

# MARESFIELD CONSERVATION GROUP

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee

Held at 7.00pm on Monday 20th November 2023 at The Chequers, Maresfield

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Jo Lawrance (JL)	Chair
Terence Brady (TB)	Treasurer
Stan Sadowski (SS)	Membership
Bruce Milton (BM))	
Ian Shaw (IS)	
Rob Penfold (RP)	
Stephany Reed-Perkins (SRP)	
Tom Merchant (TM)	
Caroline Shaw (CS)	

**PRESENT:** Terence Brady, Bruce Milton, Ian Shaw, Rob Penfold, Stephany Reed-Perkins (SRP), Tom Merchant, Stephanie Bassett (Minutes Secretary).

**APOLOGIES:** Jo Lawrance, Stan Sadowski, Caro Shaw

The meeting was chaired by Rob Penfold.

#### 1) **DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

RP declared he had written to WDC as a resident of Maresfield in relation to the gates at the Recreation Ground.

#### 2) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES DATED 23rd October 2023 & MATTERS ARISING**

The Minutes were APPROVED.

##### **Matters arising**

##### **Pictorial Map & DT memorial - RP**

RP has had no success with East Sussex Highways. Nothing further to report.

##### **Litter Pick - October 28<sup>th</sup>**

RP and BM disposed of the items mentioned.

##### **Footpaths Group**

RP confirmed the MCG article in December's Parish Magazine refers to dog fouling on the path to the Recreation Ground.

##### **Photographic Competition - TM**

TM has written a launch piece for the Winter Newsletter with a link to our website for further details and RP confirmed that this has been also mentioned in the December Parish Magazine. Caro Shaw has found someone to act as judge.

IS suggested we make an announcement at the quiz in February.

**ACTION: TM to draw up 2 publicity posters.**

##### **MCG Notice Board - BM**

The new notice board will be similar to the Parish Council's and will be in MCG colours. BM is waiting for the price from John Lazenby.

All other Matters Arising were covered under this meeting's Agenda.

**3) TREASURER'S REPORT – TB**

**Accounts Update**

As agreed, TB had emailed the accounts to the end of October prior to the meeting.

Current account balance: £6051.02

Deposit account balance: £7,083.58

There is a 40p charge for depositing cheques.

**Internet banking update**

TB has regained access to online banking, which is managed by an app on his phone. He suggested nominating a secondary user as back-up. Telephone banking is still pending.

**4) UNDERHILL BRIDGE & STREAM - TM**

There was a site meeting last week between Balfour Beatty (ESCC's sub contractor) and the landowner re. access to the stream. TM has seen the drawings which show the replacement handrails and bridge will be replicas. The work is now scheduled for late Spring as the Environment Agency is delaying permission due to concern over disturbing bats while surveying the bridge.

**5) UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**Winter Newsletter**

All items for the newsletter were received and the copy is with Quarry Printing.

**Classic Vehicle Show and BBQ – SRP**

There have been no replies from either the polo club or the tennis and bowls club. In view of this lack of interest/response IT WAS AGREED that the project be shelved. RP asked SRP to pass on the Committee's thanks to her husband for all his efforts in trying to get this event off the ground.

RP said that he would ask his contact at the polo club to request a reply.

**ACTION: RP**

**Xmas Tree Lighting – 2<sup>nd</sup> December – RP**

- RP, IS and John Smith have chosen the tree and it will be collected by Simon Young, JS and BM. This will be the last year that we will be able to get a free tree from our supplier.
- Simon Ashdown will check the lights and stand.
- We need volunteers to help erecting the tree. SRP to ask Martin. **ACTION: SRP**
- TB will supervise the morning and will also be the supervisor for the MCG's involvement in the evening (road closure signs and maintaining the cordoned off area in the centre of the village).
- Jacqui Royal has agreed to supply bacon sandwiches.
- RP has written to Sheila and Gil Cummings who have agreed the use of their ladder.
- 6 people will be needed to man the barricades: SS and Alex Clark will be stationed at the Village Hall, and Laura Stevens-Smith usually stands by the Village Shop. Someone will be needed to stand near the Recreation Ground.
- RP has received the advance road closure notices from the local authority and these will need to be displayed 7 days prior to the event. Currently the Church is unable to locate its A3 laminator. IS will supply plywood to mount the notices. **ACTION: IS**
- RP advised that the barricades can be lifted once people disperse to go for refreshments.
- The events of the evening will be managed by the Church.

**February Quiz – 24<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – IS/TM**

SB has contacted the Project Manager at Uckfield Foodbank, Lorraine Kirkwood and asked her to provide some stats after Christmas to illustrate their work.

TM confirmed he is compiling the questions and IS is handling ticket sales.

Marketing is to start just after Christmas. IS is to ask Alex Clarke to produce a poster.

**ACTION: IS**

IT WAS AGREED that the following should be discussed at the next meeting:

- whether to increase the ticket price to £8.00,
- whether nibbles and sweets should be provided for the tables or whether we should provide a more substantial meal (organise pizza van/cooked meal on site etc.),.
- whether participants should be asked to provide a food item for the Foodbank.

**ACTION: c/f December**

### **AGM – 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024 (JL)**

NTR

#### **Summer Cheese & Wine Evening - July**

Ann Thompson cannot offer the use of her garden on 6<sup>th</sup> July. RP felt that it was important for JL to be present for the evening, and 20<sup>th</sup> July was suggested.

**ACTION: IS**

(NB – Addendum to the meeting: RP checked with JL and she will not be available. He will ask Ann for 27<sup>th</sup> July.)

#### **5) FOOTPATHS GROUP UPDATE - BM**

There are now 9 volunteers on the list. Additional helmets, ear defenders etc. will be needed.

BM will be taking photos of the listed Barn on School Hill and sending them to the relevant authorities. RP said that permission has been granted for a single dwelling plus garage on the land.

BM has been approached by Sheila Cummings on behalf of the Parish Council who have taken over the Lawn Bowls Club buildings on the Recreation Ground. As our shed in the churchyard is leaking and no longer fit for purpose, BM suggested we accept their offer to use one of the buildings. RP was concerned that ownership should be established first, as they may be a registered asset.

#### **6) PLANNING UPDATE – RP**

- **Recreation Ground Gates, Park Farm Lane**

As stated above, RP has written a letter of objection and confirmed he has not written on behalf of the MCG. He referred to the Parish Magazine article which was written by a resident of the village and was not a statement of intent by the MCG, Historical Society or Parish Council. He said that the a number of signs have been put up around the village explaining this but that some have been vandalised on more than one occasion.

- **Downland Farm**

The hearing has closed but no decision has yet been taken.

- **Listed barn on School Hill**

As stated under item 5, planning permission for one dwelling plus garage has been granted.

- **Goldbridge Farm, Newick**

SB mentioned that there is a proposal to build 300 homes on the land at Goldbridge Farm, Newick and there will be a presentation of the plans on 29<sup>th</sup> November at Newick Village Hall. She will let RP have further details.

**ACTION: SB**

- **Revised plans for the development on Straight Half Mile.**

(NB - Addendum to the meeting: There is a WDC Planning Committee meeting in Hailsham on 27<sup>th</sup> November to hear the revised application.)

#### **7). ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 7.50pm

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING : Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm in The Chequers followed by drinks.**