

MARESFIELD CONSERVATION GROUP

Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee

Held at 7.00pm on Monday 21st November 2022 at The Chequers, Maresfield

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Jo Lawrance (JL)	Chair
Liz Lewis (LL)	Treasurer
Stan Sadowski (SS)	Membership
Bruce Milton (BM)	
Alex Clarke (AC)	
Jacqui Royal (JR)	
Ian Shaw (IS)	
Rob Penfold (RP)	
Stephany Reed-Perkins (SRP)	

PRESENT: Jo Lawrance, Stan Sadowski, Bruce Milton, Ian Shaw, Rob Penfold, Jacqui Royal, Alex Clarke (AC also acted as minutes secretary).

Terence Brady attended the full meeting as an observer.

APOLOGIES: Liz Lewis. Stephany Reed-Perkins. Stephanie Bassett (Minutes Secretary)

1. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

RP declared a conflict of interest in respect of the Maresfield Historical Society.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES DATED 26th October & MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes were APPROVED.

Matters arising Insurance:

Insurance cover is sufficient. When the new treasurer takes over he will change the contact detail on the insurance documents to his own.

Rabbity Lane tree:

Action has now been left in the hands of the council.

Merchandise:

There is still sufficient stock in the Post Office.

Seek quotes from another printer in readiness for a re-print.

ACTION: JR c/f to January meeting

Tylers Lane/Cackle Street wooden footpath sign.

Despite a number of phone calls by BM there has been no progress. **c/f next meeting**

Queen's Green Canopy – AC

The scheme has been extended until the end of March 2023 during that time a few remaining trees will be sourced and supplied. Action ongoing and the committee will be updated between January & March. Photos supplied by participants have been forwarded for publication on our website.

All other Matters arising were covered in the Agenda.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT – JL on behalf of LL

Accounts Update

JL summarised the Treasurer's report.

As at 12th November the current account balance is £5506.25 and the savings account £7,003.79.

Expenditure: none since 12th October 2022

RP confirmed the Historical Society have provided their account details and our grant can be paid to them now.

New Treasurer Update

Terence Brady has agreed to take over as treasurer as soon as LL can complete the handover.

It was agreed that the following signatories be added to the HSBC accounts of Maresfield Conservation Group as soon as possible:

Jo Lawrance

Bruce Milton

Terence Brady

Transactions can be authorised by any one of the signatories

4. MEMBERSHIP – SS

Membership

SS gave costings for a sample mailshot to non-members (£40.00 without sae for 100 letters).

As Parklands is under-represented SS has spoken with Laura Stevens-Smith for advice on the letter wording.

It was agreed to wait until the new year before sending out any letters.

ACTION: SS c/f to January meeting Advertise on Maresfield Matters in January 2023.

ACTION: JL

It was previously agreed that SRP would man a stall with t-towels, cards and membership forms at The Chequers Christmas Craft Fayre on 3rd December.

ACTION: SRP

5. UPCOMING EVENTS:

Christmas Tree Lighting – 3rd December

Most of the arrangements for the evening will be undertaken by the Church (see September Minutes).

Simon Young has the road closure signs.

Ask Angie if JL is required for switching on the lights.

ACTION: RP

Advertise the event on MCG website. Action c/f from September meeting.

ACTION: SS

MCG is only responsible for the tree:

The tree will be supplied free of charge

The Lodge has agreed to supply the electricity for the lights.

MCG logo and sign showing donation of the tree by Mr & Mrs Cox and the MCG banner is to be displayed.

Manning the road barriers and supplying hi-viz jackets for the volunteers.

Provide bacon sandwiches for the workers.

ACTION: JR The barriers are in poor condition and will be replaced.

ACTION: RP

Quiz – Saturday, February 25th – 7 for 7.30

The quiz will raise funds for Uckfield Foodbank. The Village Hall is booked. I was agreed to start promotions the second week of January 2023. **Contact the Foodbank.**

ACTION: SB

Summer Supper 2023 – June/July

Email MCG members canvassing their opinion on what type of event this should be (Cheese & Wine, BBQ, something else).

ACTION: SS
c/f next meeting

6. FOOTPATHS GROUP UPDATE – BM

The footpath near Park Farm has become a health hazard due to dog mess. A sign will be put either end of the footpath advising it will no longer be maintained by the Footpaths Group. The neighbouring property owner has been consulted and has agreed to this.

BM has spoken to Mark Infield at Ashdown Forest to obtain parking charge exemptions when working on the footpaths in the forest.

The Footpaths Group needs more safety equipment. BM has sourced a supplier of helmet and goggles at £90 but gloves and chaps are also needed. It was suggested that he also try Ernest Doe at Ringmer. Sourcing safety equipment ongoing.

ACTION: BM
c/f next meeting

The previous agreement that BM should receive a monthly allowance for the use of his car and fuel at 60p per mile was changed to a flat rate of £25 per month. ALL AGREED.

7. PLANNING UPDATE – RP

Since the last meeting, the Planning Inspector has issued her ruling on the 49 houses at Mill House Farm. She has rejected the land owners appeal against the rejection of his application by Wealden District Council. The detailed ruling covers a lot of different aspects and many of them seem binding on any future applications this particular land owner may already have in the planning system or submit in future. We will continue to monitor the situation and act accordingly.

The sub-group has undertaken to closely examine the Planning Inspectors report with a view to identifying aspects of the report that are transferable to other objections, if applicable.

A second blog has been posted on the MCG website, in which we are urging residents in Maresfield to comment on planning matters via the Wealden Planning Portal and/or email. We have pointed out that although MCG represent a large number of people in the village, our objection only counts as one objection.

That being said we have submitted an objection in support of amongst others the Maresfield Park Roads Association in relation to a development to the east of Forest Cottage in Maresfield Park.

At a meeting of the sub-group last week, we discussed a number of developments which have the ability to impact on Straight Half Mile. We will be writing to Wealden District Council bringing to their attention the potential cumulative negative impact on traffic density and road use as well as the drainage/flooding issues these developments pose to this particular piece of road. We are anxious that these developments aren't considered in isolation, but that they are looked at for their potential cumulative effect on the area and the village as a whole.

The Wealden Local Plan was expected in December 2022 but that's now more likely to be April 2023. **Keep a look out for the Wealden Local Plan consultation period.**

ACTION: - RP

8. SKATE PARK – SS

Initial research has concluded this would be far too expensive for MCG to manage. It would be a good idea to consult village residents before any decision about what could be provided for young people. Ideally the Parish Council should lead this with the support of MCG.

Speak to LSS and PC about consultation and what is wanted.

ACTION: - SS

9. PICTORIAL FOOTPATHS MAP – RP

Nothing to report. c/f next meeting.

Memorial to Dick Thompson c/f next meeting.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A group of Maresfield residents have kindly invited AC and another to attend their QGC celebration as a thank you to MCG for supplying saplings. BM will accompany AC.

Send BM details of date & time.

ACTION: AC

IS advised the committee that he had attended the Remembrance Day service at the Airmans Grave on the Ashdown Forest and that it was very moving and well attended. Local press reported over 1000 in attendance.

RP reported that the Underhill parapets have been quite badly damaged recently and one side appears unsafe. East Sussex Highways have been informed by a local resident and have acknowledged the report but no more. This committee is concerned that there is nothing to stop large or heavy vehicles using the road whilst the parapets await repair.

Bonnars school have been requesting donations of bulbs for planting at the school. Although aware of the appeal the committee agreed not to take any action.

Maresfield Village clean-up day on 29th October 14 residents and MCG members collected 17 bags of litter. These bags were collected and sent to Newhaven for energy production.

Send SS a picture for the website.

ACTION: JL

DATE OF NEXT MEETING : Monday 19th December at 7pm in The Chequers.

ACTION: JL to request the back room

The meeting closed at 8.06p.m.

Dates of Future Meetings For 2023: TBA