

Worth Parish Council

Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 11th May 2026 commencing at 8.10 pm

Present:	Cllr Phillips (Chair) Cllr Casella Cllr Kipps Cllr Williams	Cllr Scott (Vice Chair) Cllr Dorey Cllr Pointer Cllr Wilson
	Mrs L Bannister (Chief Officer)	Cllr Bingle as non-committee member

143 Public Question Time

No questions were raised at this point in the meeting.

144 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Coote, Hodsdon and King.

Absent – Cllr Lord

145 Declarations of Interest

None.

146 Minutes

It was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 13th April 2026.

147 Chairman's Announcements

None.

148 Correspondence List

It was NOTED that a thank you letter from 4Sight Vision Support was received for the grant they were awarded.

149 Accounts and Financial Matters

- a. It was RESOLVED that the financial information was a true representation of the current financial situation. It was NOTED that the grant funding for Operation Watershed has been received.
- b. It was NOTED that bank reconciliations to 30th April have been completed and signed by Cllr Casella.
- c. It was NOTED that the bank reconciliation for Natwest for March has been amended and re-signed by Cllr Casella. This was due to an error in the reconciliation relating to pending payments.
- d. It was RESOLVED to:
 - Recommend to Full Council that the street light electricity supply to Drax Energy Solutions at a cost of £28,537.35 plus VAT at 5% is approved.
 - Suspend Financial Regulation 5.8 which requires 3 fixed-price quotes as all other suppliers declined to quote due to the small amount of energy used.

150 Section 106 Monies

The reports were NOTED.

151 Internal Audit

The Internal Audit report was NOTED. It is still a recommendation that the current bank accounts are reduced.

The Committee thanked and congratulated staff on securing a clean audit.

152 Policies

It was RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council that the following policies are approved:

- a. Financial Regulations
- b. Standing Orders
- c. Financial Risk Assessment 2026-27
- d. Code of Conduct

153 Projects

- a. Bowers Place – it was NOTED that the price of the civils has increased by approximately 10% from £46,680.66 to £50,677.78. The additional cost of traffic management of £8,717 was also NOTED. These decisions were made via delegated authority by the Chief Officer in accordance with Financial Regulation 5.16.
- b. Copthorne Recreation Ground – the report and all spending via delegated authority was NOTED.
- c. Operation Watershed:
 - The report was NOTED.
 - It was RESOLVED to delegate authority to the Chief Officer to enter a licence agreement with MSDC on behalf of the Council.

154 Recruitment

It was RESOLVED to recommended to Full Council that:

- a. Additional hours for a member of staff are approved as recommended in the confidential report.
- b. A temporary administrator is recruited at a cost of £19,400 on the following terms:
 - Fixed term contract to run to 31st March 2027, with scope to extend subject to need and budget.
 - 20 hours per week, 9.30-1.30 Monday to Friday.
 - SCP14 - £14.82 per hour.

155 Matters for Consideration submitted by the Village and Worth Parish Council Working Parties

No matters to consider.

156 Consideration of items for discussion by the Village and Worth Parish Council Working Parties

None.

157 Date of the next meeting

The date of the next meeting is Monday 1st June at the Parish Hub, Copthorne.

Meeting closed at 8.28 pm

Chairman: _____

Date: _____