

MARESFIELD CONSERVATION GROUP

Minutes of Meeting of the Executive Committee 8th May 2019

Held at 7.30pm at Newnhams Cottage

Present

Dick Thompson, President [DT]

Pat Palmer, Chairman [PP]

John Smith, Treasurer [JS]

Stan Sadowski, Membership Secretary [SS]

Rob Penfold, Member [RP]

Ian Shaw, Member (IS)

1. Apologies

Alex Clarke Member [AC]

2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of a conflict of interest.

3. Approval of Minutes of 10th April 2019

Amendments: Item 4 4.6 AP3: Should read: SS will keep the laser pointer together with the projector.

Item 4 4.12 AP6: Should be highlighted in red

The Minutes were proposed by JS, seconded by RP and unanimously approved.

4. Matters Arising

4.1 Recreation Ground Sign: AP1: RP to advise Rob Taylor - Done

4.2 Tabard Printing: New MCG tabards were given to all committee members present to keep for future use. The others will be kept by JS. It is believed that Sheila Cummings also has some MCG tabards which are used for the village clean up days. RP has approx. 6 of mixed styles which will be given to DT to keep.

AP2: RP to pass tabards to DT for keeping – to be done

4.6 Projector & Pointer: AP3: SS will purchase the pointer and keep it with the projector - Done

4.7 Cemetery Gate: AP4: JS will investigate using new oak sleepers and whether any non-slip surface would be required on steps. – Done, covered on Agenda

4.10 Bonners School Request for Funds: AP5: JS &PP will have a look at the benches – Done – on main agenda.

4.12 Grass Cutting: AP6: PP to speak to Claire Goossens about grass cutting areas and try to ascertain who does what regarding urban and rural cutting – Done – covered in AOB

4.13 Historical Society: RP would like MCG to forge closer links with the Historical Society
SS will speak to them at their next business meeting.

4.14 PA System: IS confirmed that he is in a position to store the PA System.
AP7: IS/RP to collect the PA system from the Village Hall – to be done

4.15 School Hill Fence: AP8: JS & PP will provide updates regarding any further activity by ESCC Highways Dept. or the contractor. – No further update to report – ongoing.

4.17 Royal Corps of Signals Centenary: AP9: PP to speak with Angie Whelton about this – Done – Angie & PP to have a meeting to discuss at a later date.

5. Treasurer's Report

JS handed out copies of the Income & Expenditure Summary 1st April 2019 – 8th May 2019. This showed excess income over expenditure at £643.25. This is mainly due to a grant received from ESCC Highways Dept. of £500 and £403.55 charity allowance from HMRC.

6. Website & Membership Update

SS reported that the rate of total visitors and new visitors to the website continues. He requested that all members of the committee visit the website and give him feedback/suggestions.

AP8: All members to take a look at the website – report back to SS

SS reported that despite recruiting two new collectors we still need cover for Wellington Gate and Horney Common. This will be discussed at our Collectors Evening and again at the AGM to hopefully recruit new collectors for these areas.

7. Cemetery

SS/JS reported that this will need 5 sleepers to complete shoring up the bank either side of the new path and for a step up onto the grass area. It was decided that soft tanned wood sleepers would be suitable at a cost of £23 each. The total cost expected to be approximately £130. This was agreed unanimously.

AP9: IS/JS to arrange completion.

8. Victorian Lights

IS reported feeling somewhat frustrated because the blacksmith will not be able to start work on the lamps until August due to workload. The electrician has been informed and he has agreed to liaise with the blacksmith regarding time scale.

It was agreed that we should approach a garden solar installation company to give us suggestions regarding the power required for the lamp situated at the church.

IS will also take a look at the dilapidated notice board close to the lamp. It is possible, that if this was replaced, it could be a fixing point for solar panel or similar.

AP10: IS to contact solar installation company and check notice board.

9. Benches at Bonners

JS suggested that the benches needing repair should be removed, one at a time, so the refurbishment/repair could be carried out at his place. PP spoke to Toni Birkbeck to say that upon return to the school each repaired bench should be thoroughly checked by the school and signed off to be fit for purpose. All responsibility will then be down to the school.

PP handed out coloured photographs of various plastic benches. These would not require any maintenance and come with a long guarantee. They will not rot and have no splinters. These costs from approximately £220 for a flat pack in recycled plastic, plus VAT and delivery. It was agreed that PP would speak to Toni Birkbeck to see if they would find these suitable. If so it was agreed that we

should purchase at least one this year, followed by one a year until all faulty wooden ones have been replaced.

10. Collectors Evening

SS reported that all collectors have now received their invite.

IS agreed to purchase wine and soft drinks for the evening. MCG to pay for all drinks used at the meeting.

All members to provide a variety of finger food/snacks.

AP11: IS to purchase wine

AP12: All member to supply finger food/snacks

11. AGM – PP advised that she had booked village hall for 2020

12. AGM Newsletter

PP advised that she hopes to keep the newsletter down to 16 pages. The printing costs of this will be £170. All agreed we go ahead. These will be available for the collectors to pick up at the collectors evening. SS will deliver within the first week of June to any collector/s not attending.

AP13: SS to ensure all collectors receive their AGM newsletters within the first week of June.

13. AOB

Summer Supper – It was agreed that the ticket price should be increased from £15 back in 2017 to £16 for 2019 to reflect inflation.

Minute Secretary – Re: advert in May Parish News. PP reported that no one has, as yet, come forward.

Bulb Planting – SS suggested that both snowdrops and bluebells could be planted now although it might be better to leave it until next spring for the snowdrops. This autumn bulbs will be planted in selected spots throughout the village for flowering next spring. Parklands will be an obvious site for additional planting where SNG have reseeded.

Parish Magazine for June – Deadline 14th May.

AP13: SS/JS to message PP with ideas/suggestions

Village Sign at Parade – no update.

Site A – PP updated committee with news that a new contractor has taken over from Rydon homes.

Future Fundraising – Barn Dance at Fairwarp Village Hall 18th May at 7.3pm. £10 per ticket (inc. supper) PP will look into how successful, or not, this proves to be!

Future Projects – Maresfield in Bloom. This to be discussed at the AGM to see if this is something we could consider. This would need its own subcommittee and project manager as this could be very time consuming.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm

14. Date of next meeting - Wednesday 5th June 2019 at Newnham Cottage.