

# MARESFIELD CONSERVATION GROUP

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee

Held at 7.00pm on Monday 17th June 2024 at The Chequers, Maresfield

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

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

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

Also present: Cllr Peter Taylor (Maresfield Parish Council)

**APOLOGIES:** Caro Shaw

Cllr Taylor attended the meeting following discussions between Cllr Taylor, JL, RP and the landowner of Park Farm Lane regarding the parking arrangements at the Recreation Ground. Cllr Taylor outlined the new parking protocol and the proposed alterations to the layout.

In response to a question from RP, Cllr Taylor confirmed that permission has been granted for gates to be erected at Park Farm Lane. The general public would no longer will have access.

RP said that the current parking arrangement has shifted the problem to School Hill and the Church car park. Motorised wheelchair users using School Hill are now being forced into the carriageway. In response, Cllr Taylor said that all Council meetings are open to local residents should they wish to raise the matter and that Agendas and Minutes are available on the Council website. TM confirmed that our website contains a link to the Parish Council

With regards to Site A, Cllr Taylor said that it would only be accepted by the Council once all conditions had been met.

JL asked if a weight restriction to limit the number of large lorries could be applied for and was advised to contact Roy Galley. ACTION: JL

JL thanked Cllr Taylor for his time and issued an invitation to attend future meetings. He then left.

JL welcomed TC to the Committee and said that there is still one vacancy outstanding.

### 1) DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None.

### 2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES DATED 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024 & MATTERS ARISING

#### Matters arising:

- **Pictorial Map and DT Memorial – RP**

We are waiting for the map to be ready.

ACTION: RP to chase.

E Sussex Highways has confirmed that the twitten running from The Chequers to Underhill is called Underhill.

- **Upgrading of footpath between Site A and Church**  
Not yet actioned. ACTION: BM
- **AGM**  
Action points to be reviewed at next Committee meeting. ACTION: JL
- **Insurance premium**  
TB confirmed payment has been made.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were APPROVED.

**3) TREASURER'S REPORT – B**

The accounts to the end of May were circulated by email to all Committee members on 10th June.

**Accounts Update**

To date Current account balance: £1,077.14

Deposit account balance: £11,207.44

RP confirmed the end of year accounts have been sent to the Charities Commission.

The auditor's recommendations are to be discussed at the next meeting. ACTION: JL

**4) UNDERHILL BRIDGE/STREAM/OART- TM**

TM referred to his update sent via email on 29<sup>th</sup> May .There has been no reply to his letter of 4<sup>th</sup> May to Rupert Clubb at ESCC requesting drawings of the agreed design, nor to his follow up on 30<sup>th</sup> May requesting clarification on a proposed, more cost effective, design. As a result the landowner has withdrawn access to the bridge site.

RP declared a conflict of interest and said that the closure of Underhill is causing increased traffic along the High Street/School Hill. JL has seen evidence of vehicles moving the barriers to get through and asked TM to advise Mr Clubb, as well as again ask for clarification on the proposed new design.

ACTION: TM

**5) UPCOMING EVENTS:**

• **Summer Newsletter – SRP**

Contributions to be received from:

JL – Chair's report

TM – Photo Competition

BM – Footpaths

IS – Horticultural

RP – Photo for front cover

Calendar of events to include

Litter Pick – 26th October between 10 – 2

Christmas Tree lighting – December

Annual quiz – 25th February

Copy to be ready by 26th June so that it can be printed and distributed before the Cheese and Wine event in July. Print run of 200.

SRP to advise printer of timings and request quote for 200 copies, as well as ask AC (Alex Clark) to produce an advert for an additional Committee member. ACTION: SRP

TC suggested emailing the newsletter instead of printing it and expressed willingness to take this on. c/f next meeting. ACTION: JL

Ownership of the membership database was discussed in view of SS (Stan Sadowski) stepping down from the Committee. He currently handles mailings to members, manages the

collectors/leaflet drops and receives messages through the MCG email address. JL is to write to SS with a copy to TC requesting copies of these messages to be forwarded to her, and open a discussion with him re. a future transition/handover of his responsibilities. ACTION: JL

- **Photographic Competition – TM**

Very few entries have been received so far. IT WAS AGREED to award a prize of a £50 Amazon voucher.

Posters to be displayed on Tesco/Waitrose notice boards. ACTION: TM

JL to write to Bonners School. ACTION: JL

- **Cheese & Wine – 27th July**

Very few tickets sold so far.

ACTION: IS is to supply a poster for TB to put on the Maresfield Park WhatsApp group, and CS to add to Maresfield Matters Facebook group. ACTION: TB/CS

Past attendees as well as quiz participants have already been invited. c/f next meeting. ACTION: JL

6) **FOOTPATHS GROUP UPDATE - BM**

The Recreation Ground shed has been cleared and the assets register updated. BM to email confirmation to Sheila Cummings. ACTION: BM

Ten more hi-viz jackets have been purchased.

There has been no response from Balfour Beatty nor the Parish Council concerning the missing signposts at Duddleswell. BM has obtained a quote for replacement at £1200 per post. BM to write to Parish Council offering to pay half. ACTION: BM

The Group will be clearing the footpath along Rabbitty Lane.

7) **PLANNING UPDATE – RP**

- **Wellington Gate application**

The deadline for comments on the application to build 41 houses has passed.

- **Future developments**

RP has been advised to obtain an environmental impact assessment of future development on the village. ACTION: RP

8) **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- **Maresfield Historical Society - RP**

RP referred to his email sent to Committee members on 25<sup>th</sup> May proposing that Maresfield Historical Society be absorbed/subsumed into the MCG and thanked those who had responded. c/f next meeting ACTION: JL

- **East Sussex draft Local Transport Plan - TM**

There has been no response to our proposal to dual the carriageway. TM to draft a letter for approval. ACTION: TM

- **Land adjacent to The Chequers twitten - BM**

BM was asked by Romy who owns the land by the twitten.

- **Recreation Ground Committee**

TC has joined the Recreation Ground Committee as MCG representative.

- **Update of Committee members to Charities Commission**

TC and BM are to supply their details for Charities Commission submission.

RP to remove SS.

ACTION: TM/TC/RP

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING : Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at 7pm in The Chequers.**

Future meetings will be:

(no meeting in August), 16<sup>th</sup> September, 21<sup>st</sup> October, 18<sup>th</sup> November, 16<sup>th</sup> December

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 9.20 pm