

## MARESFIELD CONSERVATION GROUP

### DRAFT Minutes of Meeting of the Executive Committee 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019

Held at 7.30pm at Newnham Cottage

#### Present

Dick Thompson, President [DT]

Pat Palmer, Chairman [PP]

John Smith, Treasurer [JS]

Stan Sadowski, Membership Secretary [SS]

Ian Shaw, Member [IS]

Alex Clarke, Member [AC]

Jacqui Royal, Member [JR]

#### 1. Apologies

Rob Penfold, Member [RP]

#### 2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of a conflict of interest.

#### 3. Approval of Minutes of 5<sup>th</sup> June 2019

The Minutes were proposed by DT, seconded by JS and unanimously approved.

#### 4. Matters Arising

##### 4.1 Historical Society: RP would like MCG to forge closer links with the Historical Society.

*AP1: SS will speak to them at their next business meeting.*

##### 4.2 Victorian Lamps

Work due to begin in August. The electrician has been informed and he has agreed to liaise with the blacksmith regarding time scale. Cleaning and moving the memorial plaque has been included.

It was previously agreed that we should approach a garden solar installation company to give us suggestions regarding the power required for the lamp situated at the church. As yet no one is interested in taking on this work.

*AP2: IS will talk to Rob Taylor about the proposed solar system.*

##### 4.3 Benches at Bonners

Two of the wooden benches have already been removed from site, repaired/painted and returned to the school. A third a bench is undergoing refurbishment. The three plastic benches, recently delivered to Bonners, have now been assembled.

*AP3: JS will continue to organise repairs on the rest of the wooden benches.*

The committee think the PTA should be encouraged to join MCG, again.

*AP4: PP to speak to Toni Birkbeck and remind her of our previous conversation after school holiday period.*

##### 4.4 Collectors Evening

Next year it was decided we should consider giving collectors copies of Standing Order Forms, Gift Aid Forms, 'Sorry I Missed' Forms and a list for collecting email/telephone addresses. Also, for any member, joining 6mths prior to July '20, this should be stated on the form.

*AP5: PP will speak to SS regarding the above nearer the time of next year's Collectors Evening.*

## 5. Treasurer's Report

JS reported that MCG have an existing account which pays some interest and some funds could be transferred into it. It was agreed that £6000 will be transferred.

*AP6: JS will find out if premium bonds have to be purchased by individuals or if they can be purchased by groups and charities and let AC know.*

*AP7: AC will look at the charity commission rules in regard to possible purchasing premium bonds as an investment and discuss this with RP.*

## 6. Website and Membership Update

SS reported that the website is still frequently visited. The spurious link was investigated and no action was necessary as it is not directly accessed from our site.

SS suggested that we could add a page to the MCG website to highlight the history of the village, perhaps "A walk around Maresfield". SS will research it and present to the committee at a later date.

*AP8: All members to look at the website and report back to SS with comments or suggestions.*

## 7. AGM Review

As a new member of the committee JR was asked her opinion of the AGM. JR thought the presentations were good but attendance was poor and the committee agreed. DT thought that in general the AGM was much improved by presentations and that the use of visual aids was very helpful. Info. Tech. being well used by SS.

The poor attendance being put down to warm weather and a lot of televised sport that evening.

The wine and nibbles helped to keep people around talking after the close of meeting. A buffet may be considered for future AGMs.

JS suggested the AGM could be moved earlier in the year, perhaps April or May as this is the end of the financial year and that this may also improve attendance. The committee agreed and will look at amending the constitution to implement this.

## 8. Summer Supper

Forty tickets have been sold to date. PP advised the cost of helpers to wash up was confirmed at £80 and JS informed us that this was the same as last year.

*AP9: IS will sort out the wine glasses.*

*AP10: IS /RP will organise the raffle and prizes.*

## 9. Footpaths Group

Thanks and congratulations were expressed by the committee for all that the footpaths group do.

## 10. Constitution

The committee will review the MCG constitution over the next year and propose changes at the next AGM. Some areas for review are the number of executive committee members required and the date of the AGM.

*AP11: PP to arrange a date in October for a special meeting.*

## 11. Update Charity Commission

*AP12: RP to remove KO from the executive committee and add JR.*

## 11.AOB

**Field End Verges** – Claire Goossens and Laura Stevens (PC) were contacted and these have now been cut.

**Trees at the entrance to the Bowling Club** hindering grass cutting – These are on ground of unknown ownership.

*AP13: PP will ask Claire Goossens about ownership.*

**Recreation ground** – the small oak trees have been watered but there is no outside tap for this sort of thing. PP did speak to Rob Taylor who suggested that we should email Claire Goossens. This was done and will be on the agenda at the next recreation committee meeting.

*AP14: PP will report back on the result.*

**Fairwarp Community Society** – Barn Dance at Fairwarp Village Hall 18<sup>th</sup> May at 7:30pm. £10 per ticket (inc. supper). This was apparently successful.

*AP15: PP will try to speak with organisers of this event.*

**Church Gate** – A request has been received from Angie Welton to paint the church gate opposite the church car park. Black metal work with gold lettering on the presentation plaque was suggested. JS has looked at the gate which may need some repair work.

*AP16: JS will get a quote for refurbishment from the blacksmith.*

**Bulb Planting** – Bluebells have been sourced by IS and he and JS will get together to arrange planting.

*AP17: IS/JS later in the year.*

**MCG logo** – IS suggested a plastic plaque of the MCG logo could be made for adding to completed projects such as the fences, benches and planters. AC has tried six sources but the costs are quite high.

*AP18: JS will advise AC any info he can find regarding the existing signs used by the council and footpaths group.*

**Art boards** – Rob Taylor, Fete Co-ordinator, has kindly offered to keep eight of the art boards currently in store at the Pavilion shed. Four of these he will make into two A Boards for the MCG and two for the Fete group. The remainder will be thrown away.

**1840 books** – Following the initial costs having been recuperated future proceeds will go to the Historical Society as agreed by previous committee. *AP20: JS to arrange.*

**Planning application** - Details of a planning application inside the conservation area were passed to the MCG by JS who had received the email from Horst Fuellenkemper.

*AP19: PP will contact Martin Craddock (PC).*

*AP20: JS will reply to Horst.*

**Dog waste bin** – Having received an email from Claire Goossens asking the MCG on where they would suggest an additional dog waste bin should be allocated. It was agreed that it should be situated close to the litter bin, already in place, outside the church car park.

*AP21: PP will go back to Claire Goossens regarding a possible site for an additional dog waste bin.*

**Notice boards** at the Parade shops – the right- hand notice board is for the MCG and needs to be kept up to date.

*AP22: All committee members to check on an ongoing basis.*

The meeting closed at 9.40pm. There will be no August meeting. The next meeting will be in September. Date TBA.

***Post meeting addendum – the next meeting has been agreed for Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019, 7:30 pm at Newnham Cottage.***