

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 litter which does not make it to a bin. On Mondays at Copthorne Pavilion, Shane regularly picks up and disposes of 19 bags of rubbish!

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

COPTHORNE VILLAGE SUPPORT GROUP

St John's Church continues the Covid-19 support in the village. If you are self-isolating, are in one of the vulnerable categories, or just need some help and support, you can contact them on 01342 713407; more information can be found at copthornechurch.org.

Thanks to all the volunteers giving up their time to help others.

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

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

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.

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

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.

COPTHORNE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Neighbourhood Plan nears completion, and it is hoped that it will be going out for consultation soon. Please keep an eye on the Council's website, and the Copthorne Neighbourhood Plan Facebook page for further information.

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 Anscomb	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

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Mid Sussex District Councillor Contact Details

Crawley Down & Turners Hill Ward

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Copthorne & Worth Ward

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Vacancy		

West Sussex County Councillor Contact Details

Imberdown Ward

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Worth Forest Ward

Bill Acraman Bill.acraman@westsussex.gov.uk 01444 400079

Parish Council Officers

Clerk
Finance Officer
Assistant Clerk

Jennifer Nagy
Ellen Smith
Tracy Cruickshank

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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
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