

Item 11 – Clerk's Report

1. Councillor Vacancy Update

As at June 2nd 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 June 30th 2026. Updated notices have been posted on the Council's noticeboards; website; and Facebook page. Hopefully a co-option will take place at the July 14th 2026 Council meeting.

2. Advisory Committee Meetings

The dates, times and locations for the next meeting of all the Advisory Committees as at June 2nd 2026 are as follows:-

Five Year Plan (Parish Projects)	Thu June 4 th 2026	12.00pm	Via Zoom
Finance	Thu July 16 th 2026	12.00pm	Via Zoom
Flooding	Tue July 21 st 2026	7.00pm	RBL Hall, Cadnam
Personnel & Governance	Thu Oct 22 nd 2026	12.00pm	Via Zoom

3. Playground Operational Maintenance Inspection

The latest half yearly inspection took place on May 11th 2026 and the External Inspectors Report has been received. No "High Risk" issues have been identified. The "Low/Medium Risk" issues in the report will be discussed with a local playground equipment supply & maintenance company and arrangements made for any identified work to be undertaken.

4. Update on Local Government Re-Organisation

As at June 2nd 2026 NFDC have not confirmed whether they will be seeking a Judicial review of the process undertaken by Central Government in relation to Local Government Re-Organisation in Hampshire and the IoW. This relates to the splitting off of the Towns and Parishes along the Waterside from the remainder of the New Forest.

NFDC have though announced that the independent legal advice they have received and further supplemented by a leading Kings Counsel (KC) suggests that a legal challenge would have no real prospects of success.

As a result, the following recommendation will be put to the NFDC Cabinet at a meeting on June 3rd 2026:-
Having considered the options set out in the report and the independent legal advice which concludes that there is not any real prospect of persuading a court that a material error of law has been made, and that a challenge would have no real prospects of success, considers the best way to represent the interests of the New Forest and its communities is not to pursue a formal judicial review, and instead to focus the Council's efforts on formally championing the New Forest's needs and required protections through the transition arrangements to new councils, while making clear to Government the Council's continuing objection to the decision.

New Forest Together (a local campaign group) have stated that they have legal opinion that suggests there is the possibility that a legal challenge does have merit and they will be considering their next steps after the NFDC Cabinet has formally made a decision.

5. Councillor Drop In Sessions

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

6. Wheelie Bin Rollout

Collections under the new scheme in the Parish have now been running for three weeks. There have been some issues which are being worked through by NFDC such as missed collections. It is important that missed collections are reported to NFDC.

This can be done online <https://www.newforest.gov.uk/MissedCollections> or by phoning 02380 285000 (don't choose any of the options but stay on hold). Do not report your collection as missed until after midday on your collection day, but before Midday on the next working day. Once reported, NFDC aim to return within 3 working days (which are Monday to Friday).

In the near future the council will issue regular feedback and statistics on rubbish collections.

Food caddy bags can be compostable or plastic. Neither can be broken down quick enough so are removed at an early stage of the composting process.

If you don't have enough room in your recycling bin for large cardboard packaging it can be folded and placed next to the recycle bin as long as no bigger than the size of the wheelie bin.

Find your Collection Day - <https://www.newforest.gov.uk/findyourcollection>

Report a missed collection - <https://www.newforest.gov.uk/MissedCollections>

What can go in my Rubbish bin (black bin with black lid) - <https://www.newforest.gov.uk/rubbish>

What can go in my Recycling Bin (black bin with green lid)- <https://www.newforest.gov.uk/recycling>

What can go in my Food Recycling Bin (brown bin) - <https://www.newforest.gov.uk/foodwaste>

7. 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
June 2nd 2026

APPENDIX A – Point 7 – Items reported to HCC/NFDC

ISSUES REPORTED TO HCC/NFDC FAULT REPORTING WEBPAGE - ONGOING ENQUIRIES ONLY - (updated 02/6/

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	02/06/26	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.”
05/12/25	21838801	Blocked drain – bottom of New Inn Road	David Rigby	12/12/25	02/06/26	10/02/26 - Repair to be undertaken as part of planned works 02/06/26 – Works scheduled for 11/6/26.
09/01/26	21847244	Pavement breaking up, junction of Chinham Rd & Shepherds Road	David Rigby	16/01/26	02/06/26	13/05/26 –Work completed (no pipe to connect a new weir kerb to)
13/01/26	21848518	Overhanging trees and tree debris in ditch, Pollards Moor Road	David Rigby	20/01/26	02/06/26	20/02/26 – Passed to 3rd Party 18/5/26 – HCC advise that landowners have been contacted requesting the ditch is maintained.
13/01/26	21848541	Flooding Riverside Close on Dec 18 th 2025	David Rigby	20/01/26	02/06/26	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	02/06/26	9/4/26 – Work to be scheduled (expected by 9/7/26)
15/05/26	21893042	Furzley Lane - Hemlock on verge (Newbridge End)	David Rigby	22/02/26	26/05/26	22/5/26 – Closed. HCC Highways does not treat roadside hemlock.
19/05/26	21893782	Cattle Grid – Eastern end of B3079 at Cadnam (works not progressing?)	David Rigby	26/05/26	02/06/26	22/6/26 – Works scheduled for June 15-19.
26/05/26	21894569	Wittensford Lane – Potholes (east of ford)	David Rigby	02/06/26	02/06/26	27/5/26 – Work to be scheduled (expected by 26/8/26)

Number only = HCC

CS and Number = NFDC