

MARESFIELD CONSERVATION GROUP
Minutes of Meeting of the Executive Committee 5th June 2019
Held at 7.30pm at Newham Cottage

Present

Dick Thompson, President [DT]	Pat Palmer, Chairman [PP]
John Smith, Treasurer [JS]	Rob Penfold, Member [RP]
Ian Shaw, Member (IS)	Alex Clarke Member [AC]

1. Apologies

Stan Sadowski, Membership Secretary [SS]

2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of a conflict of interest.

3. Approval of Minutes of 8th May 2019

The Minutes were proposed by IS, seconded by JS and unanimously approved.

4. Matters Arising

4.13 Historical Society: RP would like MCG to forge closer links with the Historical Society
AP1:- SS will speak to them at their next business meeting.

4.14 PA System: ***AP2: IS/RP to collect PA system from village for storage elsewhere***

4.15 School Hill Fence. – No further update to report from PP/I ***AP3: ongoing.***

4.17 Royal Corps of Signals Centenary ***AP4: PP to arrange a meeting with Angie Welton***

Note: All other actions points have been completed.

5. Treasurer's Report

JS handed out copies of the Income & Expenditure Summary 1st April 2019 – 5th June 2019. This showed excess income over expenditure at £2265.83. This is mainly due to a grant received from Parish Council for Village Maintenance of £1069.06, the Fete Flower Stall at £604.00 and 2019/20 subscriptions starting to come in.

AP5: IS to investigate opening an account (attracting interest) for a monetary amount to be agreed.

6. Website & Membership Update

SS reported that the rate of total visitors and new visitors to the website continues. He requested that all members of the committee visit the website and give him feedback/suggestions.

AP6: All members to take a look at the website – report back to SS

AP7: JS will contact SS regarding a spurious link that has appeared on the website and it will be removed.

7. Cemetery

Sleepers purchased and work completed.

8. Victorian Lights

Work due to begin in August. The electrician has been informed and he has agreed to *laissez* with the blacksmith regarding time scale.

It was previously agreed that we should approach a garden solar installation company to give us suggestions regarding the power required for the lamp situated at the church.

The noticeboard at the church would not be a suitable fixing point for a solar panel but there is a potentially good position on a nearby tree.

It was suggested that the plaque on the lamp, by the recreation ground, should also be cleaned/restored and, if possible be put back in a better visual position.

AP8: IS to contact solar installation company.

AP9: IS to speak to blacksmith regarding the plaque

9. Benches at Bonners

One bench has already removed from site, repaired/painted and returned to the school.

Three multi-coloured small plastic picnic benches, seating 4-6 and priced each £330 net (not incl. VAT) have been chosen by the school. It was agreed that MCG will fund three of these at the net cost of £940 and also allow for £30 for repairs and paints for some of the existing wooden benches.

AP10: PP will advise Toni Birkbeck re new benches.

AP11: JS will continue to organise repairs on the rest of the wooden benches as and when possible.

10. Collectors Evening

A very enjoyable evening with lots of collectors turning up. Had very good feedback from all.

All left with copies of AGM Newsletter.

Next year it was decided we should consider giving collectors copies of Standing Order Forms, Gift Aid Forms, Sorry I Missed Forms and a list for collecting email/telephone addresses. Also, for any member, joining 6mths prior to July '20, this should be stated on the form.

AP12: PP will speak to SS regarding the above.

11. AGM

Membership Application Forms, Standing Order Forms, Gift Aid Forms, List for Attendees to sign and Agenda for visitors, all to be available.

Pre typed tickets to collect email/telephone addresses – ballot box to place them in.

A5 leaflet advertising the summer supper will be made up and put on chairs.

AP13: PP to arrange the above forms etc.

AP14: PP to book the village hall for run-through

AP15: SS to bring spare newsletters for invited non-members.

AP16: PP Invite Toni Birkbeck and school representatives.

AP17: RP to photograph the cemetery gates to show work done.

AP18: JS, PP, AC will each bring a bottle of red wine, RP, IS, DT will each bring a bottle of white wine.

AP19: AC SS was not at the meeting when this was agreed check if he is happy to contribute a bottle of white wine. (AC to check)

AP20: IS to ensure we have reserve stock of wine (MCG to reimburse any used).

The purchase of refreshment (other than wine) will be purchased by PP and Carole Wheeler. Carole will serve tea, coffee and biscuits.

12. Summer Supper

Posters have been produced for advertising the event around the village made for putting up around the village.

Carole has arranged for helpers to wash up.

Help will be needed to put up tables, chairs, to lay tables and to put up bunting. Glasses will be needed for each table setting. Ann Seigne has offered to do table decorations. Committee members will provide desserts.

AP21: IS will sort out the wine glasses

AP22: PP will check the cost of helpers for washing up with Carole Wheeler

13. AOB

Field End Verges – Still have not received a cut this year- look dreadful.

AP23: PP to email Claire Goosens and speak to Laura Stevens (PC)

Trees at the entrance to the Bowling Club are hindering grass.

AP24 JS: looking at the possibility of cutting low branches.

Recreation ground – small oak trees need watering. There is no outside water tap for this sort of thing or for providing water for dogs.

AP25: RP to speak to Rob Taylor to see if a non-concussive/self-closing tap could be installed outside the pavilion.

Village Hall – Path from car park to entrance needs attention. The village hall committee are looking into this problem and will keep us informed.

Fete Plant Stall – The committee thanked Ann & Dick Thompson for their very generous contribution of £604 to the MCG, from money raised on the plant stall at this years fete. In recognition of the amount of time and effort by them and their helpers we agreed to donate £50 towards their regular yearly 'thank you' meal at The Chequers.

AP26: PP purchase and present £50 voucher.

Village Planters – The committee expressed their thanks to all those who plant and maintain the village planters, also tending the church car park garden and the side garden at The Parade. However, it was agreed that these people should not be out of pocket and the MCG will reimburse any expenditure for plants upon receipt.

Fairwarp Community Society – Barn Dance at Fairwarp Village Hall 18th May at 7.3pm. £10 per ticket (inc. supper). This was apparently successful. **AP27: PP will try to speak with organisers of this event.**

Parish Magazine for June – Deadline 10th June. All ideas to PP please, ASAP.

Proposed Skate Board Park – SS has been looking into the possibility of having one of these in the village. The committee agreed that this project would be too ambitious for the MCG.

Maresfield in Bloom – Taken from the idea of 'Britain in Bloom'. After discussion the committee decided to put this on hold for this year, but, this could be a possibility for the future.

Church gate – a request has been received from Angie Welton/the church to paint the gate opposite the car park. Black wood and gold lettering was suggested.

AP28: JS will look at what can be done.

Bulb Planting – Bluebells have been sourced by IS and he and JS will get together to arrange planting.

AP29: IS/JS

MCG logo - IS suggested a plastic plaque of the MCG logo could be made for adding to completed projects such as the fences, benches and planters.

AP30: AC will contact the printer for ideas of costs and quantities.

Art Boards: Several of these are held in store in the Pavilion shed and are taking up a lot of much needed space. The committee agreed that we should keep four of them, to be made into 'A' boards, for future use. Any others should be dumped. **AP31: PP to speak to Rob Taylor**

The meeting closed at 9.34 pm

14. Date of next meeting - Wednesday 10th July 2019 at Newnham Cottage.