

**Worth Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on**  
**21<sup>st</sup> March 2022 commencing at 7.30pm**

**Present:**

Cllr Dorey (Chairman)	Cllr Scott (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Casella	Cllr Dymond
Cllr Gibson	Cllr Hitchcock
Cllr Hodsdon	Cllr Mayor
Cllr King	Cllr Phillips
Cllr Pointer	Cllr Stewart
Cllr Webb	
Mrs J Nagy (Clerk)	No members of the public

**217 Public Question Time**

The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting. There were no members of the public present.

**218 Apologies**

Apologies were noted and accepted from Cllrs Cruickshank, Coote and Lord

**219 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of pecuniary or other interests.

**220 Minutes**

Cllr Gibson drew Councillors' attention to the email that he had circulated, suggesting amendments to the Minutes, in particular one remark attributed to him, which he denied making.

Councillors present stated that they recalled the remark being made; discussion took place.

**At this point, the Chairman suspended the meeting, due to allegations of bullying from Cllr Gibson. After discussion, Cllr Gibson left the meeting.**

**The meeting reconvened.**

It was AGREED by all present that Cllr Gibson's comments requesting the minutes to be amended were NOTED and that the Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 21st February 2022 were a true and correct record with no amendments.

**221 Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman advised Councillors of the resignation of Elaine Anscomb, due to her moving out of the area.

He said that it was his intention to hold the Chairman's dinner this year, on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May for Councillors, staff and partners; cost will be advised in due course.

Councillors were asked to note the date.

**222 Correspondence & Action List**

The correspondence and action lists were NOTED

**223 Committees**

The following Committee Minutes and actions therein were NOTED.

Planning & Highways Committee, 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022  
Date of next meeting: 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022

General Purposes & Finance Committee, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022  
Date of next meeting: 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022

## **224 County Councillors' Report**

Cllr Forbes has given his apologies. Cllr Gibson had left the meeting, so no report was given.

## **225 District Councillors Report**

Cllr Webb reported that the District Planning Committee had approved two sites in Burgess Hill.

## **226 Accounts & Financial Matters**

### Valuation of Council Buildings

The Clerk referred to her report, with her recommendation that the Council buildings are re-valued for insurance purposes.

Bray Estates has quoted of £1450 + VAT to value Copthorne Pavilion and the Council's garage block

Councillors AGREED this expenditure.

### Payment to All Saints for Churchyard Maintenance

A sum of £750 has been budgeted to assist with maintenance, but as the Churchyard is now closed this has not been paid, as MSDC is now legally responsible for ongoing work.

It was AGREED by all present that a grant of £375 would be given to All Saints Church to support the maintenance of the churchyard.

### Consideration of a donation to a UK based Charity supporting aid efforts in the Ukraine

The Clerk referred to the NALC guidance document she circulated which advised that Council's with GPC can donate to a UK based charity should they so wish.

The Clerk suggested that such a donation would be contrary to the Council's own grant policy, in that it would not be supporting local residents. Information from the Government and MSDC in relation to what people can do to assist has been shared on the Council's website and FB page.

It was AGREED by all present that whilst the Council had every sympathy for the plight of those in the Ukraine, it would not make a donation to charity. Instead, it would be open to future suggestions of non-financial support.

### Monetary Support for Jubilee Events

Cllrs Dorey and Scott as leaders of the two village Environment Working Parties would like to give monetary support to both organisers of the Jubilee Events; a sum of £2,500 each has been suggested, to come out of the EWP funds, in this financial year.

A quotation has been obtained for a Jubilee plaque to be erected at the Haven Centre at a cost of £378.00 + VAT and carriage at £17.50, this to come out of the Crawley Down £2500 allocation.

It was AGREED by all present to recommend to the next Full Council meeting that £2,500 be given to each village to facilitate the provision of Jubilee events in June, these sums to come out of each village Environment & Infrastructure Working Party budgets for

2021/2022. The Clerk/RFO will ensure that expenditure is tracked and accounted for, with any remaining monies remaining for Copthorne to be repaid to the Council. Crawley Down monies to be ringfenced and orders placed up to a value of £2,500. The order for the plaque will be placed, to be financed from the Crawley Down allocation. This decision to be ratified at the next Full Council meeting

## **227 Council Land & Buildings**

### Change in Premises Licence for Crawley Down Green

The CDRA is applying for a change in premises licence for the Green and village centre, including Council car parks, this to facilitate village community events.

Prior to lodging the application to change the licence, the CDRA is consulting the Council as primary landowner in the village.

The Clerk referred to her report, which contained a map of the proposals.

As landowners, it was AGREED by all present that the Council would have no objection to the proposed changes to areas in its ownership.

### Copthorne Green

The Land Registry has written to advise that the Diocese of Chichester is claiming the unregistered land south of the stream. This letter was dated 18th January, with a deadline of 8th February to respond. However, it was addressed to the old Council office address, so was only received on 7th March.

After consultation with Ian Davison, the Council's solicitor, the Clerk has written to the Diocese to advise that as this land does not fall within the area covered by the Licence, the Council will not take on the responsibility of maintaining it. She reminded the Diocese of its riparian responsibilities with regard to "its side" of the stream, and advised that should any issue occur, then the Council may have recourse to the Diocese to share the costs of any resolution

Councillors NOTED this information

## **228 Change in Meeting Schedule**

Due to the need to agree a formal response to the CGR consultation within the deadline of 15th April, it is proposed that a Full Council meeting, followed by P&H Committee will take place on 4th April, instead of the Annual Parish Meeting scheduled for that date.

It was AGREED by all present that the Annual Parish Meeting scheduled for 4<sup>th</sup> April would instead be a Full Council meeting, followed by a P&H Committee meeting. It was further AGREED that due to the ongoing issues of the Community Governance Review, an Annual Parish Meeting would not be held this year.

## **229 Community Governance Review**

Two consultation events have taken place, one in Crawley Down on 4th March, one in Copthorne on 16th March, with two scheduled in Crawley Down on 1st April, and in Copthorne on 13th April.

The CGR Working Party met on 17th March.

It makes following recommendations for consideration:

- That the two remaining scheduled meetings are cancelled
- That a Facebook poll should NOT be posted, as it was felt it might be confusing in that respondents to such a poll may think that they do not need to respond formally to the consultation
- That having listened to residents at the two public meetings, the Council opposes any division of Worth Parish and will draft its response to the consultation

accordingly

It was AGREED by all present, included Cllr Hitchcock as a CGR proposer that the two remaining public consultation meetings be cancelled; both parties will issue a Facebook post to this effect, noting the agreement of both parties to the cancellation. When posting, links to how to respond would be included, and residents will be encouraged to do so. The Clerk will draft wording to be approved by both parties prior to publication.

The Clerk was asked how residents could respond if they had lost their consultation packs, and therefore their unique reference numbers; she will query this with MSDC and include the information on the Facebook post.

It was AGREED by all present that a Facebook poll would NOT be created; it was agreed this may be confusing to residents.

The Chairman advised that the Council as a body had taken a neutral stance on the CGR but now had to agree what its response to the consultation would be

It was proposed by Cllr Dorey and seconded by Cllr Scott, that the Council was not in favour of the division of the parish into two separate Councils, and would word its consultation response accordingly. This motion was passed with a majority vote, with 10 in favour, 2 against, and 1 abstention.

At the CGR Working Party meeting, it was also agreed that Cllrs Dorey, Scott and Hodsdon would meet with the proposers to discuss potential costs of a division, and to try to find common grounds for the costs in order to present a better estimate of same.

Councillors NOTED this information.

### **230 Virtual/Hybrid Council Meetings**

It remains illegal to hold Council virtual or hybrid meetings after the temporary legislation allowing this during Covid expired.

NALC, SLCC and WSALC are urging Councils to consider writing to Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, calling on the Government to change the law to allow councils the flexibility to hold such meetings when they deem appropriate within agreed rules and procedures.

It was AGREED by all present that the Clerk to write such a letter.

### **231 Reporting of Anti-Social Behaviour**

There had been incidents at Copthorne Social Club relating to drug dealing, and it seems that cars have had their windows smashed outside McColls.

The Clerk was asked to ensure that the PSCOs knew about these incidents, and to put FB posts on local pages reminding residents of the need to report such matters to the police.

### **232 Policing**

The January figures were NOTED.

### **233 Website Data**

Information relating to visits to the Council website has been circulated; this will be supplied on a monthly basis no

Councillors NOTED this information.

## **234 Reports from representatives attending outside meetings.**

WSALC Police Briefing, 25<sup>th</sup> February, attended by Cllr Lord

Chief Constable Jo Shiner led the presentation which was about the Big Data project, whereby all the historical data stored by the police is analysed, seeking patterns and correlations, including how the actions at the time affected the outcomes.

Data is collected from other sources too, such as Brighton Hospital, Speedwatch, and other government agencies.

This has already assisted in targeting areas to patrol or monitor. It is hoped that some of the data will be available to parish councils in the future.

St Modwen's Queen's Canopy Tree Planting, 3<sup>rd</sup> March

Cllr Mayor reported that he had attended this ceremony

Village Action Plan Stakeholders' meeting, 10<sup>th</sup> March

Councillors and local stakeholders attended.

## **235 Date of the next meeting**

The date of the next meeting is 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

*Meeting closed at 8.40 pm.*

Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_