

Worth Parish Council

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held in the Birch Room, the Haven Centre in Crawley Down on 5th June 2023 commencing at 7.30pm

Present:

Cllr Dorey (Chairman)	Cllr Scott
Cllr Bingle	Cllr Casella
Cllr Coote	Cllr Cruickshank
Cllr Dymond	Cllr Kipps
Cllr Lord	Cllr Phillips
Cllr Pointer	Cllr Wilson
Cllr Williams	
Mrs T Cruickshank (Deputy Clerk)	3 members of the public

26 Public Question Time

One member of the public wished to speak, she asked for an update on the blocked drains on Vicarage Road since the resurfacing works took place. The Deputy Clerk will again email both County Councillors to obtain a resolution.

27 Apologies

Apologies were noted and accepted from Cllrs Gibson, Hodsdon, King and Stewart.

28 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations at this point in the meeting.

29 Minutes

It was agreed by all present that the Minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 15th May 2023 were a true and correct record.

30 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman had no announcements.

31 Correspondence & Action List

The correspondence and action lists were NOTED.

32 Committees

Planning & Highways Committee, 24th April 2023
Date of next meeting, 5th June 2023

General Purposes & Finance Committee, 17th April 2023
Date of next meeting, 12th June 2023

Councillors NOTED these Minutes and actions therein.

HR Committee, 25th May and 31st May 2023
Date of next meeting, as required.

Councillors NOTED that these meetings took place; circulation of Minutes is restricted due to confidentiality issues. Matters discussed will be reported under Agenda Item 22 Personnel.

33 County Councillors' Report

Cllr Forbes had no updates at this time.

Cllr Gibson who was unable to attend the meeting had provided the Deputy Clerk with an update which she read to the council as follows;

'The County Council re-elected Cllr Bradbury as Chairman for another year. Council also adopted the current Minerals Plan for another 5 years despite a strong challenge that the policies on fossil fuels (7a and 7b) took insufficient account of Climate Change.'

34 District Councillors' Report

Cllr Casella advised he had attended a number of training courses, Cllr Phillips reiterated this.

The Deputy Clerk read an update from Cllr Gibson. 'At MSDC I have been appointed as a Cabinet Member for Economic, Sustainability and Housing. This portfolio does NOT include responsibility for Planning or Gatwick.'

Cllr Bingle asked Cllr Phillips for an update on the new Council's position on the future for the local area regarding planning. Cllr Phillips replied that the review of the district plan was still ongoing.

35 Standing Orders

The Deputy Clerk referred to the Clerk's Report and the proposed addition of para 3 q) allowing a Vice Chairman to be elected for each meeting, if the post holder is not present for any reason.

It was **AGREED** by all present that the following clause would be added to Standing Orders at 3 q) –

"If there is no Vice Chairman at the meeting, either due to them presiding as Chairman in their absence, or due to the Vice Chairman being absent, a Councillor as chosen by the Councillors present at the meeting shall act as Vice Chairman, to assist with managing the debate."

36 Crawley Down Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee

At the Annual Council Meeting, membership of this Committee was agreed as follows:

Councillors	Co-opted members
Cllr Bingle	Mr John Plank
Cllr Kipps	Mr Stephen Plank
Cllr Pointer	Dr J Thring
Cllr Williams	Mr S Hearn
Cllr Wilson	Vacancy
	Vacancy

The deputy Clerk explained that both Cllrs Coote and Gibson, not present at the Annual Council Meeting (Cllr Gibson arrived after this matter was discussed) had expressed an interest to be on this Committee, but only one space was vacant. It was agreed to defer membership to this meeting.

Since then, Cllr Kipps had advised that she is willing to stand down, leaving two vacancies.

Cllr Gibson who was not present had emailed the Clerk expressing his wishes to remain on the committee and continue as Chairman.

Cllr Dorey wanted it minuted that at the Annual Council meeting the council as a whole had agreed to defer this item to the next Full Council meeting.

It was **AGREED** that Cllrs Coote and Gibson would join this committee.

The Chairman invited nominations for Chairman of this Advisory Committee, Cllr Williams expressed an interest in the position of Chairman.

Cllr Williams was nominated by Cllr Coote, a vote was taken by show of hands and Cllr Williams was duly elected as Chairman.

37 Public Works Loan

Cllr Scott referred to the Clerk's separate report.

A short discussion took place.

It was **RESOLVED** to seek the approval of the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to apply for a PWLB loan of £50,000 over the borrowing term of 15 years to part fund the Bowers Place Parking Scheme; the annual loan repayment will come to around £4825.00.

It is not intended to raise the council tax precept for the purposes of loan repayments.

38 Meeting Schedule

The Chairman referred to the Clerk's report.

After a brief discussion, the Clerk's advice relating to the possible unlawfulness of meeting other than at the free of charge venue at the Parish Hub in Copthorne was formally **NOTED**, and it was Proposed by Cllr Dorey, Seconded by Cllr Cruickshank and **AGREED** by all that alternate full council meetings would be held in Crawley Down; preferably at the Glebe Centre, but at the Haven Centre, a licenced premises if no other Crawley Down venue was available.

The Deputy Clerk advised that the next two meeting in Crawley Down will be held at The Glebe Centre.

39 Accounts & Financial Matters

Councillor Training

The Deputy Clerk advised that all Councillors should consider training.

In house training, run by Andy Beams, of Mulberry and Co for all Councillors at a cost of £450 + VAT + travel expenses was **AGREED** by all present.

Virtual training for all Chairs and Vice Chairs of Committees at a cost £45 + VAT per person, was **AGREED** by all present.

Virtual training for all Councillors on the Planning Committee at a cost of £50 + VAT per person, was **AGREED** by all present.

Staff Training

Authorised expenditure of chainsaw training at a cost of £595 + VAT for a three-day course, for both groundmen, and one-day Basic Tree survey and inspection course at a cost of £170 + VAT for the grounds supervisor was **NOTED**.

40 Council Land and Buildings

Nothing to report.

41 Section 106 Expenditure

Cllr Scott declared an interest in this item as he is the Church treasurer and as such took no part in the discussion.

The Deputy Clerk advised that MSDC has received an application from the Parish Hub Management team for £43,424 for installation of air conditioning for the whole of the Hub, including the Council offices and internal foyer, and for tarmacking and lining the car park. This sum will be taken out of the Community Building contribution, for which the Parish Hub, the Village Hall and the Scout Centre are eligible. Both other halls are aware of the possibility for funding.

The application was **NOTED** and it was **AGREED** that the Council supported it.

42 Youth Provision

The Deputy Clerk referred to the report in the meeting pack from Sussex Clubs for Young People.

She advised that Copthorne sessions are well attended but Crawley Down has yet to take off. Matters were not assisted by Drew being held up in traffic and being late on 23rd May. Six young people had turned up but left before he arrived. The Clerk is setting up an arrangement by which he can alert people if this happens again.

Cllr Pointer expressed her dissatisfaction over the recent incident as she had personally campaigned for attendees only to be contacted on the night from members of the public to say the youth worker was not in attendance, this was embarrassing, and she was concerned that this may have put the children off from trying the Club again.

A list of equipment totalling around £1800 has been agreed with Drew, to be paid for with funds remaining in the Copthorne Youth Club account.

The report from Sussex Clubs for Young People, and the Clerk's report were NOTED.

43 Website

The usage report was NOTED.

The Communications & IT Administrator would like two councillors to review the website, to gauge how user friendly it is, with a view to updating.

The Deputy Clerk asked for volunteers, Cllrs Kipps and Wilson agreed.

Cllr Bingle asked how many people viewed the website, the Deputy Clerk directed him to the report within the meeting pack.

Cllr Williams thought that the website was not mobile friendly. The deputy Clerk advised this would be looked at as part of the website review.

44 Anti-Social Behaviour

Cllr Kipps advised that one of the benches on the Worth Way had been damaged, The Deputy Clerk has already reported this to the Rangers.

Cllr Phillips asked if any other councillors had trouble getting in touch with the PCSO's via email as his emails were bouncing back, no other councillor seemed to have this problem. It was noted that reporting via 101 was successful.

Cllr Pointer advised that she had seen graffiti on the internal walls of Two Ways, Station Road, this building has since been demolished and is fenced off.

Cllr Pointer also advised that via an East Grinstead FB page she had seen that youths were meeting at Fen Place and swimming in the lake and leaving behind rubbish. This is a yearly occurrence in the summer months. She asked if the PCSO could monitor the site and if the council maybe able to promote awareness around the dangers of swimming unattended.

45 Sussex Police

The latest crime figures for March 2023 were NOTED.

46 Representatives attending outside meetings.

Sussex Police Focus Group, 18th May, attended by Cllr Scott and the Clerk

Cllr Scott advised that the new area Inspector was present, David Derrick, who seems very proactive. He advised that Clerks have power to direct the PSCOs, within reason. Local information can be shared with PSCOs without the need to complete online 101 forms.

Cllr Lord had attended the GATCOM meeting, he gave a verbal report at the meeting.

47 Personnel

The Chairman referred to the Clerk's report.

The report of the activities and actions from the two HR Committee meetings held on 25th and 31st May were NOTED.

48 Date of the next meeting

The date of the next meeting is Monday, 26th June 2023, in the South Room at the Parish Hub in Copthorne.

Meeting closed at 08.21 pm.

Chairman: _____

Date: _____