

MARESFIELD CONSERVATION GROUP

Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee

Held at 7.00pm on Monday 15th April 2024 at The Chequers, Maresfield

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Jo Lawrance (JL)	Chair
Terence Brady (TB)	Treasurer
Stan Sadowski (SS)	Membership
Bruce Milton (BM))	
Ian Shaw (IS)	
Rob Penfold (RP)	
Stephany Reed-Perkins (SRP)	
Tom Merchant (TM)	
Caroline Shaw (CS)	

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

Also present: Tracie Coe (prospective Committee member), Christina Coleman (Wealden Green Party/SABRE-OWL)

APOLOGIES: Tom Merchant, Terence Brady, Caro Shaw

1) **SABRE/OWLSBURY**

Christina Coleman outlined the proposals in the Draft Local Plan for the Ashdown Business Park and Owlsbury Farm developments. Any comments are to be received by 10th May.

Christina said that the land is ecologically sensitive as it is adjacent to ancient woodland and is currently seeking impact evidence from various agencies including the Sussex University Biodiversity Project. She is particularly concerned about the toxic chemicals used by the Fire Brigade, which have contaminated the land and, if disturbed, could leach into the local water courses and drinking water.

MCG undertook to carry out a leaflet drop in Maresfield and contact members.

ACTION: RP to source a further supply of leaflets from Lana Foster.

JL to add to Maresfield Matters

BM to display leaflet on our notice board

TM to add link to our website

2) **DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

None.

3) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES DATED 18th March 2024 & MATTERS ARISING**

The Minutes of the previous meeting were APPROVED.

Matters arising:

- **Pictorial Map and DT Memorial – RP**

NTR..

- **MCG Notice Board – BM**

NTR despite BM chasing. **ACTION:** BM to suggest to joiner that we paint the board ourselves.

- **Litter Pick – JL**

30 bags collected and letter of thanks received from Julia Goodwin at WDC. A write up and photo will be on the website.

ACTION: JL

- **Website – TM**

Still awaiting biography from CS.

**ACTION: CS
c/f next meeting.**

- **Park Farm Lane**

The Parish Council Clerk distributed our statement to all Councillors prior to the meeting rather than have it read out. Despite this, the decision was taken by Maresfield Parish Council to pass the motion to build a parallel road next to Park Farm Lane and create a turning circle at the entrance to the Recreation Ground. As a result, a request was made to MPC for a meeting to discuss the matter and we are awaiting a response.

4) TREASURER’S REPORT – JL on behalf of TB

The accounts to the end of March were circulated by email to all Committee members on 6th April.

Accounts Update

Current account balance: £1,823.78

Deposit account balance: £11,152.90

The end of year accounts were also circulated and JL reported they are currently with the auditor. RP confirmed he would send them to the Charities Commission when signed off.

JL said that the Auditor has pointed out that all payments should be authorized by two people. (The Chair was agreed as second signatory at the December 2023 Committee meeting). BM agreed to do so if she is unavailable.

ACTION: TB

SB is to request an acknowledgement of our cheque to the Foodbank.

ACTION: SB

5) UNDERHILL BRIDGE/STREAM/OART- TM/RP

There is a notice announcing that work will commence on 30th April.

6) WEBSITE – JL for TM

The new website is now live.

JL, RP and TM met to discuss highlighting planning issues.

JL appealed for up to date content/photos.

7) UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Photographic Competition – TM**

TM is waiting for AC to produce the final poster design.

- **AGM – 14th May**

There will be no speaker or interview panel.

SS confirmed that the Agenda, Chair's Report, End of Year accounts, Voting slip and Minutes of the last meeting are all ready to be emailed to members tomorrow (16th April). There are 39 members who will need paper copies. Six copies are to be made available on the evening.

There are currently 162 members although not all are fully paid up due to the change of payment for Standing Orders being set at 1st July.

Refreshments: IS to purchase sufficient red and white wine for 30.

Set up: 6.30pm

ACTION: RP/SS to arrange a.v. equipment.

IT WAS AGREED that the Committee meeting scheduled for 20th May be cancelled.

- **Cheese & Wine – 27th July**

IS to be in charge of ticket sales - price £7.00 – as well as purchase of wine.

JL to provide cheese. RP to advise quantity.

Advertise in Parish Magazine, Maresfield Matters and on website.

ACTION: JL to ask AC to produce a poster.

- **Summer Newsletter – JL**

SRP to take charge.

Copy to be ready for the printer by the end of June so that it can be distributed before the Cheese and Wine event in July. Print run of 200.

100 word contributions from IS (horticulture), RP (planning and development), TM (photo competition), BM (footpaths) plus JL (Chair's report) and calendar or events.

8) FOOTPATHS GROUP UPDATE - BM

School Hill and Church car park have been tidied. The flowerbeds at the car park and shop have been planted up.

No work has been carried out on the footpaths due to the wet weather.

The footpath between the church and the allotments is to be upgraded with wood chippings from the felled tree at the church car park. **ACTION: BM**

The footpath crossing the land behind the Recreation Group also needs stabilizing and a dog waste bin provided. MCG has offered to pay for this at a cost of £500 for the bin plus £275 for the first year of maintenance and is waiting for this to be discussed at the next Parish Council Environment Committee meeting.

9) PLANNING UPDATE – RP

- **Wealden Draft Local Plan**

Comments to be received by 10th May (see Item 1 above)..

- **Straight Half Mile**

Work has been started.

10) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- **Insurance**

A revised quote has been accepted. TB to ensure payment is made. **ACTION: TB**

In response to a question by JL on behalf of the auditor, IS confirmed that payment for last year was made but was effected after the end of the financial year.

- **Parish Council Annual Report**

JL has written a report on behalf of the MCG.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING : Monday 17th June 2024 at 7pm in The Chequers.

Future meetings will be:

15th July, (no meeting in August), 16th September, 21st October,
18th November, 16th December

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.14 pm