

**Worth Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on**  
**5<sup>th</sup> October 2026 commencing at 8.15 pm**

**Present:** Cllr Phillips (Chair) Cllr Casella (Vice Chair)  
Cllr Gibson Cllr Hodsdon  
Cllr Wilson  
  
Mrs L Bannister (Chief Officer)

*Due to the absence of Cllr Scott, it was agreed that Cllr Casella would act as Vice Chair for the meeting*

**045 Public Question Time**

No questions were raised.

**046 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Coote, Dorey, King, Scott and Williams.

Absent – Cllrs Bingle and Pointer

**047 Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Phillips declared an interest in the Copthorne Pavilion as the Chair of the Copthorne Sports and Community Association.

**048 Minutes**

It was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2026.

**049 Chairman's Announcements**

Cllr Phillips reported that a preliminary meeting would be held with himself, Cllr Scott and the Chief Officer to review the budget. This will then be discussed at the Worth Parish Council Working Party and future Committees. Cllr Phillips requested that the working parties and committees consider any budgetary requirements and report them to the Chief Officer by mid-November.

**050 Correspondence List**

Nothing to note.

**051 Accounts and Financial Matters**

- a. It was RESOLVED that the financial information was a true representation of the current financial situation. It was NOTED that, as anticipated, the general reserves appear low. That risk has since reduced as the precept was received along with the VAT reclaim.
- b. It was CONFIRMED that bank reconciliations to 30<sup>th</sup> September have been completed. These were signed by Cllr Casella.

**052 Section 106 Monies**

The reports were NOTED (attached for Copthorne and Crawley Down). Additions have been added to the Crawley Down report from the Village Hall S106 agreement.

There was no update to report on the S106 application for Copthorne Recreation Ground.

**053 Streetlight electricity**

- a. It was NOTED that EDF Energy has offered a settlement of the electricity bills of £15,000 inc. VAT. This is in full and final settlement of the invoices totalling £25,384.18 inc. VAT. This was accepted under the delegated authority approved at the previous meeting.
- b. It was RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council that 54 lamps are upgraded to LEDs at a cost of £20,250 plus VAT, to be paid partially from the street lights budget, and partially from the maintenance budget. It was NOTED that REPOWER Balcombe has confirmed a

grant of £5,000. If there are more lamps that are not LEDs, it was proposed that these are upgraded using the £5,000 grant. The Chief Officer will investigate and bring this forward to Full Council.

- c. It was NOTED that there have been complaints regarding lack of street lighting on Bowers Place.

#### **054 South Room**

A request was considered from Crawley Community Action to use the South Room/office space free of charge to meet with residents from the local area to discuss volunteer roles. This was not supported as it may conflict with some Council initiatives.

#### **055 Projects**

- a. Bowers Place Parking – the following was NOTED:
  - Construction is taking place between 5<sup>th</sup> October and 30<sup>th</sup> October. Contractors were able to successfully set out the traffic management today.
  - A public meeting was held on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. Two households were represented, and the Lead Councillors/office have since engaged with further households.
  - Cllrs Scott and Wilson knocked on doors on Bowers Place ahead of construction to engage with the residents.
- b. Copthorne Recreation Ground – the following was NOTED:
  - At the time of writing the report, the civils contract was due to be finalised, with approximately £30,000 remaining to be paid. This has since been finalised and will be reported on at the next meeting.
  - The playground and car park was opened on 17<sup>th</sup> September.
  - The outcome of the S106 funding application is awaited. Once received, the timeline for the MUGA construction can be finalised.
  - Payments totalling £6,938.75 were made since the last meeting, at the time of writing the report.
- c. Operation Watershed – nothing to report until end of project is complete.
- d. CCTV – end of project report to follow at future meeting following installation of cameras at Copthorne Recreation Ground.
- e. Projects Tracker – this was NOTED.

#### **056 Copthorne Pavillion**

It was RESOLVED to:

- a. Approve the installation of the patio and memorial bench.
- b. Accept ownership of the memorial benches once they have been donated.
- c. Approve the signage in principle subject to planning permission being approved, and further consideration when the size of the signage is known.

#### **057 Issues and risks**

Two incidents were reported to the Council, as set out in the confidential report. The potential risks of these were highlighted.

These incidents were NOTED, and no further action was proposed.

#### **058 Matters for Consideration submitted by the Village and Worth Parish Council Working Parties**

Crawley Down Working Party discussed the potential reallocation of S106 funding from the Village Hall car park to another facility. The preference of the Working Party is that the fund remains allocated to the Village Hall whilst the new building is still being investigated.

It was proposed that regardless of this, this funding would be better to be reallocated to The Haven. This will be added to a future meeting for discussion.

#### **059 Consideration of items for discussion by the Village and Worth Parish Council Working Parties**

All working parties were requested to consider budget requirements.

**060 Date of the next meeting**

The date of the next meeting is Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2026 at the Parish Hub, Copthorne.

*Meeting closed at 8.52 pm*

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

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