

Worth Parish Council

**Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held in the Parish Hub, Copthorne on 20th July 2026
commencing at 7.30 pm**

Present:	Cllr Dorey (Chair)	Cllr Coote (Vice Chair)
	Cllr Casella	Cllr Dymond
	Cllr Cruickshank	Cllr Hodsdon
	Cllr King	Cllr Kipps
	Cllr Phillips	Cllr Pointer
	Cllr Scott	Cllr Stewart
	Cllr Wilson	Cllr Williams
	Mrs L Bannister (Chief Officer)	1 member of the public WSSC Cllr Dowsett

035 Public Question Time

No questions raised.

036 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Bingle, Gibson and Lord.

037 Declarations of Interest

None.

038 Minutes

It was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Full Council meetings held on 18th May 2026, 15th June 2026 and 6th July 2026. These were duly signed by the Chair.

039 Chairman's Announcements

None.

040 Correspondence, Action List & Updates

The following were NOTED:

- Correspondence received
- Update on resolutions/actions
- Projects tracker
- Latest website data
- The latest crime figures for Copthorne, Crawley Down and Turners Hill. It was NOTED that crime figures for Copthorne are still higher than for Crawley Down, and there are a number of sexual and violent crimes being reported.

041 Committees

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

- Planning & Highways Committee – 1st June 2026 and 6th July 2026. Next meeting 7th September 2026.
- Finance & General Purposes Committee – 1st June 2026 and 6th July 2026. Next meeting 7th September 2026.
- Amenities & Assets Committee – 15th June 2026. Next meeting 14th September 2026.
- HR Committee – none available.

042 Working Parties

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

- Copthorne Working Party – 13th May 2026, 28th May 2026, 11th June 2026 and 6th July 2026. Next meeting 23rd July 2026.
- Crawley Down Working Party – 13th May 2026, 10th June 2026 and 8th July 2026. Next meeting 2nd September 2026.
- Worth Parish Council Working Party – 13th July 2026. Next meeting date to be set.

043 Committee Structure

Cllr Lord's resignation from the Finance & General Purposes Committee was noted. It was RESOLVED to appoint Cllr Dorey to this Committee.

044 Authorised banking signatories

It was RESOLVED to add Cllrs Phillips and Casella as signatories to CCLA, as recommended by the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

045 Council Policies

It was RESOLVED to approve the following policies:

- a. Fixed Asset Capitalisation
- b. Freedom of Information and Publication Scheme
- c. General Data Protection Training Policy
- d. Investment Policy
- e. Member Officer Relations Protocol
- f. Open Space Policy

046 Youth Strategy

It was RESOLVED to adopt the Youth Strategy. Councillors thanked the Assistant Clerk for her excellent work in producing this.

047 Requests from the Village Working Parties

It was RESOLVED to:

- a. Purchase an air conditioning unit for the Haven at a cost of £690 plus VAT.
- b. Report a blocked Public Right of Way to both WSCC and MSDC (Planning Compliance). Cllr Dowsett has offered to check this with WSCC, and information will be shared with him.
- c. Add information to the website regarding the Copthorne Gatwick Hotel (subject to that information being verified by the relevant authorities). Cllr Dorey updated that a meeting had been held with the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Home Office, MP, Police and WSCC representative. The PCC recommended that WPC regularly puts out information about the Hotel. This would be useful for residents, but Councillors were cautious about publishing any information that could be misleading or inaccurate.

Cllr Pointer arrived

Cllrs Williams, Casella, Coote and Phillips will form a working party to review any information to be published, consider the source of the information and take a view on when/if it should be removed.

048 Tandridge District Local Plan

It was RESOLVED to delegate authority to the Chief Officer to respond to this, in consultation with all councillors.

049 Copthorne Recreation Ground

It was RESOLVED to approve the quote of £105,029.15 plus VAT from Warwick Landscaping for phase two of the MUGA construction. This contract will not be entered until additional funding has been secured. The Council is relying on Financial Regulation 5.12iii in entering this contract, and will not follow a full tender process.

It was RESOLVED that additional S106 funding will be applied for to cover maximum additional costs associated with phase two of the MUGA construction. This will include additional project management costs and floodlighting design.

050 Reports from other Authorities

WSCC:

This area suffers from one of the lowest returns per pupil. WSCC has agreed to lobby Government to correct that imbalance as local schools are struggling financially.

Cllr Dowsett worked with officers regarding the road closure on Hophurst Lane. This was an issue to school children as buses potentially needed to be cancelled and it was over exam time. Cllr Williams raised that the road sign on Wallage Lane providing warning for heavy vehicles is posted too late in the road, so vehicles are already travelling along the Lane before reaching the sign.

MSDC:

The District Plan will be out for consultation soon. The Inspector has already confirmed they are happy with the total number of houses being indicated.

051 Reports from representatives attending outside meetings

Cllr Dorey attended the West Sussex Association of Local Council's Chair's Forum.

Cllrs Dorey, Phillips, Wilson and Williams attended the Crabbet Park stakeholder liaison meeting. Concerns were raised about health provision. It was suggested that both Village Working Parties engage with the GP surgeries to start conversations about need and their future plans.

052 Complaints Panel

The work of the Complaints Panel is still ongoing, and so this item will be deferred to the September meeting.

053 Personnel

Notes of the meeting held on 10th July were not available for this meeting. Therefore, this will need to be deferred to the September meeting.

054 Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 21st September 2026, at the Parish Hub, Copthorne.

Meeting closed at 8.25 pm

Chairman: _____

Date: _____