

Item 21 – Clerk's Report

1. Councillor Vacancy Update

As at May 4th 2026 no applications have been received for the Copythorne South Ward vacancy which will be filled by Co-Option. As a result, the period for the receipt of applications has been extended to May 31st 2026. Updated notices have been posted on the Council's noticeboards; website; Facebook page; and will be included in the May newsletter. Hopefully the co-option will take place at the June 9th 2026 Council meeting.

2. Advisory Committee Meetings

The dates, times and locations for the next meeting of all the Advisory Committee are:-

Personnel & Governance	Thu May 21 st 2026	12.00pm	Via Zoom
Finance	Thu May 21 st 2026	1.00pm	Via Zoom
Five Year Plan (Parish Projects)	Thu June 4 th 2026	12.00pm	Via Zoom
Flooding	Tue July 21 st 2026	7.00pm	RBL Hall, Cadnam

3. Update on Local Government Re-Organisation

In late April I received an e-mail from the organisers of "New Forest Together" asking for the Parish Council to support their campaign for NFDC to seek legal advice on the processes behind Central Government's decision to divide the Waterside Parishes from the rest of the New Forest.

On behalf of the Parish Council I replied as follows:-

"This matter, first announced on December 16th 2024 following the publication by the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) of the English Devolution White Paper, has been closely and actively followed by Copythorne Parish Council. Members of Copythorne Parish Council (and myself as Clerk to it) have also been involved in every Town and Parish Council briefing session on Local Government Re-Organisation ("LGR") run by NFDC or HCC. We have also engaged with other bodies such as the New Forest Association of Local Councils and the Hampshire Association of Local Councils.

At the Copythorne Annual Parish Meeting held on May 9th 2025 there was, following a presentation made by the Rt. Hon. Sir Julian Lewis MP, a discussion on the potential impact of LGR on the New Forest which lead to the following:-

There was then a request from a resident that those present should express concerns to the leadership of NFDC about the possibility of a split of NFDC across different new unitary authorities and ask them to do all that they could to avoid this. Another asked if the meeting could request that a letter be sent asking NFDC that. The Clerk advised that under the Local Government Act 1972, Sch 12, para 18 (1-4) it was possible to do so. The Chair of the meeting asked for a show of hands which indicated an obvious majority in favour.

ACTION – Clerk of the meeting to write to both the Leader and Chief Executive Officer of NFDC as outlined above.

When on November 17th 2025, MHCLG issued it's decision on what proposals submitted by the various Tier 1 & 2 Councils in Hampshire & the Isle of Wight and announced a public consultation on them, Copythorne Parish Council began to consider it's response. That response (drafted by myself) supporting Option 1 (the proposal submitted by NFDC and others which included a unitary authority comprising of NFDC, TVBC, Winchester City Council and EHDC) was submitted on behalf of Copythorne Parish Council on January 10th 2026

(Cont'd./...)

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In addition, Copythorne Parish Council was one of a number of New Forest East parishes that put it's name to an open letter to Sir Julian Lewis calling on him to do all he could to support NFDC in it's desire to not become part of an urban unitary authority (Open letter attached as Appendix C).

It was pleasing to see that the "New Forest Together" petition was discussed at the NFDC Council meeting on April 13th 2026 and that the following motion was passed unanimously:-

"The Council notes the petition and that the Leader and the Cabinet will in due course carefully consider the petition and the updated advice when considering the appropriate next steps to best represent the interests of the Forest through this process."

Based, on it's previous involvement and response, Copythorne Parish Council has already indicated it's support for the position adopted by NFDC and it will continue to do so."

4. Councillor Drop In Sessions

The dates for the next three "Drop In Sessions (all 2-3pm at Copythorne Community Café) are as follows:- Wednesday May 27th; Wednesday June 17th; Thursday July 9th

5. Wheelie Bin Rollout

A reminder that Wheelie bin deliveries should have now been completed throughout the phase 3 area (which includes the Parish of Copythorne). If you have not received your new bins yet then please visit the following page on the NFDC website [Bin delivery information - New Forest District Council](#)

Collections are due to start in the week commencing Monday May 11th 2026. You should have received a letter confirming your collection day (which may have changed) and what will be collected each week.

6. Matters reported to HCC/NFDC

Attached (as Appendix A) is a list of matters reported by the Clerk to HCC that remain outstanding.

David Rigby
Clerk to Copythorne Parish Council
May 5th 2026

APPENDIX A – Point 6 – Items reported to HCC/NFDC

ISSUES REPORTED TO HCC/NFDC FAULT REPORTING WEBPAGE - ONGOING ENQUIRIES ONLY - (updated 5/5/26)

DATE REPORTED	REF. NUMBER	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE RAISED	REPORTED BY	FIRST CHECK DUE	LAST CHECKED	LATEST COMMENTS
26/06/25	7177688	Query condition of New Inn Rd (direct to Highways)	David Rigby	03/07/25	05/05/26	16/7 - E-mail response from County Cllr. Lulu Bowerman (HCC Executive Member for Highways):- “..the road does not currently meet the criteria for resurfacing under our prioritisation framework.”
10/07/25	CS2424111	Fly tipping, near layby in Southampton Road	David Rigby	17/07/25	05/05/26	1/5 – Rubbish has been removed
05/12/25	21838801	Blocked drain – bottom of New Inn Road	David Rigby	12/12/25	05/05/26	10/02/26 - Repair to be undertaken as part of planned works 5/5/26 – Update awaited
09/01/26	21847244	Pavement breaking up, junction of Chinham Rd & Shepherds Road	David Rigby	16/01/26	05/05/26	01/05/26 – Works underway
13/01/26	21848518	Overhanging trees and tree debris in ditch, Pollards Moor Road	David Rigby	20/01/26	05/05/26	20/02/26 – Passed to 3rd Party 5/5/26 Update awaited.
13/01/26	21848541	Flooding Riverside Close on Dec 18 th 2025	David Rigby	20/01/26	05/05/26	28/01/26 - Following a review of your enquiry, all necessary actions have been undertaken. 12/2/26 – Actions chased 5/5/26 – Discussions with affected parties continue.
27/03/26	21883773	Carriageway edge issue, Beechwood Road	David Rigby	03/04/26	05/05/26	9/4/26 – Work to be scheduled (expected by 9/7/26)

Number only = HCC

CS and Number = NFDC