

**Minutes of Meeting of the Executive Committee 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

**Held at 7.30pm at Lampool Lodge, Lampool Corner**

**Present**

Pat Palmer, Chairman [PP]

Rob Penfold, Committee Member (RP)

John Smith, Treasurer [JS]

Alex Clarke, Committee Member (AC)

Stan Sadowski, Membership Secretary (SS)

**1. Apologies**

Dick Thompson, President (DT) Ian Shaw, Committee Member [IS] Jacqui Royal Committee Member (JR)

**2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

There were no declarations of a conflict of interest.

**3. Approval of Minutes 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

The Minutes were proposed by SS, seconded by AC and unanimously approved.

**4. Matters Arising**

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

AP1 - SS attended a meeting and spoke to Ceri Jenkins, Chairman. It was agreed that SS and RP would arrange to meet with Ceri, along with any other member of the Historical Society, to discuss the way forward in this matter.

**AP1: SS/RP to report back**

**11.6 AOB**

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

**AP13: PP emailed Claire Goossens again 24<sup>th</sup> Sept. about ownership. Still waiting to hear back**

**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 ground committee meeting.

**AP14: PP reported that our suggestion had been declined.**

**5. Treasurer's Report**

JS provided details of the annual income and expenditure to date together with details of the bank balances. Over the past month Income equals £204, Expenditure equals £144.12 with bank balances at 9<sup>th</sup> October equalling £12,080.57. Some heavy expenditure is due shortly for refurbishment of Victorian Lamps.

**6. Website and Membership Update**

SS reported the visits to the website has increased during the past few weeks which continues to be very encouraging. SS is working on adding a page highlighting the history of the village and maybe a guide to "A Walk around Maresfield".

The October 2019 Newsletters have now been handed out to all our collectors for distribution to current MCG members.

There are still approximately 40 membership subscriptions still outstanding for this current financial year and SS has highlighted this concern to the collectors requesting that they speak to the members concerned and report back to SS.

**AP1: SS to report back at next meeting re: History of the village etc.**

**AP2: SS to report back at next meeting on the situation regarding outstanding subscriptions.**

## **7. Victorian Lamps and Churchyard Gate Update**

IS reported to PP that work has now started on the lamp situated at the recreation ground. The blacksmith and electrician are co-ordinating this work.

The blacksmith found the metal struts holding the lamp glass to be made of copper. After discussion it was decided to clean the copper and leave in its natural state, rather than coating it with a lacquer, which after a period of time, will discolour and 'bloom'.

**AP3: IS to report back at next meeting regarding progress.**

Hopefully, it may now be possible to connect the lamp, situated in the churchyard, with electricity rather than having to rely solar power.

**AP4: IS to report back at next meeting.**

Wrought Iron Churchyard Gate: It was decided that work on restoring/repairing this gate of historical interest should be delayed until after completion of Victorian Lights or in early spring 2020.

**AP5: PP to include on agenda at a later date.**

**Lychgate**, adjacent to recently refurbished notice board. RP reported that a working party (including members of the church) have arranged to meet on the 26<sup>th</sup> October to strip away all the ivy and then treat the wood with Teak oil.

**AP6: ALL committee members are invited to help if possible.**

## **8. MCG Logo**

AC reported that these have now been ordered and delivery is expected tomorrow (10<sup>th</sup> October).

**AP7: AC to bring along a sample to November meeting.**

## **9. Christmas Lights**

**Tree Siting:** PP reported that she has spoken to a gentleman (family member) currently residing at The Lodge. He was expecting to still be there over the Christmas period but wasn't certain. He asked PP for her name and telephone number and said to would get back to her nearer the time.

**PA system:** PP contacted Jonathan Austin, now retired, and he has sent the name and number of a contact who may be able to help. PP met with William Brown (Libra Audio) and received a quote which was far too expensive. It was suggested that we might be able to use the MCG PA system normally used for Quiz Nights etc. It was agreed that although this unit is only intended for indoor use and would need extra cabling to the two speakers, it would be worth considering if all else fails.

PP is waiting to hear back from Simon Ashdown as to how many tree lights we will need to replace this year.

**AP8: PP to contact Angie Welton as to progress so far.**

**AP9: PP to report back at next meeting.**

**AP10: RP to remind Simon about testing tree lights and let PP know how many is required.**

**AP11: PP to order tree lights and replacement tree topper.**

**Road Closure etc.** RP Reported that he has received an excellent response to his letter to the Stewards asking for their help again this year and that everything, so far, is going to plan. JS said that we may have to hire five Road Closed signs from Highways this year.

**AP12: JS to contact Highways**

## **10. Events to Encourage New/Younger Members**

JR produced and emailed PP an excellent idea to promote new membership from the parents/staff of Bonners School. It was previously our intention to email Toni Birkbeck, school secretary, a copy of a MCG Application Form for circulation, by Toni, to all parents. However, following the email from JR it was felt by PP that we should delay this until further discussion at the October committee meeting.

JR suggested that we should ensure the School Sec doesn't just send out a bald MCG application form as this is a golden opportunity to reach younger family members. But that we should consider putting together a tailored promotion, maybe an MCG family activity to introduce membership activities to this potential audience. It could be an eco. project such as 'Bee Happy Hour' or 'Bug Hotel Build' to get those families involved and on board.

The committee unanimously agreed with this suggestion and it was decided that, rather than rush this through before Christmas, we should be delay until early spring 2020 when it was felt it would achieve active interest with better results.

**AP13: PP to advise Toni and ask for her input.**

With regard to new future events it was decided that all committee members should all put their thinking caps on and bring their ideas to our next meeting in November.

**AP13: ALL**

### **11. Bulb Purchase & Planting**

It was agreed that we spend £50 on bulbs for planting in early November. The sites agreed are, entrance to recreation ground, entrance to Forest Park (where a large branch from an Oak tree fell down) and at Parklands where gas works had to dig up large areas of grass.

**AP14: JS to arrange help from soldiers.**

**AP15: JS to look into idea of hiring a tool to help with digging holes for bulb planting.**

### **12. AOB**

**October Newsletter** – PP reported that the cost for 400 folded inserted leaflets cost an additional £40 making a total cost of £170 for 200 completed newsletters.

**Bow Bells – Refurbishment** of the 3 mile-markers will start on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October with repainting the 41 mile sign beside the Chequers.

**SUSTRANS** – Details of various road improvement and traffic calming measures that are being considered by the Parish Council were provided by JS. It is understood that the Parish Council wishes to access the parishioners’ interest in such matters. It was agreed that Parish Councillor Laura Stevens-Smith should be invited to the meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> November to amplify the proposals and suggest what input could be provided by MCG.

**AP16: PP to invite Laura Stevens-Smith to the next meeting.**

**Planter at Recreation Ground** – Following a request from Sheila Cummings (member of recreation ground committee) it was agreed the MCG will purchase a planter – maximum cost £200. The recreation ground committee will fill, plant and maintain.

**AP17: JS to meet with Sheila to agreed size and siting and place order.**

**School Hill Pinch Point/ Footpaths Group** – PP reported that MCG have received emails thanking us and showing their appreciation of our activities.

JR suggested that we should have a section on our website where we can display the content of these and similar emails....like a testimonial. However, no names or details of sender to be given. It was agreed that this was a good idea.

**AP19: SS to display on website,**

### **13. Date of Next Meeting** – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019 (at Dick & Ann’s)

Meeting closed at 9.35pm.