

COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – OCTOBER 13TH 2026

Item 16 – To receive and note a report on initial planning for the May 2027 Parish Council Elections

The quadrennial (every four years) election of councillors to Copythorne Parish Council will take place on Thursday May 6th 2026. They will be held alongside the elections of councillors to New Forest District Council. All existing councillors (parish or district) need to register as candidates if they want to continue as a councillor.

We await to hear whether any other elections related to the Local Government Re-Organisation plans or the election of a Mayor for the Hampshire and the Solent Combined Authority will also be held at the same time. The latter election is currently scheduled to take place on May 4th 2028

As was the case when elections to Copythorne Parish Council last took place in 2023, the Parish Council will support New Forest District Council in publicising the May 2027 Parish and District Council elections. Such publicity will fall into two categories:-

1. Publicising the elections and the practical arrangements for holding them and also how the public can vote and what ID is required to do so.
2. Publicising the role of a Parish Councillor and signposting interested parties on how to put themselves forward as candidates to represent local residents on Copythorne Parish Council.

By way of background Copythorne Parish is divided into two wards. These are called “Copythorne North” (broadly Bartley and Cadnam) and “Copythorne South” (broadly Winsor, Copythorne, Newbridge and Ower).

Copythorne North has around 1000 registered electors and is represented by three councillors. Copythorne South has around 1250 registered electors and is represented by four councillors.

If, in each separate ward, there are fewer candidates than available “seats” then those candidates who stand are automatically elected unopposed.

If there are more candidates than available “seats” then an election is held.

Co-Options are sought for any remaining seats.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

The following activities will take place in January:-

1. A web page dedicated to the Elections will be added to the Parish Council’s website.
2. Once the webpage has been created the date of the Election will be included in a post on the Parish Council’s Facebook page with a link to the webpage.
3. An A5 leaflet will be posted on the Council side of the noticeboards (copy attached) to begin to raise awareness about seeking election to become a parish councillor.

4. An article will be prepared for inclusion in the February Parish Council newsletter and Stanley's Own magazine highlighting the points above and how to obtain further information

In February, specific information explaining in summary the role of a councillor and who is eligible to stand will appear on Facebook; in the Parish Council newsletter and Stanley's Own magazine.

Further publicity will follow in March.

David Rigby, Clerk to Copythorne Parish Council
October 2nd 2026