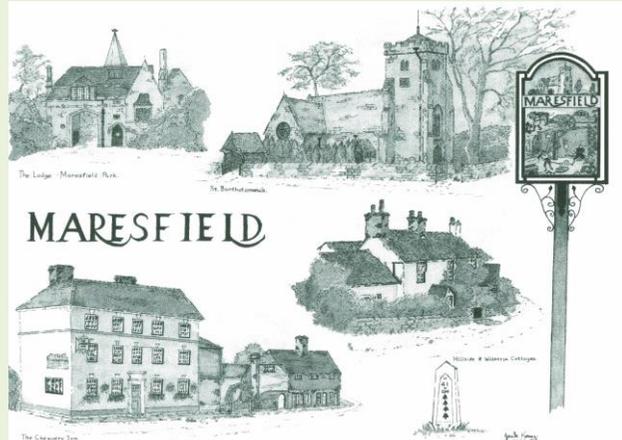


MARESFIELD CONSERVATION GROUP



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TUESDAY 7TH JULY 2015 AT 7.30 PM MARESFIELD VILLAGE HALL

Guest Speaker Roy Galley Esq:
Chairman of the Board of Conservators
Of the Ashdown Forest

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the last meeting 1st July 2014) (ADOPT)
3. **Matters Arising**
4. Questions to the Chairman on published Chairman's Report.
5. Questions to the Secretary on Published Report
6. Questions to the Treasurer on Published Treasurer's Report.
(ADOPT)
7. **Election** of Executive Officers, The three current members of the Executive Committee:
Chairman, Mrs Sheila Cumming,
Treasurer, Mr Roger Wilmer,
Secretary, Mr Michael Wheeler have all indicated their willingness to continue in Office and with no other nominations these three Officers, are therefore re-elected.
8. **Election** of Executive Committee (up to 8 members)
Mrs Mary Wrake, Mrs Pat Palmer, Mr Dick Thompson, Mr Stan Sadowski, Mr Ken Ogden have indicated that they are willing to continue in office and are therefore re-elected.
A further nomination has been received of Mr. Ian Shaw proposed by Mrs Sheila Cumming and he being a member of the MCG with no further nominations Mr Ian Shaw is elected.
9. Any Other Business (previously requested in writing)
10. Close. New Committee take Office.
- 11.

A refreshment break will be followed by an Address from

Roy Galley Esq.

**Chairman of The Board of Conservators
Of The Ashdown Forest.**

Maresfield Conservation Group
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Held on 1st July 2014 at Bonners School, School Hill, Maresfield.
The Meeting commenced at 7-30 PM.

Present.

Sheila Cumming	Acting Chairman	SC	Stan Sadowski	SS
Dick Thompson		DT	John Gutteridge	JG
Michael Wheeler	Secretary	MVW	Mary Wrake	MW
Roger Wilmer	Treasurer	RW	Ken Ogden	KO
Michael Clifton		MC	Pat Palmer	PP

39 Members -4 Non -Members

Welcome - The Acting-Chairman, Sheila Cumming welcomed all to the meeting and briefed the members on the procedure.

1. **Apologies** received from a number of members Gordon & Anne Hodson, Clive & Linda Wilson, Kim & Anne Braddle, Keith & Angela Parr and Mrs E Gutteridge.
2. **Minutes of the last Meeting** The Minutes of the AGM of 2nd July 2013 were proposed as correct by Ann Thompson and seconded by the Rev Nick Cornell. Agreed.
3. **Matters arising.** Questions to Chairman on Matters arising

Questions to the Chairman. A question from Graham Allt about the improvement of bulb planting in and around the village generally.

SC advised that last Autumn Ann Thompson had planted bulbs in the Church Car Park and that she and MW had been out and about the village including up to the Batts Bridge roundabout making notes on the areas for extra bulb planting this Autumn.

MVW asked the members were they content with the new era of grass cutting as that was now under the control of the MCG with funding from the ESCC and annual expenditure was now £1,212, there was a general consensus on the improvements.

MVW also advised that weeding control had been carried out around the Village but would take a little time to show the results.

MVW asked SC for an update re the recently received reply for the Police and Crime Commissioner for East Sussex, Katy Bourne (KB), who could not attend the Meeting and in particular the A22 motor bike nuisance between the two principle roundabouts that straddle the village. The KB response on “powered two wheelers” advised that an operation was ongoing over the summer months by surveying the nuisance using both marked and unmarked Police cars with a determined objective to prevent the “powered two wheeler” perpetrators from braking the speed regulations. The A22 at Maresfield is already one of the roads targeted during Operation RIDE.

The last comment from the Commissioner, KB, was that if Maresfield Residents do not consider the traffic calming measurements are being effective get in touch with the ESCC.

A question was asked about the potential moving of the Uckfield Police station and MVW advised that KB had made it known that the new plans were not yet developed and would be looking at the opportunities but recognised the importance of keeping the Uckfield Police Station open .

The Commissioner had been asked whether after eighteen (18) months in her role she was still enjoying it but the replies were targeted more at listening to the Public than answering the precise question.

Finally, MVW advised that although he had the telephone number of the local Police control and the Department involved he strongly recommended that Residents send individual letters of question or complaint to the Police as such letters have far more input that a telephone message.

A question came from the Audience, Sean Martin, who raised a question about the Maresfield Traffic Calming Plan and whether it had been published? MVW advised he would send a copy.

4. **Questions to the Chairman on Published Chairman’s Report** There were no questions.

Questions to the Secretary on Published Report MVW advised that from the MCG Newsletter Members could see the income had risen

£2,157 to £2,464 and of course the gift Aid added a further £356 giving almost a £3,000 figure.

Based on this the Committee would not be recommending any increase in fees for 2014/15 but it would be helpful to ensure Members' contributions were as generous as possible.

6. Questions to the Treasurer on Published Treasurer's Report - Income & Expenditure Statement for Year Ending 31st March 2014 –See attached.

RW hoped that all Members had had sight of the Annual Accounts and then made six (6) specific comments:-

- a. Firstly a big thanks to the Independent Examiner, John Smith, for his time and professionalism in reviewing and scrutinising the accounts, very much appreciated;
- b. The accounts showed an overall surplus of £577 for the year;
- c. The MCG Bank balance on 31st March 2014 was £6,946;
- d. The subscriptions were up over £300 from the previous year. Many thanks to "The Collectors" for their hard work;
- e. Finally, fundraising, £3246 net was generated throughout the year. The donation of £646 came from the Plant Stall at the 26th May 2014 Village Fete. Dick and Ann Thompson must have worked hard throughout the year to produce so many lovely plants and very many thanks for all their hard work;
- f. The remaining £2,600 was generated very much by the activities of Michael & Carole Wheeler. Along with a small band of helpers, they ran the 6th May 2014 Art Show; the 23rd November 2013 Christmas Fayre; the 13th July 2013 Summer Supper ; the 11th January 2014 Winter Supper and the 13th March 2014 Winter Quiz. Many thanks for all your hard work, it is greatly appreciated.

Questions- none were raised.

MVW advised Members that a new year for Income had started and to help with the subscriptions a new and improved form was being prepared and would be made available shortly.

It was proposed that the MCG Accounts for 2013/2014 be adopted - proposed by Carole Wheeler and seconded by Pat Langridge.

7. Election of Executive Officers, Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary. MVW advised that nominations had been received for Sheila Cumming as Chairman; Roger Wilmer as Treasurer, and Michael Wheeler as Secretary; the nominations were so elected with the unanimous approval of the Members present.

8. Election of Executive Committee (up to eight (8) Members) MVW advised that nominations had been received for Mary Wrake; Pat Palmer: Stan Sadowski; Ken Ogden; John Gutteridge; Michael Clifton and Kim Braddle; the nominations were so elected by a show of hands from the Members present.

MVW clarified that Dick Thompson, Life President, sits as an Executive Officer without the requirement for re-election.

9. Any Other Business (previously requested in writing) There were no questions in writing.

- a. SC asked any Member who would like to contribute towards the running of the Committee to contact MVW and then gave a brief précis of the variety of tasks that were considered over the year including but not limited to the Minute Secretary, a role currently filled by Michael Clifton a Committee Member; Planning roles with the Committee; assisting in fund raising and social events and helping one of our current projects –the repair of the wall in the School Hill Cemetery.
- b. A question in the form of a proposal was raised by Mr Brian Porter requesting limiting to £100 the financial limit that may be proposed by the MCG to any other Charity.

MVW advised that the Committee of the MCG, itself a Charity, had previously voted for an agreed £2,000 Project limit without further Committee /Membership approval and to seek such a restricting power of financial control that would be operationally undesirable, it would be necessary to convene an Extraordinary Meeting or the question put in writing for the next AGM. Further that donations to other Charities such as the Church and the Village Hall would be impacted.

It was suggested from the floor that the question was out of order as it had not conformed to the requirements of the Agenda.

The question/proposal was agreed to be withdrawn.

c. Three questions were asked by a Mr S Martin:-

1. The village should make clear the clarification of the two (2) separate identities and objectives of the MCG and MVMT Charities in their care of Maresfield- there are clearly two (2) different sets of responsibilities;
 2. Is the village too small to have two (2) such Charities, would it be helpful if the public face came together as one body?, and
 3. Referring to an article in The Daily Telegraph about a group of travellers who just arrived and parked without consent on a village green and the authorities had a monumental task in forcing them to move on , could this happen in Maresfield, does the village have any plans that could be implemented in the event of such a thing happening? Should the village consider preparing a plan that included a Volunteer Watch type of procedure so Residents who witnessed the beginnings of a Travellers entry could contact other Residents generally via an alert system both within the village and specifically in the area that the Travellers had targeted and commence the formation of a Residents' civil resistance that may include a village open area blocking plan by the use of a significant number of Residents' cars?
- MVW briefly responded to questions one and two by stating that at present there could be no other way and although the MCG had been active since 2002, it was through the actions, decisions and seed funding of the MCG that the separate MVMT was founded, thus the MCG were instrumental in the objects of the separate MVMT Charity and therefore there should be no question of clash of identities of the charities.
- MVW requested Mr Martin to consider submitting a written proposal that the MCG Committee could consider in detail.
- On the topic of question three, MVW advised that this matter had been considered by the village and the Recreation Ground entrance to the cricket pitch and surrounds had been protected by the removal of the previous Beech poles by the side of the road way and replaced with concrete poles that seems to have acted as a deterrent. The special area for either entry or exit had

metal poles sunk into vertical shafts that could only be removed by a kick-plate in the hole but no other plans or procedures had been considered or implemented.

SC enquired whether anyone would be prepared to come forward with ideas and/or a written proposal.

SC thanked all those present who attended and hoped that the Meeting was found to be very helpful.

SC then confirmed the Saturday, 12th July 2014 Summer Supper.

Mrs Wilma Porter wished to make special reference and offer her thanks for the January 11th 2014 Winter Supper stating that she thought it was excellent and hoped it would be repeated on the same theme with MVW advising that a date had been set for Saturday, 10th January 2015 Winter Supper and details were still in preparation.

Allan Sallows then offered a vote of thanks from the floor to the Officers and the Committee for all their hard work and efforts over the previous year.

SC then proposed a vote of thanks and a show of hands to Mrs Carole Wheeler as without her express assistance many of the village fundraising and social events would not happen.

Finally before the meeting was closed SC advised that the Ashdown Singers would be performing at the Village Church, St. Bartholomew's, at 7:30 PM on Saturday 5th July 2014.

Date of Next Annual General Meeting- Tuesday, 7th July 2015 in the Maresfield Village Hall.

The Meeting was closed at 9:22 PM.

MARESFIELD CONSERVATION GROUP (MCG)
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2015

Income:	Note	2014/15 (£)	2013/14 (£)
Admin		152.50	54.27
Art Show 2014		621.00	815.73
Bank Account Gross Interest		0.70	1.77
Christmas Fayre		256.70	449.51
Donations / Grants	1	1,300.00	150.00
HMRC Charities (Gift Aid)		452.21	356.15
Merchandise		451.85	304.00
Plant Stall		524.00	646.45
Quiz Night		422.50	873.00
Summer Supper		1,291.23	1,303.00
Subscriptions		2,634.5	2,464.00
Village Maintenance Grants		1,446.00	1,271.00
Winter Supper		2,145.50	2,415.50
	Total Income	11,698.69	11,104.38

Bank Balance:	2014/15 (£)	2013/14 (£)
Start of year	6,946.37	6,368.53
End of year:	5,843.94	6,946.37

These pages 8&9 are a pasted copy of the pages of the Accounts as signed off by our Independent Examiner John Smith. Signed full copies can be examined at the AGM.

If you have any particular questions to ask in reference to these accounts please notify the Secretary so that they can be passed to me for attention.

Roger Wilmer Treasurer of the Maresfield Conservation Group

Expenditure:	Note	2014/15 (£)	2013/14 (£)
Admin	2	2,133.49	2,688.66
Art Show 2013			289.85
Art Show 2014		127.56	207.78
Bonnors School - outside furniture		685.00	
Bulbs / Tubs			36.00
Capital Equipment			856.00
Christmas Fayre		70.88	198.70
Christmas Tree Lights		631.19	240.77
Churchyard Maintenance			41.50
Donations / Grants	3	900.00	1,350.00
Merchandise		641.42	246.26
Miscellaneous		425.00	333.00
Plant Stall		103.94	
Quiz Night		151.23	221.69
School Hill Cemetery - Grave repairs		291.00	
School Hill Cemetery - Graveyard wall		300.00	
Summer Supper		479.91	421.07
Village Hall - Insulation & furniture		1,836.04	
Village Maintenance		1,974.86	1,212.00
Website costs		75.00	
Winter Supper		1,974.60	2,183.26
	Total Expenditure	12,801.12	10,526.54
	Deficit / Surplus	-1,102.43	577.84

Notes:

- 1 Donation of £1000 from the Titcomb Foundation & £300 towards the School Hill Cemetery - Graveyard Wall project
- 2 Breakdown - printing £1778, stationary £68, postage £125, & misc £162
- 3 Grant of £500 to Maresfield Village Hall, £250 to St Bartholomew's Church, £100 to Companions Lunch Club & £50 donation to Bonnors School.

Signed Off JS.

MARESFIELD CONSERVATION GROUP ANNUAL REPORT 2015

Membership of the Group is presently around 400 and has been very active throughout the year. Communication is by email, newsletter and on the website to inform members of our activities. Funds raised by subscription, donation and fund raising events have again enabled the Group to fulfil the aims of its Constitution. We hope that during the past year we have been able to benefit all age groups.

In August 2014 the Group drew up plans for an extension to the Conservation Area. This will extend west of the Recreation Ground and include Park Farm House, land and listed buildings in the immediate area. The Parish Council supported this proposal with a submission being made to Wealden County Council for their approval which is still awaited.

The grass cutting of the verges of the main roads throughout the village has again been organised by the Group with some financial assistance from the County and Parish Councils. The intention is to have the grass cut as required by growing conditions. Further bulb planting took place. However there has been a delay in some of the grass cutting until the bulbs died back. As in previous years a donation was given to the Church to assist with the maintenance of the School Hill Graveyard. The MCG organised the removal of the two tree stumps in the wall at the graveyard in September and awaits a decision from the PCC as regards the rebuilding of the wall. Repairs to the ironwork around two graves in the Church Graveyard and around the Shelley grave in School Hill Graveyard were funded by MCG.

The hedge in the Church Car Park was cut and reduced in height in November. Further work still requires to be undertaken in that area. Village clean-up days were held in the autumn and spring with large amounts of litter being collected from the paths and verges despite there being many roadside bins in the village.

The Footpaths Group has been reformed under the leadership of John Smith. They have been repairing or replacing as necessary stiles, steps, and signs and clearing overgrown paths within the village and on the Rights of Way footpaths in the area. Some financial assistance was given for gravel not supplied by East Sussex Council. Recently new way signs for MCG have been purchased and are now being located to indicate paths maintained by MCG.

The Village Hall, used by so many of the villagers, had new radiators installed in August 2014. To maximise the benefit from this the Group made a contribution towards the cost of additional wall and roof insulation. We also purchased a further 40 upholstered chairs for the hall. A donation was made towards extra catering equipment for the Lunch Club

The Village Hall, used by so many of the villagers, had new radiators installed in August 2014. To maximise the benefit from this the Group made a contribution towards the cost of additional wall and roof insulation. We also purchased a further 40 upholstered chairs for the hall. A donation was made towards extra catering equipment for the Lunch Club.

In December we donated to Bonners School a Storytelling Chair and wooden stools for their Copse Outdoor Education area. In addition three picnic benches were provided. This furniture is used by all the school from to pre-school nursery to the eldest pupils.

The problem of continued dog fouling and discarding of dog poo bags beside footpaths and on grass verges is being addressed. The Street Scene Officer at Wealden Council has placed Wealden official signs at some of the areas identified as requiring them.

Hopefully there will be a noticeable benefit to the Village when the 1st phase of the traffic calming scheme is implemented, scheduled for this July. Members of the Group have been working with East Sussex Council for many years on this issue and will continue to do so with future phases.

Throughout the year there have been social and fundraising events. These include the Summer and Winter Suppers, the Christmas market and Tree Lighting, a quiz night and the plant stall run by Ann Thompson at the Maresfield Fete. The Christmas tree was provided by the Group and the lighting ceremony was organised by the MCG with the Church and enjoyed by a large number of villagers.

Working with the Parish Council and the Recreation Ground Committee designs for a refurbished Play Area at the Recreation Ground have now been received from five companies. Funding for this project will come from S106 monies for the new housing development nearing completion at Park Farm Lane. Hopefully the new play equipment will be installed later this year with the improved facilities being appreciated by the children of Maresfield, their parents and grandparents.

There has been a very wide range of work and projects undertaken during the last twelve months which with your continued support will be ongoing in the forthcoming year. I would, however, emphasise that the work undertaken by MCG is dependent on sufficient volunteer help being available. At present we are relying on too few for assistance and I would urge anyone who is able to offer help, even on an occasional basis, to let me know.

Finally I would like to express my thanks to those members who collect subscriptions and distribute Newsletters

We have endeavoured to use funds wisely to the benefit of many and maintain

the village making it a pleasant environment for now and in the future.

Sheila Cumming

Chairman of Maresfield Conservation Group *****

Secretary

The Chairman's Report is a full and accurate report of the Group activity in the past 12 months and you will agree, I am sure, that we have been very active in the community and there will be no need for me to repeat our achievements.

Part of my role as Secretary it has been my responsibility to be involved in the principle fundraising for the Group with a working team at each event to carry out the important logistics of any event and of course the catering done by Carole Wheeler and others as well as Kelly Mileham who caters for us at the Winter Supper.

Membership co-ordination is also my role and as you will be aware our numbers remain steady around 400 even though there is about a 10% resident movement in the village PA. Membership Fees which have a guideline amount are well exceeded by actual donations being an average this last year at £7.01 per member or £12.42 per household. 145 members are Gift Aided contributions which add a further sum of just over £3.13 to their contribution. It would be great if more of our members filled in one of these GA Forms and our collectors will have them to offer you when you next see them or you can pick up a form today. It is safe and can be stopped at any time. It can be back dated 4 years and will not cost you a penny.

The Maresfield Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) trundles on and sometime soon you will be consulted yet again to give your preference on site/s to build 50 homes in Maresfield Village. At this stage I will only remind Members that the MCG, after consulting its members asking if they agreed with the Executive Committee that site D Land South of Park Farm, is the site that will deliver the most benefit to the Community, overwhelmingly replied that it was.

Whilst it is true that several new sites have entered the fray we believe that the position does not change due to the fact that no other site offers as much to the community than Site D. It would be premature to open up a new discussion at this point but nearer the time we can have another meeting on a fairly informal basis to reinforce our commitment to this position. I would however be happy to meet anyone in the meantime pending the further consultation.

Lastly, please try to support the Groups social events by buying tickets, provide prizes or sell tickets and send contributions to editorial in the Newsletters or the Web site.

Michael V Wheeler. Secretary. MCG

IMPORTANT DATE COLLECTOR'S SOCIAL EVENING

IN THE PAVILION ON THE RECREATION GROUND FRIDAY 7TH AUGUST 2015 6-30 PM ONWARDS DRINKS & NIBBLES

(COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO PROVIDE
SOMETHING FOR THE EVENT)

THIS SOCIAL EVENING IS FOR THE BENEFIT OF OUR VALUED COLLECTORS AND DISTRIBUTORS TO MEET THE COMMITTEE AND EXCHANGE VIEWS

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING THIS TEAM WHY NOT COME ALONG AND ENJOY THE EVENING AND SEE HOW YOU CAN HELP? IF YOU WANT TO ATTEND PLEASE CALL THE SECRETARY TO ADVISE NUMBERS.

01825 764799

Maresfield Conservation Group Dairy 2015/16.

2015

July	7 th (Tuesday) 18 th (Saturday)	AGM Summer Supper
August	5 th 7 th (Friday from 6-30pm)	Committee Meeting Collectors Evening at Pavilion
September	2 rd	Committee Meeting
October	7 th 10 (Saturday)	Committee Meeting Village Clean Up Day & Car Park Maintenance
November	4 th	Committee Meeting
December	2 nd 5 th (Saturday 10am-2pm) 5 th (Saturday 6-00pm)	Committee Meeting Christmas Market Christmas Tree Light up

2016

January	6 th 9 th (Saturday)	Committee Meeting Winter Supper
February	3 rd	Committee Meeting
March	2 rd 12 th (Saturday) 19 th (Saturday)	Committee Meeting Quiz Night Village Clean Up Day & Car Park Maintenance
April	6 th 30 th (Saturday)	Committee Meeting Maresfield Art Festival
May	4 th 30 th (Monday)	Committee Meeting Village Fete
June	1 nd	Committee Meeting

Dates & Times are subject to change in certain circumstances

Organisations in Maresfield.

If you need to know more about any of the following, please get in touch with the Club/group contact who will be pleased to help you.

Badminton Club.

Contact: 764975.

Bonnars School

Contact: 762381.

Brownies

Contact

Rainbow Guides

Contact: 765288.

Conservation Group.

Contact: 764799

Cricket Club.

Contact: 764315

Field End, Res Assoc.

Contact 764799

Maresfield Residents Group.

Contact: 763256

Football Club

Contact: 764496

Maresfield Historical Soc.

Contact: 766751

JG Theatre Club

Contact: 763588

Maresfield Lawn Bowls Club.

Contact: 01892 665178

Maresfield Lawn Tennis Club.

Contact: 762391

Maresfield Parish Council.

Contact: 714555

Maresfield Village Meadows Trust

Contact 752362

Maresfield Baby & Toddler Group.

Contact: 769004

Women's Institute.

Contact: 765782

Parklands Res. Assn

Contact: 767102.

Recreation Ground Committee

Contact: 749756.

Stoolball Club.

Contact: 763463.

St. Bartholomew's Church

Contact: 762192

Kids Club.

Contact: 762192.

Maresfield Badgers Short

Mat Bowls.

Contact 01825 767420

Maresfield Bonfire Society

Contact 761917

Maresfield Dynamos Jnr.

Football Club.

Contact: 749640

Millennium Players.

Contact: 769644.

Lunch Circle

762775 or 07789547605

Uckfield Gymnastics Club

Contact: 764141

Village Hall Committee.

Contact: 763947.

Village Hall Bookings.

Contact: 07876 718955.

Maresfield Village Fete

Contact 764804

Wealden Indoor Bowls Centre.

Contact: 767690.

Maresfield Bell-ringers

Contact 767758

If your Group is not included here or the information is incorrect please advise the Editor on 01825 764799.