

ITEM NO: 10

Report on Bus Shelter in Romsey Road at its junction with Pollards Moor Road

1. Summary:

- i) The shelter is a historic recognisable feature, being located as shown below:



Aerial

View of Junction

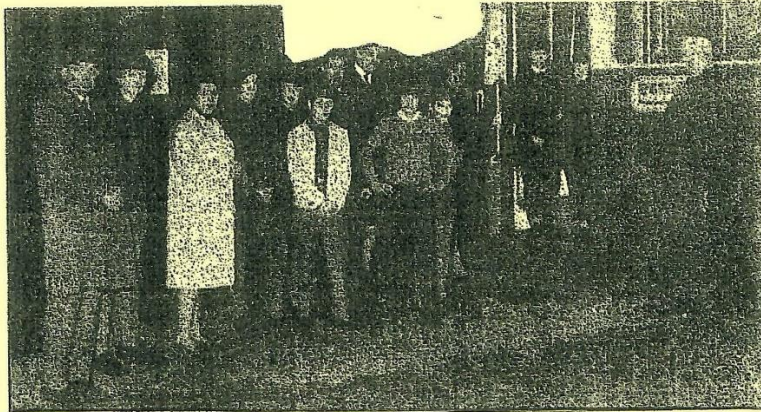
- ii) Some of the more notable historical events associated with the shelter are outlined in the following sections
- iii) Research to date has established that currently no local organisation, New Forest District Council or Hampshire County Council is prepared to acknowledge ongoing responsibility for its ownership or maintenance
- iv) The report concludes with recommendation that the Council should consider the adoption of the shelter and thereby become responsible for its regular inspection and maintenance
- v) Clearly with the ownership established, the Council can consider how it can be possibly be used as well as a shelter - eg, an information centre for the Council similar to phone boxes that have been adopted by the Council.

2. A brief history of the bus shelter:

- i) The article – “The Lonely Bus Shelter will be 50 years old in January” – appeared in last month’s (December 2020) edition of Stanley’s Own, the monthly magazine for the villages of Copythorne Parish. The article appeared on page 17 and is reproduced on the next page:

THE LONELY BUS SHELTER WILL BE 50 YEARS OLD IN JANUARY

Thanks to the Scouts and
Guides



The bus shelter at Pollards Moor Cross Roads as 'opened' Saturday 9 January 1971

Next year the Parish can mark the centenaries of the Parish Hall opening, the Opening of Charles King Hall at the Scout HQ and the formation of the of the national British Legion (as it was then).....and the opening of a new bus shelter built in Pollards Moor built by the Scouts on 9 January 1971

To mark the sixtieth anniversary of 'Stanley's Own' Scout Group it was decided to built a bus shelter and under the supervision of its later Chairman Mr Peter Bright it was built by Patrol Leaders Paul Davis and David Forshaw and Scouts Ian Kemish and Tony Wood with the wood supplied by Mr Brian Ciddings of Bartley, Roof material by Mr Tom Osborne of Ower and the gravel by Mr Len Wright of Pollards Moor.(later wood was provided by Mr Soffe of Pollards Moor)

The shelter was formally opened by Mrs Ellen Littlecott, a founder member of the Group Council and the event was witnessed by Mr Oliver of Hants and Dorset Bus Services. Such was the interest in the project that John Braddock interviewed the Scouts on Radio Solent that day.

The shelter was subsequently used a great deal when bus services were more frequent but after a period of time it was sadly partly vandalised although the Scouts had repainted it from time to time, Mrs Julie Munden well recalls using the shelter with her children and many cyclists use it as a resting place today.

GUIDES REFURBISH SHELTER

Some eleven years after its opening, the Guides of the 1st Copythorne Company under the leadership of Mrs Anne Dawe decided that the shelter needed a complete refurbishment and set to clearing the shrubs around the building before removing some of the cladding leaving only the main frame which meant nailing in new boards supplied by Mr Wally Soffe of Pollards Moor including some plywood. The paving slabs were also realigned

Before the 're-opening' of the shelter the Guides also provided an inscribed bench inside (clearly the Scouts did not expect people to sit down ?). A final touch was the planting of a climbing rose. They then uninvited former vicar The Rev'd Basil Slader to 're-open' the shelter in 1982

Still much appreciated by users the structure was occasionally re-painted and repaired until some fifteen years ago it had been vandalised again and the Scouts responded with Leaders Rob Smith and George Stevens and some Explorer Scouts once again giving the shelter some tender loving care and providing a new concrete base which was quickly spoilt with a 'coke' tin and coins. It was resurfaced and George took some framework to the site from HQ. Paul Stubbington and the Explorer Scouts finished the job with a celebration barbecue.

The shelter also is a building recognised as 'by the turning into Pollards Moor and the Parish Hall' and also a place to posters advertising local events

.....Another part of the history of the Parish

From the December 2020
edition of the Stanley's Own
magazine with
acknowledgements and thanks
to its joint editors:
Roy Farmers and
Alison Henvest

- ii) As mentioned in the article above, the shelter was “opened” on Saturday 9th January 1971 and the article, in the Romsey Advertiser, is reproduced below:

Article from Romsey Advertiser - Saturday 9th January 1971

COPYTHORNE SCOUTS BUILD BUS SHELTER

The 2nd Romsey (Stanley's Own) Scout Group, Copythorne, which celebrated its own 60th anniversary last year, like other Scout Groups in Romsey District, decided to carry out a community service project to benefit the parishioners of Copythorne who had helped the Group for so many years.

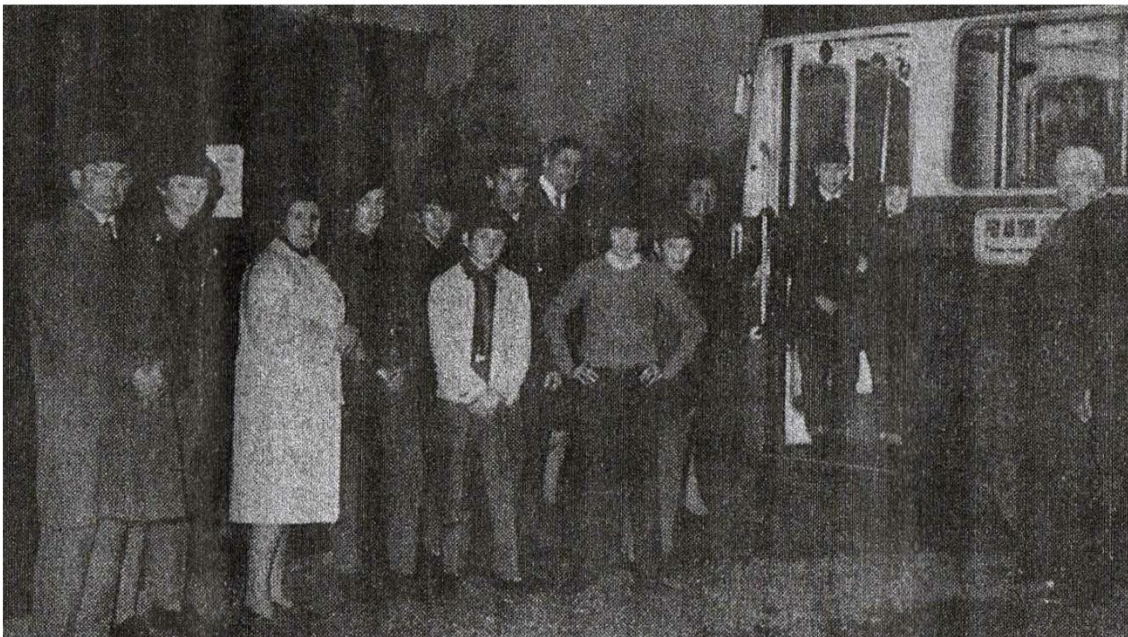
Under the supervision of Mr. Peter Bright, a carpenter and member of the Group Council, four Scouts agreed to erect a bus shelter at Pollards Moor Cross Roads. Over the past month or so, Patrol Leaders Paul Davis and David Forshaw, and Scouts Ian Kemish and Tony Wood have built the shelter at their Headquarters.

Last Saturday morning, Mrs. Ellen Littlecott, a founder member of the Group Council, “opened” the bus shelter and remarked that in the 40 years she had lived in the area she had spent many hours on this exposed corner waiting for buses.

The timber was given by Mr. Brian Giddings, of Bartley Sawmills, the roofing material by Mr. Tom Osborne, of Ower, and the gravel by Mr. Len Wright, of Pollards Moor, while the paving slabs and insurance were paid for by the Group Council.

The ceremony was timed to coincide with the arrival of the 09.44 bus from Cadnam to Southampton, and Mr. H. Oliver, Superintendent of the Hants and Dorset Bus Services, who was present, said that he had never known of a Scout Group to erect a bus shelter for the public as it was normally the job of the Parish Council.

Following the ceremony, the Scouts were interviewed by John Braddock, of B.B.C. Radio Solent, and a report was made in “Solent Report” at lunchtime.



- photographs
before we started
- Keep an I
- 



The work on the pond meant keeping the willows and grass at bay and planting more wild flowers such as bluebells, balsam and foxgloves.



Using our new woodwork skills

**Adopt
Che**



**the way it looks
now.....**

our future plans

Each year we intend to crossbreed the shed in order to preserve the wood.

Apart from this, at regular intervals of time, we aim to keep the garden looking neat, the grass kept short and the litter at bay. We will continually watch out for vandals to make sure that they do not damage our shelter once more.

further information



A past vicar of Copythorne - Rev B. Slader kindly opened the shelter.

Page 4

- iv) Katrina also recalls: “I know we put a bench inside, which was inscribed “1st Copythorne Guides 1982”. This bench and inscription still remain, in good condition, as shown below:



- v) Julie and Stuart Munden, long standing members of the Copythorne Community and residents of Pollards Moor Road, shared the following thoughts when asked if they had any information on the shelter:

Re. the bus shelter at Copythorne cross roads. I think it may have been there when we moved in in 1970. It was certainly there in 1974 - I was going out for a walk with my two year old son, baby Clare in the pram, the dog, and Uncle Tom Copley, we got as far as the shelter and it started to snow. Luckily the shelter was big enough to take all of us but it turned to a blizzard and we returned home.

The shelter has a cement base with a wooden frame and corrugated tin roof. I think Wally Soffe from the wood yard put it up, but I am not sure. It was pushed over at one point and restored by the guides. The seat is engraved with Copythorne 1st Guides, 1982. We often sit in there and I have seen cyclists having a break inside. It is a useful stop off on the way to or from the church or if you are out for a walk. When I am giving directions to any one, I always say come along the A31 and turn when you get to the wooden bus shelter. It would be missed by us if it disappeared.

3. Acknowledgements:

Thanks goes to the following who have provided specific information that has been used in this report: Roy Farmers, Katrina Stone, Julie and Stuart Munden.

4. Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Parish Council resolves:

- 1) To consider adopting the bus shelter and therefore add it to its asset register and assume responsibility for its insurance, inspection, cleaning and maintenance
- 2) To request the Clerk to formalise any necessary checks on ownership with local, district or county bodies to ensure that there are no objections to this course of action
- 3) To arrange for cost estimates/quotes for insurance, any initial maintenance or repairs and annual ongoing budget requirements, and
- 4) To reconsider this matter at a later Council meeting when the relevant information is available.

Prepared by John Goodwin and issued on 21st December 2020