

# MARESFIELD CONSERVATION GROUP

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee

Held at 7.00pm on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023 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, Terence Brady, Stan Sadowski, Bruce Milton, Ian Shaw, Rob Penfold, Stephany Reed-Perkins, Tom Merchant, Alex Clarke, Stephanie Bassett (Minutes Secretary).

**APOLOGIES:** Caroline Shaw.

AC was invited to attend the meeting to present the Summer Newsletter for approval. Therefore this Agenda item was taken first.

### 1) SUMMER NEWSLETTER - AC

IT WAS AGREED that each section should have a heading and that possible future projects be added to the calendar.

**ACTION:** JL to meet with AC on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup>.

Further copy was AGREED as follows:

- Christmas Tree lighting on 2<sup>nd</sup> December
- An update re. Underhill Bridge. **ACTION: TM**
- A 70 word paragraph from Ben Reed re. Shortbridge Stream, ready by Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup>.  
**ACTION: RP**

Final copy is to be ready by Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> so that the collectors can distribute ahead of the Cheese & Wine evening on 1<sup>st</sup> July.

AC left the meeting.

### 2) DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None.

### 3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES DATED 24th April 2023 & MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes were APPROVED.

#### Matters arising

##### Pictorial Map & DT memorial - RP

A black and white pre-paint draft has been produced and has been seen by the artist. RP and David Bailey will review in collaboration with Carol Jeffree of the Maresfield Historical Society. David Bailey will be meeting with the carpenter.

Correspondence was sent to ESCC 3 weeks ago to raise the possibility of re-naming the section of road from The Chequers to the corner where it meets Underhill, and the installation of removable bollards. This section is known as Nursery Lane and may explain why vehicles continue to drive up there not realising that there is no exit. Nothing has been heard so far. **c/f next meeting.**

## Roles and Responsibilities

In the light of Alex Clarke and Jacqui Royal standing down from the Committee a re-allocation of their responsibilities was carried out as follows:

Meeting Room booking with The Chequers	IS	
Constitution	SS	
Updating notice board at Village Shop	SRP	
Newsletters and posters	JL to ask Quarry Printing	<b>ACTION: JL</b>
AGM preparation	SS/JL	
Merchandising	BM if Jacqui does not wish to continue.	

IT WAS AGREED that discussions re. the Constitution be added to the Agenda in January.

## Review of May AGM

Everyone agreed that the refreshments at the end of the meeting were a success, as was our speaker, Carol Jeffree.

**ACTION :** SRP TO write to those who sent in their Apologies.

JL to will write to Carol Jeffree

SS to publish the draft AGM Minutes on the website.

## 4) TREASURER'S REPORT – TB

### Accounts Update

Current account: £4765.52

Deposit account £7029.10

### Grant applications

A grant of £500 has been received from the Parish Council and the following projects were suggested: a new wooden fingerpost at Duddleswell, a replacement noticeboard at the village shop, landscaping/planter at the site of the Pictorial Map (**ACTION: BM**) and a replacement shrub at the village shop (**ACTION: IS**).

We are still waiting approval from Wealden Council for our inclusion in their Community Lottery.

## 5) FOOTPATHS GROUP UPDATE - BM

The Group is catching up on work. Powder Mill, Lampool Corner and School Hill all need attention. New secateurs, loppers, 2 safety helmets and an extra strimmer are needed. **ACTION: BM to cost.**

## 6) MEMBERSHIP UPDATE – SS

### Membership

A few more members have joined.

A draft letter for a targeted mailshot to Wellington Gate has been prepared and 150 addresses identified. IT WAS AGREED to wait until mid September, after the school holidays.

**ACTION: c/f September**

## 7) UPCOMING EVENTS:

### Cheese & Wine – 1<sup>st</sup> July 6.30 to 8pm

**ACTION:** SS to bring membership forms for any non-members attending.

IS/SRP to purchase 10 bottles each of red, white and rose wine.

RP to purchase biscuits, nibbles, kumquats and grapes

JL will deliver cheese on Friday for RP/BM.

The date for tidying AT's garden is Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June at 5.30.

### Summer Newsletter

See item 1 above.

### Classic Vehicle Show and BBQ - SRP

Buxted Cricket Ground has been booked as vehicles are not allowed on Maresfield Recreation Ground. It is hoped a venue in Maresfield can be found.

**ACTION:** TB to approach a Maresfield Resident as well as Maresfield Bowls/Tennis Club.  
TM to pass on details of the event he helped organise at a property in Underhill.

#### **Xmas Tree – 2<sup>nd</sup> December – RP**

AC has confirmed she will continue to produce bacon sandwiches.

**ACTION:** RP to approach Rummy re. meal/stall as in the previous year.  
RP to write to Simon Young.

#### **February Quiz – 24<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

**ACTION:** IS to book Village Hall.  
Suggestions for nominated charity.

#### **8) PLANNING UPDATE - RP**

The Planning Sub-Committee will be meeting before the end of this month.

There is no further news on the proposed Ashdown Business Park. Another application has been lodged for Mill House Farm and the proposal for 25 houses on Straight Half Mile is likely to be approved. Downlands has gone to appeal and the sub-Committee will be preparing another flyer. RP has prepared a blog for the website.

#### **9). ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

##### **Underhill Bridge - TM**

TM reminded the Committee of the events so far: the replacement railings were unsympathetic to the rural surroundings and Underhill residents wanted railings similar to the original. The headwall then collapsed into the stream and the lane has now been closed for 6 months awaiting repairs.

A number of Underhill residents are now lobbying for the lane to be closed permanently to traffic and following an email exchange with Roy Galley on 11<sup>th</sup> June he agreed to arrange a meeting with the Highways Officer.

RP advised that in the first instance an opinion from the Emergency Services be sought.

IT WAS AGREED that the Committee could take no further action in this but would be willing to support a sympathetic replacement to the bridge and continue to act in an advisory capacity.

##### **MCG Shed**

Following a question from RP, IT WAS AGREED that MCG has no further use for the shed on the Recreation Ground and that any contents are to be moved to the shed at the Church.

##### **Shortbridge Stream**

**ACTION:** RP to ask Ben Reed to provide a precise brief for the environmental specialist.  
RP/TM to investigate records of the past monitoring work done.

##### **Wall in Chequers Car Park**

**ACTION:** JL to approach Rummy re the poor state of the wall as it poses a safety hazard.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING : Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July at 7pm in The Chequers.**

The meeting closed at 20.35.

**Dates of Future Meetings For 2023: TBA**