

MARESFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

REPRESENTING THE VILLAGES OF MARESFIELD, NUTLEY AND FAIRWARP

Minutes of the Maresfield Parish Council Meeting held at Nutley Memorial Hall on Tuesday 19th July 2022 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr M Craddock (Chair), Cllr Mrs S Cumming, Cllr D Fisher, Cllr Dr P Handley, Cllr T Lewin, Cllr Mrs L Reeves, Cllr Dr B Smith, Cllr Mrs L Stevens-Smith, CCllr R Galley, and Mrs N O'Hanlon (Clerk)

A. Public session – None.

3845. To approve apologies for absence and to note other non-attendance.

Cllr R Brickle, Cllr R Hunter, Cllr J Lewis and Cllr A Strevens.

3846. Declarations of interest. None.

3847. To receive written requests for new DPI dispensations. None.

3848. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 21st June 2022: -

1. For adoption. The minutes as circulated with the meeting papers were **Agreed** to be a true and accurate record. The Chairman proposed **Adoption**, this was seconded by Cllr Mrs S Cumming and **Agreed** unanimously.

2. Matters arising from these minutes not elsewhere on the agenda. None.

3849. Agree revised remits for Environment and Road Safety Committees.

The Chairman proposed **Adoption** of the revised remits as circulated; this was seconded by Cllr Mrs L Reeves and **Agreed** unanimously.

3850. Elect Councillors to serve on Road Safety Committee.

Cllr A Strevens, Cllr R Brickle, Cllr T Lewin and Cllr Dr B Smith all put themselves forward to serve on the Road Safety Committee. The Chairman proposed that they should all be elected; this was seconded by Cllr D Fisher and **Agreed** Unanimously.

3851. Reports by and questions to: -

1. County Councillors.

CCllr Galley reported as follows:

- There has been a cross party session on water/pollution/sewerage discharge and its affect on planning and there is pressure being put on water companies to improve their pollution levels.
- There was a Council meeting on the morning of 19th July at County Hall which was disrupted by demonstrators from Distinction Rebellion who broke into Council Chambers causing Councillors to flee.
- The Council pension scheme has widened its investment portfolio to make sure a number of environmental investments are included.
- CCllr Galley had received a complaint about speeding on the Crowborough Road in Nutley; he advised the resident that there is no money for traffic calming measures even if it was deemed necessary.

Cllr M Craddock said that there had been no major incidents along the Crowborough Road for many years but speeding is still a major cause for concern along there. Historically a lot of time has been spent on this issue and realistically nothing more can be done. However if residents park their cars along the road it does slow traffic considerably. Cllr Craddock suggested obtaining data from the MVAS device sited on the Crowborough Road. **ACTION:** Clerk to try and get the data downloaded.

- The plan for charging for car parking at Millbrook East and West car parks on Ashdown Forest is going ahead and an agreement has been reached with ES Highways for improvements to the car parks Work will start on 1st August 2022 and will last for 8 weeks.
- The Chairman's Tea Party was held 2 weeks ago at Herstmonceux Castle and CCllr Galley invited Ray Tester and Nicky Pool, both from Maresfield Parish, as they had been nominees in our Marjory Peg awards for services to the community.
- Cllr M Craddock informed CCllr Galley of a concern that has been raised by a local resident about the Shortbridge Stream and the detrimental effect the proposed Downland Farm development could have on the stream which has environmental importance.

- The issue was raised of brown bins not being emptied even though the strike has now been over for some time. CCllr Galley is aware of this issue and although a cost freeze was agreed on this service he has argued that this wasn't recompense enough for the poor service given. Unfortunately he could not get any further recompense for residents.
- CCllr Galley was asked if local schools are going to get any additional funding to enable them to cope better with the Ukrainian children now attending. CCllr Galley thinks additional funding is unlikely, even though it does add pressure to classrooms, as each school only tends to have a few additional pupils. He will feedback the comments made.

3852. Parish Wards – issues, needs and Councillors' reports: -

1. Fairwarp Ward. Cllr Mrs L Reeves reported that the fete went very well and it was lovely for it to go ahead again after 2 years without it.
2. Maresfield Ward. Cllr L Stevens-Smith reported that Nicky Poole, who was invited to the Wealden CC Chairman's Tea Party (as reported by CCllr Galley) had a fabulous time and was very happy to have been invited.
Cllr T Lewin reported that despite signs being displayed saying Burrells Lane in Maresfield would be resurfaced, this didn't happen. There are also a number of trees/hedges along Burrells Lane that need cutting back. **ACTION:** Clerk to report to ES Highways.
3. Nutley Ward. Cllr Dr B Smith reported that there is hedge along Crowborough Road that needs cutting back to enable pedestrians to use the verge, this is a grey area though as there is no footpath along there and it isn't clear who owns the hedge/verge area. **ACTION:** Chairman to include a request for hedges to be cut back in the September newsletter.
Cllr Dr B Smith advised that the Fords Green Management Committee has agreed in principle to an extension of the Fords Green play area, if after consultation, that is deemed desirable. Agreement would also have to be sought from The Conservators as Fords Green is Forest land. **ACTION:** Cllr B Smith to circulate a questionnaire to local parents in September, when the new School term starts, to gauge demand for a larger play area at Fords Green.

3853. Council bodies - To receive minutes and decisions, followed by reports from Chairmen and any questions: -

1. Finance & Administration Committee

- i. To review Month 3 2022/23 accounts. The list of payments as circulated with the meeting papers was reviewed. Cllr L Stevens-Smith advised that the re-seeding included in the invoice from Barcombe Landscapes for work done at Maresfield Recreation Ground was not a complete success as it has been so dry since the seed was sown.
It was noted that payment of the invoice from ESALC for recruitment costs was not authorised as the invoice was subsequently re issued at a lower amount and will appear with next month's payments.

.2. Planning Committee.

- i. Draft minutes of the meeting held on 27th June. Noted.
In Cllr A Strevens absence, Cllr M Craddock reported that at the Planning meeting held on 18th July, 9 applications were considered, of which 8 were approved. Regarding the 9th, which was an application to replace outbuildings with larger ones, refusal was recommended as the proposed scheme was deemed to be too large and out of keeping with the lane side location.

3. Environment Committee.

- i. Update from Chairman. The last meeting was cancelled as there were no matters to discuss. Cllr M Craddock updated Councillors on the allotments that should be coming on board soon, as a result of the land to be gifted by Sigma homes in Maresfield. The Clerk/Assistant Clerk are putting together an allotment policy and usage rules etc in readiness. There will probably need to be an Allotment Committee created of allotment holders. **ACTION:** Clerk to circulate to Councillors the on-going management documentation relating to the Land being gifted.

4. Road Safety Committee.

- i. In Cllr A Strevens absence, Cllr M Craddock reported as follows: It is unlikely we would be selected to test one of the acoustic speed cameras as there is no power available along the Maresfield bypass where it would be sited.

5. Neighbourhood & Community Development Plan Steering Group.

i. Update from Chairman. Nothing to report presently as we await the Wealden Local Plan.

6. Maresfield Recreation Ground Committee.

i. Update from Chairman.

- MCC intend to still play friendly matches even though they will not be playing in the league.
- Buxted CC are intending to play at MRG and negotiations are underway.
- MRGC would like to ask for CIL funding for phase 2 of developments at the MRG to include new path/patio, drainage and storage shed and industrial flooring in pavilion kitchen. Preparatory work needs to be done before any funding request can be made;
 - Advice to be sought to draw up specification of works.
 - Assess if Planning permission is necessary for storage shed.
 - Quotations to be obtained.

Cllr Galley left the meeting.

3854. Outside bodies matters. Cllr Dr B Smith reported that she attended an Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee meeting. They are continuing to push for the Uckfield line to be electrified and would like the Parish Council to write a supporting letter to the Strategic Investment Plan consultation. It was deemed that this would be appropriate. **ACTION:** Clerk to send letter.

3855. To receive a report from, and put questions to, the Chairman. Cllr M Craddock reported that we have received the official letter offering us the and in Maresfield under the Section 106 agreement. All Councillors indicated they are happy for the parish to accept the land and this will formally be put before council when the financial details have been received. **ACTION:** Clerk to send out management plan document to Councillors (as also noted in agenda item 3853.3.i).

3856. To receive a report from, and put questions to, the Clerk. None.

3857. Matters arising from the meeting for public communication. Request to Parishioners to trim hedges where necessary to be included in September Chairman's newsletter.

3858. Date of next meeting – 20th September (Fairwarp)

The Parish Council Meeting closed and reconvened as Trustee of Maresfield Recreation Ground.

3859. Matters relating to Council as Trustee of Maresfield Recreation Ground (MRG). None.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.50.