

## **Worth Parish Council**

### **Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held in the South Room at the Parish Hub, Copthorne on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025 commencing at 7.30pm**

<b>Present:</b>	Cllr Dorey (Chairman) Cllr Bingle Cllr Cruickshank Cllr King Cllr Phillips Cllr Stewart	Cllr Coote (Vice Chairman) Cllr Casella Cllr Dymond Cllr Kipps Cllr Scott Cllr Wilson
	Mrs L Bannister (Chief Officer)	0 members of the public WSCC Cllr B Forbes

#### **125 Public Question Time**

No members of the public were present.

#### **126 Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Gibson, Hodsdon, Lord, Pointer and Williams.

#### **127 Declarations of Interest**

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

#### **128 Minutes**

It was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

#### **129 Chairman's Announcements**

None.

#### **130 Correspondence & Updates**

The following were noted:

- Correspondence received
- Update on resolutions/actions
- Update on projects
- Update on Youth Provision - unavailable
- Latest website data
- The latest crime figures for Copthorne, Crawley Down and Turners Hill

#### **131 Committees**

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

- Planning & Highways Committee – 13th January 2025, 3rd February 2025, 3rd March 2025. Next meeting date to be confirmed.
- Finance & General Purposes Committee – 3rd February 2025, 3rd March 2025. Next meeting date to be confirmed.
- Assets & Amenities Committee – next meeting date to be confirmed.
- HR Committee – next meeting date to be confirmed.

#### **132 Working Parties**

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

- Copthorne Village Working Party – 22nd January 2025, 5th February 2025, 19th February 2025, 5th March 2025. Next meeting to be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025.
- Crawley Down Village Working Party – 5th February 2025, 5th March 2025. Next meeting to be held on 9th April 2025.
- Co-Ordination Group – 27th January 2025.

#### **133 Reports from other Authorities**

##### County Councillors

Cllr Forbes reported that he has attended lots of meetings regarding devolution and the Local

Government Review. There is currently a consultation running and the feedback should be available at the end of April. WSCC are working on a model for the unitary areas.

Mayoral elections will be held in 2026, and the executive will be a committee of 6 – two representatives from each unitary. Unitary areas will either be made up of populations of 900,000, 700,000 or 500,000 (which is the minimum). There will be a plan for this available at the end of September. There are currently no plans on Parish Councils, but this is expected to be covered in the next White Paper. Parishes from other unitary authorities have been concerned as they have been passed responsibilities without financial backing.

A shadow unitary will be appointed from 2027, and elections for the new authorities will be held in 2028. If Brighton wants to remain as a 280,000 population, there is an argument that they shouldn't have 2 seats on the mayoral authority.

Cllr Forbes will share further information as he receives it.

Cllr Gibson reported that both WSCC and MSDC approved Council tax increases in line with their referendum limit (5% and 3%). Both Councils are in the process of approving economic strategies which have net zero as a key objective.

Cllr Phillips noted that MSDC still hasn't heard from the inspector to set a date for the second hearing for the District Plan.

#### **134 Parish Awards & Annual Parish Assembly**

It was RESOLVED to approve the plan in the report attached to the agenda. The Parish Awards will be held on 6<sup>th</sup> June.

#### **135 Community Governance Review**

It was noted that MSDC believe the Review would be best served to take place in 2029.

#### **136 Policy**

It was RESOLVED to approve the following:

- a. CCTV Policy
- b. Information Sharing Agreements
- c. Data Protection Impact Assessment for CCTV
- d. General Privacy Notice
- e. GDPR Subject Access Request Policy
- f. GDPR Breach Notification Policy
- g. Village Working Party Terms of Reference (following a review by the HR Committee)

#### **137 Consultations**

It was RESOLVED that the Worth Parish Council Working Party should meet to agree a response to the Sussex and Brighton devolution consultation.

#### **138 Meetings for 2025-2026**

It was RESOLVED to approve the schedule of meetings.

#### **139 Informal meeting with Councillors**

- a. The report of the meetings was noted.
- b. The schedule of recommendations was noted and approved.
- c. It was RESOLVED to set up a Worth Parish Council Working Party and to dissolve the Co-ordination Group. Terms of Reference will be drafted to be approved at the next Full Council meeting.

#### **140 Operation Watershed**

It was RESOLVED to:

- a. Confirm the recommendation made by the Finance & General Purpose Committee:
  - o To make the Operation Watershed funding application, subject to a suitable contractor being selected.
  - o The tender process set out in the report is followed, using the electronic tendering process.
  - o The contractors set out in the report are approached to tender.
  - o WPC makes it clear to all parties that making this application does not bestow any liability for the drainage issues or ongoing maintenance on the Council.

- b. Approve the Invitation to Tender.

**141 Representatives attending outside meetings.**

- a. The report from the Chief Officer regarding the MSDC Communications and Liaison Group was noted.
- b. A verbal report of the Mid Sussex Association of Local Councils devolution conference was noted. This was attended by the Chief Officer, Cllr Casella and Cllr Wilson.

**142 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 from the Chief Officer was noted.

An update was given to the Council on the interviews for the Youth Supervisor and Youth Support Worker roles.

**143 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 agree the rent of £8,000, with a 2.5% increase each year for the following two years.

**144 Date of the next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025, at the Parish Hub Copthorne.

*Meeting closed at 7.57 pm.*

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

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