

Worth Parish Council

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

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|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Present: | Cllr Scott (Chairman) | Cllr Phillips (Vice Chairman) |
| | Cllr Casella | Cllr Coote |
| | Cllr Dorey | Cllr Gibson |
| | Cllr Hitchcock | Cllr Mayor |
| | Cllr Stewart | Cllr Webb |
| | Mrs J Nagy (Clerk) | |
| | Mrs E Smith (RFO) | No members of the public |

25 Public Question Time

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

26 Apologies

Apologies were noted and accepted from Cllr Pointer

Cllr Cruickshank was noted as absent

27 Declarations of Interest

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

28 Minutes

It was AGREED by all present that the Minutes of the General Purposes & Finance Committee meeting held on 13th June 2022 were a true and correct record.

29 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman had no announcements

30 Correspondence List

The Correspondence List was NOTED.

31 Accounts and Financial Matters

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

Details of the current financial situation as at 30th June 2022 are included in this pack.

Total receipts for June 2022 of £4,346.28 excl. VAT

Total payments for June 2022 of £27,212.43 excl VAT

Bank Balances as at 30th June 2022 of £442,796.16 of which
Earmarked reserves of £146,944.00

Councillors NOTED this information.

Jubilee Expenditure

The allocations of £2,500 for each village was ringfenced in EMR. Whilst Crawley Down underspent by £64.85, The Copthorne organiser was very careful the allocation, but Copthorne overspent by £92.91, due to allocating half the cost of the roundels to this cost code, of which the organiser was unaware.

It was noted that both events had been very successful, thanks to the local organisers. The slight overall overspend was noted.

Councillors are asked to NOTE this information.

Electricity Supplies on the Village Greens

The costs of £7286 for Copthorne and £7119 for Crawley Down were agreed at the last Full Council meeting, but the decision to decide which cost code to use was delegated to this Committee.

It was AGREED by all present that the monies come out of the two Environmental codes – 4802 for Copthorne, which has a balance of £12,882 and 4803 for Crawley Down, which has a balance of £17,665.

Orders will be placed for the works.

Earmarked Reserves

The Chairman advised that no adjustments have been made to ERM this financial year, apart from expenditure going out; he will be meeting with the RFO to discuss.

CCTV

Cllrs Casella, Dorey and Webb, together with the Clerk, met with ChromaVision who provided the initial quote.

The following was clarified

- The system will be monitored by the police, so if a 999 call comes in, they can look at the footage in real time, and dispatch officers if necessary. The Clerk can ask them to look at footage after an incident, giving date and approximate time
- The Police will cover all GDPR issues; signage will reference Sussex Police
- All cameras are tamper/vandal proof, those in unlit areas will be infrared
- Those sited near houses can block out some areas, to ensure the privacy of householders
- The future siting of ANPR cameras is possible, but need to check with Sussex Police they can comply with GDPR, that they will monitor, and that they can act upon information
- The cost of fibre connections is high – nearly £10,000 per location. This has to go through BT - generic internet providers have to licence through BT so are not an option. The Clerk is to ask Sussex Police if they have any leverage in getting the costs down.

During discussion, it became apparent that the suggested locations needed re-visiting and re-prioritising.

It was agreed that the first phase would include three cameras in Crawley Down Village Centre, and three in Copthorne, covering the Prince Albert junction, Copthorne Recreation Ground and Copthorne Green.

ChromaVision is to recalculate the quotation based on the revised locations, and will check the fibre connections again. It is hoped to bring the initial cost down to around £100,000.

It was also agreed that the other locations needed reviewing. The current Working Party consists of Cllrs Casella, Dorey and Webb. The Clerk suggests if one more Crawley Down Councillor were to join this Working Party, that would be more equitable. It could then review the sites.

It was agreed that Cllr Coote will join this working party.

In the meantime, the Clerk is liaising direct with Sussex Police, and the Communications & IT Administrator is investigating possible funding. The Clerk will ask Sussex Police if they are aware of any funding opportunities.

Cllr Gibson suggested that the three cameras be installed in Copthorne but not Crawley Down, to see if they liked them.

The Chairman said that he would prefer to include both villages in phase one; it was generally agreed that it would be difficult to explain committing such expenditure in Copthorne and not Crawley Down at the present time

Cllr Gibson said that he would prefer the installation of SIDs with ANPR cameras at c£25,000 each.

It was AGREED by all present with the exception of Cllr Gibson, that the Clerk would get a quotation for the installation of three cameras in each village, with the supporting infrastructure, and would present this to Full Council on 25th July, with the recommendation to proceed.

The Clerk advised that the project may have to go to tender; this was noted.

32 Council Premises and Land

Land at Junction of Borers Arms Rd and Copthorne Bank

The Clerk referred to her report in relation to applying for adverse possession of the unregistered triangle of land at the junction of Borers Arms Rd and Copthorne Bank.

She has submitted the draft application form and evidence in the form of signed letters from current and existing councillors, and current and existing groundstaff to Ian Davison, the Council's solicitor for consideration.

The Clerk suggests that if successful, this land would be a possible site for a new war memorial.

Councillors NOTED this information.

33 Community Governance Review

The Clerk reported that the Council continues to publicise the consultation on its Facebook page. The Clerk has asked for more information to be put on the MSDC CGR page, as there is no advice as to what to do if a resident does not have an ID number.

The Clerk has become aware of a petition being circulated in Crawley Down, supposedly inviting signatories to support a separate Council for the village. The Council has published a Facebook post advising that any petition has no legal standing, and the only way to respond to the consultation is via MSDC.

At the last meeting it was suggested that the Chairman of the Council has the right to refuse to allow postal votes. Terry Stanley at MSDC has clarified that the Parish Council can decide whether or not it wishes us to issue poll cards, not postal votes. However, he would not recommend this decision, as the poll card are the main way that voters are informed of the election and its' timetable etc.

Councillors NOTED this information; it was further NOTED that the independent analysis of budgets and potential split costs is still awaited.

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

Cllr Scott, as Leader of the Crawley Down Infrastructure and Environment Working Party said that they had not met for some time, due to arranging the Jubilee event. He will be asking the Clerk to seek a quote legal advice on the proposals to manage the area in front of the Crawley Down shops, which will go to Full Council in July.

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

Cllr Dorey advised that the Vision document will be going to Full Council in July for formal adoption.

36 Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be on 5th September 2022.

Meeting closed at 8.05 pm.

Chairman: _____

Date: _____