

# MARESFIELD CONSERVATION GROUP

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee

Held at 7.00pm on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at The Chequers, Maresfield

### Present:

Jo Lawrance (JL)

John Smith (JS)

Jacqui Royal (JR)

Bruce Milton (BM)

Ian Shaw (IS)

Alex Clarke (AC)

Rob Penfold (RP)

Stephanie Bassett - Minutes Secretary

**APOLOGIES:** Stan Sadowski and Dick Thompson.

### 1. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

JL has been appointed Trustee of a charity based in the West Country, "The Word Forest Organisation". This should not cause any conflict of interest.

No conflicts of interest were declared.

### 2. MEMBERSHIP – SS

In the absence of SS, JL presented his proposals and membership update as laid out in 2 separate emails.

#### Attracting New Members

SS has emailed a draft letter to all residents who are not members (circa 420). He suggested that he does a limited test run of 50 at a cost of £60, including a sae. Any feedback on the content of the proposed letter is to be given to SS by the end of January. IT WAS AGREED to include updates on planning and development in the village as one of the benefits of membership.

**ACTION: All/SS**

BM confirmed that he has registered with Wealden to receive planning updates but has not heard anything. He has not yet contacted Nancy at the Parish Council.

JR asked if the Bee Project was still relevant. IT WAS AGREED to keep this alive and add it to the mini-agenda for a future meeting with the school.

**ACTION: JL**

#### Website

A history of Maresfield Park posted in the website resulted in a sharp spike in access to the site. SS has suggested more documents be added where available.

#### Membership

Paid up membership now stands at 151 and JL has written to the 33 non-paid members.

The Welcome Note continues to attract new members.

JS expressed his thanks to Stan for all the hard work he has put into the membership over the past few months.

### 3. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

#### Quiz - March 12th 2022

- RP confirmed he has everything in hand.
- AC has produced a poster.
- RP and IS will set the questions, as well as collect and score the question papers.
- IS is handling table bookings. There will be no set number of people per table.
- JL will give a vote of thanks at the end of the evening.
- A gift will be arranged for Pat Palmer.
- Membership application forms are to be available on each table.

**ACTION: AC to email copy of poster to SS for mailshot, and to Bonners School.  
RP to investigate the purchase of banqueting roll.**

JL is keen to have a consistency of strapline message for the MCG. The Quiz Night advert includes the line "Working to improve life in our village". This could be used in future adverts/copy.

### **Village Clean Up – 9th April 2022**

The Keep Britain Tidy campaign will run from 25<sup>th</sup> March to 9<sup>th</sup> April. There will be just one day promoted: 9<sup>th</sup> April. JL has booked the church car park and will put an advert in the Parish Magazine.

**ACTION: JL**

### **Village Fete – Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June 1.15 to 5pm**

- This will be a Church/MCG joint venture and will be advertised in the Parish Magazine.
- JL requested the money which is being held in trust by the MCG to be transferred to the dedicated Fete bank account. A Fete treasurer has now been agreed. If there is no intention to hold a Fete the following year, any balance is to be returned to our keeping until March 2023 when the money will be divided, as agreed, between the village 4 charities: the Church, Recreation Ground, MCG and Village Hall. IT WAS AGREED that JS should draft a formal agreement setting out these terms to present to the Fete Committee meeting on Tuesday (25<sup>th</sup> January).

**ACTION: JS**

BM has spoken to the Scouts and they no longer have a marquee. IT WAS AGREED to check the condition of our tents on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February. A space at the Recreation Ground is to be booked.

**ACTION: RP, IS, JS, AC and Footpaths Group**

### **Summer Supper – 2<sup>nd</sup> July**

DT has confirmed the use of his garden and JS offered his help in setting up. Past suppers have been a BBQ at the pub or cheese and wine.

**ACTION: JL c/f next meeting.**

### **AGM 2022 – 3rd May 2022**

**ACTION: AC and JR to organise newsletter.**

### **Xmas tree**

Positive feedback has been received from residents and the Committee were pleased at its appearance.

- A PA system will be necessary next year.
- The tree surgeon has the road closure signs.
- JL is to advise Pat Palmer that the lights gifted by a former resident could not be used on this occasion as the fascia of The Lodge was under repair.

**ACTION: JL**

## **4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES DATED 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021 & MATTERS ARISING**

The Minutes were approved.

Discussions re. the Parapet and the Car Park are to be carried forward to the March Agenda under AOB.

**ACTION: JL**

### **New Treasurer**

No responses had been received to the advert for a new Treasurer placed in the Winter Newsletter. Through a personal connection Liz Lewis, a resident of Maresfield, had expressed an interest in taking on the role of Treasurer wef 1 April 2022. IT WAS AGREED that, subject to the new candidate accepting the post, the new Treasurer would be co-opted at the next meeting so that JS could hand over responsibilities for the accounts. RP will then advise The Charity Commission.

The Committee also noted that Bruce Milton and David Guckenheim, both current members of the Footpaths Group, will take over in a joint role to lead the Group when JS leaves at the end of March. DG has been invited to join the next Committee Meeting to meet the Executive Committee.

### **History Board**

**ACTION: JL c/f next meeting.**

## **3. TREASURER'S REPORT - JS**

John tabled the Income and Expenditure report for 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 – 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

Total Income £4054.67      Total Expenditure £2206.83

The total number of subscriptions received was 151. SS is to apply for Gift Aid on 6<sup>th</sup> April. He confirmed he has applied for a grant from the Parish Council.

The bank is now charging £5 per month with additional transaction fees for each cash pay-in or each cheque paid in.

#### 4. FOOTPATHS GROUP UPDATE – JS

- Little activity has taken place due to the bad weather and Christmas/New Year break. He has made use of the time by servicing the power tools.
- Use of the strimmer and the chainsaw is dangerous in slippery conditions but JS has managed to cut up one fallen tree and he and BM will be attending to 2 more in due course.
- The Park Farm/Rabbity Lane footpath is very muddy and the ditches need to be cleared.
- Water is not draining properly at the Underpass. The drains are working but a trench will need to be dug to allow the water to flow properly.  
**ACTION: JS is to liaise with the Footpaths Group for the week commencing 31<sup>st</sup> January.**
- JS has attempted on 2 occasions to follow up on a request from a resident at Parklands but to date has received no reply.

#### 5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- **Merchandising - JR**

- **Tea Towels**

- Stock has run out. Prices for a new print run would be £2.19 each for 100 or £1.94 for 250 ex VAT.

- IT WAS AGREED that JR contact Countryside Art to obtain a quote for adding “on behalf of Maresfield Conservation Group” on the hem and/or on the paper insert.

- ACTION: JR

- **Cards and Notelets**

- Reproduction of the images was granted to MCG by the original artist. RP is to search for his CD of the original artwork. A new print run is to be requested from Rob.

- ACTION: RP

- **Point of Sale advertising**

- It was suggested a POS banner be made for the Post Office.

- **Important Business procedure**

- In the absence of the Chair, all email correspondence/urgent matters are to be re-directed to the Treasurer.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 16<sup>th</sup> February at The Chequers**

- **Dates Of Future Meetings For 2022:**

- March 16<sup>th</sup>, April 20<sup>th</sup>, May 11<sup>th</sup>, June 15<sup>th</sup>, July 13<sup>th</sup>, September 14<sup>th</sup>, October 19<sup>th</sup>, November 16<sup>th</sup>, December 14<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting closed at 8.28pm