

# MARESFIELD CONSERVATION GROUP

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee

Held at 7.00pm on Monday 16th January 2024 at The Chequers, Maresfield

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

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

**PRESENT:** Jo Lawrance, Terence Brady, Stan Sadowski, Bruce Milton, Ian Shaw, Rob Penfold, Tom Merchant, Stephanie Bassett (Minutes Secretary).

**APOLOGIES:** Stephany Reed-Perkins (SRP), Caro Shaw

### 1) DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None.

### 2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES DATED 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023 & MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the previous meeting were APPROVED.

#### Matters arising:

- **Notice Board – BM**  
Work is in hand.
- **Pictorial Map and DT Memorial - RM**  
BM to ask John Lazenby to quote for installing the map. **ACTION: BM**  
RP to write to Highways again re. siting on the path near The Chequers. **ACTION: RP**
- **Any Other Business: Website – SS**  
SS has received a biography from TB. He confirmed Alex Clarke (AC) and Jacqui Royal (JR) have been removed from the website.

JL asked all Committee members to check their biographies, and supply a JPEG photo if possible. **ACTION: All**

All other Matters Arising were covered during this meeting.

### 3) TREASURER'S REPORT – TB

The December accounts were circulated by email on 2nd January 2024..

#### Accounts Update

Current account balance: £7,117.84  
Deposit account balance: £5,816.37

#### Banking – second signatory update

BM to check HHBC website re. privacy and how to become a signatory. **ACTION: BM**

#### Trust payment:

The solicitors administering the estate of Joan Bailey have notified us of a legacy but no money has been received yet. This will be used to fund the artwork for the Pictorial Map.

**Other:**

Two invoices have been received from the Village Hall for the Quiz and the AGM. JL advised TB that these are usually paid after the event.

TB has produced MCG headed notepaper for official letters. IT WAS AGREED not to include the MCG email address.

BM handed £73.00 in cash to TB for merchandise sold at the Post Office. Proceeds from the sale of the booklets are to go to Maresfield Historical Society after printing costs have been deducted.  
RP to check cost of last print run. **ACTION: RP**

**4) UNDERHILL BRIDGE & STREAM - TM**

NTR. Work remains scheduled for late Spring. Until that time Underhill remains closed to traffic.

The meeting with the District Councillor attended by RP on Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> December was disappointing. IT WAS AGREED that we should find an independent expert to verify whether sea trout are currently in the stream, as the Environment Agency is no longer monitoring it. RP advised that the earlier this is done, the better, as it is likely that planning permission will soon be sought for a substantial number of houses behind the Recreation Ground and this could impact the stream.

IT WAS AGREED that Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust would be the best agency to contact, as they have past data. **ACTION: RP**

**5) UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**Classic Vehicle Show**

The site at Babylon Garden Centre is too small.

TB to investigate a site at New Place Farm, Blackboys. **ACTION: TB**

**Photographic Competition – TM**

TM tabled 3 draft posters produced by AC and a final version was AGREED.

RP to send a photo in landscape format to TM. **ACTION: RP**

TM to arrange for AC to produce final poster. **ACTION: TM**

Poster locations: Post Office, Chequers, Blue Auto, Tyre Pros, Tesco, Waitrose, M&S, Bishops in Uckfield..

Competition to be promoted in Maresfield Matters, the Parish Magazine (1/2 page ad), as well as in a mailshot to members and at the Quiz. TM will collate entries.

**Quiz – 24th February – IS/TM**

The Village Hall will be available from 2.30 for set up. TM to act as MC, SS to keep score.

60 places have already been booked and IT WAS AGREED to allow for 90.

IS to book more chairs and arrange cash float. **ACTION: IS**

Paper table cloths are to be purchased.

Advertising: RP tabled a poster. RP to amend to reflect that participants are to supply their own refreshments and glasses. Foodbank logo to be added. **ACTION: RP**

**Prizes:**

JL to write to local tradespeople, inc. The Chequers to obtain a few high-end prizes. **ACTION: JL**

IS to ask at Bishops, Uckfield. **ACTION: IS**

BM to ask Ridgeview vineyard. **ACTION: BM**

SB to send last year's Foodbank flyer to Lorraine for updated figures. **ACTION: SB**

### **Easter litter pick – 6th April**

Note date.

### **AGM – 14th May**

IT WAS AGREED that the number of Committee members be increased from 7 to 8.

SS to prepare a Resolution to be sent out with AGM mailing, and put on website. **ACTION: SS**

Committee to take note of other arrangements as follows:

Reports: End of year accounts - **TB**

Footpaths - **BM**

Future Events - **IS**

Audio Visual equipment – **RP**

Speaker : Ouse and Adur Valley Trust - **JL**

### **Cheese and Wine - IS**

Date confirmed for 27th July.

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

### **Projects:**

A list of the projects to be carried out during the year was drawn up with the help of AC and tabled at the meeting. BM confirmed that this had been sent to the Parish Council. IT WAS AGREED that “washing” the finger posts should be amended to “repairing and maintaining”. Also, BM is to add a request for people to clean up after their dogs under “Appeals to residents”.

BM to amend the list accordingly, add MCG logo and his contact details. **ACTION: BM**

SS to share with membership and add to website. **ACTION: SS**

RP to include in Parish Magazine during the year. **ACTION: RP**

IT WAS AGREED that the area running alongside the wall by The Chequers could be tidied up and enhanced in anticipation of the Pictorial Map being sited there. IS suggested using old sleepers as a surround. RP confirmed that the name of the legatee will be included on the map. A plaque will be added later.

### **Safety**

BM tabled a Recommended Work Sequence to cover the safe use of the chainsaw.

IT WAS AGREED that 2 people, BM and TB, would undertake chainsaw training at Plumpton College and that both would need a full set of safety equipment.

BM to source any extra kit, including 2 helmets with metal visor, and 2 pairs of boots. **ACTION: BM**

BM is to check if regular refresher courses need to be undertaken. **ACTION: BM**

IS to check Liability Insurance in respect of cover for trained and non-trained. **ACTION: IS**

BM handed Road Closure information to RP.

## **6) PLANNING UPDATE – RP**

### **• Recreation Ground Gates, Park Farm Lane**

Permission was refused by the Parish Council at last Monday’s meeting due to a lack of information. As agreed at the last meeting, RP has written to the Planning Officer on behalf of the Committee requesting a full Planning Council decision rather than an individual WDC officer. He will be asking Ian Tysh for his support as well.

### **• Maresfield Park**

Planning permissions have been submitted for several areas of land at Top Drive. The Maresfield Park Residents Association has written letters of objection. MCG has not been asked to become involved.

JL asked if anyone would be attending the next Maresfield Ward Community Forum on Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> January in Fairwarp Village Hall.

## 7). ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- **School Hill**  
TM raised the issue of the state of School Hill. RP confirmed that Highways are aware, and have it on their programme of works.
- **Advertising**  
RP said that Church Administrator, Angie Welton, has recently taken over as editor of the Parish Magazine and the copy deadline changed to the 1<sup>st</sup> week of every month. As a result we missed the deadline for inclusion in February's edition. RP to discuss with Angie. **ACTION: RP**  
We will be advertising the Litter Pick and the AGM in the March edition.
- **Victorian Lamps**  
RP made the Committee aware that IS has been cleaning the Victorian Lamps at his own expense. JL expressed her thanks on behalf of the Committee.
- **Website**  
TM has had a meeting with SS and will be taking over in February. He will be redesigning a new website to make it more user friendly for mobile devices. He intends to add local walking trails linked to QR codes.
- **Park Farm Lane Bollards**  
BM has received an email advising that the bollards have been damaged and one is lying down. He has advised Rachel, our Footpaths contact at WDC, and understands the Parish Council will be raising the matter with Sigma.
- **Xmas Tree**  
JL asked for letters to be written to the residents of the Lodge thanking them for the use of their land and electricity, and to the suppliers of the tree. **ACTION: RP**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING : Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 7pm in The Chequers.**

Future meetings will be:

18<sup>th</sup> March, 15<sup>th</sup> April, 20<sup>th</sup> May, 17<sup>th</sup> June, 15<sup>th</sup> July, (no meeting in August),

16<sup>th</sup> September, 21<sup>st</sup> October, 18<sup>th</sup> November, 16<sup>th</sup> December

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.28pm