

## **Worth Parish Council**

### **Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held in the Birch Room, the Haven Centre, Crawley Down on 20th March 2023 commencing at 7.30pm**

<b>Present:</b>	Cllr Dorey (Chairman)	Cllr Scott
	Cllr Casella	Cllr Cruickshank
	Cllr Coote	Cllr Dymond
	Cllr Gibson	Cllr Hitchcock
	Cllr Hodsdon	Cllr Mayor
	Cllr King	Cllr Lord
	Cllr Pointer	Cllr Phillips
	Cllr Stewart	Cllr Webb
	Cllr Williams	
	Mrs J Nagy (Clerk)	4 members of the public

#### **209 Public Question Time**

The members of the public did not want to speak at this point of the meeting.

#### **210 Apologies**

There were no apologies; all Councillors were present.

#### **211 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations at this point in the meeting.

#### **212 Minutes**

It was agreed by all present that the Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023 were a true and correct record.

#### **213 Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman advised that the date for this year's Chairman's Dinner would be Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> May, at Olivers. More information would be provided in due course.

The Chairman announced that further to the successful Nutrition events, hosted by Table Talk foundation, he has managed to secure a free session up to 30 school children aged 13 to 16 to attend Plumpton College for a day (approx. 4 hours) to learn cooking skills and learn about the dairy side of the farm. The usual cost would £1000 per trip, as this is a new Table Talk initiative, they are offering five trips FOC.

Travel to the venue has to be arranged; the Clerk is ascertaining the cost of hiring a coach. Based on the feedback from the nutrition courses, it is suggested that a charge of £5 is made which will cover some of the cost

It was agreed that the Chairman/Clerk would accept in principle; the costs of hiring a coach would be authorised at the next GP&F meeting.

#### **214 Correspondence & Action List**

The correspondence and action lists were NOTED.

#### **215 Committees**

Planning & Highways Committee, 6th February, 20th February 2023  
Date of next meeting, 20th March 2023

General Purposes & Finance Committee, 6th February 2023  
Date of next meeting, 17th April 2023

## **216 County Councillors' Report**

Both County Councillors were asked to provide reports. Cllr Gibson reported that

Further to the grant application by Donkey Field he contacted the WSCC Director of Children, Young People and Learning who identified some unspent 'early year S106 funds' for Crawley Down Primary School. He has had no feedback from Donkey Field yet as to whether this funding is helpful.

The April Council meeting has been cancelled.

He met with the Headmaster and Chair of Governors of Imberhorne School to discuss the land sale to the Imberhorne Farm developer and the progress on the plans and funding for the co-location of the school.

Councillors NOTED this information.

## **217 District Councillors' Report**

All District Councillors were asked to provide report. Cllr Gibson's reported that

The Budget and Plan for FY 23/24 was approved. The operating budget is about £17M.

Notably, a balanced budget was only achieved without drawing on Reserves by a transfer of £400K of interest from cash held (of course, interest would usually be transferred to the reserves!). This budget includes an estimated income of £1M from the Leisure Centres; here is considerable risk that this will be achieved.

The Council has collated the responses to the Reg 18 Consultation and attributed them to policies. The report is to be discussed on the 15th. It suggests that the review of the comments will be completed in time for a revised plan to go to Reg 19 consultation in Summer/Autumn. There were 1400 submissions, giving 2,800 separate comments. Objections to the sites in Crawley Down and Crabbit Park were disappointing at 56 and 40 respectively. The process has become very political – 180 people wrote in to support the removal of the Cuckstye site.

Councillors NOTED this information.

## **218 Accounts & Financial Matters**

### Appointment of Street Light Maintenance Contractor

Further to the current contractor going into liquidation, the RFO has been trying to source another supplier. Only one of the two recommended companies has responded. Both Crawley Borough Council, and Turners Hill Parish Council use this company.

As there were some outstanding queries with this supplier, it was AGREED by all present to defer the decision to the next meeting in the hope that more information would be available, and a second quotation be presented for comparison purposes.

### Planters for Crawley Down

The Grounds Supervisor would like to put two trough planters at the War Memorial, and CDEIWP would like to put two similar planters at Crawley Down shops.

A self-watering trough planter costs in the region of £460 + VAT.

Land at the War Memorial is owned by WPC, but once a location is agreed at the shops, permission will have to be sought to site the planters.

It was AGREED by all present to give the Clerk delegated authority to source and order four self-watering trough planters, at a total cost of £2000.00 plus delivery.

### Charging to use Crawley Down Green for Gig on the Green

At the last GP&F meeting it was suggested that if the Green was to be fenced for Gig on the Green, then the CDRA should be charged for its use.

Whilst this is legally possible, the CDRA has indicated that any additional cost implication for the event may result in it not going ahead. Last year it was funded mainly via Crowd Funding. The CDRA is not a profit-making organisation, any surplus is ploughed back into community events at Easter and Christmas.

**At this point, the Chairman proposed the suspension of Standing Orders to enable a member of the public to speak; this was seconded by Cllr Scott and AGREED by all present.**

**Cllr Williams declared a personal interest as a member of the CDRA Committee.**

The Chairman of the CDRA was present at the meeting.

He advised that one of the aims of the CDRA was to promote the quality of life through community events. At the Gig on the Green last year, there were issues with broken glass through bottles being brought onto the Green; the bar on site did not serve in glass bottles. It was felt that the Green was near capacity at times.

These issues have to be taken into account with any risk assessment, together with the emerging Martyn's Law. It was felt that the erection of temporary fence around the Green, and to make the event ticketed, would go some way to address identified risks. Security personnel would police the event.

Around 1500 tickets need to be sold to break even. The CDRA is not a profit-making organisation; any surplus is ploughed back into other community events, such as Easter and Christmas.

The CDRA Chair was asked if they proposed to fence off the Green for the Fayre; this has not yet been decided. The Christmas event is managed with road closures.

It was suggested that grants are given to the CDRA to put on village events. If an entry fee is charged, then the event is not free for all to attend.

It was suggested that the CDRA consider using the Haven Centre for future events.

The Clerk asked if the CDRA had event cancellation insurance; if the weather is so bad that the Green would be damaged, then the Council might have to cancel it. With it being ticketed, a cancellation would have more financial implications. The CDRA Chair said that this had not yet been investigated.

**Standing Orders were reinstated.**

It was proposed by Cllr Coote, seconded by Cllr King and AGREED by all present that there would be no charge to the CDRA to use Crawley Down Green for the Gig on the Green event on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2023. This will be reviewed after the event to consider whether appropriate in the future.

#### CCTV

The order for the cameras and installation has been placed.

Councillors NOTED this information.

## **219 Council Land and Buildings**

#### Use of Copthorne Green

The Copthorne Community Group has completed an application form to hold a Coronation Picnic on Sunday, 7th May 2023

The Copthorne Carnival Committee has completed an application form to hold the annual Carnival on Saturday, 24th June 2023

It was AGREED by all present to give permission for these events to take place on Copthorne Green, and to give the Clerk delegated powers to ensure that all supporting documentation is in place prior to the events taking place.

#### Bowers Place Parking Scheme

The CDRA has raised queries over the low post and rail fence proposed on the eastern boundary of Crawley Down Green, to delineate the parking bays from the green area, as this would impede vehicular access onto the Green.

Cllr Hitchcock advised that the fence had been removed as part of a revised Road Safety Audit. However, the kerb would be higher along this stretch to prevent vehicular access. Access would be possible at the northern end, but steel plating or similar would have to be put down as the footpath is not suitable for vehicles due to its construction.

Any suspension of parking in the proposed new bays during any event on the Green would be up to WSCC as it would be Highways land.

Councillors NOTED this information; the Clerk will convey this to the CDRA.

### **220 Council Policies**

#### Fixed Asset Capitalisation Policy

There are no proposed changes to this policy.

This was AGREED with no amendment.

### **221 Youth Provision**

The Clerk's report on youth provision and future plans was NOTED.

### **222 Website**

The usage report was NOTED.

The Clerk is to ask the Communications and IT Administrator how to improve the bounce rate.

### **223 Representatives attending outside meetings**

No Councillor had attended any meetings on behalf of the Council since the last meeting.

### **224 Date of the next meeting**

The date of the next meeting is Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023 in the South Room at the Parish Hub, Copthorne.

*Meeting closed at 8.25 pm.*

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

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