

# MARESFIELD CONSERVATION GROUP

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee

Held at 7.00pm on Monday 15th July 2024 at The Chequers, Maresfield

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

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

**PRESENT:** Jo Lawrance, Bruce Milton, Ian Shaw, Rob Penfold, Stephany Reed-Perkins, Tom Merchant, Caro Shaw, Tracie Coe, Stephanie Bassett (Minutes Secretary).

**APOLOGIES:** Terence Brady

### 1) DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None.

### 2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES DATED 17<sup>th</sup> June 2024 & MATTERS ARISING

#### Matters arising:

- **Weight Restriction through the village – JL**  
JL has made enquiries with Roy Galley and he will pass on our request.
- **Pictorial Map and DT Memorial – RP**  
This is now ready and RP will find out from David Bailey if it has been paid for.  
ACTION: RP to chase.  
Measurements will need to be taken ready for installation. JL will convene an EGM to arrange a ceremony if this falls in August, when there is no Committee meeting.  
A JPEG photo of the map is to be forwarded to TM for inclusion on our website.  
ACTION: RP
- **Upgrading of footpath between Site A and Church**  
BM said it was the wrong time of year to do this type of work. Woodchips are to be used at Pictorial Map site.  
ACTION: BM/RP
- **Membership List –JL/TC**  
JL has contacted Stan Sadowski re. handing over responsibilities for the membership. TC will be meeting with him on 18<sup>th</sup> July and will report back.  
Membership to be added as an Agenda item for next meeting. ACTION: JL  
JL expressed thanks to Stan for all the work he has done over the years.
- **Recreation Ground Shed - BM**  
BM confirmed he has advised Sheila Cummings that the shed is now clear of MCG items. RP to hand back his key. ACTION: RP  
The items are now in a shed at the church and BM is to ask John Lazenby to rehang the door so a lock can be fitted.
- **Charities Commission – RP**  
RP confirmed our entry is up to date.
- **East Sussex Draft Local Plan - TM**  
TM tabled a response to their reply re. reconfiguring the bypass and it was AGREED.  
ACTION: TM

The Minutes of the previous meeting were APPROVED.

3) **TREASURER'S REPORT – B**

The accounts to the end of June were circulated by email to all Committee members on 2nd July.

**Accounts Update**

To date Current account balance: £2,344.14

Deposit account balance: £11,207.44

A grant application has been made to the Parish Council. It was AGREED to use this to fund a bench on Site A. It was also AGREED to purchase a second bench from MCG funds. Painting and installation costs will also be funded by MCG.

The auditor's recommendations are to be discussed at the next meeting when TB can be present.

ACTION: JL

BM has collected £34 from the Post Office from the sale of merchandise. All stock has been returned to him and will be passed to CS.

ACTION: BM/CS

Photos and dimensions are to be provided so the merchandise can be sold through our website. TM to discuss process of setting up payment with TB. Items will be posted or collected from CS.

ACTION: TM

Other ideas for sales opportunities: MCG events, the craft stall at the Christmas tree lighting, promote on Maresfield Matters (ACTION: CS) and The Chequers (ACTION: BM).

4) **UNDERHILL BRIDGE/STREAM/OART- TM**

Work has not yet started as ESCC has requested additional quotes. Concern was expressed that ESCC will not honour its agreement to reinstate the bridge in its original heritage design. Meanwhile Underhill remains closed.

5) **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

• **Summer Newsletter – SRP**

Bundles for distribution were handed out to Committee members and SRP confirmed all collectors have received theirs.

• **Winter Newsletter**

To be ready for distribution before Christmas tree lighting. Copy to be in by end October.

• **Photo Competition – TM**

There was an enthusiastic response from Bonners School who will advertise in an email to parents.

RP to advertise at Uckfield Camera Club social. TM to provide poster.

ACTION: RP/TM

CS to advertise on Maresfield Matters.

ACTION: CS

TM to take poster to Tesco and Waitrose.

ACTION: TM

TM suggested contacting Ashdown Radio.

ACTION: TM

• **Cheese & Wine – 27th July**

Email reminder to be sent to members.

ACTION: TC

Food to be laid out in Village Hall. Committee members to arrive at 5.30 for set up. NB extra hands needed for clearing up afterwards.

ACTION: All

Check Village Hall booked.

ACTION: IS

IS/RP to liaise on quantity of cheese.

ACTION: IS/RP

Purchase 2 bottles of rose, plus red and white wine.

ACTION: IS

Footpaths Group to do garden tidy on 24th July.

ACTION: BM

• **Christmas Tree Lighting – 7th December – RP**

We will need to purchase a tree this year – probably from the farm on the Uckfield road.

RP is to confirm timings to TM for inclusion on website. He has acted as co-ordinator and will need to hand over. RP to ask Angie if the Church could take on more responsibilities.

ACTION: RP

**6) FOOTPATHS GROUP UPDATE - BM**

The Group will be catching up on jobs after the prolonged period of rain.

The maintenance of the shrubbery to the left of the Village Shop is in hand.

Signs have been put up by the footpath next to the fenced off area behind the Recreation Ground and has included an item in the Parish Magazine advising that MCG will no longer be maintaining the footpath due to the amount of dog mess. It is now becoming a problem by the underpass as well.

RP has had no update following the recent Environmental Planning Committee meeting re. our proposal for dog waste bins.

**7) PLANNING UPDATE – RP**

NTR.

**8) ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

• **Maresfield Historical Society - RP**

RP outlined the tasks undertaken by the MHS: collect subscriptions, book speakers (7 per year) and book the Village Hall. Arrangements have already been made to fill September to November. The MCG Committee is already at capacity but felt it would be a pity to see the MHS fold. An amalgamation would need careful consideration and there was a preliminary discussion on the best way forward. RP to draft a response to the MHS. c/f next meeting. ACTION: RP/JL

JL to check with auditor on legal implications for Charities Commission.

• **Park Farm Lane/Recreation Ground – JL**

JL is to reply to the email from John Clare that we are unaware of the permitted development route for changing the parking arrangements. ACTION: JL

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Changed to Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 7pm in The Chequers.**

Future meetings will be:

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 8.35pm.