

Worth Parish Council

Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on July 29th 2024 commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Scott (Chairman) Cllr Phillips (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Casella Cllr Dorey
Cllr King Cllr Kipps
Cllr Lord Cllr Pointer
Cllr Williams Cllr Wilson
Mrs J. Nagy (Clerk) 2 members of the public

29 Public Question Time

There were no questions from those present.

30 Apologies

Apologies were noted and accepted from Cllrs Coote and Hodsdon.

31 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Dorey declared an interest in the Copthorne Village Golf Club grant application, as he is a member of the Club.

Cllr Williams declared an interest in the CDRA land use application, as she is a member.

32 Minutes

It was AGREED by all present that the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 1st July 2024 were a true and correct record.

33 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman had no announcements

34 Correspondence List

The Correspondence List was NOTED.

35 Accounts and Financial Matters

Financial information

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

There are separate print outs for the two Working Parties, as Council has agreed that the Copthorne WP will go over budget with the Regeneration project. To note costs to date will prove that the Council is monitoring expenditure, especially as it waived Financial Regulations to appoint a Project Manager.

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

In addition, the Accounts Clerk would like to make the following transfers:

Bank	Current Balance	Suggested Transfer	Balance after transfer
NatWest	123,500	80,000 to new savings	43,500

Bank	Current Balance	Suggested Transfer	Balance after transfer
Barclays savings	121,300	36,000 to Barclays current	85,300
Barclays current	25,600 + 36,000 transfer = 61,600	50,000 to Unity	11,600
Unity	34,000 + 50,000 = 84,000	0	84,000
Cambridge	80,000 (once opened)	0	80,000

It was proposed by Cllr Scott, seconded by Cllr Casella that the financial information as supplied was AGREED by all present; it was further AGREED by all present that the proposed transfers would be actioned.

Bank Reconciliations

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

Grant Application from Copthorne Village Golf Club for £750

Cllr Dorey took no part in discussion, having previously declared an interest.

The grant is for refurbishment of the bar area. Representatives of the Club were present at the meeting.

The Chairman proposed the suspension of Standing Order to enable members of the public to speak; seconded by Cllr Casella, AGREED by all present.

The Village Golf Club advised that they were limited to a membership of 46 members, each of whom paid a subscription of £870 a year. Members have to live within 2.7 miles of the Club. The majority of the income is paid to the parent Club Copthorne Golf Club to allow members to play the main course, a sum of around £35,000 a year. No annual accounts are used. People can use the bar without being a member.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

The Chairman noted that £4325 had already been spent out of the £8000 grants budget, only four months into the financial year. He had concerns that the membership of the Club was only 46.

It was proposed by Cllr Lord, seconded by Cllr King, that a grant of £500 would be given to Copthorne Village Golf Club. This proposal was taken to a vote, with 4 in favour and 5 abstentions. The motion was therefore carried.

Two members of the public left the meeting.

Grant Application from St Catherine's Hospice for £750

The grant is for general funds.

The Clerk advised that St Catherine's had sent apologies, in that there was no-one available to attend the meeting.

It was AGREED to defer consideration of this grant until the next meeting, when it is hoped that a representative can attend.

36 Section 106 Monies

The spreadsheet was NOTED; there have been no movements since the last meeting.

Copthorne Recreation Ground

It was noted that the application to release £300,000 s106 funding had not been included in the agenda for the MSDC Grants Panel on 15th July, despite being submitted in good time.

Andrew Marsh, Head of Planning Policy & Housing Enabling has advised that a new constitution has been agreed, which will make governance around release of s106 funds more efficient by reducing reliance on the Grants Panel and using Assistant Director delegations instead in certain circumstances.

Mr Marsh is checking with the MSDC Legal team as to how best to proceed with our request for release of funds.

Councillors NOTED this information.

Provision of new School on Heathy Wood Site

The Copthorne Working Party met with the Heads of the two village schools, both of whom would prefer additional funding to provide extra SEN provision within the schools, rather than a new SEN school on Heathy Wood.

There appears to be some discrepancies with the information issued by WSCC in a letter to residents and the schools, and information subsequently circulated.

The Clerk was asked to ascertain if an independent study could be commissioned to review the SEN and mainstream needs for both schools; Trevor Leggo WSALC CEO is exploring possibilities.

Councillors NOTED this information

37 Projects

CCTV

The Clerk's report was noted.

Councillors expressed frustration at the continued delay in progressing this project

Bowers Place Parking Solution

The Clerk's report was noted.

Cllr Scott and the Assistant Clerk (Projects) met with Practice Manager at the Health Centre as planned. It has been agreed in principle that residents can park at the Centre overnight whilst the works are taking place. This facility may not be available on some days, due to additional scheduled surgeries

Councillors NOTED this information.

Copthorne Recreation Ground

The Clerk's report was noted.

Cllr Dorey advised that there was still a funding gap of around £120,000 for the project, even once the s106 monies were received. The Working Party is in discussion with the doctors' surgery to try to secure some funding towards the car park, as this could be used by patients, thus freeing up space on site for a possible surgery extension.

It may be that a Public Works Loan is required; a funding proposal will be considered at the next Full Council meeting in September.

Councillors NOTED this information.

Crawley Down Playground Rejuvenation

Squires Planning have been appointed and currently await our instructions. No further activities have taken place since last reporting.

Cllr Williams advised that the Crawley Down Working Party had decided to put the project on hold to all the Projects Clerk to concentrate on higher priority projects.

Councillors NOTED this information.

38 Council Premises and Land

CDRA for use of Crawley Down Green for the Fayre on 7th September 2024

Cllr Williams took no part in discussion, having previously declared an interest.

This is for the annual village event.

It was AGREED by all present to give permission for the Fayre to take place on Crawley Down Green; the Clerk is to approve all risk assessments and insurance details prior to the event taking place.

ProTrek K9, for ongoing use of both Village Greens

This is for dog training classes to take place every second or third Saturday in the month, alternating between village greens.

It was generally felt that the two greens were not suitable venues for dog training; there were concerns that neither were fenced, and there may be possible conflict between the classes and the public's general enjoyment of the greens. Permission was therefore refused.

The Clerk was asked to suggest other venues to the applicant, these being Copthorne Pavilion, Humphry's Field and the Haven Centre.

Funfair on Crawley Down Green

Hebborns Fun Village have contacted the Clerk having had a cancellation. They want to use Crawley Down Green from 6th to 20th August, offering two four-days sessions during that period.

It was agreed to offer Hebborns one week at Copthorne Recreation Ground instead, two weeks on site was considered to be too long.

39 Matters for Consideration submitted by the Village Working Parties

There were none.

40 Consideration of items for discussion by the Village Working Parties

There were none.

41 Date of the next meeting

Monday, 2nd September 2024

Meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

Chairman: _____

Date: _____