

# MARESFIELD CONSERVATION GROUP

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee

Held at 7.00pm on Monday 9th September 2024 at The Chequers, Maresfield

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Jo Lawrance (JL) Chair  
Terence Brady (TB) Treasurer  
Bruce Milton (BM))  
Ian Shaw (IS)  
Rob Penfold (RP)  
Stephany Reed-Perkins (SRP)  
Tom Merchant (TM)  
Caroline Shaw (CS)  
Tracie Coe (TC)

**PRESENT:** Jo Lawrance, Terence Brady, Bruce Milton, Tracie Coe, Alex Clarke (Temp. Minutes Secretary).

**APOLOGIES:** Ian Shaw, Rob Penfold, Stephany Reed-Perkins, Tom Merchant, Caro Shaw.

With sadness those present accepted the resignation of Minutes Secretary, Stephanie Bassett who feels unable to continue due to ill health. Our thanks to Stephanie for keeping us organised and recorded during her years of reliable service.

### 1) DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None.

### 2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES DATED 15<sup>th</sup> July 2024 & MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the previous meeting were APPROVED.

#### Matters arising:

- **Pictorial Map and DT Memorial – RP**

The pictorial map is now in-situ. There will not be an unveiling ceremony. Clarification is required regarding any remaining legacy funds.

ACTION: RP

- **Upgrading of footpath between Site A and Church**

BM said it was the wrong time of year to do this type of work.

ACTION: BM/RP

- **Membership List**

TC met with SS on 18<sup>th</sup> July and reported back.

Membership has been added as an Agenda item for future meetings.

- **East Sussex Draft Local Plan - TM**

TM tabled a response to their reply re. reconfiguring the bypass and it was AGREED.

ACTION: TM

### 3) TREASURER'S REPORT – TB

The accounts to the end of August were circulated by email to all Committee members.

#### Accounts Update

To date Current account balance: £2,650.14

Deposit account balance: £11,207.44

A grant application has been made to the Parish Council – response awaited.

It was previously agreed to use this to fund a bench on Site A. It was also agreed to purchase a second bench from MCG funds. Painting and installation costs will also be funded by MCG.

The auditor's recommendations are being considered for implementation TB will keep the committee updated  
ACTION: TB

BM has collected £34 from the Post Office from the sale of merchandise. All stock has been returned to him and will be passed to CS.  
ACTION: BM/CS

Photos and dimensions have been provided so the merchandise can be sold through our website. TM to discuss process of setting up payment with TB. Items will be posted or collected from CS.  
ACTION: TM

Other ideas for sales opportunities: MCG events, the craft stall at the Christmas tree lighting, promote on Maresfield Matters.  
ACTION: CS

#### 4) **UNDERHILL BRIDGE/STREAM/OART- TM**

Work has not yet started as ESCC has requested additional quotes. Concern was expressed that ESCC will not honour its agreement to reinstate the bridge in its original heritage design. Meanwhile Underhill remains closed. An update was received from Councillor Roy Galley but it seems there is no progress.

#### 5) **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- **Winter Newsletter – SRP**

All contributions to SRP before 21<sup>st</sup> October please. To include but, not exclusively, 'Letter from the Chair', Calendar of Events, Footpaths update, Photo calendar update, Planning update?. To be ready for distribution before Christmas tree lighting. SRP will collate this and send for printing.

ACTION: **EVERYONE**

- **Photo Competition – TM**

There was an enthusiastic response from Bonners School who will advertise in an email to parents.

RP to advertise at Uckfield Camera Club social. TM to provide poster.

ACTION: RP/TM

CS to advertise on Maresfield Matters.

ACTION: CS

TM to take poster to Tesco and Waitrose.

ACTION: TM

TM suggested contacting Ashdown Radio.

ACTION: TM

- **Cheese & Wine – 27th July**

This years event returned no profits. Next year consider funding changes and better promotion.

- **Christmas Tree Lighting – 7th December – RP**

We will need to purchase a tree this year – probably from the farm on the Uckfield road.

RP is to confirm timings to TM for inclusion on website. RP has acted as co-ordinator and will need to hand over. RP to ask Angie if the Church could take on more responsibilities.

The road closure has been applied for.

ACTION: RP

- **February '25 Charity Quiz**

For discussion next meeting – confirm date, quiz master, someone to operate A/V, catering/refreshments, ticketing, promotion and which charity to support this year. St Peter & St James Hospice has been suggested & we should make a decision at our October meeting.

- **AGM 2025 - JL**

Date suggested Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June. Confirm with committee and book Village Hall.

#### 6) **FOOTPATHS GROUP UPDATE - BM**

The group has been quite busy recently clearing two lengths of the Weald Way on Ashdown Forest, tidying the layby near Lampool Corner, clearing the footpaths at Rabbity Lane, Powder Mill and the section of footpath #73 which is frequently overgrown by Bamboo. Batts Bridge Road was cleared of litter and the flower bed in the Church CP tidied up.

In response to a requested from Shiela Cummings (MPC) to provide information regarding updates to the Millenium Walk booklet. The Footpaths Group will survey the Millenium Walk.

ACTION: BM

Signs about the amount of dog mess on the footpath behind the Recreation Ground seem to have helped but, fouling is now becoming a problem by the underpass as well.

Our proposal for an additional dog waste bin in the village is being pursued JL will contact the Dog Warden and MPC to try to expedite

ACTION: JL

7) **PLANNING UPDATE – RP**  
NTR.

8) **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

• **Maresfield Historical Society - RP**

RP outlined the tasks undertaken by the MHS: collect subscriptions, book speakers (7 per year) and book the Village Hall. Arrangements have already been made to fill September to November. The MCG Committee is already at capacity but felt it would be a pity to see the MHS fold. An amalgamation would need careful consideration and there was a preliminary discussion on the best way forward. RP to draft a response to the MHS. JL to check with auditor on legal implications for Charities Commission.

As key committee members were absent further discussion will be on the agenda next meeting.

ACTION: RP/JL

• **Park Farm Lane/Recreation Ground – JL**

TC (co opted on behalf of MCG) attended the Recreation Ground Committee meeting. Peter Taylor gave an update on parking arrangements but working drawings are needed for full consideration and further discussion. JL will ask Peter Taylor for drawings. TC will continue to attend meeting on behalf of MCG.

ACTION: JL/TC

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2024 at 7pm in The Chequers.**

Future meetings will be: 18<sup>th</sup> November, 16<sup>th</sup> December

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.40pm.