COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Flooding Advisory Committee was held at Copythorne Parish Hall (Small Room), Pollards Moor Road, Copythorne on Tuesday October 20th 2026 starting at 7pm.

Present:-
Members: Cllrs. Sherri Johnstone (Chair), Graham Caton, Graham Chillcott, Ria Parry-Norton, Sylvia Wiggins
Observer: Mr. David Rigby – Clerk
Public: Five

A G E N D A (with **DRAFT** notes of discussions)

1. **Public participation session (at the invitation of the Chair).**
A member of the public made reference to an e-mail that had been sent to all members of the Parish Council earlier in the day. They also advised that their private foul drainage system at a property in Chinham Road is overwhelmed at times of heavy rainfall before surface water flooding occurs. Their comments were noted.

   A second member of the public spoke about the lack of feedback from Southern Water concerning flooding incidents earlier this year. The Chair advised that this issue would be covered later in the meeting.

2. **Apologies for absence**.
None

3. **Declarations of Interest.**
None

4. **Review of notes of previous meeting (July 21st 2026) and any action points.**
All voting members present at the last meeting were happy that the notes of the meeting held on July 21st 2026 accurately reflected the discussions.

5. **Discussion of matters relating to any Flooding events reported to the Council since the last meeting.**
The Clerk advised that no matters had been reported. The Chair asked that the two items raised in the public session (issue with a private drainage system and lack of response from Southern Water to a previous problem) be added to the "ongoing work programme".

   With regard to the latter, which is already on the "ongoing works programme, (see Appendix C for Action 10 to Item 7) the Clerk advised that Southern Water had sealed a number of manhole covers and that he would be talking to Southern Water on October 21st.

6. **Update on Flooding mitigation discussions - verbal report (G Ch)**
G Ch reported that the subject of "Natural Flood Management" was discussed as an agenda Item at the October 15th meeting of the NPAs North East Quadrant meeting with all parishes represented in support. As a result, a meeting will be sought with Forestry England; National Trust; and the Hampshire and IoW Wildlife Trust on works they are undertaking on river catchments in our area. A representative from NFDC is meeting with BANFFAG (*see note to Item 7 of the July 21st 2026 Flooding Advisory Committee meeting below*) regarding similar works in other parts of the New Forest and any possible impact above and below the work areas.

7. **To receive and approve updates on the ongoing work programme for the Flooding Advisory Committee.**
The report for this item (pages 5-9 of this document) was presented and approved by members. As requested at Item 5 above, a new item was added (Action Number 13)

8. Review of Flooding Advisory Committee requested works programme for the Lengthsman.
Reviewed, no comments made.

9. Discussion of other matters relating to the Aims & Responsibilities of the Flooding Advisory Committee
G Ca raised a concern related to works near a ditch/culvert under the carriageway in Pollards Moor Road. The Clerk advised that he was aware of the works and - when checked at the end of last week - no debris was in the ditch. Weekly checks will be made until works completed.
ACTION- Clerk to check ditch for debris when undertaking other tasks in the Parish.

SJ advised that following an invitation in the October 2026 Parish Newsletter, which was also posted to the Council's Facebook page (and shared to the local area Facebook group), for residents to ask for a copy of the Parish Flood Plan and/or sign up for future updates on flooding matters no responses were received.

SJ also made a suggestion that given recent events the Flooding Advisory Committee might wish to consider extending it's remit to include other environmental impacts such as water outages; Wild Fires; and droughts. This would necessitate a need to change the Aims and Responsibilities of this Advisory Committee and also it's name. Members were asked to give this suggestion further thought for a future discussion. A recommendation to Council would be required to make such changes.

SJ spoke about the recently published report from the Rural Flood Resilience Partnership detailing Parish Council Flooding Case Studies. This report, which was received from the National Association of Local Councils after the agenda and papers for this meeting were issued, had been shared with members of the Flooding Advisory Committee. It was noted that many of the suggested actions for parish councils to take are already being undertaken or looked at by the Flooding Advisory Committee. It was noted that the suggestion - made as part of her presentation at the 2026 Annual Parish Meeting ("APM") - of forming a community group to help in times of flooding had not resulted in any offer of volunteers and that perhaps this request be made again.
ACTION – SJ to provide the Clerk with an article seeking volunteers to be included in a future Parish Newsletter.

Also within the presentation to the 2026 APM were outline details of Environment Agency Flood Alerts and Warnings related to the parish. SJ suggested that, going forward, the Flooding Advisory Committee should maintain a log of EA Alerts and Warnings to aid correlation with flood events in the Parish. Members agreed this was a good idea.
ACTION – The Clerk to maintain the suggested log.

SJ also mentioned that a local resident had earlier today brought to the attention of members of the Council an historic "Floodgate Survey" that was undertaken in 2014. She asked if any Flooding Advisory Committee members knew anything about this. The response from all members was no.

G Ch said that they understood that the EA/HCC funded Hampshire Property Flood Resilience Project undertaken a few years ago had offered some residents flood gates.

The local resident, who was present at the meeting, said they would provide a blank copy of the survey (this was received on October 21st 2026).

10. Agree date for next meeting
Provisionally set for Tuesday January 26th 2027, 7pm – Copythorne Parish Hall (Small Room)

Meeting closed at 7.38pm

Copythorne Parish Council - Flooding Advisory Committee Meeting – Oct 20th 2026

Item 4 – Review of notes of previous meeting (July 21st 2026)

A meeting of the Flooding Advisory Committee was held at Copythorne Parish Hall (Small Room), Pollards Moor Road, Copythorne on Tuesday July 21st 2026 starting at 7pm.

Present:-
Members: Cllrs. Sherri Johnstone (Chair), Graham Caton, Graham Chillcott, Sylvia Wiggins
Observers: Mr. David Rigby – Clerk
Public: Four

A G E N D A (with **DRAFT** notes of discussions)

1. **Election of a Chair**
   Cllr. Chillcott proposed Cllr. Johnstone, seconded by Cllr. Wiggins – All in favour.

2. **Public participation session (at the invitation of the Chair).**
   A member of the public raised three points. The first about an historic issue regarding verge damage near their property. The second related to an issue connected to their riparian responsibilities. The third was about how the council tracks flooding issues in respect of individual properties. At the Chair's request the Clerk will respond to these points.

   A second member of the public asked if a reply had been received from Southern Water regarding the fitting by them of "non return valves" at individual properties. The Clerk read out details of comments received from Southern Water on this subject and other guidance. A copy of these comments will be sent to the four members of the public present and will also be added to the Flooding page on the Council's website. A third member of the public advised that he was aware of the fitting of such a device at a property in an adjoining parish. The Chair asked if he would supply details to the Flooding Advisory Committee ("FAC").

   The same third member of the public referred to above had sent an e-mail with six questions to all members of the FAC before the meeting. He also raised a further point. This related to how the FAC worked to its Terms of Reference and to be more proactive in engaging with residents; to consider publicising meetings more widely; in particular maintaining a database to be updated annually of parishioners who wish to be informed specifically on flooding related matters as mentioned in the Terms of Reference for the FAC. At the Chair's request the Clerk will respond to these points.

3. **Apologies for absence**.
   None received.

4. **Declarations of Interest.**
   None.

5. **Review of notes of previous meeting (April 28th 2026) and any action points**.
   All voting members present at the last meeting were happy that the notes of the meeting held on April 28th 2026 accurately reflected the discussions.

Prior to moving on to the next item, the Chair observed a member of the public taking photographs of those present. The meeting was paused until the Chair had, in accordance with the Council's published "Protocol for reporting at meetings", checked that all present were willing to be photographed. The meeting resumed.

6. **Discussion of matters relating to any Flooding events reported to the Council since the last meeting**.
   The Clerk to the meeting advised that a possible flooding issue had been reported in the Southampton Road/Old Cross Road area. It isn't clear whether this relates purely to a recent burst clean water pipe. The issue will be logged for monitoring *(added as Action 12 on the "Ongoing Work Programme).*

At this point a member of the public started to speak and was asked by the Chair not to. The meeting resumed.

7. Verbal update on engagement with the Brockenhurst and New Forest Flood Action Group ("BANFFAG")

The Clerk to the meeting advised that the "letter of support" referred to under Item 6 at the Flooding Advisory Committee meeting on April 28th 2026 had been approved by Council on July 14th 2026 and sent to the Chair of BANFFAG. A copy will be added to the Flooding page on the Council's website.

Cllr. Graham Chillcott will continue to liaise with BANFFAG on how Natural Flood Management measure might help with flooding from the Cadnam River and Bartley Water. He will also continue to engage the New Forest Association of Local Councils and the NFNPA North East Quadrant to engage them with this work,

8. To receive and approve updates on the ongoing work programme for the Flooding Advisory Committee.

The report for this item (pages 6-11 of this document) was presented and approved by members.

9. Review of Flooding Advisory Committee requested works programme for the Lengthsman.

Reviewed, no comments made.

10. Discussion of other matters relating to the Aims & Responsibilities of the Flooding Advisory Committee.

The Clerk apologised that he had omitted to add an article to the March 2026 Parish Council newsletter about the updated Parish Flood Plan, as detailed in the note for Item 6 of the January 20th 2026 FAC meeting. This article would have included a reminder about the option to be added to a mailing list specifically to receive future updates on flooding matters in the Parish. This omission will be corrected in the September 2026 newsletter and repeated annually when the Parish Flood Plan is reviewed/updated.

Cllr. Graham Caton – as a relatively new member of the FAC - felt that as well as being reactive to flooding issues it should be pro-active in working with other bodies like the Environment Agency; Southern Water, etc to support residents. He also suggested that it should seek to engage at a early stage with the developers of any future new housing in the Parish.

11. Agree date for next meeting.

Provisionally set for Tuesday October 20th 2026, 7pm – Copythorne Parish Hall (Small Room)

Meeting closed at 7.31pm

Copythorne Parish Council – Flooding Advisory Committee Meeting – Oct 20th 2026

Item 7 – To receive & approve updates on the ongoing work programme for the Flooding Advisory Committee.

Action Number	Description	Task Owner	Start Date	End Date	Current Action	Notes
1	Prepare new Parish Flood Plan for 2027	Cllr. Wiggins & Clerk	Q4 2026		Reviewed 20/1/26 and website version of Plan updated.	Next update due January 2027
2	Preparation of Schedule of Works on Flood Mitigation by Lengthsman for 2027.	Clerk	Q2 2026		*Works listed in the report for Agenda Item 8 will be instructed in Q3 2026*	Lengthsman can be tasked to undertake other works within the HCC Lengthsman Scheme remit.
3	Monitor works being undertaken by Authorities in Inspecting Main Rivers and Critical Watercourses	Clerk	July 2023	N/A	Clerk to continue to contact Environment Agency (EA) & National Highways (NH) to obtain details of their inspection regimes and report to Council	NH route inspectors check their drainage assets on a weekly basis. 9/25 – NH confirm an issue at Newbridge culvert resolved and inspections continue. 10/25 – KIV Verge degradation in Newbridge Road area identified by NH
4	Continue to work with HCC Highways regarding 2021 flooding issues in The Parade, Southampton Road area	Cllr. Chillcott to lead	Sep '21	N/A	Requests made of HCC Highways to deal with issues reported in respect of certain Highways assets.	Items listed on Clerks database. No issues at this location for some time. (k.i.v – The issue of connection of roadside drain to field ditch on other side of road still not resolved by HCC)
5	Respond to new Flooding issues in Parish as they arise.	All	Ongoing	N/A	Watching brief	
6	Specific Drainage Issues	All	Ongoing	Tba	Clerk to continue to monitor live events and report to Flooding Advisory Committee.	

7	Winter 2023/24 Property Flooding Known/Reported to Parish Council	All members	Feb 2024		Ongoing - Appendix of locations known to be affected attached.	See Appendix A attached below (1 issue remains)
8	Autumn 2024 Property Flooding Known/Reported to Parish Council	All members	Sep 2024	July 2026	Issues either resolved or included in a later item on this list.	10/26 – This Action can now be removed.
9	Winter 2024/25 Property Flooding Known/Reported to Parish Council	All members	Jan 2025		Ongoing work – List of locations known to be affected attached as an appendix	See Appendix B attached below (3 issues remain)
10	Winter 2025/26 Property Flooding Known/Reported to Parish Council	All members	Jan 2026		Ongoing work – List of locations known to be affected attached as an appendix	See Appendix C attached below (2 issues remain)
11.	Broken Culvert pipes (Green Ln off Beechwood Road)	Clerk	Apr 2026		Issue reported to Forestry England as needing repair	
12.	Southampton Road/Old Cross Road area	All members	Jul 2026		Possible flooding issue (might only be related to a recent burst supply pipe)	Watching brief
13.	Issue with a private foul drainage system at a property in Chinham Road being overwhelmed at times of heavy rainfall before surface water flooding occurs.	All members	Oct 2026		Resident to be asked to provide details should issue re-occur.	Watching brief

Last Updated – Clerk – October 20th 2026

Appendix A for Action 7 to Item 7 - Property Flooding Known/Reported to Parish Council – Winter 2023/24 (Remaining items)

Location	Issue	Actions/Possible Solution	Note
2 houses Old Romsey Road	Fluvial Flooding	Speak to EA	Drains and river issues discussed with EA on June 27th 2024. 3/25 Discussions commenced with EA re use of Natural Flood Risk Management ("NFM") for Cadnam River. 7/26– Discussions re NFM to be supported by Brockenhurst and New Forest Flood Action Group.

Last Updated – Clerk – October 7th 2026

Appendix B for Action 9 to Item 7 - Property Flooding Known/Reported to Parish Council – Winter 2024/25 (Remaining Items)

Location	Issue	Actions/Possible Solution	Note
1 house Romsey Road	Surface water/highways drains	Problem with drains resulting in regular property flooding – HCC Highway investigation ongoing. Resident remains in direct contact with HCC.	10/26 – Issue specific to one resident who continues to chase HCC Highways.
Bridge/Culvert under Shepherds Road (near junction with Chinham Road)	Width of culvert pipes restrict flow of water which leads to water overflowing into Shepherds Road and Chinham Road	Bridge/culvert is the responsibility of HCC Highways. Clerk to discuss with EA and HCC the possible impact of a fully open gap under the bridge.	10/26 – Discussions re possible upstream Natural Flood Management continue.
Pollards Moor Road (at pumping station end)	Following rainfall footpath often remain flooded which impacts on pedestrians.	Contact HCC once again to discuss background to this issue and possible options for resolution.	Water from land (in private ownership) beyond footpath may well be at least part of the issue. 3/25 – HCC Highways chasing landowners. Further update promised by HCC. 2/26 -HCC Highways continue to be chased. 10/26 – Clerk continues to chase HCC Highways re 3rd party maintenance.

Last Updated – Clerk – October 7th 2026

Appendix C for Action 10 to Item 7 - Property Flooding Known/Reported to Parish Council – Winter 2025/26

Location	Issue	Actions/Possible Solution	Note
Bottom of New Inn Road (western side)	Drains overflow ("manhole" cover lifts) after heavy rain.	Issue was reported to HCC Highways on Dec 5th 2025	14/6/26 - HCC Investigations undertaken. Update sought on outcome.
Riverside Close (Eastern end)	Outbuilding and gardens of two properties flooded (Dec 18). Not raised with Clerk until Jan 6th 2026	Issue reported by both EA and HCC Highways on 13/1/26 once further info obtained from affected resident.	16/3/26 - From EA:- Consideration to be given for inclusion of these two properties in any future round of PFR work. 10/26 – Discussions with HCC/EA and Southern Water continue.

Last Updated – Clerk – October 7th 2026

Copythorne Parish Council – Flooding Advisory Committee Meeting – July 21st 2026

Item 8 – Review of Flooding Advisory Committee requested works programme for the Lengthsman for 2026/27

Task Ref:	Action	Start Date	1st Milestone	2nd Milestone	Planned Finish	Actual Finish	Comments
1	Cut back vegetation around the white railings as required. Consider any repainting required (17 sets in 11 locations).	Q3 2026	Work started Aug 2026		End Oct 2026		Part of rolling programme of maintenance.
2	Lengthsman to walk all the Main Watercourses and ditches along roads liable to surface water flooding in the Parish and clear or report to Clerk any obstructions found	Q3 2026	Work started Aug 2026		End Oct 2026		Checks in previous years for example have included Pound Lane, Barrow Hill Road, Shepherds Road, Brockishill Rd, Beechwood Rd and Bartley Green.
3	Kewlake Lane - Lengthsman to ensure that pipes from “pond” to ditch on opposite side of road and from roadside ditch to field are clear, To include check of ditches in Cadnam Lane and Old Romsey Road in future	Q3 2026	Checked Aug 2026		End Oct 2026	Aug 2026	(Note:- Clerk now checking minimum once a month when undertaking other parish tasks).

Last Updated – Clerk – October 7th 2026