

WORTH PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER – Summer 2020

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I last wrote to you all via this newsletter in May – who would have known then that our lives would still be restricted by this dreadful virus in July.

However, I remain heartened by the way that the community has come together to help each other; that strength of community spirit has not lessened, despite many weeks having passed.

We Councillors have had to learn new skills, and are now experts in virtual meeting technology. See details of our meetings below. We expect to be meeting in this way for some months to come.

One issue that we are struggling with however, is the amount of litter being generated. Both our own and Mid Sussex District Council staff have found it very difficult to keep on top of emptying bins. And a lot of time is spent picking up the litter which does not make it to a bin.

So may I request that whilst you enjoy being out and about, please can you take your litter home with you and put it in your own bin. Thank you!

In the meantime, stay healthy and safe.

Elaine Anscomb, Chairman

CRAWLEY DOWN SUPPORT NETWORK

Since the lockdown began on 23rd March 2020 the volunteers of the Crawley Down Support Network have completed over 400 tasks for those in need within our community. These tasks have amounted to some £2,300 of essential supplies being delivered to those in isolation or shielding. Whilst the cost of these supplies was paid for by the recipient, the Crawley Down Residents Association (supported by a grant from the Parish Council) have covered all administrative and transaction costs.

Now lockdown is easing, our wonderful team of volunteers are returning to work. Alongside this, demand for support has been significantly reduced as people are able to leave their homes again. As a result, from now on the Crawley Down Support Network will only be operating on a Wednesday between 9am and 5pm. Furthermore, it will cease to operate on 1st August 2020.

From 1st August, support within Crawley Down can be accessed in the following ways.

Medication

The village pharmacy can deliver medication to those unable to collect or have someone collect for them. Please arrange this directly by calling 01342 716970.

Groceries

The Co-op have set up a community shopping scheme. You can call them on 0800 029 4592 and be matched with a volunteer who will be able to assist with essential shopping needs.

These services compliment other support available from local and national government. For details on other support available please visit

<https://www.midsussex.gov.uk/coronavirus-community-support/> or call the West Sussex Community Support Helpline on 033 022 27980.

WORTH PARISH COUNCIL

At the beginning of lock down, the Parish Council decided to suspend all Council meetings until further notice.

The Government wrote new legislation to allow Councils to meet virtually. Worth Parish Council took advantage of this and have been holding meetings via Zoom. Please see the Council's website for details of future meeting dates; members of the public are still welcome to attend- contact the Clerk for details of how to do so.

The Annual Council Meeting scheduled for 4th May was cancelled. This may be held later in

COUNCIL PLAY AREAS

Up until 4th July, all play areas were closed as per Government instruction. New guidance was issued for re-opening play areas, but these included elements with which the Council could not comply, such as moving play equipment to ensure social distancing, operating a timed booking system for access, and regular

the year; in the meantime the current Chairmen/Vice Chairmen of Council and Committees remain in post.

Office staff are mainly back in the office at the Parish Hub in Copthorne, but have a staggered working pattern to minimize contact. Both the groundsmen have continued to work through the lock down period, trying to keep both our villages neat and tidy.

The Parish Council Office itself remains closed to the public for the foreseeable future – please contact the Clerk should you have to meet in person with a member of staff.

sanitization of all surfaces. This led to concerns over validity of insurance.

It is hoped that by the time this newsletter is distributed common sense will have prevailed, and that the Council feels able to safely re-open its play areas to the public whilst still acting in accordance with Government advice.

COMPLETION OF ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2019/2020

The Annual Governance & Accountability Return for 2019/2020 has been submitted to the external auditors. Residents are entitled to

inspect the Council's accounts from 29th June to 7th August inclusive; please contact the Clerk should you wish to do so.

SNAKE ON THE GREEN

We know that many of the village children have enjoyed putting out their decorated rocks around the village green over the summer. However, this does cause us problems when cutting the grass, as the stones can damage our equipment, or get caught up and catapulted some distance, possibly causing injury to our groundsmen or to passersby.

Therefore the Council has decided that we will remove the stones at the beginning of September, when the children will hopefully be going back to school. If you have a treasured rock, please make sure you collect it before then.

Parish Councillor Contact Details

To assist compliance with data protection, any email contact regarding Council matters, should be made via the email addresses listed below:

Crawley Down Ward

Elaine Anscorb	Elaine.anscomb@worth-pc.gov.uk	01342 715213
Phillip Coote	Phillip.coote@worth-pc.gov.uk	01342 713443
Alex Cruickshank	Alex.cruickshank@worth-pc.gov.uk	01342 714328
Les Flanagan	Les.flanagan@worth-pc.gov.uk	07763 121124
Ian Gibson	Ian.gibson@worth-pc.gov.uk	01342 716790
John Hitchcock	John.hitchcock@worth-pc.gov.uk	01342 716831
Chris Mayor	Chris.mayor@worth-pc.gov.uk	07710 039277
Kerry Scott	Kerry.scott@worth-pc.gov.uk	01342 712213
Roger Webb	Roger.webb@worth-pc.gov.uk	01342 719029

Copthorne & Worth Ward

Graham Casella	Graham.casella@worth-pc.gov.uk	07710 019516
Tony Dorey	Tony.dorey@worth-pc.gov.uk	07802 359123
Andrew Dymond	Andrew.dymond@worth-pc.gov.uk	07834 486098
Trevor Hodsdon	Trevor.hodsdon@worth-pc.gov.uk	07771 810220
Bob King	Bob.king@worth-pc.gov.uk	07851 332918
Chris Larkin	Chris.larkin@worth-pc.gov.uk	01342 714350
Eddie Lord	Eddie.lord@worth-pc.gov.uk	01342 714905
Chris Phillips	Chris.phillips@worth-pc.gov.uk	01342 712668

*Mid Sussex District Councillor Contact Details***Crawley Down & Turners Hill Ward**

Phillip Coote	Phillip.coote@midsussex.gov.uk	01342 713443
Ian Gibson	Ian.gibson@midsussex.gov.uk	01342 716790
Roger Webb	Roger.webb@midsussex.gov.uk	01342 719029

Copthorne & Worth Ward

Chris Phillips	Christopher.phillips@midsussex.gov.uk	01342 712668
Vacancy		

*West Sussex County Councillor Contact Details***Imberdown Ward**

Heidi Brunsdon	Heidi.brunsdon@westsussex.gov.uk	01342 327200
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Worth Forest Ward

Bill Acraman	Bill.acraman@westsussex.gov.uk	01444 400079
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Parish Council Officers

Clerk	Jennifer Nagy	clerk@worth-pc.gov.uk
Finance Officer	Ellen Smith	rfo@worth-pc.gov.uk
Assistant Clerk	Tracy Cruickshank	astclerk@worth-pc.gov.uk

Parish Offices

The Council Offices are currently CLOSED to the public.

**Worth Parish Council, First Floor, The Parish Hub, Borers Arms Rd, Copthorne, West Sussex, RH10 3ZQ
Tel: 01342 713407 Website: worth-pc.gov.uk**

