

Worth Parish Council

Minutes of the General Purposes & Finance Committee Meeting held on April 11th 2022 commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Scott (Chairman) Cllr Phillips (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Casella Cllr Cruickshank
Cllr Gibson Cllr Mayor
Cllr Pointer
Mrs J Nagy (Clerk)
Mrs E Smith (RFO) No members of the public

93 Public Question Time

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

94 Apologies

Apologies were noted and accepted from Cllrs Coote, Dorey, Hitchcock and Webb.

95 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary or other interests.

96 Minutes

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

97 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman advised that repairs to the footpath in Beech Holme, an issue reported at the last meeting, is now on a WSCC forward planning schedule for action.

98 Correspondence List

The Correspondence List was NOTED.

99 Accounts and Financial Matters

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

Total receipts for March 2022 of £8008.88 excl. VAT
Total payments for March 2022 of £23,983.98 excl VAT
Bank Balances as at 31st March 2022 of £364,178.36 of which
Earmarked reserves of £146,552.36

It should be noted that the financial information in the meeting pack does not equate to final year end figures, as 2021/2022 has not been closed.

The Chairman also referred to the Income & Expenditure Analysis report, previously circulated; this showed a £130,000 underspend throughout the year.

The current financial situation of the Council was NOTED

Internal Audit and AGAR

Andy Beams from Mulberry & Co will be carrying out the end of year internal audit on 5th May. It is then hoped that the AGAR can be signed off at the Annual Council meeting on 9th May 2022

Councillors NOTED this information

Grant Application from Air Ambulance for £300

The Air Ambulance covers Kent, Surrey and Sussex, and are asking for £300 towards the running costs of the service.

It was AGREED by all present to give a £300 grant to the Air Ambulance.

100 Council Premises and Land

Allotments Sub Committee

The Sub Committee met on 5th April.

The new site at Heathy Wood was discussed, and it was agreed that to make optimal use of the space available the new plots should be split between larger plots of approximately 250 square meters and smaller plots of approximately 125 square meters.

There is c£27,000 s106 money from the Holly Farm development to provide enhancements to the site. It was thought that the provision of picnic tables and benches would be a useful enhancement to the site along with installation of water troughs.

Rental fees for the new plots are to be agreed by the Sub Committee at a later date.

The Clerk was asked to ascertain when the allotment site will be ready for handover, and report at the next meeting.

Crawley Down Allotments

The Clerk referred to her report. The Deputy Clerk has been in correspondence with residents in Old Station Close, who say that run off from the site is flooding their gardens.

Further to the recommendation from the Allotment Sub Committee, it was AGREED by all present that the Clerk will seek legal advice for wording which would absolve the Council from current and ongoing liability, as it has done nothing to exacerbate any local flooding.

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

There had been no items submitted; the Chairman was pleased to note progress was being made on the youth project.

MSDC is considering a request for additional bins at Crawley Down village centre. The Parish Council will have to pay for the bins, but there is an ongoing query about capacity to empty them.

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

Comments on Facebook relating to a possible table tennis table on Crawley Down Green had been passed to the Crawley Down Working Party for consideration.

103 Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be on 16th May 2022.

Meeting closed at 7.50pm.

Chairman: _____

Date: _____