

MARESFIELD CONSERVATION GROUP

Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee

Held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 14th November 2019

At Newnham Cottage, Maresfield

Present:

Dick Thompson (DT) – President

Alex Clarke (AC)

Pat Palmer (PP) – Chair

Jacqui Royal (JR) – co-opted)

John Smith (JS) – Treasurer

Stan Sadowski (SS) – Membership Secretary

1. APOLOGIES

Rob Penfold (RP), Ian Shaw (IS)

2. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES DATED 9TH OCTOBER 2019

The Minutes were accepted (Proposer JS, Seconder SS)

4. MATTERS ARISING

- AP 1 Links with Historical Society - SS is still waiting for a meeting but the matter is in hand. **AP1: Carry forward to next meeting - SS**
- AP2 Subscriptions – 25 members have not paid their subscription yet but SS hopes to receive the majority by the end of the year.
- AP3 Victorian Lamps – These have gone up but Rob Taylor is yet to connect to an electricity supply. **AP2: Report back at next meeting - IS**
- AP5 Churchyard Gate – **AP3: Carry forward to Feb '20 meeting PP**
- AP12 Road Closure - JS said that it was too early to apply to Highways yet. **AP4: Carry forward to next meeting – AJS**
- AP13 Future Event Ideas **AP5: Carry forward to next meeting –ALL/PP**

5. CHAIR'S REPORT

5.1. I received a phone call from a resident who lives in Forest Park concerning the pathways and the parking of lorries and cars on the grassed area outside Parklands. I arranged to meet this resident and saw that the pathways are very uneven and overgrown and are a hazard to people with invalidity scooters and prams etc. I suggested that this resident should write Claire Goossen at the Parish Council and that I would bring this to the attention of the MCG committee at our next meeting,

5.2. I received an email from a resident living in Underhill concerning her neighbours building sheds without planning permission and affecting the water table. I telephoned her and suggested they contact Claire Goossen at the Parish Council.

5.3. Two phone calls, within a week, have been received from a resident who lives in School Hill concerning the pinch point. PP has suggested they should write a letter to Highways. She urged Committee members to do the same if they have any concerns re. the pinch point.

5.4. Claire Goossen telephoned on 29th October to thank us for the planter at the Recreation Ground and we discussed the following:

- Nothing has been heard from Highways about the pinch point but the Parish Council are meeting with them at the end of November. Claire has also emailed them about an incident she has experienced. I told her that the MCG is also urging individual residents to write letters if they are concerned.
- The ownership of the trees at the entrance to the Bowls Club is unknown. It was agreed that the Footpaths Group remove the low hanging branches
- The Parish Council are discussing employing a handyman to work within the parish. No decision has been taken as yet.
- We discussed the pathways and parking concerns at Parklands, and the pathway leading from Batts Bridge Road to the Bowls Club which is very overgrown with ivy from a nearby garden. She and her assistant will take a look at both these issues.

5.5. John S and I met up to see the problems highlighted in my conversation with Claire. John agreed that work needed doing on the pathways at Parklands together with the problem regarding the parking issue.

John reported to the meeting that his suggestions for the future regarding problems at Parklands are as follows:-

This is a communal area but is disappearing under hard standing or being churned up by people driving over the grass to get to their parking areas. The pathways should be restored and hard-standing parking spaces be provided for those houses who do not have access to any other parking. He suggested we could apply for grants from Costain, ESCC and Community Share. It was agreed that we should discuss the matter with Costain, Wealden, and the Parish Council and ask the soldiers for help in delineating the area next year.

AP6: Initiate discussions with Costain, Wealden District and the Parish Council - JS

John agreed to cut off the low hanging branches of the two trees at the entrance to the Bowls Club and would be happy to cut back the Ivy on the fences leading to the Bowls Club.

Note: I have since spoken to Claire and the Footpaths Group have now removed the low hanging branches and cut back the Ivy as necessary.

5.6. I have been to see Tony Cox, from Nutley who offered us a free Christmas tree this year. A suitable tree was selected and Simon Young has kindly offered to collect it for us and deliver to the site at 8.30am on Saturday 7th December. JS and IS will help with loading and unloading.

AP7: Help with loading and unloading – JS/IS

Simon helped Laura with the road closure last year and will be happy to do so again. He could get hold of road closure signs and could also help put them up.

AP8: Simon Young's contact details to be given to JS - PP

5.7. Lesley Wilmer has offered to do the floral arrangements for the Winter Supper again this time with a red colour scheme. PP has asked for her to keep costs down. Artificial flowers will be used so that they can be re-used. PP suggested putting party poppers on the tables.

AP9: Party poppers to be purchased - PP

Laminated posters were handed to committee members for distribution around the village (Post Office, Chequers, shop, MCG notice board, Village Hall and church).

AP10: A5 leaflets for distribution at the village Christmas lunch to be produced - PP

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

Income was £5766 against an expenditure of £4032. There was considerable expenditure under Admin Misc. due to £406 being spent on the logos. A sum of £249 was spend on the purchase of a heavy duty strimmer (we have since received another from DT), £266.50 on planters and £51 on bulbs.

Since the I and E report was produced there has been an additional expenditure of £1600 for the Victorian lamps which reduces the figure under "Increase" to £133. JS reminded the Committee that there will be further costs for connecting the lamps to an electricity supply but that there are sufficient funds in the bank to cover this.

JS reported he has sent off a grant application today (13th November) to Wealden District Council for £1,000 (total cost estimated at £2,000) for the gate refurbishment and has obtained a certificate of posting. When the result of the application is known (March 2020) and, if positive, this refurbishment project will proceed with the intention of completing it in time for an official opening on Remembrance Sunday 2020.

7. DATA PROTECTION/GIFT AID

JS/SS reported that following delivery of the October Newsletter 25 completed forms have been received. It was agreed that overall this was a worthwhile exercise.

8. CONSTITUTION

AC confirmed that only the Minutes of the AGM confirming the revised Constitution need to be lodged with the Charities Commission. No other Minutes are necessary. However we are still waiting to hear back from RP as to whether we need to have a nominated Secretary for legal reasons

AP11: Remind RP to contact Charity Commission - PP

Following JR suggestion we need to discuss and agree the age of joining and whether we should show varying amounts regarding subscriptions.

AP12: Carried forward to next meeting - PP

Laura Steven-Smith, Parish Councillor arrived 8.35pm.

9. ANY OTHER

9.1. SS Suggested that he speak to the Millennium Players regarding advertising their productions under the 'other activities' section on the MCG website.

AP13: Speak to MP's - SS

SS also wondered if it would be worth providing MCG publicity at the Millennium Players productions. After discussion it was agreed not to proceed,

9.2. £43 was agreed for the purchase of a replacement tub outside the Village Hall.

Ann Thompson will source and purchase the tub.

9.3. Christmas cards

Instead of sending individual Christmas cards to members it was agreed that a card from the Committee be put on the MCG website.

AP14: Committee Christmas greeting card to be put on website –SS/AC

9.4. Pinch Point

PP has received letters from residents concerned about the new pinch point. JR had circulated photographs prior to the meeting of cars parking there. The Committee expressed continued concern that the new pinch point was dangerous.

AP15: Follow up letter to be sent to Highways Agency - PP

Laura Stevens-Smith advised that the Parish Council is due to hold a meeting with the Highways Agency on 26th November. It would be helpful if any letters of complaint were received before then.

9.5 Vice Chair

It was agreed that there should be no formal appointment.

10. SUSTRANS

Laura advised the meeting that the Parish Council were unwilling to take any further action on the report written by Guido Pellizzaro. Various road improvement and traffic calming measures have already been carried out under the Maresfield Traffic Plan. There was much discussion on reducing traffic speeds at Lampool Corner and by the Recreation Ground as well as along Straight Half Mile, and Underhill and Nursery Lane. Laura said that a speed gun programme was coming soon but explained that any future traffic calming works would need a feasibility study. This was likely to cost in the region of £30,000. It was decided that in these circumstances no action by MCG could be taken but that the subject could be re-visited in the event of further housing development taking place.

The meeting finished at 9.25pm

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – TBA

Post meeting addendum – Wednesday 4th December 2019