

MARESFIELD CONSERVATION GROUP

Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee

Held at 7.00pm on Wednesday 17th November 2021 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

No conflicts of interest were declared.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES DATED 20th October 2021 & MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes were approved.

Matters arising:

- 1840 books - these have been paid for. A few are already at the Post Office. BM will collect copies from AS.
- Merchandise – JL handed the previous invoice to JR in case she can find a cheaper supplier.
- Parapets – JL has contacted Laura Stevens Smith. The matter will be raised at the next SLR meeting in December.

ACTION: c/f next meeting

- Church car park – JL confirmed that this is owned by the Church. JS has been advised by surveyor to resurface with tarmac rather than gravel. The drainage problem should be addressed at the same time, and would cost extra. It could be that the gulleys are blocked. A survey needs to be done and an estimate obtained. Based on the limited area of car park examined JS suggested a sum upwards of £3500 should be considered. The lighting also needs to be improved. JS recommended this would be a worthwhile project to improve the approach to the village. JL will update the Village Hall Committee and Church and suggest a contribution to the cost. This subject will then be removed from our Agenda.

ACTION: JL to update Village Hall & Church

History Board – JS said that there is a potted history of the village on our website. AS has some artwork from the 1840 booklet and will email to RP subject to permission being given by the Historical Society. It was suggested siting the board at the car part by the flowerbed.

ACTION: c/f next meeting

- One Way System – To be discussed under “Planning”.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT - JS

John presented the Income and Expenditure report for 1st April 2021 – 17th November 2021.

Total Income £3824.67 Total Expenditure £2048.03

NB: There was an increase in admin expenditure due to mailings during the pandemic, AGM papers and welcome packs.

JS was reminded by email from the Assistant Parish Clerk that any application for Parish Grants must be submitted by 30th September 2021. JS submitted, by hand, an application on 20th September.

ACTION: JS to send JL past grant application papers.

4. MEMBERSHIP and WEBSITE – SS

SS will update at next meeting.

ACTION: c/f next meeting

5. FOOTPATHS GROUP UPDATE – JS

JS handed out a report which was used in JL's article in the Parish Magazine. Since then Bruce has started has started to clear ivy growth from the shed at the back of the churchyard. Epicormic growth on the lime trees has been cut back. He confirmed that he had emphasised aspects of safety in the use of equipment to the soldiers working on the Lampool Verge.

JL thanked JS and BM for their work.

6. WINTER NEWSLETTER UPDATE – AC/JR

Proof will be available next week. JS AGREED his email could be used for the Footpaths Group.

JL thanked AC for her work. JL is trying to expand awareness of the MCG and Bonners has agreed to send out a digital version of the newsletter in their next mailing.

A print run of 200 which should cover all members, the Post Office and Chequers was AGREED. SS is to contact collectors.

Planning for the Summer newsletter is to start in January.

RP arrived at this point

7. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Xmas Tree – 11th December 4.30pm

JS confirmed he will be choosing the tree next week. RP will be contacting Simon Young to pick it up 9am on the Saturday morning, and The Lodge to arrange permission to site the tree there. He will also arrange to borrow the tower from Gil Cumming.

ACTION: JS/RP

JL will be switching on the lights at 4.45pm and will give a small speech about the MCG.

There will be a supper at 6.15pm at The Chequers after the Christmas Story Evening. MCG has booked a table for 8 people. Partners welcome.

Quiz - March 12th 2022

Cost to be £7.00. Tables of 6. Pat Palmer will be quizmaster. Still no questions yet. The format chosen by the Church for the Remembrance weekend worked well – coffee and dessert – with runners collecting food for their table. BYO nibbles. Bonners School parents to be invited. Publicity posters to be produced in the new year for display in the usual places to include bank details and reason for running quiz (to promote MCG projects).

ACTION: RP to ask for Church guest list.

SS to do a mailshot.

JL to ask Romy re quiz questions.

JR to ask Baker family if they will prepare questions.

Village Clean Up – April 2022

JL still waiting to hear when Keep Britain Tidy date will be.

Summer Supper – 2nd July

Village Hall booked. Will be catered. Last time DT hosted cheese and wine.

ACTION: c/f next meeting.

AGM 2022 – 3rd May 2022

JS confirmed he would be attending.

8. BENCHES FOR BONNERS – JL/IS

JL received a positive response from her meeting with head teacher and head of Friends. Bonners will email our newsletter to parents and would be happy for a Committee member to attend school assembly to talk about MCG – ideally someone from Footpaths Group.

IT WAS AGREED to purchase 2 rainbow coloured plastic benches (£355 + VAT each) and will help assemble them.

ACTION: JL to write to School with copy to IS.

JL said the School has another project, converting an area in the school grounds to allotments. Maybe the Footpaths Group would be willing to help with this but we would need to check with the School re CRB checks.

9. JUBILEE VILLAGE FETE – 12th June 2022 1.30 – 7pm - JL

To be sponsored by the Church. Gillian Bullock will be co-ordinator with various groups given areas of responsibility. The next meeting will be on 30th November.

IT WAS AGREED that MCG will run the plant stall with 20% of proceeds going to NGS. IS will take over supply of plants from Ann T.

The condition of the marquees is still not known as rats have got in again. This needs to be checked soon and the poles numbered. RP advised that for the event itself 6 people will be needed to erect the marquees on the evening before.

ACTION: JS/BM to tackle rat problem.

BM to check tent hire from Scouts

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- **Planning**

BM has found it impossible to join Wealden Council Planning emails.

SS is to add links to planning applications to the website specifying that comments need to come from individuals.

ACTION: BM to contact Nancy at Parish Council

c/f next meeting

- **Dates Of Meetings For 2022:**

January 19th, February 16th, March 16th, April 20th, May 11th, June 15th, July 13th, September 14th, October 19th, November 16th, December 14th.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 15th December at The Chequers

The meeting closed at 8.55pm