

Worth Parish Council

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held in the South Room at the Parish Hub, Copthorne on 20th January 2025 commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Dorey (Chairman)

Cllr Bingle
Cllr Dymond
Cllr Kipps
Cllr Phillips
Cllr Stewart
Cllr Wilson

Cllr Casella
Cllr Gibson
Cllr Hodsdon
Cllr Pointer
Cllr Williams

Mrs L Bannister (Chief Officer)

0 members of the public

109 Public Question Time

No members of the public were present.

110 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Coote, Cruickshank, King, Lord and Scott.

111 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Hodsdon declared an interest in the lease of the South Room.

112 Minutes

It was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 21st November 2024 and the special Full Council Meeting on 16th December 2024 were a true and correct record.

113 Chairman's Announcements

The Chief Officer has arranged two informal meetings for councillors to attend. The Chairman encouraged all members to support this.

The Chairman read out the following statement from Insp. Derrick:

Police are investigating incidents relating to Councillors Williams and Bingle and their home address. Like all matters involving Politics and Politicians, elected officials must feel free to conduct council business and they must feel secure in that matter. Any persons seeking to intimidate elected officials either by online abuse or intimidation by identifying their homes will be investigated. We will seek to ensure we apply the Law where appropriate bringing offenders to justice and ensuring Councillors feel safe to conduct their duties.

114 Correspondence

The following were noted:

- a. Correspondence received
- b. Freedom of Information requests
- c. Update on resolutions/actions
- d. Update on projects
- e. Update on Youth Provision
- f. Latest website data
- g. The latest crime figures for Copthorne, Crawley Down and Turners Hill

115 Committees

The Minutes and actions of the following Committees as circulated were noted:

- a. Planning & Highways Committee – 9th December 2024, 13th January 2025. Next meeting to be held on 3rd February.
- b. Finance & General Purposes Committee – 9th December 2024, 13th January 2025. Next meeting to be held on 3rd February.
- c. Assets & Amenities Committee – 16th December 2024. Next meeting to be held on 17th March 2025.

d. HR Committee – next meeting date to be confirmed.

116 Working Parties

The notes and actions of the following Working Parties as circulated were noted:

- a. Copthorne Village Working Party – 27th November 2024, 11th December 2024, 8th January 2025. Next meeting to be held on 22nd January 2025.
- b. Crawley Down Village Working Party – 14th November 2024, 26th November 2024, 9th January 2025. Next meeting to be held on 18th February 2025
- c. Co-Ordination Group – next meeting to be held on 27th January 2025.

117 Reports from other Authorities

County Councillors

Cllr Gibson reported that the County Council has applied to be included in the devolution priority programme along with East Sussex and Brighton.

Cllr Dorey reported that WSCC has confirmed that they would lift the restriction on Shipley Bridge Road so that residents can drive through the bus gate to Worsell Drive while Shipley Bridge Road is closed.

District Councillor

Cllr Phillips reported that MSDC has now responded to all of the District Plan Inspector's questions. MSDC is waiting to hear when the next hearing will be.

Cllr Casella added that MSDC is currently setting its budget; this is still to be approved.

Cllr Gibson noted that due to the changes to the NPPF, MSDC has a shortfall of 1,500 houses. However, the District Plan Inspector has yet to make a decision on the housing figure in the District Plan. The new District Plan is based on the current NPPF, not the proposed version.

118 Parish Awards Scheme

The Working Parties were asked to consider nominations.

119 Cricket & Recreation Ground at Crawley Down

It was RESOLVED to appoint Leanne Bannister, Chief Officer, as the Council's contact for the Charity Commission.

120 Consultation for Strengthening the Standards and Conduct Framework for Local Authorities in England

It was RESOLVED to respond to this consultation in support of the proposed measures.

121 Representatives attending outside meetings.

A ceremony was held at All Saints Crawley Down to celebrate the 950th anniversary of Chichester Cathedral. It was attended by the Bishop of Chichester and the Bishop of Horsham. This was reported as being very enjoyable.

122 Personnel

It was RESOLVED to exclude the press and public from the meeting for this item in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s1 due to the confidential nature of the matter to be discussed.

The report of the HR Committee meetings was noted.

Councillors are keen to investigate the option of charging for the youth service. This will be considered soon as the scheme progresses and once all of the vacancies are filled.

123 Rent Review of South Room

It was RESOLVED to exclude the press and public from the meeting for this item in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s1 due to the confidential nature of the matter to be discussed.

It was RESOLVED to attempt to negotiate the rent of the South Room with the landlord on the grounds listed in the confidential report.

124 Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 24th March 2025, at the South Room, the Parish Hub Copthorne.

Meeting closed at 8.00 pm.

Chairman: _____

Date: _____