

Worth Parish Council

Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on June 3rd 2024 commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Dorey (Chairman)
Cllr Casella
Cllr Lord
Cllr Williams
Mrs J. Nagy (Clerk)
Cllr Kipps
Cllr Pointer
Cllr Wilson
3 members of the public

Due to Cllr Scott giving his apologies, it was agreed that Cllr Dorey would Chair the meeting.

1 Election of Vice Chairman

Cllr Dorey proposed Cllr Phillips seconded by Cllr Casella.

There being no other nominations, it was agreed by all present that Cllr Phillips be elected Vice Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee

2 Public Question Time

There were no questions from those present.

3 Apologies

Apologies were noted and accepted from Cllrs Coote, Hodsdon, King, Phillips and Scott.

4 Declarations of Interest

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

5 Minutes

It was AGREED by all present that the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 13th May 2024 were a true and correct record.

6 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman had no announcements

7 Correspondence List

The Correspondence List was NOTED.

8 Accounts and Financial Matters

Financial information

Financial information was included in the meeting pack, with reconciled figures to date.

Councillors NOTED the three bank transfers of £10,000 and £50,000 twice to the new Unity Account. This is being used as the main account for payments as it is easier to access so will be kept topped up accordingly.

It was proposed by Cllr Dorey seconded by Cllr Lord and RESOLVED by all present that the financial information was a true representation of the current financial situation.

Opening of Nationwide Savings Account

It was previously agreed to open a new savings account with Nationwide; however, new accounts are not currently being processed. The Clerk is looking at alternatives and will present these to the next meeting.

Councillors NOTES this information

Bank Reconciliations

It was NOTED that the bank reconciliations have been signed; this has been done by Cllr Casella.

Grant application from Crawley Down Monday Club for £750

This application is for £750 to go towards the purchase of a new minibus.

The Chairman proposed the suspension of Standing Orders to allow a member of the public to speak; seconded by Cllr Williams, AGREED by all present.

The Chairman of the Monday Club was present at the meeting.

The Club has been operating for over 35 years and currently has 48 members from both Crawley Down and Copthorne, with a waiting list of 9. Half of those members need transport to meetings. The current minibus is over 18 years old and is nearing the end of its life. It is estimated that a second had minibus will cost around £40,000. This can be funded via £25,000 reserves, c£5,000 part exchanged on the current minibus and c£3,500 in donations, leaving a balance of around £6,500 to find.

Since the application was submitted to the Parish Council, the Monday Club has investigated other sources of funding, such as CDRA, Lions Club and MSDC.

Councillors present suggested Age Concern, Tesco's and Amazon. It was suggested that the dealer selling a minibus may be willing to sponsor it.

Cllr Lord asked if ongoing costs of a new minibus could be met; yes, this can be covered by meeting fees.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

It was proposed by Cllr Dorey, seconded by Cllr Wilson and AGREED by all present that a grant of £750 be awarded to the Monday Club.

Authorisation to spend on Copthorne Flower beds

The Clerk is currently making enquiries as to whether a local garden centre will sponsor the plants for two new beds in Copthorne, one at the junction of Copthorne roundabout and Brookhill Rd, the other at the junction of Borers Arms Rd and the A264.

If this is not possible, the Working Party would like to spend up to £500 on plants.

Expenditure of up to £500 from the Copthorne Working Party budget was AGREED by all present.

Office Re-organisation

In order to be able to accommodate all staff, the Clerk is planning on changing offices to allow for more desks to be put in her current, larger office. This will require the purchase of two new desks and chairs at a cost of around £500. She proposes that this is allocated to Capital Purchases.

Councillors AGREED this expenditure.

9 Section 106 Monies

The Clerk referred to her report, which was noted.

10 Projects

CCTV

As agreed at the last meeting, the installation of two cameras, one in each village is being progressed. It is hoped that installation will commence in September.

Bowers Place

Currently awaiting the arboriculturist's report in order to apply for planning permission.

Copthorne Recreation Ground

Planning permission is being awaited; the Planning Officer has been on leave.

Crawley Down Play Area

Awaiting guidance from the CD Working Party as to how to proceed.

Councillors NOTED this information.

11 Council Premises and Land

Nothing to report.

12 Matters for Consideration submitted by the Village Working Parties

There were none.

13 Consideration of items for discussion by the Village Working Parties

There were none.

14 Date of the next meeting

Monday, 1st July 2024

Meeting closed at 7.45pm.

Chairman: _____

Date: _____