

MARESFIELD CONSERVATION GROUP

Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee
Held at 7.00pm on Monday 24th July 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, Terence Brady, Stan Sadowski, Bruce Milton, Ian Shaw, Rob Penfold, Stephany Reed-Perkins, Tom Merchant, Alex Clarke, Stephanie Bassett (Minutes Secretary).

APOLOGIES: Caroline Shaw.

1) DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None.

2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES DATED 19th June 2023 & MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes were APPROVED.

Matters arising

Pictorial Map & DT memorial

Nothing to report.

c/f next meeting.

Roles and Responsibilities

BM will take over Merchandising and will be responsible for replenishing, liaising on stock and re-ordering. SRP also offered help. JL will hand over merchandise stock and artwork.

ACTION: JL

Notice Board

BM has taken photos and made a drawing ready to send to the joinery company being used by RP/David Bailey. RP is to advise name.

ACTION: RP

AGM Minutes

SS confirmed that the AGM Minutes have been published on the website and that Committee meeting Minutes are only published once approved.

The dates of future meetings were set for September to December and IT WAS AGREED that these should be added to the website.

ACTION: SS

Cheese & Wine review

We made 55p profit, although some people paid over the actual ticket price. SS has thanked AT for the use of her garden. The Committee felt that the evening had gone well but that we had over-catered in some areas (cheese, biscuits, rose wine) and under-catered in others (bread and red wine). All Committee members should be prepared to help clear away in future.

It was suggested that the Chair should use the opportunity to promote future events, and to remind members of past projects.

3) **TREASURER'S REPORT – TB**

Accounts Update

Income: £1771.34

Expenditure: £878.29

Current account balance: £5,241.64

Deposit account balance: £7,053.33

Full details of income/expenditure were emailed to Committee members prior to the meeting.

TB asked RP to chase Ben Reed for her invoice.

Grants etc.

There has been a very disappointing uptake on the Wealden Lottery. There is to be further promotion on the website, the Village Shop notice board and in the Parish Magazine.

ACTION: SS, BM, JL

The Parish Council grant of £500 was used to purchase a new strimmer for the Footpaths Group.

Details of the Veolia Sustainability Fund were for information only and may be removed from future Agendas.

TB confirmed that in accordance with the Committee's earlier decision, BM would receive a monthly allowance of £30 to cover his expenses.

4) **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

Classic Vehicle Show and BBQ - SRP

SRP confirmed that vehicles are not allowed on Maresfield Recreation Ground.

TB has approached the Bowls and Tennis Clubs, but the area is comparatively small and in use all the time. Maresfield Park is unsuitable as it would have access issues due to the narrow roads and amount of traffic. So the best venue to date remains Buxted Cricket Club.

IT WAS AGREED that other possible venues in the parish be investigated (Nutley/Fairwarp/Oakwood Park)

Litter Pick – October 28th

BM confirmed he has the pickers. He is to check if Alex and Jacqui still have any high viz jackets.

ACTION: BM

JL is to speak to Rob at Quarry Printers re drafting a poster ready for promotion in September.

ACTION: JL

Xmas Tree Lighting – 2nd December – RP

The supply of a Christmas tree has already been confirmed. No further action is required until after the summer holidays.

c/f next meeting

February Quiz – 24th February 2024

IS/RP will continue to take charge of arrangements but would like to stand down from question setting so that they can take part in the quiz. TM agreed to be question setter and master of ceremonies. SRP offered help if needed. SS or Gemma will keep score.

ACTION: RP to send questions template to TM.

5) **FOOTPATHS GROUP UPDATE - BM**

In addition to the strimmer, more tools and safety equipment has been purchased but more high-viz jackets are needed.

JL referred to an email from John re grants to tackle ash dieback along roadsides and public footpaths. BM has contacted East Sussex Highways but has received no reply to date.

6) PLANNING UPDATE - RP

Downlands Farm Development

RP thanked the Committee for their help in distributing flyers re the appeal. Several letters have already been sent to the Planning Inspectorate and RP has written on behalf of the MCG Committee.

Straight Half Mile

The number of houses has been reduced to 21. RP has further details. The cut off date for objections is 1st August.

ACTION: SS to add to website

Neighbourhood Plan

Views on future housing need are being sought. RP has details.

IT WAS AGREED that any correspondence written on behalf of the Committee should clearly state this.

7). ANY OTHER BUSINESS – JL

Chequers Wall

Rumy is currently away but had agreed to raise the matter with Greene King.

August meeting

There will be no formal Committee meeting in August. Instead there will be drinks with Alex and Jacqui at 7pm at the Chequers.

Collectors

Unless more volunteers can be recruited either Committee members will have to step up or we may have to limit future memberships to electronic payments only. SS is to provide numbers and geographical area of those who pay by cheque for further discussion in September.

ACTION: SS

8) UNDERHILL/SHORTBRIDGE STREAM UPDATE – JL/TM

Following a meeting with Roy Galley and members of the MCG Committee, TM had drafted a letter on behalf of the Committee to Rupert Clubb of ESCC for approval.

There was much discussion concerning the proposal by local residents of the permanent closure of Underhill/Nursery Lane to all through traffic. An increase in traffic along the High Street and School Hill has already been noticed. RP observed that Highways would be unlikely to agree unless there was a road safety issue, in particular the number of fatalities.

IT WAS AGREED that the Committee would not support the closure of Underhill/Nursery Lane as it would be detrimental to other areas of the village.

IT WAS AGREED that the Committee would support:

- repairing the railings on the bridge in a more sympathetic manner;
- expressing concern at the environmental impact that damming the stream would have during repairs to the bridge, especially at a sensitive time for wildlife spawning;
- requesting signage to direct HGVs to use the bypass, away from the village.

**ACTION: RP to send a summary of the letter from Ben Reed concerning the ecology of the stream
TM to re-draft his letter in the light of the above decisions.**

DATE OF NEXT MEETING : Monday 25th September at 7pm in The Chequers.

Dates of Future Meetings For 2023: 23rd October, 20th November, 18th December

The meeting closed at 20.30.