

MARESFIELD CONSERVATION GROUP

Minutes of a Meeting of the Executive Committee

**Held at 7.00pm on Monday 16th February 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: JL, CS

1. QUORUM, CONFLICTS AND PREVIOUS MINUTES

- A quorum (of at least four Trustees) was achieved.
- No further conflicts were disclosed.
- The minutes of the January Committee meeting were APPROVED.

2. MATTERS ARISING – TC

TC has drafted a letter to go to those without email addresses, requesting an email address, which was reviewed in the meeting. TC will edit and send. This will cover 28 residences.

BM has followed up three times with Garden Force and still not received any reply. He will revert to the Parish Council.

JeH has proofread the booklet and BM reported that this is back with the printer.

RW will contact the ecologist (Izabela Kennedy) this month as the first survey, covering birds, is scheduled from April.

JeH has circulated some cyber security policies.

TC continues to work on Gift Aid.

RW will continue to monitor the Conservation document and follow-up with GS on the correspondence with Ian Tysh.

3. MEMBERSHIP – TC

There are currently 141 member addresses comprising 163 adults. There are 28 residences without an email address and 34 addresses who have not paid (but do have an email address). These 34 have been followed up via email to see whether they wish to re-join, although very few have responded. All this work will continue to clean up the membership list.

AP1: TC to send out the letter requesting an email to the 28 residences without an email address - and revert on Gift Aid.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT – TB

The bank balances were noted for the Committee.

5. FOOTPATHS – BM

BM noted that the weather has been poor over the past month.

The finger post repair and replacement work is progressing with the one outside The Chequers having recently been repaired. All the work is due to finish by around the end of the financial year, in early April.

AP2: BM will continue to work on the bench supplier.

5. EVENTS and ACTIVITIES

Quiz.

RW reported that so far 42 tickets have been sold. GS has approached the Foodbank to offer a table but so far not had a reply.

We believe we should have around 10 prizes. No luck with M&S or Home Bargains. There will be follow-ups with Blu Auto, the vets and at the yoga class on Friday for tickets / prizes. TM will follow-up with Ashdown Radio for a mention. We will also repost on FB.

GS will get the six bottles of wine for the winning team.

TC noted that she will no longer be able to make the event. JaH will kindly do the scoring.

RW will confirm the Village Hall booking hours and whether we have any raffle tickets.

We expect to meet at 6pm on the day to ensure a full set up.

Events.

GS has tried to message the author of the Secret Sussex book but to no avail. TB noted that the Winklestone winery only has a limited selection so may not be able to do a wine tasting.

GS has had some initial discussions with the Buxted Symphony Orchestra about doing a concert, perhaps in late November. He has spoken with the church who are supportive. He will follow-up.

6. DISCUSSION TOPICS

- St Barts event (12 July). We have been approached with a request to do some tidying/smartening up in the churchyard in relation to a churchyard event.

- Village Hall Centenary celebrations (23 April). JeH has kindly agreed to do a short presentation on the new history website during the event.

AP3: GS will follow up to get some clarity on what it is we are being asked to do in relation to the St. Barts event.

7. GOVERNANCE - RW

AP4: RW noted that he would like to run through the AGM process at the next Committee meeting.

8. PLANNING

GS thanked JeH for drafting the MCG submission to the Mill House Farm planning application. A number of Committee members attended the public meeting on 3rd February in the Village Hall.

GS noted that there is due to be a discussion on the Local Plan at the Village Hall on 24th February. The Plan has not changed much so there may not be much for us to do in relation to it although we might consider again the original criteria set out for land designated MA1.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

AP5: Please respond to the cyber security policies sent around by JeH .

The history site should be ready for a preview at the next meeting (JeH).

JeH has applied to Microsoft for their charity programme which would enable us to get free use of Microsoft tools (e.g. Word / Sharepoint).

There was a discussion about possible traffic survey options which JeH had circulated to the Committee prior to the meeting. JeH and JaH will investigate further.

AP6: JeH and JaH to investigate traffic survey options further, in particular whether suitable locations might be available for the camera option.

With TC, TB and GS unable or unlikely to be able to meet the next scheduled Committee meeting on 16th March, the Committee determined to move it to 23rd March.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.35pm.

NEXT MEETING

Monday 23rd March at 7pm.

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

AP: RW will confirm back to Izabela Kennedy that we wish to undertake the proposed Bio-Diversity Survey, including the option bird survey.

RW will follow up further with Izabela as we move towards the potential dates for the first survey (birds – April).

AP: RW to follow-up with Cllr Tysh on the Conservation document and further on the bio-diversity survey.

RW will forward the document and correspondence with Ian Tysh to GS.