COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – TUESDAY OCTOBER 13TH 2026

Item 10 – To receive & note a report on the 2026 Parish Public Rights of Way Inspections

Path 1 (Bridleway 057/1) – Heads west from just north of Goldenhayes, off Bartley Road to the New Forest Boundary, east of Nicholas Corner on Brockishill Road
(637m long - SU3107 1185 to SU3046 1179)
Path dry. Well used by walkers and horse riders. Short "off path" diversion to avoid occasionally muddy patch towards western end visible but not muddy. No reportable issues.
(David Rigby, Clerk - 29/7/26)

Path 2 (Footpath 057/2) – Runs diagonally in a north-east direction from Wingfield Farmhouse to Roselands, at the south-eastern corner of Southampton Rd, Cadnam
(128m long - SU2937 1359 to SU2947 1365)
Passable with some difficulty due to overgrowth. There is no sign the Roselands (Eastern) end. There is some wire fencing on the ground around halfway along obstructing part of the path.
(Cllr. Graham Caton – 03/08/26)
CLERK'S NOTE:- Issues raised to be reported to HCC Countryside Access Team.

Path 3 (Footpath 057/3) – Runs west to east between Pound Lane and Barrow Hill Road
(637m – SU3110 1462 to SU3172 1472)

Weather on the day:	Dry
Signage:	Footpath signs visible at both ends of path
Condition:	The path is walkable with care. There are signs that the path and associated ditch have been cleared since last inspected. The Pound Land end is partially obstructed by nettles. Please see Figure 4 below.
Work recommended:	Arrange for the path to be cleared and then re-inspect annually.

(Cllr. Graham Chillcott – 27/8/26)
CLERKS NOTE:- Vegetation has since been cleared from path by the Lengthsman.

Path 4 (Footpath 057/4) - Runs east from near South Brook Farm on Newbridge Road then south east through Newbridge Inclosure towards Coppithorn Hill House and on to the A31 opposite the School.
(1178m - SU2985 1504 to SU3081 1487)

Weather on day:	Dry.
Signage:	Footpath Finger signs visible both ends of path. The footpath sign near Copythorne Hill House as reported last year still says "**Permitted Path**". Also, unless you know where to look, (if following the path from the M27 end), shortly after climbing over the stile onto the track towards Copythorne Hill House, it's very easy to miss where the path goes down towards the Newbridge Inclosure, it actually turns left then right. Notice asking for details of who owns the land found on a tree near Newbridge Road end.
Condition:	Generally good, but passable with care between Copythorne Hill House and where it crosses the track just before Newbridge Inclosure.
Work recommended:	Investigate why it says "Permitted" rather than "Public" on sign near Copythorne Hill House. Check out the who owns land notice found on a tree at Newbridge end of path.

(Cllr. Graham Chillcott – 27/8/26)
CLERKS NOTE:- Signage concerns to again be reported to HCC Countryside Access Team.

Path 5 (Footpath 057/5) - Runs from gate to left of Scout Hut entrance on Romsey Road, behind rear of St Mary's Church to Vicarage Lane junction with Pollards Moor Road
(651m – SU3078 1476 to SU3050 1430)
Path behind the church down to Vicarage Lane has had some recent clearance and is very passable. The kissing gates are in good order. Post and finger board in Pollards Moor Road is leaning inward towards the ditch as usual.
(Cllr. Sylvia Wiggins – 24/8/26)
CLERK'S NOTE: Vegetation was recently cut back by Lengthsman

Path 6 (Footpath 057/6) - Path starts at southwest corner of the Scout Hall field marked by a Right of Way post and ends just north of Brooksbank on Pound Lane
(305m – SU3079 1470 to SU3107 1476)
Pound Lane stile is sound and in good order. Notices very clear to read. Cattle within the field. The Stile behind Copythorne school in the scout field is sound and notices plain to see for walkers.
(Cllr. Sylvia Wiggins – 24/8/26

Path 7 (Footpath 057/7) – Runs south-easterly from Kluang, Chinham Road, Bartley towards Bourne Road, (continues beyond parish boundary into Parish of Netley Marsh)
(261m - SU3119 1283 to SU3143 1273).
Sign obscured at the Chinham Road end. It is not overly clear where the footpath goes to go into second field, although when you get the the gate between the first and second field there is signage on it pertaining to keeping dogs on leads etc. Footpath is obstructed by electric fencing once you enter second paddock so at present not passable beyond that point.
(Cllr. Graham Caton – 03/08/26)
(CLERK'S NOTE: Issues reported to be raised with HCC Countryside Access Team.

Path 8 (Footpath 057/8) - Runs South from just west of Coach & Horses PH on Southampton Road to join Path 18
(128m - SU3000 1340 to SU2996 1327)
Nothing to report, all good
(Cllr. Graham Caton – 03/08/26)

Path 9 (Footpath 057/9) - Runs north from Romsey Road (adjacent to Uncle Tom's Cabin) to Cadnam Common, Cadnam Lane.
(1051m SU29468 14297 to SU29839 13962)
This path links Romsey Road with Cadnam Lane. It goes between 2 properties, through fields, under the M27 Motorway and over the Cadnam River.

The footpath sign on the Romsey Road is missing. A new sign has been put up saying 'PRIVATE PROPERTY – all implied rights of access to this lane and properties within have been removed'. From Romsey Road, an unmade road takes you to a small gate leading into a narrow path between 2 properties (footpath sign missing).

The footpath then crosses a small field, and through another gate leading to a path that runs beside the motorway. This path is in good condition. This path eventually turns right, goes down some steps into an underpass, and under the motorway. After the underpass, the path turns a sharp right and follows the fence on the right. This part of the footpath is unrecognizable as a footpath and is extremely overgrown and unpassable with ferns, brambles and nettles.

The path follows the Cadnam river for a short distance. A bridge over the river leads to 3 separate fields where signage asks people to keep to the left edge of the field. Cows were in one of these fields. The footpath ends with a gate leading onto Cadnam Common.

Suggested Actions:

- Cut back the vegetation on the footpath between the underpass and cadnam river.
- Replace the 2 footpath signs
- Review the new 'Private Property' sign on Southampton Road

(Cllr. Jackie Rhodes – 31/7/26)
CLERKS NOTE:- Issues reported to HCC Countryside Access Team to follow up, along with report regarding sign suggesting limited access at Romsey Road end.

Path 10 (Footpath 057/10) – Southern end start is at junction of A36 with Shelley Lane, then runs north to Parish Boundary just beyond Hammonds Farm.
(1378m – SU3203 1755 to SU3190 1882
This path begins at the junction of the A36 with Shelley lane, with an aged, but clearly visible fingerpost.

The first section is a tarmac road, leading past businesses and homes, and so is even, well-maintained and very accessible. The path then leads onto gravel and is well signposted so immediately obvious which is the correct route.

The gravel track turns downhill towards Hammonds Farm and at the point of the cattlegrid takes a left into the woodland. This very overgrown at the entrance making it difficult to see the direction the footpath takes but is passable.

As the path descends downhill at the back of the properties there, it is navigable with good footwear and careful footing, more wood has been placed to stabilise the track in the wet. This leads you to the well-maintained bridge and wooden gate signalling the end of the footpath at the northern parish boundary.

(Cllr. Ria Parry-Norton – 23/8/26)

Path 11 (Footpath 057/11) – Eastern end of path is on Southern side of A36 about 100m west of Shelley Lane, then runs broadly south west crossing Half Moon Common ending on Blackhill Road near Swallowfield Cottage (3085m – SU3190 1759 to SU2906 1687)
This path begins at the junction of the A36 with Bricky lake lane, but the fingerpost remains well worn, making it not immediately obvious that there is a footpath right of way down this private, largely tarmac road, with patches of excessive wear and subsequent loose gravel and pot holes.

Being a private road to homes and businesses including Home Farm Barns there is no available space for parking, and no dedicated pedestrian access from a nearby layby further up on the A36, meaning that getting onto the footpath from the 50mph A36 needs to be carefully and sensibly negotiated with passing cars.

The tarmac eventually leads to a gravel track and robust, locked metal gate with access to the right for pedestrians, which is a little overgrown but navigable.

The route from here is well used and maintained on gravel tracks through National Trust land known as ‘Foxbury’ with good signage. A stile in the middle section looks well used, slightly overgrown but is sturdy and passable.

At the end of the Foxbury section, you are met with well-maintained & locked, metal vehicle access gates and an open metal kissing gate to the side. Again, this is not well signposted so it’s not obvious this is a designated footpath, which then leads onto the open forest.

The open forest section is well used by walkers, equestrians and free-roaming livestock alike, so any route can be easily taken across half-moon common. The designated path being unclear and not signposted would require some local knowledge, or map use to bring you out in the correct spot on Blackhill Road, at Furzley Cottage where this footpath ends.

For many years the end of this footpath had a narrow wooden bridge made of old sleepers at the fingerpost, covering the culvert, but this is no longer present and has been removed since the last footpath inspection. The removal of this bridge would likely render crossing here impassable in wetter conditions.

There is limited parking here, meaning several cars are parked on grass and gravel verges, but a lovely footpath and real asset to the parish.
(Cllr. Ria Parry-Norton – 23/8/26)
CLERK’S NOTE:- Issues with footpath markers and bridge removal to be reported to HCC Countryside Access Team.

Path 12 (Footpath 057/12) - Starts on north side of Romsey Road heading north west to then run west parallel with M27 until it reaches Newbridge Road (just before motorway bridge)
(178m – SU3047 1455 to SU3031 1454
The stile; post; and finger board is shrouded completely with brambles : nettles: grasses . Also the field has been partially fenced into grazing plots for horses so one couldn't use the stile in Romsey Road either
(Cllr. Sylvia Wiggins 24/08/26)
CLERK'S NOTE:- Issues raised to be reported to HCC Countryside Access Team.

Path 13 (Footpath 057/13) - Runs south-easterly from Petrol station on Southampton Road, Cadnam towards Old Lyndhurst Road
(102m - SU2975 1385 to SU2983 1379)

This footpath is a mix of tarmac and concrete and runs past the premises of both M&J Mobility and Budgens. By M&J Mobility is a protruding drain in the middle of the path as well as some uneven concrete. This area is a potential tripping hazard.

There is also uneven pavement adjacent to Budgens caused by roots. The footpath sign on Old Lyndhurst Road is missing
Suggested Actions:

- Mark up the drain and uneven concrete pavement warning of tripping hazards
- Replace footpath sign on Old Lyndhurst Road.

(Cllr. Jackie Rhodes – 31/07/26)
CLERK'S NOTE – Pavement issue to be reported to HCC Highways, sign issue to HCC Countryside Access Team.

Path 14 (Footpath 057/14) – Runs from tight "elbow" bend on Barrow Hill Road to Whitemoor Lane where it ends near entrance to Stonyford.
(299m – SU3187 1526 to SU3214 1540)

Weather:	Overcast, warm and dry.
Signage:	Sign at Barrow Hill Road End is hidden by vegetation and the word footpath is not easily readable. Signpost at Whitemoor Lane End is ok.
Condition:	Generally good and well walked. Clear path.
Work recommended:	Remove vegetation around sign at BHR and possibly replace head with text on.

(Cllr. Sherri Johnstone – 23/08/26)

Path 15 (Footpath 057/15) – Runs from tight "elbow" bend on Barrow Hill Road to Whitemoor Lane where it ends near entrance to Green Pastures Farm
(401m – SU3187 1526 to SU3207 1561)

Weather:	Overcast, warm and dry.
Signage:	New bridge at Barrow Hill Road side and the sign is clear of vegetation and readable. On Whitemoor Lane side the sign is hidden in the vegetation and has a Bridleway Arrow badge on it.
Condition:	Not very well walked in parts. Its slightly blocked midway with overhanging vegetation and trailing brambles. The track widens out near the open common area but narrows again towards Whitemoor Lane.
Work recommended:	Cut back vegetation in narrow parts. Clear vegetation around sign needed at Whitemoor Lane side.

(Cllr. Sherri Johnstone – 23/08/26)
CLERK'S NOTE: Vegetation issues reported to HCC Countryside Access Team (woods privately owned)

Path 16 (Footpath 057/16) – Runs from tight "elbow" bend on Barrow Hill Road to Whitemoor Lane where it ends slightly north of Whitemoor Pines.
(594m – SU3187 1526 to SU3218 1531)

Weather: Sunny, warm and dry.
Signage: Footpath sign visible at Barrow Hill Road and missing Whitemoor Lane End. New bridge at Whitemoor Lane entrance.
Condition: Original path not well walked in mid-section with there being a diverting path due to a tree blocking the original path.
Work recommended: Signpost to be reinstalled at Whitemoor Lane end. Fallen and traversing trees to be removed.
(Cllr. Sherri Johnstone – 23/08/26)
CLERK'S NOTE: Vegetation issues reported to HCC Countryside Access Team (woods privately owned)

Path 17 (Footpath 057/17) Runs from the end of Newbridge Road (just east of Newbridge Farm) initially east towards Copythorne Common and then southwest (parallel to the M27) before joining Path 4 to cross the A31 (1963m - SU3001 1558 to SU3076 1492).

Weather on the day: Dry
Signage: Footpath signs visible at both ends of path.
Condition: Condition: Partly overgrown with Gorse and Rhododendron bushes, from just after Lyndhurst Lodge (if following the path from the M27 end) until the path widens into a track shortly before emerging by Newbridge Farm, but passable with care. Path splits (if following path from M27 end) about 100 yards short of the Paultons Park field fence. Lefthand path continues, righthand path becomes overgrown and impassable when reaching Paultons Park fence. Otherwise generally good.
Work recommended: Pruning back gorse bushes and rhododendrons.
(Cllr. Graham Chillcott – 27/08/26)
CLERKS NOTE:- Issues raised reported to HCC Countryside Access Team.

Path 18 – Bridleway 057/18 Runs in a north-westerly direction from near Brookfield, Beechwood Road, Bartley to just behind Foundry House on Southampton Road, Cadnam
(989m - SU3046 1287 to SU2968 1346)
Only thing of note to report is that the sign is a little tatty at the Beechwood Rd end, otherwise footpath is good.
(Cllr. Graham Caton – 03/08/26)

Path 501 (Footpath 057/501) - Runs east from Furzley Road (near Crook Hill) and ends at a footbridge which crosses the Cadnam River behind Newbridge House, where it joins Bridleway 502.
(450m - SU2936 1543 to SU2979 1555)
At the end of bridleway 502 you come to footpath 501. A footbridge is the only way to access this path to Cadnam Common. From here the path goes through a wooded area following the field fence on the right, bears to the right at the end of the field, and joins a gravel track.

At the gravel track, the footpath bears left and follows the gravel track to Crock Hill on Furzley Road. There are no footpath signs making the footpath difficult to follow unless you know the area.

Suggested Actions:

- Footpath sign needed on Furzley Road
- More signage required at the point the footpath joins the gravel track

(Cllr. Jackie Rhodes – 31/07/26)
CLERK'S NOTE: Both signage issues to be reported to HCC Countryside Access Team.

Path 502 (Bridleway 057/502) Runs from the footbridge at the eastern end of Path 501 along the northern boundaries of Newbridge House and Cranmere Cottage and joins Newbridge Road.
(125m - SU2979 1555 to SU2991 1551)
This Bridleway has been very nicely tidied up and maintained by the owners of the land. There is a new good quality wooden gate and fencing. The bridlepath sign is missing but there is a new footpath sign on the gate post. The path is not passable for a horse as the bridge is too narrow leading to footpath 501 and the route across the stream is unstable, unsafe and unaccessable due to overgrown vegetation.

Suggested actions:

- This is a bridle path but currently the exit for the path is not accessible for a horse due to overgrown vegetation and the riverbank being unstable and too steep. Either access needs reviewing or the bridlepath needs changing to a footpath.
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(Cllr. Jackie Rhodes – 31/07/26)
CLERK'S NOTE:- Issues have previously been reported to HCC Countryside Access Team for investigation. I will do so again. It is very unlikely that the footbridge would be replaced so I will raise the issue of "downgrading" this PRoW to a footpath.

Path 503 (Restricted Byway – 057/503) Runs from the northern side of the A36 (Salisbury Road) opposite the junction with Blackhill Road in a north west direction to exit onto Whinwhistle Road
(208m – SU 3043 1833 to SU3061 1842
This restricted byway is a short gravel track which cuts off the corner of Whinwhistle road and leads from parish boundary to close to the junction with Blackhill Road on the A36.

It is a well-maintained, accessible and clearly well used gravel footpath which is well signposted from the top end and leads out onto a very busy road. At this end, onto the A36, the bridge rails on the left have fallen down and there is no visible signposting at this end.

In summary this is a very handy and pleasant footpath to enable local residents relatively easy access to the open forest.

(Cllr. Ria Parry-Norton - 23/08/26)
CLERK'S NOTE:- Issue with broken footbridge rails has been reported to HCC Countryside Access Team.

Path 504a (Restricted Byway – 057/504a) Runs from the eastern end of Storms Farm Road to the junction of Cadnam Common Road & Cadnam Lane.
(695m – SU2892 1490 to 2956 1516)

The path is not easily seen in places but there are no issues to its use. No stiles, footbridges or gates.
(David Rigby, Clerk – 29/07/26)

Path 504b (Restricted Byway – 057/504b) Runs as a spur roughly 270 metres from the start of the above path and heads in an easterly direction ending on Cadnam Lane approx. 150m south of its junction with Cadnam Common Lane
(430m – SU2916 1499 to SU2957 1501)
The exact point of the split from Path 504a above is not that clear although tracks made by horse riders exist to aid wayfinding. No stiles, footbridges or gates.
(David Rigby, Clerk – 29/07/26)

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