

MARESFIELD CONSERVATION GROUP
Minutes of a Meeting of the Executive Committee
Held at 7.00pm on Monday 15th June 2026 at The Chequers,
Maresfield

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Graham Shaw (GS)	Chair
Terence Brady (TB)	Treasurer
Richard Wane (RW)	Secretary
Jo Lawrance (JL)	
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: JL

1. QUORUM, CONFLICTS AND PREVIOUS MINUTES

A quorum (of at least four Trustees) was achieved.

RW noted that there have been no further conflicts disclosed.

The minutes of the April Committee meeting were **APPROVED**.

2. MATTERS ARISING

These would be reviewed as the meeting progressed.

3. GOVERNANCE

RW noted that there were three action points from the AGM:

- The accounts were to be circulated to members. This has been **COMPLETED**.

- The Committee were to consider whether to send accounts (either as independently reviewed or not) with the AGM notice and agenda. The Committee **AGREED** to do this. RW will note this for the next AGM preparations.

- The Public Right of Way forms would be circulated to members. This has been **COMPLETED**.

RW noted that there had also been question received by email in follow-up to the AGM, asking whether any donation to assist with the Church Tower has been made.

The Committee noted that it continues to consider on an-ongoing basis whether to make donations to appropriate projects, although a formal request for assistance with the Tower has not been received. Consideration could be given to making a separate collection for the Tower at the concert planned for November. So the Committee will continue to consider this. TC will draft a response to the email.

AP1: TC to respond on behalf of the Committee to the email enquiry about a Church Tower donation.

4. EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Buxted Symphony Orchestra – GS

- The normal ticket price for BSO events is £15 (free to u-18s).
- The Church has a capacity for about 90 seats.
- BSO will typically take 25 tickets and sell to family (and take the revenue). This would leave about 65 tickets for MCG to sell. So total revenue would be around £1,300 which is around the cost of the BSO.
- GS and Caro Shaw have kindly agreed to sponsor wine, which would be available.
- BSO have a flyer which we can populate for PR purposes. We will email members and post on FB and put a 'save the date' on our Events page (Sat 28th November).
- The musical programme is yet to be determined but may likely include music by Vaughan Williams.
- We would look to make a collection during the event to support the Church Tower Fund.

After further discussion it was **AGREED** that pricing would be £15 for members / £12 for non-members (free to u-18s)

AP2: TC and JaH will meet to explore the ability to use Membermojo for 'events membership', enabling non-members to book via the shop.

AP3: TM will put up a 'Save the Date' Event for the BSO on our website.

Talks – RW, TM, BM.

- RW, TM and BM got together to consider setting up a series of talks and have put together an outline of several topics that might be covered.
- Consideration is being given to the Village Hall and / or The Chequers (seating for 30) as locations, with talks perhaps on the first Tuesday of almost every month in the evening, so as to make them a regular event.
- Provisional costings are being worked through. Talks would be free to members and at cost to non-members, again perhaps using Membermojo (as per the discussion on the BSO event) as a booking service.
- The aim is to complete the preparation work, including covering logistics like the need for projection equipment and send the Committee a proposal before the next meeting, with the sessions commencing as early as September, depending on speaker availability.

JeH noted that MCG were gifted £500 by the now defunct Maresfield Historical Society so we could consider this as a contribution to this programme.

AP4: RW, TM and BM will continue to work on the Speaker programme.

Summer event.

RW noted that this was originally planned for 25 July as the Cheese and Wine evening. We have the Village Hall booked. However, the Committee has previously discussed whether the event would continue and a decision was needed. After discussion, including noting the many other events planned, it was **AGREED** we would not continue with this event.

AP5: RW to cancel the booking for the Summer Event with the Village Hall.

Biodiversity Survey - RW

A provisional report had been received and circulated to the Committee, which was well received. It was noted that the release of the report and its possible presentation to members was on the list of provisional talks being discussed – with accompanying slides.

AP6: RW will continue to work with Izabela Kennedy to see the report completed and discuss how it may be presented to members.

Walks - All

Both walks have sold tickets. The first has one available. The second four. RW will have the list of purchasers for Carol.

History Site - JeH

- The new site has been generally well received, with 214 unique visitors since launch. Facebook and the MCG website have been responsible for most of the referrals. Google has now started to index the site and return search results, which may help drive organic traffic.

- The Village Hall Committee thanked us for supporting their centenary event.

- No significant new material has been received. Another update to content may be made during the autumn/winter.

Traffic monitoring - JeH

- The School Hill unit is working well and is now powered by solar cell and battery. Traffic levels vary between 2,500 and 4,000 vehicles / day. The battery may need to be swapped every 4-6 weeks depending on how well the solar cell works).

- The unreliable signal strength issue with Straight Half Mile unit has been investigated and resolved. The unit is counting reliably again since 6 June. Traffic levels are around 3,000 vehicles / day.

- A third Telraam unit has been purchased and installed at the Village Hall.

- Expenses to date for the 3 units plus ancillaries come to £941.60 (£624 for 3 units, £209 for power supplies (solar and battery), £108 for weatherproof boxes / posts, etc.

- We now have sufficient hardware to support a fourth outdoor unit (or temporary re-positioning of e.g. the Straight Half Mile unit)

- JeH met with Gary Adlam (Maresfield Park Roads Association) to show the unit and walk around the park discussing possible locations, should

they decide to install something to monitor Maresfield Park We have offered to provide some tech support if they decide to go ahead.

- East Sussex CC have provided their existing traffic survey data. Here are some summary numbers for typical weekdays (to compare with the 3,000 - 4,000 using SHM and School Hill):

- A272 Batts Bridge : 12,000 / day
- A22 Maresfield Bypass North : 14,000 / day
- A22 Uckfield Bypass (between Black Down roundabout & Uckfield) : 25,000 / day
- A26 south of Crowborough : 17,000 / day
- B2026 Ashdown Forest (Kingstanding) : 5,500 / day

- We may look to collate everything for a first member's report / presentation in August / September timeframe. At that point it may be worth engaging with the Parish Council and/or Ashdown Forest Conservators to see if they want to fund or support additional units covering Nutley A22, Fairwarp, Forest, etc. Other items like an air pollution survey might also be something to consider.

5. MEMBERSHIP - TC

We have two new members, making totals of 116 memberships (individual and household) and 142 members, respectively. Gift Aid submissions for years 25-26 and 24-25 are prepared and need a final check.

AP7: TC and JaH will meet to check over the submission before it is made.

6. TREASURER - TB

Our account balances were reported and TB has moved some of the monies in the current account to the deposit as we will get a few membership renewals at the start of July.

The form to replace Caro Shaw with Graham Shaw on the mandate for The Chaiy Bank deposit is prepared for signature.

We donated £100 to Bonner's children (along with a loan of equipment) for their organised litter pick.

TB reviewed comments received from our independent accounts expert, which were circulated before the meeting. The Committee expressed its satisfaction with his review.

7. FOOTPATHS GROUP - BM

The bench will be ready to install within the next few weeks.

The booklet printing remains to be completed. BM will continue to chase.

8. PLANNING – JeH/GS

We understand a new biodiversity gain report submitted in respect of Mill House Farm has been rejected by Wealden. GS noted that planning permission has been granted for 65 houses on land between the A272 and Millwood Lane at Coopers Green, in Buxted parish.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

See Action Points updated - attached.

JaH noted that the Village Hall is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) which is a structure we might want to look at, at some point.

TM noted that we might want to outline the scope of activity for the groups we have talked about setting up (environment, planning, walking). This may be used to explain to members and generate engagement.

It was further noted that the Footpaths Group had assisted in smartening up parts of the Churchyard in preparation for an advertised Evensong service on 12th July, where MCG is listed as a supporter.

The next Committee meeting will be on **Monday 20th July at 7pm** in The Chequers.

The meeting ended at 8.35pm.

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

From April 2026 minutes:

AP1: GS to record his remarks from the Chair for the AGM and send to the Committee.

Closed. These were done but in the event GS was able to make the AGM.

AP2: TM will kindly put together slides as provided to him by TB and BM

Closed. This was done.

AP3: RW will note the Committee's recommendation that at the next AGM (2027) a reduced required quorum (of 10 members) should be put to the meeting.

Closed. RW will carry this forward for the next AGM.

AP4: GS will continue to lead on the BSO event.

Closed. CG has updated the Committee on the event proposals and this will continue as a regular item.

AP5: GS will ask CS to contact Uckfield Camera Club to confirm they can again do the judging.

Closed. GS confirmed that the Uckfield Camera Club will judge the calendar pictures.

AP6: RW to review whether the MCG Constitution would permit a loan to the Village Hall.

Closed. MCG's Constitution does not permit loans and legal commentary suggests that unless a charity has an explicit power to make loans it should not do so.

AP7: BM is authorised to action the bench purchase and walking booklet printing – confirming the VAT position on the latter.

The bench item is now closed.

From Earlier minutes:

AP: TB/JL to work on ensuring we have our accounting expert ready to review year end accounts.

Closed. This has been completed.

AP: TC to revert on Gift Aid.

Gift Aid has progressed further – see June 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 Ian Tysh).