

DRAFT Minutes of Copythorne Annual Parish Meeting held at Stanley's Own Scout HQ, Romsey Road, Copythorne on March 7th 2023 at 7pm.

Present as Chairman of the meeting: Cllr. Graham Chillcott – Chairman of Copythorne Parish Council

In attendance as Clerk of the meeting: Mr David Rigby – Clerk to Copythorne Parish Council

21 members of the public attended the meeting (17 from within the Parish)

(numbering of minutes follows the numbering of the agenda)

Pre- Commencement of the meeting

1. Arrival

Meeting

2. Introduction, welcome, apologies for absence

Cllr. Graham Chillcott introduced himself as the Chairman of Copythorne Parish Council and welcomed those present.

3. Approval of Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting (May 10th 2022)

The minutes of the meeting held on May 10th 2022 were agreed as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman, Cllr. Graham Chillcott.

4. Announcement of Parish Award Winner 2023

The Chairman announced that James Read had been won the Parish Council's Parish Award for 2023 in recognition of his outstanding efforts in enabling the local community to support relief efforts for the people of Ukraine. As James was unable to attend the meeting a formal presentation of the award certificate took place at the Parish Hall earlier today.

5. District Councillor Feedback/Update

District Cllr. Derek Tipp read a report (a copy of which is included in the supporting documents for this meeting on the Parish Council website). Topics covered included increasing homelessness within the District Council's area; the effects of rising energy costs and inflation on the Council's Leisure Centres; increased spending on CCTV coverage; new home building by NFDC (200 in the last four years); progress on the development of the Solent Freeport; and upcoming District Council elections. He concluded by thanking Dist. Cllr. Diane Andrews - who is standing down as District Councillor for Bramshaw, Copythorne North & Minstead – for her hard work for local residents over the last 12 years.

6. County Councillor Feedback/Update

County Cllr. Edward Heron started his update by reading a short statement (a copy of which is included in the supporting documents for this meeting on the Parish Council website) on the use of a property in Winsor Road owned by Hampshire County Council. Local residents were then given an opportunity to voice their concerns regarding this matter.

Another matter reported on by County Cllr. Heron was the difficulties that HCC (like many other County Councils and Unitary Authorities) faced in trying to maintain public services whilst at the same time keeping Council Tax rises at an acceptable level. Priority will continue to be given to Adult Social Care and Childrens Services.

7. Policing Update

PCSO Richard Williams gave a update on issues being faced by the “New Forest Heart” Area Policing Team, these include shed and other outbuild break ins: farm equipment thefts; care thefts. Additional resource is being made available by the Police & Crime Commissioner. Targeted efforts to combat these areas of crime. Involving support from adjoining areas was having a good impact.

More joint operations involving other local bodies including NFDC; NFNPA; Forestry England were helping with issues like Fly-tipping; speeding; unauthorised waste removal operators.

He concluded his report by thanking the Copythorne Speed Watch Team and provided details on their activities from a report provided by the team (a copy of this report is included in the supporting documents for this meeting on the Parish Council website).

8. Presentation by CPRE – The Hampshire Hedge Project

Ellie Banks and Alison Talbot from CPRE (The Countryside Charity) gave a talk on a very exciting project aimed at linking the two National Parks in Hampshire (the New Forest and the South Downs) by a network of hedges. The route starts in Compton near Winchester and ends in Copythorne. Copythorne Parish Council will be working with CPRE on raising public awareness of the project over the next few years (a copy of the presentation is included in the supporting documents for this meeting on the Parish Council website).

9. Presentation by Paultons Park

Richard and James Mancey (directors of Paultons Park Ltd) gave a presentation on the development of Paultons Park as the theme park celebrates its 40th year of operation. Some 1000 people are employed annual by the park, making it one of the biggest employers in the New Forest. They spoke about the difficulties that the park has faced over the last few years (thanks to COVID) and then moved on to their plans for the next few years.

10. Update from the Parish Schools.

The Clerk talked those present through a slide presentation provided by Bartley School (a copy of the presentation is included in the supporting documents for this meeting on the Parish Council website).

11. The role of a Parish Councillor and May 4th 2023 elections

Some of the existing members of the Parish Council spoke on why they joined the Parish Council and gave details of the time commitment required to properly serve local residents.

Details regarding the upcoming elections were provided including the introduction of Voter ID, more information on which can be obtained from the Democratic Services team at NFDC.

12. Climate Emergency – Update on the work of Greening Copythorne

Members of Greening Copythorne provided details of the work done so far which has included involvement with the Christmas Tree Festival at the Parish Hall; vegetation clearance from around and in Splitwind Pond; arranging thermal imaging surveys of a number of house to help residents identify heat loss. Details of plans for the coming year include helping Copythorne Infant School to restore their pond and increasing the presence of wildflowers on roadside verges. (A copy of the presentation is included in the supporting documents for this meeting on the Parish Council website).

13. Questions from the floor

A resident highlighted the National Volunteering Campaign taking place in early May.

A question was asked about progress on a roundabout at Bartley Crossroads. The Chair of the meeting advised that HCC Highways have said that circa £100k would need to be found for an initial assessment survey which they did not feel was justified.

14. Close

The Chairman of the Parish Council thanked those present for attending and closed the meeting at 9.00pm.