

## Worth Parish Council

### Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026 commencing at 7.00pm

#### Present:

Cllr Dorey (Chairman)  
Leanne Bannister (Chief Officer) 12 members of the public  
Hannah Smith (Assistant Clerk)  
Andrew Latham emergency responder -

#### 1 To confirm the Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024 were signed as a correct record.

#### 2 Chairman's Report

Good evening and thank you all for attending this evening. Although this is an informal meeting, it is an important one for the Council for us to summarise what has happened in the last year, and to touch on some expectations for the coming year.

The main drive for the Council in the last couple of years has been to change our approach from a process-driven to a delivery-driven model. This has resulted in a 100% turnover of the Council staff, and an increase in resource in all areas to achieve the vision we have set.

We are still in the transition phase of this major change, but are starting to reap the rewards, and this will escalate in the coming year.

In the past year we have achieved some pleasing goals:

- The Grounds team are continuing to improve the maintenance program throughout both villages and have planted some areas that have met with some great feedback
- We have held our second Parish Awards evening that was extremely well attended
- Our Youth clubs are over-subscribed in both villages and are improving all the time
- Our social media presence is evolving constantly, and we now have over 1000 followers on our FB page
- The Planning & Highways committee have robustly responded to a number of local applications, and successfully fought against a potentially disastrous planning application in Copthorne that would have almost certainly led to the loss of our pub
- We successfully campaigned for a grant of over £90K for residential drainage improvements in Crawley Down
- We have continued to support a significant number of local groups and organisations through grants, initiatives and offering help wherever we can
- We finally implemented one of the larger projects by installing CCTV in both villages after many years of effort to complete. The CCTV is monitored by the police and has already been used by them in 14 investigations in Copthorne and 37 in Crawley Down

All the above is very satisfying, but we are very excited about what will happen in the coming year:

- We will continue to expand the Youth provision to include older age groups
- Our Grounds team will implement more estate management and improvements rather than pure maintenance
- More importantly, we will achieve two of the largest projects this Council has taken on for many years:
  - The Parking improvements in Bowers Place will start soon and be completed this year
  - The complete overhaul of the Copthorne Rec will start next Monday and will also be completed this year
- Both these projects have been many years in the making and although we understand how frustrating this has been for residents, you cannot begin to believe how arduous it can be getting everything in place to go ahead with projects this size in the public sector
- We sincerely believe that we have learned so much from these experiences that future projects will be more efficiently executed

Of course, none of the above is possible without the commitment and efforts of all our employees – Officers, administrators, Grounds staff and Youth support who would be the envy of most councils. My fellow Councillors who continue to volunteer their time and expertise. There are also numerous volunteers – individuals and groups – that work tirelessly to make our villages the fantastic places they are to live. My heartfelt thanks go out to all of you. I would like to finish by thanking you all again for attending, and to assure all our residents we remain committed to building on our existing achievements, listening to our community and working collaboratively to meet future challenges.

### **3 Open Forum**

There was 1 question from a member of the public- Any plans to improve the footpaths around Copthorne? Cllr Dorey explained the works on the highways and footpaths are controlled by WSCC Highways, the office has been asked to write to the highways team to ask how work is prioritised.

Residents were asked to continue reporting instances as this will support the case.

### **3 Presentations from Groups and Organisations which have received a grant from Worth Parish Council April 2023 to March 2024**

#### Copthorne Chasers a grant for £415

Lauraine Stewart thanked Worth Parish Council for the Grant, with the money they have now been able to secure a second welfare officer another leader and purchased safety equipment. Money was also used towards advertisement and leadership renewals.

#### CDRA, grants of £750 and £1000

Liz Williams on behalf of the CDRA, wanted to thank Worth Parish Council for their continued support. The grant money enables the CDRA to continue putting on events for the community including the Crawley Down Fayre, Gig on the Green, Christmas lights and an Easter egg hunt. This year the grant has helped pay for security for the Gig on the Green, to continue improving the safety of those attending.

#### Copthorne Village Carnival, grants of £750 and £1000

Graham Casella Chairman of the Copthorne Carnival for more than 30 years thanked the council for its continuing support. The money this year has been used to secure more recycling classes and new gazebos.

#### Tina Mansfield- 4Sight Vision, a grant of £510

Tina gave her apologies for the meeting and hoped to be able to support if there were any other community events throughout the year. Tina shared that with the council's support they have been able to help residents with specialist advice, support independence and assist clients with setting up and using a range of tech devices, such as voice activated commands.

#### St Catherines hospice, a grant of £750

St Catherines sent their apologies. They have just recently published their latest edition of [Matters](#) which demonstrated the impact of Worth Parish Council's ongoing support.

CDCCA, a grant of £5000

The CDCCA did not respond to the invitation, this money was used to help refurbish the Haven bar.

All Saints Church, a grant of £350

All Saints Church did not respond to the invitation; the money awarded was for their coffee mornings.

St Johns the Evangelist Church, a grant for £750

St Johns did not respond to the invitation, the money awarded was to go towards the restoration of the Lychgate.

Peter Pan Play Group, a grant for £750

Peter Pan did not respond to the invitation; the money awarded was to be used for improved fencing at their open play area in preparation for the adjacent car park being built.

Crawley Down Ladies Choir, a grant for £550

The Choir did not respond to the invitation; the money awarded was used to purchase sheet music.

Crawley Down Cricket Club, a grant for £750

The cricket club did not respond to the invitation; the money awarded was used to purchase new equipment.

SEDSConnective, a grant for £750

SEDSConnective did not respond to the invitation, the money awarded was for general funds.

## **5 Presentation Andrew Latham – Community responder**

Andrew presented Cllrs and residents the opportunity to learn CPR and gave an AED demonstration.

### **Key points covered**

Early recognition and Call for help (999)  
Early use of CPR benefits  
Early use of Defib (AED device) benefits  
Post resuscitation Care

### **Dr CH ABC**

Danger - Before approaching the casualty, always make sure the area is safe.  
Response - Check if the casualty is responsive or unresponsive  
Catastrophic Haemorrhage (check for signs of severe bleeding)  
Airway- Check airway is open and clear Head tilt chin lift  
Breathing - check look listen and feel, do this for 10 seconds.  
Call for help 999  
Not breathing - 120 compressions per minute singing 'Nelly the Elephant

Unconscious and breathing – recovery position

Cllr Dorey had the opportunity to practice giving chest compressions, under Andrew's supervision. This was a really informative session, and the council would like to take the opportunity to thank Andrew for his time.

For further information please click on the link [How to Do the Primary Survey \(DR ABC\)](#)

Meeting closed at 20.00

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

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

DRAFT