

## **Worth Parish Council**

### **Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held in the South Room, the Parish Hub, Copthorne on 20th February 2023 commencing at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllr Dorey (Chairman)  
Cllr Casella  
Cllr Dymond  
Cllr Hitchcock  
Cllr Mayor  
Cllr Kin  
Cllr Phillips  
Cllr Williams  
Mrs J Nagy (Clerk)  
Mrs E Smith (RFO)

Cllr Cruickshank  
Cllr Gibson  
Cllr Hodsdon  
Cllr Lord  
Cllr Pointer  
Cllr Stewart

No members of the public

#### **192 Public Question Time**

There were no members of the public present.

#### **193 Apologies**

Apologies were NOTED and ACCEPTED from Cllrs Coote, Scott and Webb.

#### **194 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations at this point in the meeting.

#### **195 Minutes**

It was agreed by all present that the Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023 were a true and correct record.

#### **196 Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman reported that the two Health & Nutrition courses ran over half term were both fully attended, with very good feed back

#### **197 Correspondence & Action List**

The correspondence and action lists were NOTED.

#### **198 Sussex Police**

The Chairman advised that PSCO Whitmore was unable to attend the meeting, having been called to an incident. She hopes to attend a future meeting.

The latest crime figures were NOTED; there were no incidents of ASB to report.

#### **199 Committees**

Planning & Highways Committee, 9th January, 23rd January 2023  
Date of next meeting, 20th February 2023

General Purposes & Finance Committee, 9th January 2023  
Date of next meeting, 6th March 2023

#### **200 County Councillors' Report**

Both County Councillors were asked to provide reports. Cllr Gibson reported on the County Council budget, potholes and the housing proposals at Imberhorne.

Concern was raised over the implications of the lack of additional income from the Imberhorne Lane site, which would have allowed Windmill Lane Junior school to move sites. The new school

in Burgess Hill will be funded out of cash reserves, a sum of £57 million. There is, however, a funding gap in local education provision.

It was noted that the allocation to Highways was only 1% of the total budget.

Cllr Gibson advised that Angus Energy are looking to go back on site in Balcombe for potential oil extraction.

## **201 District Councillors' Report**

All District Councillors were asked to provide report. Cllr Gibson's reported on the Levelling up Fund, Clair Hall, MSDC budget and social housing issues.

Cllr Phillips advised that the proposed rise in Council tax was 2.75% and not 2.99% as noted in Cllr Gibson's report.

Councillors NOTED this information.

## **202 Accounts & Financial Matters**

### Appointment of Sport & Play Consulting

At its meeting on 6th February, GP&F Committee agreed to recommend to Full Council that Sport & Play Consulting would be commissioned to assist with the redevelopment of Copthorne Recreation Ground at a cost of £6,500, the deficit of £963 from the CEIWP budget allocation will be made up from CEIWP earmarked reserves.

The Clerk was asked to find a comparative quote, this she was unable to do as Sport & Play offer a unique service. Companies she contacted referred her back to Sport & Play.

The Clerk's efforts to find comparative quotes were NOTED and it was AGREED by all present to appoint Sport & Play Consulting to assist with the redevelopment of Copthorne Recreation Ground at a cost of £6,500, VAT not applicable.

### EDF Energy

The RFO circulated quotations for renewing the contract for the unmetered supply for street lights from EDF energy.

The finish date of any contract is finite, so the lengths of terms were unusual

<b>Term</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Cost</b>
12 months	25/02/23 to 24/02/24	£29,387
25 months + 4 days	25/02/23 to 31/03/25	£30,854
31 months + 3 days	25/02/23 to 30/09/25	£28,537

The budgetary allocation for streetlighting is £35,000 per year in 2023/2024

Discussion took place as to the preferred term, as electricity cost could go down. The RFO reported that the quotes change from day to day, dependent on the rate at that time.

It was AGREED by all present to authorise the RFO to negotiate the cheapest price at the longest term, this to be less than £30,000 per year. The agreed contract will be reported to the next GP&F meeting for noting.

### Coronation Funding

During budgetary discussion, it was agreed that each village would be allocated £2500 to use to put on Coronation events, these sums to be taken out of the E & I Working Parties budget. These events would be organised by the Haven Centre in Crawley Down, and the Copthorne Community Group in Copthorne.

The Copthorne Community Group is now a constituted organisation with its own bank account.

The Haven Centre has set up a separate bank account to manage the event, and to keep funds separate from the general Haven Centre accounts.

The Haven Centre has asked for funding asap, as they need to purchase items such as bunting etc. Ideally, they would like £1000 now, with the balance of £1,500 after 1st April, i.e. in the next financial year.

It was AGREED by all present to pay the Haven Centre Coronation fund £1,000 in this financial year, with the balance of £1,500 after April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Both the Haven Centre and the Copthorne Community Group will receive the funds direct, and will place orders for goods and services direct to avoid complications with VAT.

#### Electricity on the Green

It was originally thought that the Grounds Supervisor could install the concrete plinths to support the electrical cabinets for each Green. However, trenching work is now required on Crawley Down Green due to issues over the location, so it was thought best to have the plinths professionally installed

The cost of installing the plinth in Copthorne is £995 + VAT and in Crawley Down is £2995.00 + VAT, as this includes the trenching work together with the plinth.

These additional costs were AGREED by all present.

## **202 Council Land and Buildings**

### Gig on the Green 29th July 2023

The CDRA propose that the Green is fenced off to better manage attendance and alcohol consumption. This will also assist in conforming to requirements in the upcoming Martyn's Law, which requires event organisers to carry out risk assessment to manage threat from terrorist activities.

Concerns were raised over the potential implications of an incident occurring within the fenced area necessitating the need for rapid evacuation.

The issue of whether access to the Green was required at all times under law; the Clerk will ascertain if it is a registered green.

It was agreed that the Clerk would seek further information from the CDRA re the risk assessment, particularly in the event of the need to evacuate the area. This will be presented to the GP&F Committee on 6<sup>th</sup> March.

### Copthorne Carnival and Crawley Down Fayre Stalls

The Clerk referred to her report, and the suggestion that the Council stalls at both events would have the emphasis on the youth club, with some activities offered on the day run by the Youth Worker, with Councillors present to answer questions on Council matters if required.

This was AGREED by all present.

## **203 Council Policies**

### Complaints Procedure

The NALC Legal Topic Note on which this policy is based was updated in October 2022. Some changes have been made as a consequence. Reference has also been made to the Vexatious Complaints Policy.

This was AGREED with no further amendments.

### Co-Option Policy

This was included on the agenda in error, and is not due to be reviewed until February 2024

Councillors NOTED this information.

### Member/Officer Relations Policy

Reference to the Civility & Respect Pledge has been added; the only amendment.

This was AGREED with no further amendments.

#### Vexatious Complaints Policy

The purpose of this new policy is to deal with possible vexatious complainants unnecessarily disrupting the work of the Council.

This was AGREED with no amendment.

### **204 Youth Support Worker**

The Youth Worker continues to engage with young people out and about in both villages.

Youth Club sessions started in Copthorne that evening.

The Clerk and the Youth Worker will both attend a Haven Centre Committee meeting at the Centre on Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> March to persuade members to allow youth club sessions to commence. Cllr Dorey will also attend as Chairman of the Council.

The two Nutrition Courses hosted by Table Talk Foundation went ahead on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> February. They were both fully booked and very well received by children and parents alike. The Youth Worker used the opportunity to publicise the new Copthorne Club. The Comms & IT Administrator has issued a feedback form for attendees, and will be using quotes and photos from the sessions to publicise and promote the work of the Council.

The Clerk was asked to investigate the provision of clubs during school holidays; it was agreed that these could potentially start in August/September. She will also investigate funding and sponsorship opportunities and attendance fee subsidies for disadvantaged children.

### **205 Social Media**

The Clerk attended a youth engagement presentation at the Practitioners Conference. It was suggested that councils wishing to engage with young people should have an Instagram account, as most are not on Facebook.

This could be useful with consultation on the Copthorne Recreation ground redevelopment scheme.

After discussion it was agreed that Instagram account, could be set up, with the Comms & IT Administrator working with the Youth Worker to ensure that the content was suitable.

### **206 Website**

The usage report was NOTED.

### **207 Representatives attending outside meetings**

GATCOM meeting 26th January, attended by Cllr Lord

Worth PC's representative Cllr Scott was unable to attend. Cllr Lord attended as a Burstow Councillor, but has kindly circulated information –

Of particular note are:

- The relaunch of the Gatwick Foundation Fund, applications open till 31 March 2023.
- The northern runway DCO is due to be submitted in the spring. It is currently being reviewed by the legal eagles at GAL.
- The tourism brief was interesting as it highlighted the financial benefits to the local area and the SE in general.
- The application by CAGNE to have a seat at GATCOM was turned down as they can be represented by the independent group who already have a seat.

Mid Sussex Clerks' Meeting, 30th January, attended by the Clerk

Terry Stanley, MSDC Head of Demographic Services was present to advise clerks on the election procedure. Purdah is from 20th March, so the Council will have to cease promotion of its activities from this date.

Other matters covered included Watershed projects, the water outage and Neighbourhood Plan reviews.

There is no news about Richard Speller's replacement at WSCC.

Gatwick Airport Airspace briefing, 30th January, attended by Cllr Casella

Cllr Casella reported that there are twelve different take off and landing options being considered, which will be narrowed down. Take off and landing patterns have to be aligned with those of Heathrow, to manage the air traffic over the south east of England.

MSALC Meeting, 31<sup>st</sup> January, attended by Cllr Hodsdon, the two usual Council representatives being unavailable.

Cllr Hodsdon reported that Lucie Corrie had been appointed as Assistant Director of Communities

## **208 Date of the next meeting**

The date of the next meeting is Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023 in the Birch Room at the Haven Centre, Crawley Down

*Meeting closed at 8.35 pm.*

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

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