTER



The Clerk to the Council, David Rigby may be contacted by
Post at: 9 The Cleaves, West Totton, Southampton SO40 8WL by Telephone 023 8112 0150
or via Email: parishclerk@copythorne.org.uk | Website: www.copythorne.org.uk



Remembrance Parade & Service - November 12th 2023

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The Parish Council was delighted to once again help the Copythorne & District Branch of the Royal British Legion to hold the annual Remembrance Sunday Parade from the Parish Hall to St Mary's Church by arranging the required Road Closure Order and insuring the event.

As always, a large number of members of the local community

followed the parade which was led by members of the Stanley's Own Scout and Guide Band (who the previous day had the honour of taking part in the Lord Mayor's Show).

They also took part in the Remembrance Parade in Lyndhurst).

The Act of Remembrance was led by Revd John Reeve, Vicar of St. Mary's in his role as District Chaplain.

Following the Act of Remembrance over 30 wreaths were laid at the War Memorial to remember - in particular - the 50+ men of the parish who gave their lives in the two World Wars.

Representing the Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire at the service was The Honourable Mrs Lovell JP DL, one of the Deputy Lieutenants of Hampshire.

Highways Issues reported to HCC Highways

Whilst we would always encourage local residents to report matters of concern direct to HCC Highways via this weblink <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems> or by phoning **0300 555 1388** below are a few examples of things that the Parish Council have recently reported to HCC on behalf of residents in recent months:-

1. A request for a hedge to be cut back to help people walking along a pavement
2. Concerns about cars parking in a bus layby (in breach of a signed parking restriction)
3. A blocked road side gully
4. A diseased tree beside a footpath (now cut down)

Further information about who - and how - to report Highways related matters can be found in the September 2023 edition of this newsletter on the Parish Council website.



<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems>

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The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled to be held on **Tuesday, December 12th 2023** in the Parish Hall.

Please check our website the week before to confirm the arrangements and view the agenda.

Details of individual Parish Councillors plus information on District and County Councillors may be found on the Parish Council website and on our community notice boards and information hubs. (the old red telephone boxes).



Printed copies are available from ♦ Forest Pharmacy ♦ Fourways Stores (Bartley Post Office) ♦ Budgens Woodington Feeds ♦ Coach and Horses, Compass Inn and The Empress of Blandings as well as the four information Hubs – the former red telephone boxes.