MARESFIELD CONSERVATION GROUP

Minutes of a Meeting of the Executive Committee Held at 6.00pm on Monday 26th October 2026 at The Chequers, Maresfield

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Graham Shaw (GS)	Chair
Terence Brady (TB)	Treasurer
Richard Wane (RW)	Secretary
Bruce Milton (BM)	
Tom Merchant (TM)	
Tracie Coe (TC)	
Jane Hendy (JaH)	
Jeremy Hendy (JeH)	

PRESENT: GS, TB, RW, BM, TM, TC, JaH, JeH,
APOLOGIES: None

1. Quorum, Conflicts, Previous Minutes, Matters Arising

The meeting was quorate (min 4 trustees).

No further conflicts have been disclosed. GS noted that he will not be standing in the District Council elections due in May 2027.

The minutes of the September meeting as circulated were APPROVED. RW noted that action points were being progressed well and we briefly discussed the cyber security policies.

AP1: JeH to re-circulate the cyber security policies so they can be further discussed and confirmed.

2. Governance - RW

The Annual Return reminder has been received from The Charity Commission.

AP2: RW to review the Annual Return filing and circulate as necessary.

3. Events and Activities - ALL

Calendar launch – All is set for the event tomorrow (27th) @ 6pm in The Chequers.

BSO Concert ticket sales continue with nearly 60 sold to date. We discussed set up and preparation.

Talks - The next talk by WRAS is on Tuesday 3rd November. We discussed ways to better promote these events and agreed that non-members can show on the night for £5.

Litter picking – Unfortunately the autumn event had to be cancelled due to bad weather. With the co-ordinator away for a few weeks and with potential further wet weather we decided to postpone until the Spring date. We will also consider holding the autumn event earlier in the season.

Christmas Tree – BM had obtained costings from several suppliers and after discussion we AGREED to go with Stavertons. We received a kind offer of a tree but on inspection it was not appropriate to our needs.

Environment Group – The meeting at the Village Hall in September had about 25 attendees. GS has had some follow-ups and is set to host an informal meeting to discuss matters further.

Community Orchard - A note from TM was circulated prior to the meeting. We noted this might be a topic for the Environment Group to discuss and this lead to a brief discussion about some of the land expected to be signed over to the Parish Council behind the church.

GS has spoken to the Head at Bonners. There may be some interest in organising a family walk based on our updated millennium walk booklet. Also, the school has an equipment shed and canopy which needs replacing for the forest school they run. We may hear further from them.

4. Membership - TC
We have 116 memberships with a total of 147 members.

Gift Aid work is completed and monies have been claimed. We also have our details sorted with HMRC. The Committee thanked TC for her work here.

5. Treasurer - TB
Monthly accounts had been circulated. The bank accounts continue to have healthy balances.

6. Footpaths - BM
Activity has been limited due to the weather. The footpath by the A22 by the land known as MA3 has been confirmed to BM as having protection as such, rather than as a right of way.

7. Planning – All
JEH attended the District Council major planning committee meeting concerning the Mill House Farm development, to which we had submitted our traffic data and representations. The development has now been approved and could result in up to 60 houses with access off School Hill.

A number of Committee members also attended the Parish Council meeting concerning the Oakwood development and we will monitor developments.

8. AOB
In TC's absence during much of November into early December, RW will cover MCG emails. JeH to be added as a FB admin.

TC asked that the website content be updated by deleting 'old' news items. TM will review.

Next meeting: Monday 16th November. Apologies TC and TB.

Meeting ended: 20:05

Rolling Action Points outstanding from Previous Committee Meetings – *Updates (in italics)*

September 2026 Minutes:

Governance

AP: RW to revise the Access and Authorisation List and place on the Committee page of the website.

Completed.

AP: JeH to prepare Parish Council grant application.

Completed. Submitted to Council.

AP: RW to revert to the Parish Council to confirm costs and work involved for children's playground work (funding for replacement bench).

The Parish Council have asked us to fund a Recycled Captain's Treble Seat to the amount of £380+VAT (£456). We have communicated back the Committee's unanimous agreement and await payment details.

Events and Activities

AP: RW to confirm the preferred date for the photo prizegiving with The Chequers (27th October). TM will work with Caro Shaw on the photo judging and calendar production.

Completed and confirmed.

From Earlier minutes:

AP: Please respond to the cyber security policies sent around by JeH

AP: RW to follow-up with Cllr Tysh on the Conservation document and further on the bio-diversity survey.

RW sent information to TM (and has diarized to follow up with Cllr Tysh). RW followed up again with Cllr Tysh (July 2026) – this has been done with no reply yet received.