

**Worth Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on**  
**25<sup>th</sup> April 2022 commencing at 7.30pm**

**Present:**

Cllr Dorey (Chairman)	Cllr Coote
Cllr Casella	Cllr Gibson
Cllr Dymond	Cllr Hodsdon
Cllr Hitchcock	Cllr Lord
Cllr King	Cllr Phillips
Cllr Mayor	Cllr Stewart
Cllr Pointer	Cllr Williams
Cllr Webb	4 members of the public
Mrs J Nagy (Clerk)	

**252 Public Question Time**

The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting. He advised that the meeting was being recorded. Members of the public present did not wish to speak

**253 Apologies**

Apologies were noted and accepted from Cllrs Cruickshank and Scott

**254 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of pecuniary or other interests.

**255 Minutes**

It was AGREED by all present that the Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022 were a true and correct record with no amendments.

**256 Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman had no announcements

**257 Correspondence & Action List**

The correspondence and action lists were NOTED

**258 Committees**

The following Committee Minutes and actions therein were NOTED.

Planning & Highways Committee, 21st March, 4th April 2022  
Date of next meeting, 25th April 2022

General Purposes & Finance Committee, 7th March 2022  
Date of next meeting, 16th May 2022

The following Committee meeting was NOTED; Minutes of this meeting have restricted circulation

HR Committee, 21st April 2022  
Date of next meeting, TBA

**259 Crawley Down Vacancy**

**At this point, the Chairman proposed the suspension of Standing Orders to allow members of the public to speak. This was seconded by Cllr Casella and AGREED by all present**

Three of the four applicants for the vacancy were present at the meeting. The Clerk had circulated information provided by all applicants prior to the meeting.

Councillors took the opportunity to question the applicants present about their backgrounds and interests.

As per the Co-Option Policy, all applicants were asked to leave the room.

### **Standing Orders were reinstated.**

When the applicants returned, a vote took place via ballot. As Liz Williams received 10 of the possible 14 votes, she was duly co-opted onto the Council.

Having signed her acceptance of office papers, Cllr Williams took her place at the Council table.

The remaining two applicants left the meeting.

## **260 County Councillors' Report**

Cllr Gibson, speaking as a County Councillor, reported that the Council is reviewing the Mid Sussex Growth Deal, a £16 million project which mainly centres around Burgess Hill.

The cabling infrastructure for improved connectivity stops at Ardingley.

He reported that he had tried to propose that Climate Change be given a priority weighting when considering spending proposals, but this had not been agreed.

WSCC is working in partnership with Surrey CC, MSDC, and Tandridge DC to try to resolve the issues at, and surrounding the Felbridge crossroads on the A264. The permission granted for 20 more homes off Crawley Down Rd will not improve traffic flow in this area.

Councillors NOTED the County Councillor's report

## **261 District Councillors Report**

Cllr Phillips, speaking as a District Councillor, reported that the cabling infrastructure referenced by Cllr Gibson was being installed by a private company. It is not clear whether the improvements will reach as far as Worth Parish.

Cllr Gibson, speaking as a District Councillor, reported that the Sustainable Economic Strategy is to be approved, which sets out 15 objectives, only one of which will be progressed through partnership working. This focuses mainly on the towns rather than the rural parishes.

The number of Cabinet members has been reduced by one.

Cllr Coote, speaking as a District Councillor, reported that MSDC is reviewing its five year plan. He has made the point that it is difficult to take on more housing when infrastructure such as sewerage disposal and water supply is lacking.

Cllr Phillips, speaking as a District Councillor, reported that the care home appeal on the site adjacent to Rowan off the Turners Hill Rd has been allowed, which will possibly open the floodgates for similar applications.

Councillors NOTED the District Councillors' report.

## **262 Accounts & Financial Matters**

The Clerk reminded Councillors that the Internal Audit was due take place on 5<sup>th</sup> May, and the Annual Return will be approved at the next Council meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> May.

Councillors NOTED this information

### **263 Council Land & Buildings**

#### Jazz on the Green

St John's Church has formally asked permission for this event to be held on Copthorne Green on 5<sup>th</sup> June, between 1pm and approx. 6pm.

It was AGREED by all present to give permission for this event to take place, with the Clerk given delegate powers to ensure that proper risk assessments and insurance were in place prior to the event.

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

Cllr Pointer reported that the police had been called to a gathering of Year 10/11 youths in her road on 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

Cllr Hodsdon said that the Council may wish to re-visit financing Community Wardens, as some parishes did in Horsham District.

Cllr Gibson said that such Wardens only had limited powers.

The Chairman said that this reinforced the need to have a Youth Support Worker, as there is very little for young people to do in either village. It was more about skills in dealing with young people rather than having powers.

It was noted that the PSCOs have increased their patrols around the Copthorne recreation ground and Social Club, due to reports of drug taking in the area.

### **265 Policing**

The February figures were NOTED.

### **266 Website Data**

The website data was NOTED.

It was suggested that more data would be useful; Councillors will advise the Clerk what they require.

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

#### MSALC meeting, 24th February, attended by Cllr Gibson

Cllr Gibson's report, circulated in the Meeting Pack, was NOTED.

#### CAGNE AGM, 16th March, attended by Cllr Gibson

Cllr Gibson's report, circulated in the Meeting Pack, was NOTED.

#### SLCC AGM, 6th April, attended by the Clerk and Deputy Clerk

The Clerk has been re-elected Sussex Branch Secretary. Topics discussed included the new Code of Conduct (to be considered at the WPC Annual Council Meeting on 9th May) and difficulties in recruiting suitable clerks/deputy clerks.

#### WSALC Clerks' Forum, 11th April, attended by the Clerk and Deputy Clerk

Emily King, WSCC Director of Communities briefed Clerks on the County's involvement in the Ukrainian refugee situation. John Lewry from Sussex Clubs for Young People gave a

presentation on support offered for youth work. Trevor Leggo reminded clerks of the benefits of having an Emergency/Resilience Plan. WPC's plan is nearing completion; requests for volunteers and availability of equipment is going out in the next newsletter.

Councillors NOTED this information

Copthorne Football Club, 12th April, attended by the Clerk, and Cllr Phillips in his capacity as Chair of the Copthorne Sports Association.

The Clerk is assisting and advising the Club in finding land suitable in the parish for a new football ground.

Cllr Gibson reported that he was supporting a new artificial football pitch in Crawley Down, as a District Councillor.

Cllr Williams said that she had experience in such provision and would be happy to offer ongoing advice. For example, it was important to provide a facility that could be used by more than one sport.

Councillors NOTED this information.

## **268 Personnel**

**At this point the Chairman announced that in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 s1 the press and public would be excluded during the next item due to the confidential nature of the matter to be discussed, as it related to staffing matters. Members of the public left the meeting.**

During the Confidential session, the Clerk referred to her report; a meeting of the HR Committee was held on 21st April 2022, via Zoom. Such a virtual meeting is not legal; however, it was known that recommendations would be made to this Full Council meeting for agreement.

The Clerk referred to her Confidential Report and the recommendations therein.

The recommendations relating to outstanding leave, lieu time and pensions were AGREED by all present.

Cllr Gibson proposed delaying advertising a new vacancy until after the outcome of the CGR was known; this was seconded by Cllr Hitchcock. A vote was taken; 2 were in favour, 11 were against, with one abstention.

It was therefore AGREED by a majority vote that the Clerk would proceed with advertising the vacancy.

**Councillors are asked to NOTE this information.**

**The Meeting returned to Open Session**

## **269 Date of the next meeting**

The date of the next meeting is 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022; this will be the Annual Council Meeting

*Meeting closed at 20.35 pm.*

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

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