

MARESFIELD CONSERVATION GROUP

Minutes of a Meeting of the Executive Committee

**Held at 7.00pm on Monday 20th April 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)	
Caroline Shaw (CS)	
Tracie Coe (TC)	
Jane Hendy (JaH)	
Jeremy Hendy (JeH)	

PRESENT: GS, TB, RW, BM, TM, TC, JaH, JeH

APOLOGIES: CS, JL

1. QUORUM, CONFLICTS AND PREVIOUS MINUTES

- A quorum (of at least four Trustees) was achieved.
- RW noted that there have been no further conflicts disclosed.
- The minutes of the March Committee meeting were **APPROVED**.

2. MATTERS ARISING

RW suggested he would monitor the outstanding action points as they arose during the meeting and amend their status accordingly.

3. GOVERNANCE

RW reviewed the AGM logistics (confirming equipment needs), together with the agenda.

Committee members are asked to assemble at the Village Hall from 6.45pm on 12th May.

GS will unfortunately be unable to attend the meeting. He will instead look to record a message that can be played at the meeting and also

complete some text that in his absence TC has kindly agreed to read out.

The Committee also discussed changing the quorum for future meetings, noting that it has been hard in recent years to get the required 20 members to attend.

All members of the Committee (with the exception of CS) are happy to stand for re-election. RW noted that JL is then expected to stand down at the July Committee meeting.

AP1: GS to record his remarks from the Chair for the meeting and send to the Committee.

AP2: TM will kindly put together slides as provided to him by TB and BM

AP3: RW will note the Committee's recommendation that at the next AGM (2027) a reduced required quorum (of 10 members) should be put to the meeting.

3. EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

TM reviewed the revised Membership paper that had been circulated prior to the meeting. The proposals in it are split into two sections – based on what the Committee and Members might do respectively. There was a general discussion of possible actions including the potential for an events group, a survey of members asking them what they were looking for from MCG and what the membership groups might do and the use of the new walking booklet with the walking group. The possibility of a membership card for discount purposes was also discussed.

- RW together with BM and TM will get their heads together to consider again the subject of some historical talks. TB mentioned a possible contact as a speaker (Robert Forsyth) who can speak to Second World War aircraft from a German perspective.

- GS offered to lead the Environment group and sit on the planning one.

- On the Buxted Symphony Orchestra (as discussed in previous meetings), after further discussion it was **AGREED** to go ahead with the suggested event, likely towards the end of the year, using the church

and with promotion in conjunction with the Orchestra itself. Details remain to be confirmed.

AP4: GS will continue to lead on the BSO event.

- The photo competition is in play and we will aim to do an event for the launch of the calendar (date tbd). We might consider whether to extend the invitation to members and make it a 'members evening'.

AP5: GS will ask CS to contact Uckfield Camera Club to confirm they can again do the judging.

4. MEMBERSHIP

TC reported that we have four new members, including one from California USA who has a mother that used to live in Maresfield.

We currently have 114 active households and 138 paid-up members.

TC has prepared a 2025-26 Gift Aid application for submission, which should lead to the receipt about £400 in Gift Aid. She is now looking at the previous tax year.

TC has spoken with CS and will take over the FB postings with CS remaining as an Admin.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

TB reported that we are awaiting sign-off on our year end accounts from our accountancy expert.

The one year deposit with The Charity Bank is due for renewal and a rate of 3.56% for a further year seems competitive. After discussion we **AGREED** to renew the deposit when due on 1 May and transfer the interest accrued into our general funds.

TB further noted that as CS will be stepping down a new third signatory to The Charity Bank account would be needed, in addition to TB and RW. It was proposed and **AGREED** that GS will become the replacement signatory.

AP6: TB to renew the deposit and replace CS as signatory with GS.

TB noted that he had had a conversation with a representative of Maresfield Village Hall about whether they had considered installing

solar panels (which they had not). GS noted that other such organisations have previously applied to the Wealden Community Infrastructure Fund for such activities. A question was raised about our capability to even make such a loan and RW will review the Constitution on this point.

AP6: RW to review whether the MCG Constitution would permit a loan to the Village Hall.

6. FOOTPATHS GROUP

BM noted that the group will be assisting The Chequers with some gardening work.

The bench pictures have been circulated prior to the meeting and after discussion we **AGREED** to purchase the St. Leonards 180cm (expected to be £660), with appropriate brackets and fixings. The Footpaths group may also be able to concrete the bench into position.

The Millenium Walk booklet details have also been circulated prior to the meeting and the Committee **AGREED** to the purchase of 100 copies at a total expected cost of £254 (or £4.24 each). BM will check whether VAT is payable and the Committee will then agree a sale price once they are produced.

AP7: BM is authorised to action the bench purchase and walking booklet printing – confirming the VAT position on the latter.

7. PLANNING

There was some discussion about Mill House Farm which JeH will continue to monitor. It was also noted that it appears some bio-diversity or ecological survey has started on the land known as MA1.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- JeH noted that a second unit has been installed to monitor traffic. This unit is on School Hill. Early data from the existing unit has been circulated to the Committee and JeH has had some email contact with East Sussex County Council about traffic data.

After some discussion, the Committee **AGREED** to purchase a further unit to be able to monitor traffic along Batts Bridge Road. This would enable the three main routes in and out of the village to be monitored. It may be that we also move one of the units to monitor traffic along Underhill.

JeH also noted that he is due to review the new history site at the Village Hall conducting two sessions at 12.30 and 1.30 – the latter with schoolchildren expected to be in attendance.

JaH noted that we have not heard anything from the Norman's Pond charity. We will await any contact from them.

RW noted that with CS's departure he has updated the Parish Magazine rota, which is on the Committee only section of the website.

A number of Committee members will not be able to make the next meeting (18 May) and so it was **AGREED** that this meeting will be cancelled.

The next Committee meeting will therefore be on **Monday 15th June at 7pm** in The Chequers.

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

AP: TM will send RW the membership paper and RW will circulate.

Closed – membership paper revised and circulated.

AP: TB to confirm the exact amount raised for the Foodbank and RW will draft the appropriate news item for communication.

Closed – Foodbank informed. News items published.

AP: TB/JL to work on ensuring we have our accounting expert ready to review year end accounts.

AP: BM to continue to work on the booklet and bench.

Closed. Bench chosen and booklet copies determined.

AP: GS will consider the BSO concert further and revert with more details.

Closed – event discussions continue,

AP: Litter-Picking.

TC to mail members about the event, set for Saturday 11th April from 10am to 12noon.

CS to post on Facebook.

JL will ask Alex to co-ordinate the roads.

BM to purchase new little pickers as necessary and to check we have bins bags from Wealden.

Closed. All Actions completed.

AP: JeH and RW will consider a communication plan on how we might promote the new history site.

Closed. Messaging being sent out via FB, member and website channels .

AP: TM will remove the existing Maresfield history content on the main website

Closed. Completed.

AP: RW will adjust the AGM notice and pre-event messaging.

Closed. Messaging adjusted. Notice sent.

AP: ALL please confirm to RW that you are happy to be nominated to stay on the Committee for the next year (i.e. after the AGM).

Closed. All confirmed (or otherwise).

AP: RW will share the report with TM together with correspondence that has passed with Cllr, Ian Tysh since the (Conservation Area) document came to light almost a year ago.

Closed.

AP: JeH to approach the resident on School Hill about installing a unit.

Closed. Completed.

AP: TC to revert on Gift Aid.

Gift Aid progressing (see April minutes).

AP: Please respond to the cyber security policies sent around by JeH