

## **Worth Parish Council**

### **Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held in the South Room, the Parish Hub, Copthorne on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024 commencing at 7.30pm**

<b>Present:</b>	Cllr Dorey (Chairman)	Cllr Scott (Vice Chairman)
	Cllr Casella	Cllr Coote
	Cllr Cruickshank	Cllr Dymond
	Cllr Gibson	Cllr Hodsdon
	Cllr Kipps	Cllr Phillips
	Cllr Stewart	Cllr Williams
	Cllr Wilson	
	Mrs J Nagy (Clerk)	4 members of the public

#### **200 Public Question Time**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

A resident of Crawley Down, and a member of the Crawley Down Health Action Group, wished to address the Council in relation to the failings of Crawley Down Health Centre. It was put into special measure for six months, which is now due for review. He asked for support to lobby MPs etc to find out what is to happen in the future.

Cllr Scott, as leader of the Crawley Down Working Party, said that the Working Party had been aware of the issue for several years, and has been liaising with the Practice Patient Group and the Integrated Care Board. The Council has previously called on Jeremy Quin MP and Mims Davies MP to intervene, but it has very limited powers to act.

Cllr Gibson, speaking as a County Councillor advised that WSCC will not intervene. He suggested writing to the Integrated Care Board. Cllr Williams suggested that the Clerk requests data from the time the Surgery went into special measures and the latest data, so see if any improvements had been made. This should be supplied by practice, not over Modality as a whole.

A second resident asked that the Council posts its intended action on social media.

The Council was thanked for its certificate of recognition to Neil Lewis for his work in keeping Copthorne village tidy.

All four members of the public left the meeting.

#### **201 Apologies**

Apologies were noted and accepted from Cllrs Bingle, Lord, King and Pointer.

#### **202 Declarations of Interest**

There were no new declarations at this point of the meeting.

#### **203 Minutes**

It was agreed by all present that the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024 were a true and correct record.

#### **204 Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman advised that the Council had sent flowers to Cllr Pointer, who had expressed her thanks.

#### **205 Correspondence & Action List**

The correspondence and action lists were NOTED.

## **206 Committees**

The Minutes and actions therein of the following Committees as previously circulated were NOTED.

- Planning & Highways Committee, 8th January, 5th February 2024  
Date of next meeting, 8th April 2024
- Finance & General Purposes Committee, 8th January, 5th February 2024  
Date of next meeting, 8th April 2024
- Amenities & Assets Committee, 22nd January 2024  
Date of next meeting, 15th April 2024

## **207 Working Parties**

The notes and actions therein of the following Working Parties as circulated were NOTED.

- Copthorne Village Working Party, 24th January, 7th February, 21st February, 6th March 2024
- Crawley Down Village Working Party, 20th February 2024
- Co-Ordination Group, 29th January 2024

The Clerk was asked to write to MSDC about the dangerous chimney on the Royal Oak pub. The Crawley Down Working Party is to consider whether or not to re-apply for an ACV on the Royal Oak; the Save the Pub team is to be invited to the meeting at which this is discussed.

Cllr Gibson noted that an ACV had been refused on Crawley Down Village Hall. He suggested that the Council needs to review the Crawley Down Neighbourhood Plan.

## **208 County Councillors' Report**

Cllr Gibson's report as circulated was noted.

## **209 District Councillors' Report**

Cllr Gibson's report as circulated was noted.

Cllr Phillips advised that the application to demolish and replace St Francis' care home is to be discussed at MSDC on 21<sup>st</sup> March.

## **210 Annual Governance & Accountability Return 2022/2023**

The Clerk referred to her report.

Councillors formally NOTED and AGREED the amendment to Box 8, Section 2 of the AGAR, which should read £380,722, not £370,722.

## **211 Accounts & Financial Matters**

### Consideration of opening additional bank accounts

Please see separate report. The balances in current accounts are such that the Council needs to consider spreading financial risk.

It was AGREED by all present that the preferred option was the Nationwide 35-day saver account; the Clerk will review all the bank balances and come back with a suggestion of how much to transfer to this new account.

### Additional Topographical Survey at Copthorne Recreation Ground

Paul Budgen is preparing a revised master plan for the site, showing the removal of the row of car parking spaces next to the road.

He has identified some issues with measuring the splays required for the car park entrance, and as such has requested that the topographical survey is extended.

This will cost £995 +VAT. As per Financial Regulations, the Clerk has authorised expenditure together with Cllr Dorey as Chairman of the Council, this being under £1000.

Councillors NOTED this expenditure.

## **212 Council Land and Buildings**

### Funfair on Crawley Down Green

The funfair has changed its dates to 8th April to 15th April, rather than end of March due to weather forecast and concerns over damage to grass.

Councillors NOTED this information.

### Dog training on Crawley Down Green

The Clerk has written to the company running dog training classes on the Green to ask for insurance etc, and dates that the classes will be running with a view to charging for use.

Councillors NOTED this information.

### Removal of play equipment from Copthorne Bank

The Clerk is liaising with the contractor, the removal is imminent.

Councillors NOTED this information.

## **213 Youth Provision**

### Youth Bus

Based on children's designs from the art workshop held over half term, a possible logo has been drawn up for putting on the side of the Youth Bus, and for use in literature.

Cllrs Pointer and Stewart have been invited to review the design, prior to it being costed up for formal consideration.

Other councils have enquired about using the Youth Bus. The Clerk had consulted with the Council's insurance company, and it is possible to hire out the bus, if the hirer has suitable insurance of its own in place. This hire would be for the vehicle only, not with the Youth Worker accompanying it.

Councillors NOTED this information.

### Level 3 Youth Support Work Qualification

Drew is currently undertaking this qualification, which takes up 4 to 6 hours of his time per week.

### Better Lives

The Clerk has been asked to stand in for the Youth Worker (who is on annual leave) at a MSDC Better Lives presentation on 21<sup>st</sup> March. The event is about youth provision (or lack of it) in the District, and the Clerk has been asked to share WPC's experience in setting up the youth club after the demise of SCYP.

The Engagement report was NOTED.

## **214 Website**

The usage report was NOTED.

## **215 Anti-Social Behaviour**

It was noted that persons unknown are removing notices from the Crawley Down boards.

**216 Sussex Police**

The latest crime figures for December 2023 and January 2024 were NOTED.

**217 Representatives attending outside meetings.**

WSALC Chairmans' Forum, 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 attended by Cllr Dorey.

He reported that there are still issues over the retention and recruitment of clerks, with many leaving over abuse problems. There are four councils in West Sussex operating with Locum Clerks. The Civility & Respect pledge was highlighted; Worth PC has already signed up to this. It was noted that as both County and District Councils are cutting back, Parish Council are being asked to take on more services.

The Clerk was asked to chase the progress of the WSALC Working Party formed to discuss better communication with MSDC.

NALC Seminar "How Councils can benefit from the Levelling Up agenda", 31st January, attended by Cllr Williams.

Cllr Williams report on this seminar has been circulated.

Practitioners Conference, 31<sup>st</sup> January to 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024, attended by the Clerk.

Topics covered included AI, retention of volunteers and prevention of knife crime.

WSCC Active Travel Team, 29<sup>th</sup> February, on site walkabout by Cllr Dorey, with Ian Myhill, Principal Transport Improvements Officer.

The walkabout took around three hours. Ian was very proactive, and there were useful discussions about how particular areas can be improved, such as routes to and from local schools. There is around £300,000 in TAD monies available, and WSCC can match fund.

Cllr Dorey will pass Ian Myhill's details to Cllr Scott, so that he can arrange a similar visit in Crawley Down.

Copthorne Ladies Group Meeting, 7<sup>th</sup> March, attended by Cllrs Dorey and Hodsdon, as invited guests.

Cllr Dorey gave a presentation of what the Council does, and its vision for the future, which was very well received.

Councillors NOTED these reports.

**218 Date of the next meeting**

Monday, 20th May 2024 in the South Room, Parish Hub, Copthorne; this will be the Annual Council Meeting.

The Annual Council Meeting is where the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council are elected, Committee and Working Party membership agreed, and Chairs of Committees elected.

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Monday, 22nd April 2024.

The Clerk was asked to invite Adam Hawksbee, one of the speakers at the NALC "How Councils can benefit from the Levelling Up agenda" seminar, to the Annual Parish Meeting. This would be in addition to inviting grant recipients.

*Meeting closed at 8.40 pm.*

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

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