

## **Worth Parish Council**

### **Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held in the South Room, Parish Hub, Copthorne on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023 commencing at 7.30pm**

<b>Present:</b>	Cllr Dorey (Chairman)	Cllr Scott
	Cllr Casella	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)	1 member of the public

#### **225 Public Question Time**

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

#### **226 Apologies**

Apologies were noted and accepted from Cllr Cruickshank.

#### **227 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations at this point in the meeting.

#### **228 Minutes**

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

#### **229 Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman confirmed that the date for this year's Chairman's Dinner would be Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> May, at Olivers. The cost will be £18 per person as last year.

#### **230 Correspondence & Action List**

The correspondence and action lists were NOTED.

#### **231 Committees**

Planning & Highways Committee, 6th March, 20th March 2023  
Date of next meeting, 24th April 2023

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

Councillors NOTED these Minutes.

#### **232 County Councillors' Report**

Both County Councillors were asked to provide reports. Cllr Gibson had nothing to report.

#### **233 Accounts & Financial Matters**

##### Renewal of Insurance

The Council's insurance expires on 2nd May 2023. Gallaghers (formerly Came & Co) has declined to quote.

	<b>One year</b>	<b>Three years</b>
<b>Zurich</b>	£5,310.87	£5,045.07
<b>BHIB</b>	£6,326.16	£3,313.47*

\*BHIB quotes separately for motor insurance, and will not include this in a three-year contract, as there could be vehicle claims in this period.

It was AGREED by all present, that the Council would renew its policy with Zurich Municipal for three years.

#### Purchase of new mower

One of the mowers is beyond repair, so the purchase of a replacement is now necessary. There is £10,000 in the budget for a second-hand mower. However, the Grounds Supervisor has sourced a new mower at £7,500 ex VAT, from a local supplier. For comparison, a similar Kubota machine is over £10,000 + VAT.

It was AGREED by all present, that a new Ariens mower would be purchased at a cost of £7,500 + VAT.

#### Appointment of Street Light Maintenance Contractor

Despite her best efforts, the RFO has been unable to find an additional supplier other than Streetlights. The Clerk has consulted her colleagues nationwide, but no contractor suggested operates in this area.

It was AGREED by all present to appoint Streetlights on a one-year maintenance contract for £6,600 + VAT.

#### Appointment of Contractor for Tree Survey

The Council carries out a tree survey every three years. The contractor who carried out the last one has moved away. The RFO has sought quotes from three companies, only two have been received. Emphasis has been made on the importance of checking for ash die back.

These are for £3,730 and £4,050 but are not exactly like for like so difficult to compare; however, they are both visual inspections from the ground, using steel probes to ascertain issues. There are various "add on" options should a tree be identified as being of concern; these include climbed inspections and Resistograph readings, where a probe is inserted to measure decay.

It was AGREED by all present to give the Clerk delegated powers to award the contract for up to £4,500, after further analysis of the works proposed.

### **234 Council Land and Buildings**

#### Use of Copthorne Green, 4th June 2023

St John's Church has completed an application form to hold Jazz on the Green on Copthorne Green on 4th June. The event will run from 12.30pm to 5pm.

It was AGREED by all present to give permission for this event, and to give delegated powers to the Clerk to ensure all documentation is in place.

### **235 Meeting Schedule and Committee Terms of Reference**

Due to concerns relating to this matter being discussed during purdah, it has been suggested that it be deferred to the next meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr Webb, seconded by Cllr Coote that this item be deferred to the next meeting. This was RESOLVED by a majority vote.

### **236 Youth Provision**

The Clerk referred to her report, the salient points being

- Youth Club will start at the Haven from 9<sup>th</sup> May, 5.30pm to 7.30pm for 10-to-13-year olds.

- The holiday activity survey has now closed with 30 responses. The Clerk will meet with the Youth Support Worker to see what can be progressed.
- The coach has been booked for the Plumpton College as no alternative has been sourced. This event on 29<sup>th</sup> July is for 13- to 16-year-olds, and is to be advertised imminently
- SCYP is currently recruiting for a new assistant worker
- Costs of DBS checks is being investigated, for Council staff, and potentially some Councillors; to be referred to the HR Committee
- The Youth Support Worker will be attending both village Coronation events on Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> May

The Clerk's report on Youth Provision was NOTED.

## **237 Website**

A report from the Communications and IT administrator is included in this pack, which includes a response to the question posed at the last meeting about bounce rate.

The usage report was NOTED.

It was noted that when accessing the website, it was flagged as being "not secure" i.e., having a http address and not a https address. The Communications and IT administrator will take this up with Vision ICT

## **238 Anti-Social Behaviour**

Some posts had been noted on social media, such as

- People ringing doorbells asking if anyone spoke Portuguese.
- Police have alerted residents of Copthorne in person about car theft
- Untaxed motorbikes have been seen driving Crawley Down village and on the Worth Way

The Clerk was asked to ensure that the PCSOs were aware of these reports.

## **239 Sussex Police**

The latest crime figures for February 2023 were NOTED.

## **240 Representatives attending outside meetings**

St Modwen's Liaison Meeting, 21st March, attended by Cllr Phillips and the Clerk

Cllr Phillips reported that all completion dates had been pushed back, presumably due to the fall in build out rates on the St Modwen's site. Taylor Wimpey homes were selling well, and they hoped to be off site by the summer of 2024. The doctors' surgery has been delayed, due to funding issue, but is still going ahead. There is still no update on the school.

The Clerk reported that she had been in correspondence with Amazon about litter and drivers parking up in Barbour Drive. They had responded very positively, saying that they will litter pick regularly and have spoken to drivers.

MSDC Comms Meeting, 23rd March, attended by the Clerk

Terry Stanley gave an election update; other matters discussed included NHS Health Checks and Emergency Planning

Modality Mid-Sussex meeting with Crawley Down PPG, 3rd April, attended by Cllr Scott

Cllr Scott reported that a new group had been formed – the Patient Pressure Group, which was collecting evidence of patient dissatisfaction, but had no powers to act.

There are not enough doctors to serve the four surgeries in the group, and they have not been able to recruit more due to a national shortage. It is not helped that Copthorne and Crawley surgeries get London weighting whilst Crawley Down does not. Modality is an umbrella company that deals with the back office. Moat Rd and Copthorne surgeries are doing well, but Crawley Down is not. However, it was starting to go downhill due to lack of GPs prior to Modality becoming involved. The bad publicity that the surgery has received may also have made it difficult to recruit and retain staff.

Cllr Hitchcock said that the Surgery had been unable to recruit a replacement for his wife when she retired as Senior Partner some years ago; new doctors no longer seem to be willing to take on "management roles" in Doctor's Partnerships. He said that the appointment system was operating via triage; if you ask for a triage appointment rather than a doctor's appointment you would be seen.

Cllr Coote, who had also attended the meeting, said that he had challenged Modality over their balance sheets, which had not been addressed in his opinion.

Cllr Gibson, in his role as County Councillor, said that he had had correspondence with the Integrated Care Board, but could not share the contents as these were confidential. However, he had been assured that there would be a full diagnostic by the end of May 2023, which should result in an improved service to patients. All councils should be working together to push for a solution.

SLCC AGM 18th April, attended by the Clerk.

Julie Holden, Clerk at East Grinstead Town Council was re-elected as Chairman; the Clerk was re-elected as Secretary.

#### **241 Date of the next meeting**

The date of the next meeting is Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023; this will be the Annual Council Meeting

*Meeting closed at 8.10 pm.*

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

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