

MARESFIELD CONSERVATION GROUP

Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee

Held at 7.00pm on Wednesday 26th October 2022 at The Chequers, Maresfield

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Jo Lawrance (JL) Chair
Liz Lewis (LL) Treasurer
Stan Sadowski (SS) Membership
Bruce Milton (BM)
Alex Clarke (AC)
Jacqui Royal (JR)
Ian Shaw (IS)
Rob Penfold (RP)
Stephany Reed-Perkins (SRP)

PRESENT: Jo Lawrance, Stan Sadowski, Bruce Milton, Alex Clarke, Ian Shaw, Rob Penfold, Stephany Reed-Perkins, Stephanie Bassett (SB - Minutes Secretary)

APOLOGIES: Liz Lewis. Jacqui Royal

1. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

RP declared a conflict of interest in respect of the Maresfield Historical Society.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES DATED 26th September & MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes were APPROVED.

Matters arising

Insurance:

The Assets Register stands at £4,628, although not all assets are located in once place.

ACTION: LL to check insurance cover is sufficient.

Rabbity Lane tree:

The tree is adjacent to the footpath. A branch has fallen off since BM contacted the Parish Council about this and he considers the tree is now dangerous.

ACTION: BM to re-contact Council.

Merchandise:

There is still sufficient stock in the Post Office.

ACTION: JR to seek quotes from another printer in readiness for a re-print. c/f next meeting

Tylers Lane/Cackle Street wooden footpath sign

Despite a number of phone calls by BM there has been no progress.

c/f next meeting.

All other Matters Arising were covered in the Agenda.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT – JL on behalf of LL

Accounts Update

JL summarised the Treasurer's report circulated by email before the meeting.

As at 12th October the current account balance is £6,492.65 and the savings account £7,003.79.

Expenditure: £834.45 for trees for Queens Green Canopy initiative

LL has made some progress with the current bank and it is now using the correct name and address.

The grant application to the Parish Council was sent by post as they were unable to read the email document.

The cheque for £100 to the Ashdown Forest Foundation in memory of Dick Thompson has been cashed.

RP said Maresfield Historical Society has not yet received our grant of £100 (see Minutes for previous month).

ACTION: RP to supply Carole Jeffree's details to LL.

An application to the Tesco Community Grant was discussed. SS proposed a skateboard park but the cost would be outside the criteria. As there were no other projects IT WAS AGREED no further action be taken.

New Treasurer Update

As a result of approaches by RP, AC and SRP we have 3 people interested.

ACTION: JL to put contacts in touch with LL if they are still interested.

Once the new Treasurer is in place we will be in a position to move bank and add JL as joint signatory with BM as third.

4. MEMBERSHIP AND WEBSITE - SS

Membership

SS gave costings for a sample mailshot to non-members (£40.00 without sae for 100 letters).

The Committee felt that Parklands is under-represented and IT WAS AGREED that SS should approach Laura Stevens-Smith after Christmas for advice on the letter wording.

ACTION: SS c/f in January with Laura Stevens-Smith.

JL to advertise on Maresfield Matters in January

IT WAS AGREED that SRP would man a stall with t.towels, cards and membership forms at The Chequers Christmas Craft Fayre on 3rd December.

ACTION: SRP

5. UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Village Clean-Up** – 29th October 10am – 4pm.
Some people have already expressed an interest in helping.
ACTION: SS to send out a reminder to members
JL to ensure all volunteers receive a Health and Safety briefing when collecting equipment.
- **Christmas Tree Lighting** – 3rd December
Most of the arrangements for the evening will be undertaken by the Church (see September Minutes).
Simon Young has the road closure signs.
ACTION: RP to ask Angie if JL is required for switching on the lights
(ACTION POINT FROM SEPTEMBER: SS to advertise event on MCG website)

MCG is only responsible for
- the tree:

The tree will be supplied free of charge
The Lodge has agreed to supply the electricity for the lights.
MCG logo and sign showing donation of the tree by MCG is to be displayed.
SRP is unable to provide bacon sandwiches for the workers. **ACTION: JR**

- manning the road barriers and supplying hi-viz jackets for the volunteers.
The barriers are in poor condition and IT WAS AGREED to replace them (at £259 for 3).
ACTION: RP

- **Winter Newsletter - AC**
A draft was circulated for discussion.
AC has received 2 quotes and IT WAS AGREED to stay with the current printer.
Black font colour and non-italics are to be used.
Add next year's events:
Spring Clean Up (29th April), AGM (16th May) and Autumn Clean Up (October).
Remove:
Request for someone with book-keeping skills

More copy is needed to go against the logos on the back of the newsletter. AC to ask JR for her input. BM to write a paragraph re the Footpaths Group (what we do etc). SS to supply a photo.

ACTION: AC, SS, BM

As AC will be away, JL is to supervise the final draft so it can be with the distributors by 13th November.

ACTION: JL

- **Quiz – Saturday, February 25th – 7 for 7.30**

IT WAS AGREED quiz would raise funds for Uckfield Foodbank.

**ACTION: RP to check availability of Village Hall
SB to contact Foodbank**

- **Summer Supper 2023 – June/July**

SS is to email members canvassing their opinion on what type of event this should be (Cheese & Wine, BBQ, something else).

ACTION: SS

6. FOOTPATHS GROUP UPDATE – BM

- The Bluewater footpath has received attention.
- The footpath near Park Farm has become a health hazard due to dog mess. BM circulated a sign to be put either end of the footpath advising it will no longer be maintained by the Footpaths Group.
- The planter by Batts Bridge has perished after only 4 years. IT WAS AGREED that a new one be purchased - cost £229 – and lined with plastic.

ACTION: BM

- BM has spoken to Mark Enfield at Ashdown Forest to obtain parking charge exemptions when working on the footpaths in the forest.
- The Footpaths Group needs more safety equipment. BM has sourced a supplier of helmet and goggles at £90 but gloves and chaps are also needed. It was suggested that he also try Ernest Doe at Ringmer.

ACTION: BM

- IT WAS AGREED that BM should receive a monthly allowance for the use of his car and fuel at 60p per mile.

ACTION: BM to design an expenses form.

The Committee expressed its thanks to BM for all the work he does on our local footpaths.

8. PLANNING UPDATE – RP

Objections to the development of 49 houses at Mill Farm, School Hill were submitted by the MCG but rejected as they were past the submission date. The appeal was attended by IS. Whereas our written submission was no accepted, many of the points were able to be raised during the hearing.

RP has engaged with local Wealden District Councillor, Ian Tysh, and Planning Officer.

RP has written a blog for the website. RP is to add a note to his next blog to encourage individuals to make planning objections as more notice is taken of the number of letters received.

ACTION: RP

A number of the MCG Committee attended the Maresfield Parish Council Planning Committee last Monday and as a result we have received a request for input from the Maresfield Park Road Association re a proposed development at Flitterbank and the last east of Forest Cottage.

ACTION: RP to circulate details to MCG Planning Sub-Committee.

There are also a planning applications for land at Lampool Corner, Forest Cottage, and for Dairy Cottage..

ACTION: SS to add WDC links to the website.

Another meeting of the MCG Planning Sub-Committee has been held, during which a number of action points were undertaken, the results of these will be published in due course.

A new developer has taken over the Straight Half Mile site and made 2 access points. We are anticipating a new or amended planning proposal will be submitted to WDC Planning in due course.

IS suggested that those Committee members attending planning appeals should make it clear that they are representatives of the MCG.

JL had a very informative meeting with Roy Galley, who is interested in working with the MCG on planning issues. IT WAS AGREED that we circulate our correspondence to both Ian Tysh and Roy Galley.

9. QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY – AC

The scheme has been extended until the end of March 2021 and to date we have ordered 200+ plants, with some still to sort out. Some have been from individuals and some for community areas. AC has not heard from Bonners School and asked JL to chase.

ACTION: JL to contact Bonners.

SS to add an update on the scheme to our website.

SS to add photos from participants to our website.

10. PICTORIAL FOOTPATHS MAP – RP

Nothing to report. Next meeting is at the end of October **c/f next meeting.**

Memorial to Dick Thompson **c/f next meeting.**

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Documents from founder MCG member

SS has received a number of documents and photos from Peter Selby. He will add some to our website.

ACTION: SS

Appointment of Vice Chair

IT WAS AGREED that the formal appointment of a Vice Chair was not necessary.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING : Monday 21st November at 7pm in The Chequers.

ACTION: JL to request the back room

Dates of Future Meetings For 2022: December 14th.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.