

Worth Parish Council

Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 2nd February 2026 commencing at 8.45 pm

Present:	Cllr Phillips (Chair) Cllr Casella Cllr Dorey Cllr Kipps Cllr Williams	Cllr Pointer (Acting Vice Chair) Cllr Coote Cllr Hodsdon Cllr Lord Cllr Wilson
	Mrs L Bannister (Chief Officer)	Representative of Crawley Down Ladies Choir Representative of SEDSConnective Cllr Bingle as member of the public

Due to the absence of Cllr Scott, Cllr Pointer was appointed as Vice Chair for the meeting

102 Public Question Time

No questions were raised at this point in the meeting.

103 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Scott and King.

104 Declarations of Interest

None.

105 Grants

It was agreed to bring forward the item relating to grants.

Representations were received from the Crawley Down Ladies Choir and SEDSConnective who explained their applications in more detail.

It was RESOLVED to approve a grant of:

- £550 to Crawley Down Ladies Choir to expand their music
- £750 to SEDSConnective – to be paid in April

106 Minutes

It was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 12th January 2026.

107 Chairman's Announcements

None.

108 Correspondence List

None.

109 Accounts and Financial Matters

Financial information

Financial information was included in the meeting pack. It was RESOLVED that the financial information was a true representation of the current financial situation.

Bank Reconciliations

It was NOTED that the bank reconciliations to 31st January have been completed and signed by Cllr Casella.

110 Section 106

- a. The reports were NOTED.
- b. It was NOTED that MSDC has agreed to consider the reallocation of £27,398 which is

allocated to new allotments in Copthorne.

111 Projects

- a. Bowers Place – it was NOTED that:

S278 technical has now been granted. WSCC requested a few very minor amendments to the plans. The legal agreement needs to be signed and this will go via the Council's solicitor. The project manager has been given the details of the officer at WSCC who will decide what traffic management will be required.

The application to remove the biodiversity condition has been submitted to MSDC. This could take up to 8 weeks, but the planning officer has indicated that it should be much quicker.

The standstill period for the contract ended on Friday 23rd January without any contest. Landbuild has confirmed their intention to accept the offer, and a contract will be entered once the above elements have been completed and the traffic management costs are known.

Crawley Down Working Party raised a question about the risks of liquidation. This is covered in the Minor Works Building Contract that will be entered. Councillors should be aware that payment will be made to the contractor in arrears after work has been signed off (possibly in sections).

- b. CCTV (Crawley Down)

The Phase 1 project closure information for the installation was NOTED.

- c. Copthorne Recreation Ground - it was NOTED that:

- The Public Works Loan for £150,000 has been approved.
- An application for the National Lottery Awards For All Grant was submitted on 13th January 2026 for £19,985. If this application is successful, there will be a project shortfall of just over £53k, which includes a contingency of circa £31k.
- The Project Manager is revisiting the timeline for works to take place and this will now also include time for CCTV to be installed at this location. The Communications Plan is also now being reviewed, with consideration being given to the best time to go out to local businesses for possible donations and for discussions to take place with the playground contractor regarding possible options to reduce costs if needed.

- d. Operation Watershed – no further actions have been taken while the funding outcome is awaited.

112 Matters for Consideration submitted by the Village and Worth Parish Council Working Parties

No items to consider.

113 Consideration of items for discussion by the Village and Worth Parish Council Working Parties

No items were submitted.

114 Date of the next meeting

The date of the next meeting is Monday 2nd March at the Parish Hub, Copthorne.

Meeting closed at 9.15 pm

Chairman: _____

Date: _____