

Worth Parish Council

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held in the South Room at the Parish Hub, Copthorne on 15th September 2025 commencing at 7.30pm

Present:

Cllr Dorey (Chairman)	Cllr Coote (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Bingle	Cllr Casella
Cllr Cruickshank	Cllr Dymond
Cllr Gibson	Cllr King
Cllr Kipps	Cllr Phillips
Cllr Pointer	Cllr Stewart
Cllr Williams	Cllr Wilson

Mrs L Bannister (Chief Officer)

045 Public Question Time

No questions were raised.

046 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Hodsdon, Lord and Scott.

047 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Gibson declared an interest in the recommendation from Copthorne Working Party due to being a member of Mid Sussex District Council and West Sussex County Council.

048 Minutes

It was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the full Council meeting held on 21st July 2025.

049 Chair's Announcements

The consultation for the public works loan for the Copthorne Recreation Ground has gone live today. This will be advertised across both villages.

Cllr Williams was thanked for representing the Council on BBC Radio Sussex for her interview on litter picking and fly tipping.

050 Correspondence, Action List & Updates

The following were noted:

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

051 Committees

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

- Planning & Highways Committee – 1st September 2025. Next meeting 2nd October 2025.
- Finance & General Purposes Committee – 1st September 2025. Next meeting 2nd October 2025.
- Assets & Amenities Committee – no meetings held since last Full Council meeting. Next meeting 22nd September 2025.
- HR Committee – no meetings held since last Full Council meeting. Next meeting 22nd September 2025.

052 Working Parties

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

- Copthorne Village Working Party – 23rd July 2025, 6th August 2025, 20th August 2025, 3rd September 2025. Next meeting 17th September 2025.
- Crawley Down Village Working Party – 9th July 2025. Next meeting 17th September 2025.
- Local Government Working Party – 4th August 2025, 1st September 2025, 5th September 2025 (notes to follow). Next meeting to be confirmed.

053 Reports from other Authorities

Cllr Gibson reported that WSCC's focus has been on the Local Government Review and devolution. It appears that the recommendation will be for a unitary authority to cover all of West Sussex (option a in the consultation).

WSCC's financial position is worsening in terms of the fair funding review and adult social services. It is not expected that the local government review will resolve this.

The Burgess Hill development is progressing well, with the Ark sports facility almost complete.

Cllr Williams asked if MSDC is monitoring the site on Turners Hill Road which potentially has a planning compliance issue. Cllr Gibson confirmed that MSDC is monitoring the site. It was reported that bulldozers have been seen on site.

The District Plan is technically still in examination, but there are no dates and MSDC has not heard anything back from the Inspectorate yet. Cllr Gibson advised that it would not be money well spent to pursue a Neighbourhood Plan review at this time.

054 Art Display

Cllr Coote presented his idea for an art competition for local people in the parish. His vision is that this would include:

- A place for both Copthorne and Crawley Down artists to showcase their work.
- A potential category for children to enter.
- A small prize for the winner.
- The Chairman and local MP could be invited to judge.
- The prize giving could be included in the Parish Awards ceremony.

It was suggested that Cllr Coote should engage with the Camera Club and local Art Society.

It was agreed that Cllr Coote would scope out this idea and present a full plan to the next Full Council meeting.

055 Representatives attending outside meetings.

It was agreed to note:

- a. The Town & Parish District Plan update
- b. The Town & Parish Local Government Review Engagement

056 Bowers Place Parking Solution

It was RESOLVED to:

- a. Approve the budget of £88,737.69 as recommended by the Finance & General Purposes Committee.
- b. Approve the investment of an additional £50,000 in the CCLA as recommended by the Finance & General Purposes Committee, and to delegate authority to the Chief Officer to transfer this amount to the current account when needed.

057 Recommendation from Copthorne Working Party

It was RESOLVED to engage with the local MP, Secretary of State, MHCLG, West Sussex County Council, Mid Sussex District Council, the West Sussex Association of Local Councils and the National Association of Local Councils to highlight the following issues regarding the Copthorne Hotel, and seek to restore the amenity of the hotel to the village.

- The loss of tourism to the area impacts the local shops, pubs and restaurants
- The hotel was a major local employer, especially for younger people seeking local and first time jobs
- Protests have drawn people from out of the area to attend, and some of these people have been aggressive and caused local unrest
- There is a lack of social cohesion caused by lack of integration
- It seems that there is a disproportionate amount of hotels in the area, and a large amount of people in the hotel in comparison to the population of Copthorne. This leads to a strain on local resources.

It was noted that part of the Effingham Hotel grounds are within Worth Parish, and this should also be a consideration.

058 Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 20th November 2025, at the Haven, Crawley Down.

Meeting closed at 8 pm.

Chairman: _____

Date: _____