

MARESFIELD CONSERVATION GROUP

Minutes of a Meeting of the Executive Committee

**Held at 7.00pm on Monday 27th July 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, JL

APOLOGIES:

1. QUORUM, CONFLICTS, PREVIOUS MINUTES, MATTERS ARISING

A quorum (of at least four Trustees) was achieved. RW noted that there have been no further conflicts disclosed. The minutes of the June Committee meeting were **APPROVED**. Matters arising will be reviewed as the meeting progresses.

2. GOVERNANCE

- Access and Authorisation Update.

This was reviewed and discussed with TB confirming that The Charity Bank mandate change has been made. We noted some public reporting on the position of the Bank.

AP1: RW will revise the Update and place it in the Committee section of the website.

- Parish Council

We have received a standard notice about the availability of a Parish Grant for the year 2027/28. After discussion we agree we would ask for funding for some additional teleraam units.

AP2: JeH to prepare the Parish Council grant application.

We have been asked whether we would fund a new composite bench for the Children's Play area at the Recreation Ground. Our assistance would be acknowledged by the Council.

AP3: RW to revert to the Council to confirm the costs and any work involved.

- Magazine Rota Update.

RW has circulated information covering the refreshed Parish Magazine to be issued from September. Our column will expand to 400 words.

- Dates for 2027 Quiz and AGM.

Some dates were discussed and RW will follow-up with the Village Hall for availability.

There was also some discussion about Committee minute disclosure and content.

3. EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- Talks

A list of talks and programme details worked on by BM, TM and RW was circulated. With a few tweaks this is now ready to go. There was also a discussion on ticketing options. We agreed to use MemberMojo for now with the talks offered as a member benefit only. We may look at other options (e.g. Ticket Tailor) for other events.

- Norman's Pond

We have had some contact from the Maresfield Woodlands Trust and will see whether our Footpaths Group can schedule in some clearance work with them.

AP4: JaH will follow up with the Norman's Pond contact.

- Biodiversity Survey

The survey is expected to be completed by the end of July. GS understands IK is happy to give a talk to present the results. There was a further discussion about the formation of an environmental working group and GS confirmed he has had a discussion with an interested MCG member on environmental matters.

AP5: RW to check the availability at the Village Hall on 22-24 Sept inclusive, for a possible Biodiversity report presentation.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker – We have been asked by one of the Maresfield Talks speakers whether we might participate in a volunteer survey for this bird. This is noted as being dependent on some funding from High Weald but could be something for the environment group.

AP6: GS to follow up with the speaker and consider further.

4. MEMBERSHIP - TC

TC reported on member numbers and noted that this was our first experience of using Membermojo for our prime renewal month (July). So there were just a few minor issues.

TC and JeH have looked at the Gift Aid situation. TC is in touch with HMRC.

5. TREASURER - TB

Our account balances were reported. The Committee confirmed its APPROVAL of the expenses involved in purchasing the traffic monitoring equipment and services; and the budget for Maresfield Talks.

6. FOOTPATHS GROUP - BM

The bench installation is still pending. The walks booklet (100 copies) is ready and will be on sale via our website at £5, which will cover the previously approved cost of printing (just under £500).

8. PLANNING – JeH/GS

TC noted a request for support received from a member in relation to access in Limestone Way.

The Committee also discussed Mill House Farm and Dairy House/Dairy Cottage applications.

AP7: TC to forward the Limestone Way correspondence to GS for consideration.

AP8: JeH to summarise our input to the Mill House Farm application for submission to Wealden Planning Majors Committee.

AP9: JeH to draft proposed comment from a heritage perspective in relation to Dairy House/Dairy Cottage.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

See previous Action Points now updated - attached.

As is our usual practice, there will be no August Committee meeting.
The Committee agreed to change its next two meetings to Monday 14th September and Monday 26th October respectively.

TM noted that so far there have been very few entries for the photo competition. We will seek to message members and remind them of the competition on Facebook.

AP10: TC to action the email and FB messaging.

Last but not least, we bade farewell to Jo Lawrance, this being her final Committee meeting and thanked her for all her efforts on behalf of MCG!

The meeting ended at 9.00pm.

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

From June 2026 minutes:

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

Closed.

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

Closed. No viable solution at present.

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

Completed.

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

Closed. Update provided at July meeting.

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

Completed.

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

Closed. RW (and GS) followed up with IK.

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

Closed. Update provided to July meeting.

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 Biodiversity survey.

RW sent information to TM and followed up again with Cllr Tysh (July 2026).