

## **Worth Parish Council**

### **Minutes of the Amenities & Assets Committee Meeting held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at 7.30pm in the Glebe Centre, Crawley Down**

**Present:** Cllr Casella (Chairman) Cllr Wilson (Vice Chairman)  
Cllr Bingle Cllr Coote  
Cllr Cruickshank Cllr Dorey  
Cllr King Cllr Phillips  
Cllr Scott Cllr Williams

Mrs L Bannister (Chief Officer)

#### **33 Public Question Time**

No members of the public were present.

#### **34 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Stewart and Dymond.

#### **35 Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Phillips declared an interest in the item regarding item regarding the Copthorne Pavilion, as the Chairman of the Copthorne Sports and Community Association.

Cllr Scott declared an interest as a committee member of the Crawley Down Tennis Club.

#### **36 Minutes**

It was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2025.

#### **37 Chair's Announcements**

None.

#### **38 Allotments**

- a. It was RESOLVED to replace the condition on bonfires with the following:
  - Bonfires are only permitted between 1st October and 31st March.
  - Bonfires must not be lit during periods of high wind, drought, or official heatwave alerts.
  - Bonfires may only be lit after 2:00 pm and must be supervised at all times until fully extinguished.
  - Only dry, untreated plant material may be burned. No plastics, rubber, household waste, or treated wood.
  - Bonfires must not cause smoke nuisance to neighbouring plots or nearby properties, in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act 1990.
  - Tenants are encouraged to compost or recycle green waste wherever possible.
  - The Council reserves the right to prohibit bonfires temporarily during adverse weather or local restrictions.
  - Breach of these rules may result in formal warnings or termination of tenancy.

The Grounds teams are permitted to have a bonfire at any time and will have regard to the above conditions.

- b. The notes of the meeting with Miller Homes at Heathy Wood on 30<sup>th</sup> September were received.

#### **39 Youth**

The report was NOTED.

#### **40 Trees**

The results of the tree survey were NOTED. Remedial work has been instructed.

#### **41 Crawley Down Tennis Club**

It was AGREED to assist Crawley Down Tennis Club in liaising with Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC) to extend their lease, which expires on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026.

Cllr Scott reported that there has been no communication from MSDC despite several attempts by Cllr Scott to engage. A formal complaint has been raised but no response has been received. The Club is in need of new facilities and a clubhouse with running water and toilet facilities. There was a previous planning application for a clubhouse but this was refused and an appeal was dismissed. If a lease cannot be agreed, the Club will close. They currently have 40 members, and there is a demand for children's coaching. They do not have a pool of volunteers.

Cllr Phillips offered to raise this with the relevant officer at MSDC and ask for Cllr Scott to be contacted urgently before he is unavailable in January. Cllr Williams offered to progress this if needed in Cllr Scott's absence.

**42 Council and Community Assets**

It was NOTED that there are holes in some of the surfacing at Crawley Down Play Area that have occurred since the last inspection. These will be addressed through the project unless they become a safety issue.

**43 Council Premises and Land**

It was RESOLVED to:

- a. Set the fees for hire of commercial land for the 26-27 financial year at a daily rate of £80, cap hire at 10 days before requiring approval from the relevant Committee, delegate authority to the Chief Officer to approve bookings in consultation with the village Working Parties, and to retain a deposit of £250 per booking.
- b. Approve the request from Peter Pan Playgroup to make changes to the land held on licence.
- c. Support the Copthorne Sports and Community Association to apply for S106 funding for cricket nets, and to approve this change to the land. The approximate cost will be £40,000 and this will allow youth cricket teams.
- d. Approve the fees for the South Room hire for 2026.

**44 Crawley Down Village Hall**

The confidential information was NOTED. There was much discussion around how Worth Parish Council could get involved and support the Crawley Down Village Hall Committee after MSDC had declined to grant the lease following lack of information provided.

Suggestions were made around:

- Finding alternative land for the building and facilitating this.
- Asking the Leader of MSDC to get involved and override the officer's decision.

No resolution was agreed but Committee Members were in agreement that Crawley Down should not lose the village hall facility.

**45 Matters for Consideration submitted by the Village Working Parties**

It was AGREED to notify MSDC that the Council is interested in acquiring the following land through the process of Local Government Reorganisation:

Humphries Field

Land at Bramble Close

It was NOTED that the work around viability of this has not yet taken place, and this would need to be done before any acquisition is pursued.

**46 Consideration of items for discussion by the Village Working Parties**

Crawley Down Working Party are asked to also consider land that they may be interested in acquiring.

**47 Date of the next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March at the Haven, Crawley Down.

*Meeting closed at 8.20 pm*

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

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