

Minutes of Copythorne Annual Parish Meeting held at Bartley Junior School, Winsor Road, on April 30th 2024 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

17 members of the public attended the meeting (16 from within the Parish)

(numbering of minutes follows the numbering of the agenda)

Meeting

1. Introduction, welcome, apologies for absence

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

2. Approval of Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting (March 3rd 2023)

The minutes of the meeting held on March 3rd 2023 were agreed as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman, Cllr. Graham Chillcott.

3. Announcement of Parish Award Winner 2024

The Chairman announced that Owen Mills had been won the Parish Council's Parish Award for 2024 in recognition of his dedication in supporting - for many years - a wide range of local organisations, not least of which being the Parish Hall. Owen was presented with a framed award certificate took.

4. County Councillor Update

On behalf of County Cllr. Edward Heron the Clerk of the Meeting presented a short report relating to the financial challenges being faced by Hampshire County Council along with an outline of how the £2.9 billion budget is currently being spent.

District Councillor Update

District Cllr. Derek Tipp presented a report on matters relating to the activities of New Forest District Council, including finances; future changes to domestic waste collection services; efforts to reduce roadside litter; grants and business support schemes; and house building.

5. Policing Update

On behalf of PCSO Richard Williams, the Clerk of the Meeting presented a report on the activities of the Copythorne Community Speed Watch team. So far in 2024 they have conducted 19 surveys, monitored 4,500 vehicles, 612 letters have been generated for those speeding and 17 drivers have been recorded in excess of 50 Mph in the 30 zones. So, 13.6% of drivers were speeding, a slight reduction on previous figures.

6. Re-launch of Parish Design Statement Project

On behalf of the Parish Council, Cllr. Sherri Johnstone reported that earlier this year the Parish Council agreed to re-launch a project to produce a Parish Design Statement ("PDS"). She explained that this type of document is a way for local communities to propose guidelines for the design of any new development that may take place in their area. Based on an analysis of the character of the settlement and its surroundings, a PDS adds local detail to existing planning guidance. It can be adopted by the planning authorities as a Supplementary Planning Document and used to help in determining local planning applications. It is hoped to form a Steering Group consisting of parish councillors and interested local residents to take this project forward.

7. Presentation by CPRE – The Hampshire Hedge Project

Ellie Banks from CPRE (The Countryside Charity), who also spoke at last year's Annual Parish Meeting delivered an update on this 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. Various hedge planting sessions have taken place and associated talks delivered within the parish with more planned. In addition to the work on this specific project Ellie is also able to help local farmers with their own efforts to improve their existing hedgerows and/or plant others.

8. D-Day 80 Commemorations – June 6th 2024

Roy Farmers (President, Copythorne & District Royal British Legion) gave an update on the event being planned to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings. The event is being co-ordinated by representatives from the Copythorne & District branch of the Royal British Legion; the Parish Hall Committee; the Parish Council; and various other local organisations and individuals

It will be held at the Parish Hall. Starting at 7.30pm, it will culminate in the lighting of a beacon (one of hundreds all over the UK) at 9.15pm. There will be an exhibition of D Day related memorabilia; a band; a singer; and a selection of food and drinks, including a fish and chip van, which is a meal many of the soldiers (some camped around the area) ate before they left for France, 80 years ago to start the liberation of Europe.

9. Plastic Free Copythorne

Sherri Johnstone gave a presentation on this initiative (led by Surfers against Sewage) to reduce the amount of "single use plastic" being used. Several local businesses have signed up to the project. More information can be found at www.plasticfree.org.uk/community/copythorne

10. Presentation on behalf of New Forest for Ukraine

James Read, who has been instrumental in co-ordinating the efforts of others in the parish to support the work of this organisation gave an update on the amazing work that continues to be done and sadly remains necessary. A slideshow of photographs illustrated the conditions being faced by the people of Ukraine. James emphasised that collections of donations (usually to a specific list of requirements) continue with details being posted on the parish noticeboards in advance of collection dates.

11. Update from Bartley Junior School

Gemma Cooper, the School's Business Manager, presented a report detailing the various events and activities that children at the school had been involved in over the last year. This included recent events to mark the 85th anniversary of the school. She also talked about the challenges the school faced due to drop in pupil numbers. Finally, she reported on the ongoing need to recruit School Crossing Patrol staff.

12. Greening Copythorne

Karen Caton, a member of Greening Copythorne provided an update on the work being undertaken by this group set up in 2021 following the declaration of a Climate Emergency by the Parish Council. Members of the group have been working on such things as maintaining Splitwind Pond; supporting CPRE with their work on the Hampshire Hedge Project; visiting a Solar Farm in Lymington to understand the work involved in such a venture; supporting the work of Plastic Free Copythorne. She also mentioned that the group was delighted with the plan by Paultons Park to build solar carports over parts of their car park and pleased to learn that the Parish Hall has received HCC funding to plant a small orchard.

13. Questions from the floor

No questions were raised.

Close

The Chairman of the meeting thanked Bartley Junior School for hosting the meeting and also those present for attending and closed the meeting at 8.50pm.

Signed... CLLR. GRAHAM CHILLCOTT, CHAIR, COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL **Dated...** MAY 9TH 2025...