

MARESFIELD CONSERVATION GROUP
Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee
Held at 7.00pm on Monday 21st October 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, Tracie Coe, Tom Merchant, Rob Penfold, Stephany Reed-Perkins, Caro Shaw, Ian Shaw, Peta Penfold (Temp. Minutes Secretary) & Richard Wane (observer).

APOLOGIES: Terence Brady, Bruce Milton

1) MARESFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY- potential for future collaboration with MCG

Carol Jeffree (Secretary) & Jenny Eadon (Treasurer) from the Historical Society Committee joined for this portion of the meeting.

The current Committee cannot continue and, unless a solution is found, the Historical Society will fold in November. It maintains an extensive archive and there was a strong desire that the history of the village does not simply disappear. Following discussion, it was agreed that:

- The MCG will wrap around the Historical Society for a trial period up to June 2025 on the proviso that an existing Historical Society Committee member attends the MCG meetings to bring their expertise. Carol & Jenny are happy to do that, working alongside CS and BM in a 'shadow committee' dealing with membership and administration functions.
- Separate financial accounts will initially be maintained to allow things to bed in properly and prevent issues if the Historical Society cannot be maintained in the long term.
- As several members of the Historical Society are also members of the MCG, it was proposed that some of the talks be branded as dual events to appeal to both Historical Society and MCG members. Carol/Jenny/CS will continue to book them.
- The MCG will become custodians of the Historical Society Archive which may be relocated from its current location within the Village Hall.
- The MCG website and social media can also be used to promote the Historical Society.

AP1 – Shadow HS Committee to meet prior to next MCG meeting to discuss archive, admin etc.

AP2 – JL to check with the Charities Commission re any implications if a decision is ultimately made to merge the MCG with the Historical Society.

2) DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None.

3) **MATTERS ARISING**

- **Pictorial Map and DT Memorial – RP**
Awaiting an indication from David Bailey as to whether legacy funds are still available.
 - **MCG Shed – update on replacement door – BM**
BM not present so AP carried over
 - **East Sussex Draft Local Plan – TM**
TM sent letters in May and July re the Maresfield bypass, but the responses were ambiguous and there has been no further update from WDC.
- AP3 – TM to write again to remind WDC of the request.**
- **Underhill Bridge and Shortbridge Stream Update – TM**
The road has been closed for the last 20 months. On 9th October Roy Galley held a meeting to advise that the Balfour Beatty engineers have indicated that the culvert is too small to take the flow so the repairs will now be carried out in the Spring when the water level has subsided.

Deleted: TB

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Deleted: CJ Thorn

The Minutes of the previous meeting were APPROVED.

4) **TREASURER'S REPORT – TB**

TB not present but had circulated the report.

Balances as of 21st Oct 2024 were: current acct £2,166.92, deposit acct £11,262.24

AP4 - TB to review the Auditors Report.

5) **MEMBERSHIP - TC**

- **Letter to Members re MRG car parking scheme**
Letters have gone out and there were three responses (two against, one in favour)
- **Letter to members**
Have been issued but it has been identified that the records of payment are a little ad hoc.

AP5 - TC to carry out an audit/reconciliation of membership records and payments.

JL requested a monthly report about membership and payments – to be included as an agenda item for subsequent meetings.

RP proposed looking again at the Welcome Pack for new residents in the village. It was agreed to reinstate it every quarter.

6) **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- **Photo Competition – TM**
There were 41 entries from 14 different people and a good selection of photos that represent the village. The overall winner was Steve Eckhart from Uckfield Camera Club. TM will attend the next Camera Club meeting to award the prize.

The calendar has been printed (100 copies) and will be sold for £8.50 per copy in the Village Shop and possibly The Chequers. TC will mailshot MCG members and it will be advertised in the Winter Newsletter. MCG may also take a table in The Chequers Christmas Craft Fair.

The competition for the 2025-2026 calendar will launch almost immediately, including on Maresfield Matters, to allow photos throughout the year.

AP6 – TM to advise entrants of the results of the photo competition.

Deleted: TB

AP7 – CS to put monthly messages on Maresfield Matters advertising the new competition.

AP8 - JL to talk to Bonners to establish whether there will be a School Fair this year.

- **Litter Picking – Saturday 26th October 10.00-14.00**

Taking place on Saturday 26th October from 10.00-14.00. Emails were issued and a notice sent out on Maresfield Matters. Charlotte Brown is undertaking her Duke of Edinburgh award and will litter pick in the village for the next 12 weeks!

- **Winter Newsletter**

Content is required by the end of October. JL has done the Chair's Christmas Message. The new Photo Competition, the Christmas Tree lighting dates and the February Quiz to be highlighted.

- **Christmas Tree Lighting – 7th December**

RP met with Jamie, Manager of the Chequers, and Angie Welton on 16th October. The Chequers will be having a Christmas Fayre. MCG will need volunteers to run a stall. The centre of the village will be closed 16.45-18.00 and the road closure application is in hand. The Pizza Company will be in the car park, and the carol singers and Santa have been booked. No Bonners School pupils will be involved this year. Help will be needed to erect the tree and man the barricades. Simon will test the lights. A tree has been ordered which will be delivered on the Friday (6th December)

- **MCG Quiz – 8th March 18.30 for 19.00**

The cost will be £8 per ticket (contact IS) with BYO food and drink. The beneficiary this year will be St Peter & St James Hospice, Wivelsfield.

AP9 - JL to write to companies requesting raffle prize donations (e.g M&S).

AP10 – IS to book the hall and advise TB accordingly.

AP11 - RP to add notice to Parish Magazine.

- **AGM – 17th June at 19.30hrs.**

To be held in the Village Hall.

7) **MERCHANDISING**

Nothing to report. It is complicated to sell merchandising via the MCG website and fees are applicable. Fulfilment is also an issue. TM will set up a website page advising that the merchandising is available – it will be on sale on 7th December in The Chequers.

AP12 – BM to organise merchandising.

8) FOOTPATHS GROUP UPDATE

- **Millennium Walk Survey**
Ap C/F in BM's absence

BM has been trying to find out who will replace the Duddleswell finger posts but is drawing a blank. Could MCG obtain the signs and ask the Parish Council to pay for them – cost £1,115? To consider at the next meeting.

Additional Dog Waste Bins

JL wrote to WDC who advised that there are sufficient bins, unless MCG can indicate the problem areas. Dog walkers will need to advise of the worst affected areas, but initial thoughts are Site A and the public footpath alongside The Oast.

AP13 - RP to provide WhatThreeWords site locators

9) PLANNING UPDATE – RP

Nothing to report.

10) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- **Future Administration Support**
Richard Wane volunteered to take minutes during the 18th Nov meeting and moving forwards.

- **Park Farm Lane**
JL has received correspondence from the landowner, his representative and the Parish Council who were advised that they must improve communication around the car parking project at the Recreation Ground. The Parish Magazine article implied that MCG had supported the scheme prompting JL to write to the Parish Clerk to point out that is factually incorrect - MCG has not yet taken a position. The Parish Council have now undertaken to engage with residents and are seeking MCG help with a letter drop.

AOB

- **Bench on Site A**
MCG have asked the Parish Council for a grant to install a bench at Site A but the PC has not yet adopted Site A.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 18th November 2024 at 7pm in The Chequers.

Future meetings will be held: 18th November & 16th December

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.50pm.