

MARESFIELD CONSERVATION GROUP

Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee

Held at 7.00pm on Monday 25th September 2023 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, Stan Sadowski, Bruce Milton, Ian Shaw, Rob Penfold, Stephany Reed-Perkins, Tom Merchant, Caro Shaw, Stephanie Bassett (Minutes Secretary).

APOLOGIES: None.

1) DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None.

2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES DATED 14th July 2023 & MATTERS ARISING

There was an amendment under Item 5 and the Minutes were then APPROVED.

Matters arising

Pictorial Map & DT memorial - RP

Funding has not yet come through. The artist now has a final design and is in the process of colouring in. As RP has not yet heard from Highways re siting the board, the "You Are Here" spot has been removed.

MCG Notice Board - BM

BM is awaiting a reply from John Lazenby in Fairwarp.

Roles and Responsibilities - JL

JL has handed over merchandise stock and artwork. BM has checked stock in the Post Office and no action needs to be taken at the moment.

AGM Minutes (SS)

The dates of future meetings are as follows: 23rd October, 20th November and 18th December. SS will add to the website.

ACTION: SS

Underhill Bridge (TM)

TM summarised his email to the Committee which outlined the current situation:

- The railings will be replaced with more appropriate heritage style ones
- The failed headwall will be re-built and faced in stone so that it resembles the old one
- Highways has not confirmed when this work will start.
- Highways has confirmed they will liaise with the Environment Agency regarding damming the stream but we have heard nothing further. It is hoped the Environment Agency will take note of the presence of the European Eels.
- There is a high-pressure gas main crossing under the stream where Highways is planning to reinforce the bed and banks..

IT WAS AGREED that TM should draft a letter of thanks to Highways for their co-operation re. the repair of the railings and bridge, and ask for the outcome of their consultation with the Environment Agency.

Shortbridge Stream

Nothing to report.

3) TREASURER'S REPORT – TB

In the absence of TB, there was nothing to report. A statement for the Current and Deposit accounts was circulated to the Committee later in the week.

Accounts Update

Current account balance: £5,871.12

Deposit account balance:£7,083.58

4) UPCOMING EVENTS:

Classic Vehicle Show and BBQ - SRP

SRP cannot find a venue willing to host. She will investigate Oakwood Park and Nutley Recreation Ground.

ACTION: SRP

Litter Pick – October 28th – 10am to 2pm

JL is waiting for a poster from Quarry Printing. As soon as it is ready she will put on Maresfield Matters.

Xmas Tree Lighting – 2nd December – RP

So far the site, the tree and the electricity supply have all been confirmed. RP has applied for road closures. He will be away on the day but will continue to oversee arrangements, liaising with Angie and Romy, and will compile a checklist of what needs to be done when. Simon Young collects the tree and Sheila and Gil have the tower for decorating it. Bacon sandwiches will be supplied by Alex Clarke.

As so many Committee members will be unavailable on the day, IT WAS SUGGESTED that MCG should ask the Church for help with decorating the tree.

February Quiz – 24th February 2024 – IS/TM

IS confirmed that the Village Hall is booked and TM has received a template for question setting. TM is unable to be present so SRP will be master of ceremonies. SS or Gemma will keep score.

Advertising will be in the Parish Magazine December edition with additional advertising from the 2nd week of January

ACTION: JL

5) FOOTPATHS GROUP UPDATE - BM

The Group has been active in identifying areas which need work. More equipment has been purchased: a rake and an additional helmet so that every member of the group has their own.

JL said that the deadline for submitting a grant application to the Parish Council is 29th September.

6) PLANNING UPDATE - RP

Downlands Farm Development

There should be a meeting of the sub-group in the next couple of weeks as the appeal will be held next month (October).

Straight Half Mile

The application is now for 21 houses but no allotments. A new planning application has been submitted which replies line by line to one of the letters of objection and can be viewed on the

Wealden website. On brief inspection it appears that either the houses are further down the hill or the roof height is lower.

7). ANY OTHER BUSINESS – JL

Collectors – JL

Those members visited by JL and SRP have been happy to change to standing order. IT WAS AGREED to switch subscriptions to payment by cheque or standing order next year.

IT WAS AGREED that collectors should wear their MCG hi-viz jackets as ID when out collecting this year..

Village Hall EGM

SB attended the EGM and updated the meeting on the reasons for the Village Hall becoming a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation). Anyone in the catchment area will be eligible to become a Trustee and user groups will be entitled to send representatives to the meetings.

Maresfield Historical Group - RP

IT WAS AGREED in principle that a grant be made to the Historical Society.

ACTION: RP to check the amount made last year.

Mailshot to Rolling Mill – SS

There are 175 addresses. IS, RP and BM will deliver.

Winter Newsletter – JL

All copy to be received by 31st October. The newsletter will include:

- an informative piece on ash die- back
- a paragraph on Underhill Bridge (**ACTION: TM**)
- a request for more Committee members (**ACTION: JL**)

IT WAS AGREED that information re. box blight be put on our website (**ACTION: SS**) and on Maresfield Matters (**ACTION: JL**).

DATE OF NEXT MEETING : Monday 23rd October at 7pm in The Chequers.

Dates of Future Meetings: 20th November, 18th December

The meeting closed at 8pm.