

## **Worth Parish Council**

### **Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2026 commencing at 8.45 pm**

|                 |                                                                                     |                                                                                    |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Present:</b> | Cllr Phillips (Chair)<br>Cllr Bingle<br>Cllr Dorey<br>Cllr Hodsdon<br>Cllr Williams | Cllr Scott (Vice Chair)<br>Cllr Casella<br>Cllr Gibson<br>Cllr King<br>Cllr Wilson |
|                 | Mrs L Bannister (Chief Officer)                                                     | Representative of Copthorne Scouts and Guides                                      |

#### **031 Public Question Time**

No questions were raised.

#### **032 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Pointer and Coote.

#### **033 Declarations of Interest**

None.

#### **034 Minutes**

It was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2026.

#### **035 Accounts and Financial Matters**

It was RESOLVED to bring forward the item for grant applications.

The representative of the Copthorne Scouts and Guides explained about the application. It was RESOLVED to award £500.

*Representative of Copthorne Scouts and Guides left the meeting*

The other two grant applications will be deferred. Members requested that the Grant Policy is considered by the Worth Parish Council Working Party to consider how applications from charities and non-local organisations are being dealt with.

#### **036 Chairman's Announcements**

None.

#### **037 Correspondence List**

Nothing to note.

#### **038 Accounts and Financial Matters (continued)**

- a. It was RESOLVED that the financial information was a true representation of the current financial situation. It was NOTED that the payments for the Copthorne Pavilion will be reclaimed via S106 funding.
- b. It was NOTED that bank reconciliations to 31<sup>st</sup> July and 31<sup>st</sup> August have been completed. These were signed by Cllr Casella.
- c. Salaries – It was NOTED that the pay agreement for this financial year has been reached, resulting in an increase to the staff costs of £7,991. This is within the budget allowed for staff costs and is lower than expected.
- d. Cashflow:
  - i. The forecast for September and October was NOTED, observing the expected low balance mid-September. This low balance remains within an acceptable amount.

- ii. It was RESOLVED to delegate authority to the Chief Officer, in consultation with the Chair/Vice Chair of this Committee, to make fund transfers at any amount required to cover the costs associated with the Copthorne Recreation Ground Project.

**039 Section 106 Monies**

The reports were NOTED (attached for Copthorne and Crawley Down). These have been updated following the reconciled information being received from Mid Sussex District Council for 2025-2026.

**040 External Audit**

It was NOTED that the External Audit has been completed, with no comments or concerns raised. Congratulations were offered to the team for achieving a clean audit.

**041 Streetlight electricity**

The report was NOTED.

It was RESOLVED to delegate authority to the Chief Officer, in consultation with the Chair/Vice Chair of this Committee, to accept/refuse an offer from EDF Energy, and to refer to the Ombudsman if EDF Energy won't negotiate.

**042 Projects**

- a. Bowers Place Parking – the following was NOTED:
- The S278 agreement has been completed.
  - Road space is booked between Monday 5<sup>th</sup> and Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October.
- b. Copthorne Recreation Ground – the following was NOTED:
- £728.58 has been received in donations.
  - £167,444.75 has been reclaimed from S106, with approximately £65,000 yet to be claimed.
  - £4,976 has been received from the MSDC grant for play equipment.
  - The civils contract is due to be finalised on 4th September, with approximately £30,000 remaining to be paid.
  - The playground contract is due to be finalised on 4th September, with the entire balance of £150,000 to be invoiced at that point.
  - Phase one of the MUGA contract is partially complete. The topsoil issue was not as extensive as anticipated, reducing the increase in costs from £48,000 to approximately £18,000 (however, the final valuation on this has not yet been received).
  - Phase two of the MUGA contract will be instructed in parts. This is so that the entire value of the instructed contracts does not exceed the S106 funding of £164,300. The final phase cannot be instructed until the third S106 application has been approved.
  - The third S106 application was submitted for £73,858.40. The below illustration demonstrates how this figure was calculated. This is the maximum anticipated, but due to the reduction in the expected costs for the topsoil, the amount needed to be drawn down is expected to be much lower than the amount applied for.
  - £102,437.35 has been spent since the last meeting.
  - Contingency spend/anticipation to spend was NOTED.
- c. Operation Watershed – nothing to report until end of project is complete. Congratulations were offered to the Chief Officer for the completion of the construction.
- d. Projects Tracker – this was NOTED.

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

Nothing was submitted.

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

The Worth Parish Council Working Party will be asked to consider the Grants Policy.

**044 Date of the next meeting**

The date of the next meeting is Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October at the Glebe Centre, Crawley Down.

*Meeting closed at 9.08pm*

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

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