

Worth Parish Council

Minutes of the General Purposes & Finance Committee Meeting held on March 7th 2022 commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Scott (Chairman) Cllr Phillips
Cllr Casella Cllr Hitchcock
Cllr Coote Cllr Mayor
Cllr Cruickshank Cllr Webb
Cllr Dorey Cllr Pointer

Mrs T Cruickshank (Deputy Clerk)
Mrs E Smith (RFO) 2 members of the public

82 Public Question Time

The Chairman welcomed all the meeting. Cllr King attended as a member of the public.

83 Apologies

Apologies were noted and accepted from Cllr Gibson.

84 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary or other interests.

85 Minutes

It was AGREED by all present that the Minutes of the General Purposes & Finance Committee meeting held on 7th February 2022 were a true and correct record.

86 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman announced that the Pay award 2021/2022 had been officially confirmed.

The pay increase has been agreed at 1.75%. The increase will be backdated to April 2021 and will be in the March salary payments.

Councillors NOTED this information.

The Chairman advised that the foot path in Beech Holme needs attention, this will be passed to the Planning & Highways Committee for discussion under 'Highways Issues'.

87 Correspondence List

The Correspondence List was NOTED.

88 Accounts and Financial Matters

The Chairman referred to details of income and expenditure, bank balances and reserves, as circulated.

Total receipts for February 2022 of £899.76 excl. VAT
Total payments for February 2022 of £23,671.96 excl VAT
Bank Balances as at 28th February 2022 of £381,747.36 of which
Earmarked reserves of £141,552.36

The Chairman asked if there were any questions.

Cllr Hitchcock asked the Chairman if he could estimate what the final yearend figures would look like, the Chairman will update him with an month eleven forecast.

Cllr Phillips noted there was still an outstanding street light bill to be accounted for.

The current financial situation of the Council was NOTED

8 Council Premises and Land

Public space Protection Orders

The Chairman referred to the Clerks report.

MSDC has written to advise that consultation will shortly take place on a proposed PSPO on Crawley Down Green and Bowers Place.

A PSPO is used to deal with nuisance or problems in an area that cause harm to the quality of life of the local community and are enforced by the police. This proposal is backed by four years of data recording incidents in the area.

The PSPO will look to address damage to buildings/furniture, environmental damage, anti-social driving and use of drugs and abusive behaviour.

MSDC is asking the Council for its initial views prior to the matter being considered by the Scrutiny Committee. It should be noted that not all the locations identified for potential PSPOs will be progressed, dependent on the outcome of the consultation.

Cllr Webb said due to broken glass being found in the Crawley Down Play Area he thought this was a good idea.

I was AGREED by all to ask MSDC proceed with their considerations for the Crawley Down area.

90 Update on Community Governance Review

The Chairman gave a brief update.

The first public meeting at the Haven Centre, Crawley Down had taken place on Friday 4th March. There had been a good turn out with 46 in attendance.

Lots of information had been shared but more clarity was needed on the cost of the division.

The Turners Hill Parish Clerk had taken the meeting notes, and these were to be shared with the CGR working party members and the promoters.

The Chairman thanked the Tuners Hill Clerk for her comprehensive note taking.

A synopsis of the meeting notes will be prepared and shared on the WPC website and Facebook page to keep residents well informed of the proceedings.

Cllr Hitchcock advised the promoters were also putting together a set of meeting notes which will also be published.

A short discussion then took place regarding the budget and possible set up costs of the proposed new council.

The next public meeting will take place on Wednesday 16th March at The Parish Hub, Copthorne.

90 Matters for Consideration submitted by the Infrastructure and Environment Working Parties

Commissioning a traffic survey for Copthorne

Cllr Dorey explained that at the last Copthorne Working Party meeting, it was agreed to commission a series of traffic surveys around the village simultaneously (providing MSDC have the equipment) in order to ascertain where any problems may be. It is understood that each survey costs about £200 and at least 7 locations have been identified.

It was AGREED by all to authorise expenditure of £2000.

Flagpole on Copthorne Green

The existing flagpole on Copthorne Green is beyond repair. The Copthorne Working Party would like to purchase a replacement pole and flag at a cost of £600 ex VAT.

The two groundsmen are able to take down the old one and erect the new one.

Councillors AGREED the above expenditure.

91 Consideration of items for discussion by the Environment & Infrastructure Working Parties

Cllr Dorey wants to discuss the budget for Jubilee celebrations for both villages.

92 Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be on 11th April 2022.

Meeting closed at 07.45 pm.

Chairman: _____

Date: _____