

Worth Parish Council

Minutes of the General Purposes & Finance Committee Meeting held on June 13th 2022 commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Scott (Chairman) Cllr Phillips (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Coote Cllr Dorey
Cllr Gibson Cllr Hitchcock
Cllr Pointer Cllr Stewart
Cllr Webb
Mrs J Nagy (Clerk) No members of the public

13 Public Question Time

The Chairman welcomed all the meeting; there were no members of the public present

14 Apologies

Apologies were noted and accepted from Cllrs Casella, Cruickshank and Mayor

15 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this point of the meeting.

16 Minutes

It was AGREED by all present that the Minutes of the General Purposes & Finance Committee meeting held on 16th May 2022 were a true and correct record.

17 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman had no announcements

18 Correspondence List

The Correspondence List was NOTED.

It was agreed that the Clerk would arrange a meeting of the Gatwick Airport Working Party, as there appeared to be several current matters to be discussed.

19 Accounts and Financial Matters

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

Total receipts for April 2022 of £152,935.57 excl. VAT
Total payments for April 2022 of £33,192.43 excl VAT
Bank Balances as at 30th April 2022 of £480,602.30 of which
Earmarked reserves of £145,576.61

Total receipts for May 2022 of £11,925.94 excl. VAT
Total payments for May 2022 of £23,449.09 excl VAT
Bank Balances as at 31st May 2022 of £468,178.16 of which
Earmarked reserves of £153,356.44

A final Income & Expenditure by budget heading report for 2021/2022 was also circulated.

Cllr Gibson queried the Net income over expenditure figure on the Cost Centre Report. As the RFO was not present at the meeting, the Chairman will discuss this with her and will report back to this Committee.

Grant Application from West Sussex Mediation Service for £250

The purpose of this grant is to continue to support provision of free mediation services in the area.

It was AGREED by all present to award a grant of £250 to West Sussex Mediation Service

Sale of trailer

The Clerk referred to her report.

Having had further discussion with the Copthorne groundsman, she proposes that the sale of the trailer is deferred.

It was AGREED to defer the sale of the large trailer.

Jubilee Purchases

The Clerk reported that the RFO is finalising the invoices submitted by both village organisations for goods and services used during the Jubilee celebrations.

It was AGREED by all present that the Council would not ask to claim possession of capital items purchased, such as garden games, gazebos and megaphones; she would write to the organisers to note that these items now belonged to the Council, but they could be stored at the Haven Centre for general community use. They would be put on the Council's asset register however.

20 Council Premises and Land

Trees at Crawley Down Cricket Club

The Clerk has now made contact with the Cricket Club. They believe that the woodland is the responsibility of the Council.

As previously agreed, the Clerk will ask Ian Davison, the Council's solicitor to clarify the matter, due to ongoing H&S concerns relating to the management of the woodland area.

Councillors NOTED this information

Allotments

The Clerk reported that the Deputy Clerk has arranged for the Allotment Sub Committee to visit the site to see in person the issues with some plots, and also the state of Plot 20 which has just been cleared of rubbish by a contractor. This Committee delegated to the Allotment Sub Committee how best to manage this plot.

Councillors NOTED this information

21 Community Governance Review

Andy Beams from Mark Mulberry & Co has confirmed that he will be able to assist in drafting budgets for the two potential village councils, and an estimate of division costs.

He has requested initial information namely

- Budget for current financial year for Worth PC
- Projected split of current residents between the two proposed parishes in percentage terms along with projected tax bases of the two proposed parishes
- Any indication of a split of current staffing and/or proposals for how the two parishes would be staffed
- Any indication of a split of management responsibilities for any buildings, land or other assets with associated costs for how the two parishes would be staffed
- An indication of any new buildings which may be needed for either of the two parishes

The Clerk has forwarded this request to members of the CGR Working Party, of which Cllr Hitchcock, one of the proposers is a member, copying in Cllr Gibson for information.

Terry Stanley, MSDC Business Unit Leader Democratic Services Officer has provided indicative costs of elections in the parish in 2023, this being £8947 for both wards. Worth PC currently

has £8000 in ERM for Elections, based on the last data provided for 2019 elections. An increase in this provision should be considered when discussing the budget for 2023/2024

Councillors NOTED this information.

Cllr Gibson advised that the Chairman of the Council has the right to refuse to allow postal votes. Cllr Dorey, Chairman of the Council, present at the meeting, said that that he did not intend to do so.

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

Electricity Supply on both Greens

Revised costs have now been received for both greens - £7,120 for Crawley Down, £7,290 for Copthorne

The Clerk has put this on the agenda for Full Council on 27th June

Councillors are asked to NOTE this information

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

Cllr Gibson asked if the Crawley Down E & I Working Party was considering the request for a pedestrian crossing in Burleigh Way. The Clerk advised that she was still trying to arrange a meeting on site with WSCC Highways.

Cllr Scott, as leader of the Working Party, said that he would report this to the next meeting

24 Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be on 11th July 2022.

Meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Chairman: _____

Date: _____