

MARESFIELD CONSERVATION GROUP

Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee

Held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 4th December 2019

At Lampool Lodge, Maresfield

Present:

Pat Palmer (PP) – Chair

Rob Penfold (RP)

John Smith (JS) – Treasurer

Ian Shaw (IS)

Stan Sadowski (SS) – Membership Secretary

Stephanie Bassett (Minutes Secretary)

1. APOLOGIES

Dick Thompson (DT), Alex Clarke (AC), Jacqui Royal (JR)

2. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were declared.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES DATED 14th NOVEMBER 2019

It was agreed that the Minute taker's name be added to the list of those present. The Minutes were then accepted (Proposer JS, Seconder SS) and signed by the Chair.

4. MATTERS ARISING

- AP1: Links with Historical Society - SS is still waiting for a meeting. **SS**
- AP2: Subscriptions – **see agenda item 6.2**
- AP3: Victorian Lamps – Those at the Recreation Ground are lit but we are waiting for permission to connect up the electricity cable at the church. There is some overgrown foliage in the cemetery and it was suggested we should ask the owner if it could be cut back. – **JS/IS**
- AP12: Road Closure – **see agenda item 9**
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From Main Agenda

- AP6: Parklands – JS has had a conversation with ESCC who advised it is their responsibility to maintain the edging and the pathway. They will carry out the work and look at the parking situation as well.
- AP7: Christmas Tree – Collection of Christmas Tree from Nutley – **IS/JS/RT**
- AP11: Constitution – IS has checked on the Charity Commission website and there is no legal requirement to have a Committee Secretary.
- AP12: Constitution – **see agenda item 7**
- AP13: Any Other Business Item 9.1 – SS is still waiting to hear back from the Millennium Players and will report back if he hears anything further.
- AP14: MCG Christmas Card - SS passed round a design.
It will be on the website shortly - **SS**
- AP15: Pinch Point – **see agenda item 11.2**

5. TREASURER'S REPORT - JS

Income:

There has been an increase of £40 in subscription receipts and a slight increase in merchandise sales.

Expenditure:

There has been a significant, but expected, increase in the figure for village Maintenance as the accounts for refurbishing the Victorian Lamps (£1,600) and rewiring them (£480) have now been paid.

The funds in the Group's accounts remain at a satisfactory level.

6. WEBSITE & MEMBERSHIP UPDATE – SS

6.1 Website

- There have been 1,048 hits with 474 users visiting the site.
- SS intends to add pages about interesting/historic elements (e.g. church, Chequers). There has been no progress on the walk around Maresfield.

6.2 Membership

- Subscription receipts have increased since the last meeting. 22 are still outstanding.
- Of the 65 email addresses on record only around half have given permission for their email to be used in communications so far.

7. REVISED CONSTITUTION

- It was agreed that the subscription amount be left open.
- It was agreed that the age of joining be reduced to 16.
AP1: Item 8a on the revised Constitution is to be amended accordingly. - PP
- No age stipulation is to be made on the application form.

8. 75TH Anniversary OF VE DAY – JS

An email from the Parish Clerk to all organisations was read out asking if we would be planning an event to mark VE Day on 8-10th May. There was discussion on whether the replacement of the church gate and posts could be used for this occasion but it was felt that this would be best left for Armistice Day. In addition, the results of our grant application would not be known until March and permission from the church authorities needs to be obtained before we could go ahead. So timings would be tight.

AP2: Advise Parish Clerk that we will not be planning an event. JS

AP3: Seek permission from the church mentioning we need to know for budgetary reasons. RP

AP4: Advise the blacksmith that his quote has been accepted. IS

9. CHRISTMAS TREE

The tree is to be erected outside the lodge at 9.30. A new topper and 10m string of lights have been purchased. Although the owner of the lodge has agreed to make available an electricity supply, preparations should be made to run a cable into the hall in case this doesn't happen.

Road Closure Signs. Organise helpers to put up these signs and remove after the event.

AP5 : JS

AP6: A large ladder will be needed - JS

AP7: Ask Simon Young for his help in removing the road closure signs. JS

AP8: Arrange for bacon sandwiches for tree decorators PP

10. WINTER SUPPER

Booking forms were handed out.

AP9: Ask the church if they will be organising a table and supply a booking form. RP

A meeting to discuss final arrangements will be held on 2nd January at 7.30.

Timing to be Saturday 9.30am – set up lights, tables and raffle

Sunday 9.00am – make sure hall is clear by 10.00

Raffle: There will be 6 prizes.

AP10: A sum of up to £50 may be spent to make up 6 raffle prizes

ISI

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Parish Newsletter

PP advised that copy deadline for the parish newsletter is 11th December and asked for items. She will include an update on the church lights and mention that they will be powered by either electricity or solar power.

11.2 Pinch Point

The Council meeting held on 26th November decided no action would be taken other than narrowing the left hand carriageway. The Committee expressed its disappointment and concern that the pinch point remains dangerous.

11.3 Tree in Batts Bridge Road

Ownership of the land is unknown which could make cutting the lower branches from the tree a problem. However it was felt that something needs to be done about it before it causes problems in the future.

AP11: IS and RP to accompany JS to inspect the tree with a view to cutting it.

11.4 Grant Funding

Two grants have been applied for from the parish general funds and from Wealden District. The MCG needs to find another project by March in order to put in for further grant applications.

AP12: Locate the list of prospective projects.

PP/JS

Christmas cards for helpers were handed out to Committee members.

The meeting finished at 9.30pm

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Thursday 2nd January 7.30 at PPs.

This will be a short special meeting to discuss last minute plans for the Winter Supper - Thursday 2nd January 7.30 at PPs.

February meeting – TBA

Post meeting addendum – Wednesday 5th February 2020