

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Copthorne and Worth Ward

Mr.D.P.Blackman, 17 Beechey Close	717365
(Vice Chairman of Amenities)	
Mr.G.V.Curtis, Kimberley House, Church Road	712517
(Chairman of General Purposes & Finance)	
Mr. R Grant, 19 The Gables, Newtown	718092
Mr. C.T.Larkin, 21 Knowle Drive	717339
Mr. E.M.Livesey, 1 Calluna Drive	713498
Mr. C.T.Phillips, 16 Calluna Drive	712668
Mr. G.W. Phillips, 3 Beechey Way	714384
Mrs.A Souter, 6 Spring Gardens	716756

Crawley Down Ward

Mr.R.H.Blackmore, Ladymead, Snow Hill	713272
(Chairman of Council)	
Mrs. M.A.Baker, White Walls, Vicarage Road	712666
Mr. P.A.C.Coote, San Felipe, Lake View Road, Furnace Wood, Felbridge	713443
Mr.B.J.Jack, The Brook, Cuttinglye Road	810980
Mr. D.A.Lucas, 53 Burleigh Way	714448
(Vice Chairman of General Purposes & Finance)	
Dr. J.A.Morice, Byways, Vicarage Road	714208
(Chairman of Planning & Highways)	
Mr.J.A.Percival, The Acorns, 17 Tiltwood Drive	718061
Mr.N.Walker, 10 Clays Close, East Grinstead	327330
(Chairman of Amenities)	
Mr.M.J.Watts, Tiltwood Coach House, Hophurst Lane	712989
(Vice-Chairman of Planning & Highways)	

Council Staff

Clerk to the Council	Mr. Keith Wall
Assistant Clerk	Mrs. Sheila Winslet
Handymen	Mr John Smith & Mr Ted Cummings

WORTH PARISH COUNCIL



NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2005

The Council Offices are situated at the rear of the Village Hall In Turners Hill Road, Crawley Down.

They are open to the public between 9 am and 12 noon on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Staff can be contacted there at other times by telephone on 713407 or you can always leave a message on the answerphone.

Letter from the Chairman



I am pleased to begin by extending the Councils congratulations to both our Clerk and Assistant Clerk. The Clerk, Mr. Keith Wall, in March this year completed his fiftieth year in local government in Sussex. In July this year he will have been twenty years with this Council. Not to be outdone, the Assistant Clerk, Mrs. Sheila Winslet, completes her twenty-fifth year with the Council in July this year. Both say that they will see how it goes before deciding whether or not to stay !

Mention might also be made at this point of how lucky the Council has been for many years with the calibre of its members and the professional way in which they conduct Council business. This ensures that the affairs of the Council run smoothly, without major problems, and the Council is very fortunate in that respect, as anyone who has any knowledge of what happens elsewhere will testify.

In my Annual Report for 2003/4 I mentioned of the advent in the Parish of two Community Support Officers provided through the Police. Unfortunately, we now have only one left. Luckily, the officer in question, Mrs. Elaine Anscomb, has proved a very real asset locally and we shall do all we can to keep her.

Early this year we installed a new computer. We have also developed the Councils Website through the Local Channel Network. Mr. Gordon Curtis has been much involved with both undertakings and we are greatly indebted to him for his efforts.

The Council continues with its attempts to secure Quality Local Council status. Although the immediate benefits of such status are not obvious at this stage, the Council feels that there may be some long term advantages, so we press on.


SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS 2004/2005

Starting Balance at 1 st April 2004		78,300	
Receipts during year 2004/2005		Payments during year 2004/2005	
General Administration	125,400	General Administration	59,800
Allotments	1,400	Allotments	1,450
Recreation Grounds	11,600	Recreation Grounds	27,900
Cleansing Services	3,000	Street Lighting	9,650
		Miscellaneous	10,000
	141,400		108,800

Closing Balance at 31st March 2005 110,900

The foregoing figures are made up largely as to

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS	
General Administration		General Administration	
Precept	115,000	Salaries & Wages	23,000
VAT	6,900	General Maintenance	8,000
Interest	2,900	Office Expenses	8,000
Miscellaneous	600	Insurances	5,000
		VAT	7,400
Recreation Grounds		Recreation Grounds	
Pitch Hire	3,900	Grants	2,000
Grants	6,900	Subscriptions	1,200
Miscellaneous	800	Transport, Supplies	5,200
		Miscellaneous	
		Cleansing	6,800
		Traffic Management	2,200
		Refuse Collection	1,000
		Recreation Grounds	
		New Works	19,300
		Maintenance	7,400
		Miscellaneous	1,200


Chairman

Financial Matters

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There was no need to increase the Parish Precept for 2005/2006 and the Council's finances remain healthy whilst allowing us to maintain our present level of services and, indeed, increase them in some cases.

The Council continues to make grants to local organisations where possible, and it also continues with its scheme of subsidising rail cards to the elderly and disabled by something like a third of the cost.

A summary of our Receipts and Payments in 2004/5 follows. Any elector who would like a full copy of the Council's Accounts for 2004/2005, is most welcome to have one if they will approach the Clerk to the Council.



Environmental Matters

Unfortunately, for some time, The Green in Copthorne has looked rather the worse for wear, as the Water Authority provided a large storage tank thereunder to cope with excess drainage flows in the area. This was a major construction scheme which took many months to complete. All is now finished, though, and The Green is virtually as good as new.

The Council continue to be most concerned with two matters. Skateboarding, and the provision of sports facilities in Copthorne.

Almost three years ago the Council conceived the idea of providing skateboarding facilities in both Copthorne and Crawley Down.

The copthorne skateboard park has now been provided and has now been in use for some time, very successfully.

This has not been possible in Crawley Down, where the Parish Council does not own a suitable site. Negotiations have been going on for years in an attempt to obtain a site from the District Council on the Haven Field, and it is hoped that this proposal will come to fruition eventually. Sad to say, there is no sign of progress yet. This is very frustrating, but those most concerned, notably the local youngsters, should not imagine that the project has been forgotten by this Council. We are doing everything possible to get something done. Regrettably, at present we are totally in the hands of the District Council.

One success in Crawley Down, though, was the Council's provision of a new set of large swings in the play area at Bowers Place.

The Council has also been much concerned this year with efforts to secure improved provision for sports in Copthorne, an area which has been much ignored in this respect by the larger authorities in the past. The possible use of land off Shipley Bridge Lane was offered but did not come to fruition for many reasons. What has happened, as many will know, is that the Council, with the local Sports Executive, have conducted a survey to see what is wanted in the way of sports facilities locally. A questionnaire has been circulated in the Village to obtain people's views, and this was launched at a public meeting held in February. Once the results of the survey have been analysed it will be possible to see more clearly what residents want, and then to initiate action to see what can be provided. The results should be known soon.

Planning & Highways

Planning applications continue to arrive for consideration at the rate of four a week on average.

A major matter now concerning the Council has been the continuing pressure from the Government for the provision of more housing in the South-East. Council representatives attended many meetings on the matter last year, and doubtless the matter will feature large again in coming months.

In particular there are still proposals for the provision of something like 2,500 houses to the south or west of East Grinstead. Nothing definite has been decided at this stage, but the Council will continue to keep a close watch on the situation, particularly, if the suggested development brings with it the threat of a relief road for East Grinstead which could do untold harm to this Parish if badly located.

Highways

2004/5 has been a mixed year, with success at last in some cases and continued frustration in others, as can be seen from the following -

- We are still waiting for the introduction of a one-way traffic system in Church Road, Copthorne, southbound from the junction with Copthorne Bank to just north of the shops. As we understood it, this was included in the County Council's Budget for 2004/2005, but nothing has happened yet.
- In May, 2004, we said that it was hoped that in the next month or so a traffic pinch point and speed restriction feature on Copthorne Bank would be provided outside the Recreation Ground. This proved a pious hope as we are now still struggling to persuade the County Council to give final approval for the scheme to proceed. Unfortunately, it seems that we shall be lucky if this scheme goes ahead in the next six months, even though it is to be funded by the Parish Council.
- One success recently has been the provision of a length of new footway on Copthorne Bank from the Village Hall to the Surgery. Problems with this scheme were encountered in the beginning because of the need to relocate a pole carrying a considerable number of electricity power supply cables. These were eventually overcome, and the footpath is now in being at a cost of £14,000 or thereabouts, half having been paid by the Parish Council, and half by the County Council.
- The Council has also continued this year with attempts to do something about the problems of parking in the centre of Crawley Down. The Council has obtained planning permission for a small car park on land in Burleigh Way next to the bus stop opposite Auchinleck Court. More details about this will be given in our next issue.

YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Copthorne and Worth Ward

Mr. M.W.Forde 23 Westway 714651

Mr. E.M.Livesey 1 Calluna Drive 713498

Crawley Down & Turners Hill Ward

Mr. J.R.Calvert Shepherds Farm Turners Hill Road 716184

Mr. P.A.C.Coote San Felipe Lake View Road Felbridge 713443

Mr. I. Scotland 9 Hophurst Drive 718203

YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Imberdown Division

Mr. P.A.C.Coote San Felipe Lake View Road Felbridge 713443

Worth Forest Division

Mr. Bill Acraman 17 Roffeys Close 712062

Grants

The Council provides money each year for Grants to local organisations. Typically, it will contribute towards start-up costs, equipment purchases or special projects but not to everyday running costs.

Applications should be made to the Clerk in writing accompanied by two year's audited annual accounts and an outline of how the money will be spent.

Normally the Council will not fund 100% of the cost involved but will expect the organisation to provide a significant proportion.