

**Minutes of the Meeting of Worth Parish Council held on Thursday 26 January 2023 6.30pm.**

**PRESENT** Cllrs Crofts (Chair), Clark, Mott, Kenton and Kevin Lynch, Parish Clerk, Debbie Bishop PCSO, Ian Martin, Neighbourhood Watch and 10 members of the Public.

**Action**

1. Apologies	Cllrs Heard, Parnell, Atkinson, Andrews and Manion	
2. To receive Declarations of Interest to matters included on the agenda	None	
3. Parish Council Minutes:	Council resolved that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 30 November 2022 are a correct record.  (i) Proposed: Cllr Mott: Seconded: Cllr Clark. Agreed: All	
4. Public/District Councillor Participation	Cllr Kenton updated Council on grants from the central government “Levelling Up” fund which would help with the Port of Dover, the Banksy replacement and other projects. The move from (Veolia) green waste bags to bins in April 2023 has now been delayed.  The Chair agreed that Members of the Public could contribute during the appropriate agenda item.	
5. Matters Arising from the meeting of 30 November	(i) Councillor Crofts briefed Council on the inaction on by the Worth Centre. Cllr Kenton stated the Worth Centre had submitted a planning application. In response to a question from Cllr Crofts regarding when the application had been submitted, Cllr Kenton replied that he was unsure but thought around the middle of December. It was being validated.  In response to a question from Cllr Mott, Cllr Kenton replied that he did not know how long validation would take. Council noted that this might mean that the Worth Centre could carry on with breaches of planning control with impunity.  (ii) On the Bisley land transfer, concerns were again raised that Sunningdale were not responding to our solicitor. Council resolved that The Clerk would draft a letter, to be cleared with the solicitor, for the Chair to send to a senior Sunningdale Director in order to expedite the matter.	KL
6. Public Spaces	Councillor Mott updated Council on the litter bins – they could be installed by the end of February and that she was now seeking independent advice on duckling proof drain covers.	JM
7. The WPC 2023/2024 Precept Demand	Councillor Crofts briefed Council and residents on the Precept and the seven options. Council resolved that it would submit a 2023/2024 Precept Demand for plus 5% from £24,930.05 to £26,315.00.  Proposed Cllr Clark. Seconded Cllr Mott. Agreed: All.  Clerk to take forward with DDC.	KL
8. Bus Service	Councillors Mott and Clark briefed Council on the Age Concern vehicle going to and from Sandwich. Full details can be obtained from Cllrs Mott and Clark.  Council also noted and thanked Cllr Mott as she had volunteered as a driver.	
9. Maintenance of Public Spaces	Cllr Crofts updated Council on early thinking about bringing the cutting and other maintenance services “in house” once a new caretaker had been recruited. An up to date and detailed new Job Description had been circulated.	

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	The Chair asked that if residents knew of someone from within the Parish who was willing to take on the role of caretaker to please contact the Clerk or any Councillor. There would now be interviews in early – Mid February.	<b>KL</b>
10. Coronation	Cllr Crofts updated Council on the inaugural meeting of the Coronation Committee. The Committee will be approaching Council for funds of circa. £3550.00. Charities and other matters were also noted. The next Coronation meeting will be on 06/02/2023.	<b>CC</b>
11. Neighbourhood Watch/PCSO	<p>Ian Martin briefed Council on the Neighbourhood Watch (NHW), its role in protecting vulnerable members of the community, good neighbourliness, its role in reporting anti-social behaviour, reporting via 999 or 101 any crimes in Worth Parish. The NHW was looking for three Worth Parish-wide sub - coordinators with Mr Martin as the co-ordinator. Also, the NHW asked that people sign up to “My community Voice”.</p> <p>PCSO Debbie Bishop updated Council on the disbanding of the PCSO Service – there were originally 17 PCSOs in the Dover police command but now only six. The remaining six would probably be gone by June, hopefully, for the Worth area replaced by a warranted police constable. Fortunately, crime statistics for the Worth/Sandwich area were very low – 6 domestic crimes in the Worth area in December out of 76 reported in the wider (Sandwich etc.) area.</p> <p>Cllr Crofts thanked both Ian Martin and PCSO for their excellent contributions.</p>	<b>IM</b>
12. Finance	<p>(i) Council agreed the December and January Payments and November and December bank reconciliations.</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Clark. Seconded: Cllr Mott. Agreed: All</p>	
13. Agenda Items for the next meeting on Wednesday 22 February 2023	(i) Coronation Committee (ii) Worth Centre (iii) Bisley Land transfer (iv) Bus Service update (v) HIP, (vi) Betteshanger Country Park hotel and lagoon planning applications.	<b>KL</b>
<b>The Meeting ended at 1920 hours</b>		