

Maresfield Conservation Group

Minutes of Meeting of the Executive Committee 1st August 2018

Held at 7.30pm in The Chequers, Maresfield

Present

Pat Palmer, Chairman (PP)

John Smith, Treasurer [JS]

Stan Sadowski, Member [SS],

Gemma Hallin, Secretary (GH)

Dick Thompson, Member [DT]

1. Apologies

Apologies received from Rob Penfold, Membership Secretary [RP], Peta Penfold, Minute Secretary, Ken Ogden, Member [KO], Ian Shaw, Member [IS], Alex Clarke, member [AC]

2. Declarations of Interest

Gemma Hallin as Parish Council member.

3. Approval of Committee Meeting Minutes 13th June 2018

3.1 DT pointed out that in paragraph 9 of the minutes, the Fete committee actually hired 6 additional storage tables rather than 2.

3.2 SS made reference to paragraph 11.2 about agreeing to publish minutes on website. The meeting minutes cannot go up on the website until approved by the committee.

Minutes proposed by JS and seconded by SS and unanimously agreed subject to above changes.

4. Matters Arising

4.1 Item 4 Recreation Ground Sign: RP has taken down the old, damaged wooden sign at the entrance to the Rec. Rob Taylor, speaking on behalf of the Recreation Ground Committee, has advised that they intend to replace it with another wooden sign rather than a metal one. The MCG will make a financial contribute towards the replacement sign, although the final figure will depend upon the overall cost. The sign writing will be the most expensive element, but the Rec Committee have a sign-writer in mind who they intend to use. RP took a photo of the writing on the original sign before it was removed and is awaiting updated details of the various groups represented – telephone numbers will not be included because they are subject to change. It was agreed that it will be appropriate to reference MCG on the board.

AP1: RP to approach the Recreation Ground Committee to obtain a quote for the replacement sign, following which MCG will discuss how much they intend to contribute towards the overall cost.

4.2 paragraph 6.2

PP mentioned about hedge at the Lodge, JS said that it was being dealt with by the Parish Council but may have to be escalated, by them, to ESCC Highways.

4.3 paragraph 6.3

JS reported that Sheila Cummings had emailed Roy Galley regarding the removal of grass mowings and is waiting for a reply. Also waiting for result of Parish Council Environment Committee meeting in July regarding an interim cut, prior to October cut by ESCC.

4.4 paragraph 11.2 GH to put up 13th June minutes on MCG website as these were unanimously approved.

5. Matters arising from the minutes of AGM 3rd July 2018 which require immediate attention.

5.1 paragraph 6.2

JS confirmed he has removed the dog lead hanging from the tree.

JS confirmed and he and John Mason will check oak trees in the autumn and replant where necessary as some trees are dying.

6. Chairman's Report [PP]

Please see attached

7. Secretary report (GH)

GH has nothing to report.

8. Treasurer report

JS Gave update of accounts. A healthy bank balance is showing in the MCG account.

JS will check back on previous minutes to confirm what will happen with the income from Maresfield 1840 booklets once MCG have broken even.

9. Petition about speeding traffic in the local lanes

SS agreed that the MCG doesn't need to formally adopt the petition but it was agreed by all present that MCG will support it. SS will continue campaigning and liaising with Roy Galley, Wealden District Councillor on this matter.

10. Website update

GH & SS will put copy of the committee minutes on the website but only after they have been approved and adopted at the following Committee Meeting.

GH, PP and SS will examine the current website architecture with a view to improving, where necessary, the layout, structure and content.

11. Charity Commission

PP Needs to update the Trustee Eligibility Declaration details with current committee members details.

PP To check whether signatures of each committee member are needed on the declaration.

12. BBQ

SS gave demo of the MCG boards to be displayed at the BBQ.

JS suggested that SS send out email to all committee members to find out what times they can cover the BBQ in terms of MCG representation.

SS to organise time slots with committee members directly.

13. Repair to Footpath Fence in Lampool Road, Lampool Cornet

JS Reported that this fence is in need of repair as parts of it are rotting away. JS has been liaising with East Sussex County Council ESCC but they are being slow to respond to his communications.

If ESCC can't, or won't, fix this fence by a given deadline then JS requested permission from MCG for funds to purchase parts of the fence that need replacing. Cost would be up to £50 maximum, all committee members present agreed to this.

14. Repair/Replacement to Finger Post at Chequers Roundabout (SS)

This post was a bit wobbly, JS has put in a support but all 3 arms of the post have now rotted and are about to disintegrate. JS checked with ESCC as to their involvement. ESCC will not replace like for like.

JS contacted a company specialising in these 'vintage' signs and found that the cost of replacing the Finger Post could be in the region of £1400, but would be exempt from VAT.

DT suggested that we should get an estimate from a local joiner before committing to this level of expenditure.

JS proposed that he looks into the cost of making three new arms, shape accordingly and repaint (MCG already have stocks of white paint that was purchased for other village works). JS to report back at next meeting.

15. Working Group

PP suggested that there maybe people out there that would be willing to help with various jobs/tasks that the MCG take on each year. They do not need to be a member of the committee but to form part of a working group which could be headed up with a committee member. This could involve catering, organising events, selling raffle tickets, contributing to Newsletter, Graphic Design etc. etc.

PP suggested that each committee member could bear this in mind when talking to, family, friends and members of MCG.

16. AOB

16.1. JS reported that Graham Allt has informed him that the year 2020 will mark the 100 years of the Royal Signals, which originated in Maresfield. All agreed that it would be a good idea to discuss this with the Royal Corps of Signals to see what can be done to mark this occasion.

GH agreed to make contact with the soldiers involved in the 2017 remembrance Sunday event. Also GH will speak to Angie Welton, St Bartholomew's Church Administrator (who was involved in the organising of the November 2017 Remembrance service) to see what suggestions she may have to make this a joint venture between MCG and the church. GH to report back at next meeting.

16.2 PP suggested researching the cost for a MCG owned projector which can be used at meetings and other events. GH to research cost of projectors.

16.3 PP suggested looking into the possibility of producing 4 newsletters a year. This to be discussed at next MCG meeting.

16.4 Grass cutting - the village now only receives 2 cuts a year, rather than the previous 6 cuts. PP suggested that the MCG should look into the possibility of funding one extra cut per year. If the Parish Council agree to fund one cut and ESCC carry out 2 cuts then this would mean our village would get 4 cuts which would be a great improvement on this year.

GH advised that at the last Parish Council meeting in July, it was mentioned about

the Council funding another cut for all 3 villages in the Parish. GH suggested that the new Parish Clerk would know more about this.

16.5 JS & PP suggested that members of the committee and footpaths group should consider clearing the grass mowings left by ESCC before we get more rain as this would result in rotting the mowings and killing the grass underneath. JS and PP to advise progress at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 12th September 2018 7.30pm at The Chequers.