

COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – TUESDAY JULY 14TH 2026

Item 11. To receive and approve a request from the Flooding Advisory Committee to support the work of the Brockenhurst and New Forest Flood Action Group.

BACKGROUND

At the Flooding Advisory Committee meeting held on April 28th 2026, Peter Hebard (“PH”) of the Brockenhurst and New Forest Flood Action Group (“BANFFAG”) gave a presentation on the work of the group, in particular with regards to the use of Natural Flood Management methods.

He explained that these methods had been helpful in holding back rainfall upstream of areas known to be prone to fluvial flooding further downstream. He openly admitted that getting bodies like the NFNPA; the Environment Agency; Commoners Defence Association onboard had - at times - not been easy but being able to supply photographic evidence of the source of floods waters and how they built up was a vital first step.

In the Brockenhurst area in particular a good number of residents has supplied such evidence. He offered his assistance to the Copythorne PC Flooding Advisory Committee (“FAC”). The Chair along with all other members of the FAC gratefully accepted this offer. PH then held a Q&A session for the benefit of all those present.

He concluded that a letter from the Parish Council supporting the work of the BANFFAG would be helpful in adding more weight to the requests to other public bodies to do more with Natural Flood Management measures in the New Forest.

CURRENT POSITION

Members of the Parish Council’s Flooding Advisory Committee agree that supporting the work of the BANFFAG would be beneficial to its own efforts to engage with various organisations in furthering discussions about the potential benefits of Natural Flood Management methods in dealing with some elements of flooding within the Parish.

Doing so would be in accordance with the “Aim” of the FAC as outlined in its Terms of Reference which reads as follows:-

“The aim of the Flooding Advisory Committee is to advise, oversee and make recommendations to the Council on flooding issues within the Parish of Copythorne, working in conjunction with the appropriate authorities to identify and mitigate flooding issues.”

RECOMMENDATION

In furtherance of this, the FAC recommends to Council that the Clerk be instructed to draft and send to Peter Heberd an appropriately worded letter of support for the work that BANFFAG is doing.

Cllr. Sherri Johnstone

Chair

Copythorne PC Flooding Advisory Committee

June 12th 2026