



# Maresfield Parish Council

REPRESENTING THE VILLAGES OF MARESFIELD, NUTLEY & FAIRWARP

## Minutes of the Maresfield Parish Council meeting held remotely via Zoom on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 7.30pm

**Present:** Cllr M Craddock (Chair), Cllr Mrs S Cumming, Cllr Dr P Handley, Cllr Dr B Smith, Cllr Mrs L Stevens-Smith, Cllr A Strevens, CCllr R Galley, DCllr P Roundell, Mrs N O'Hanlon (Assistant Clerk) and Mrs C Goossens (Clerk)

**A. Public session.** None.

**3568. To approve apologies for absence and to note other non-attendance.**

Cllr Mrs L Reeves, Cllr T Lewin and Cllr D Watson.

**3569. Declarations of Interest.**

Cllr Mrs Cumming – member of Maresfield Conservation Group.

Cllr Mrs Stevens-Smith – Maresfield Village Hall Committee.

**3570. To receive written requests for new DPI dispensations.** None.

**3571. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2020:**

1. For adoption. The minutes as previously circulated were **Agreed** as a true and accurate record.
2. Matters arising from these minutes not elsewhere on the agenda.  
It was **Agreed** that additional laminated signage should be displayed at each of the Play Areas stipulating "Only 6 users at a time".  
**ACTION:** Clerk/Asst Clerk.

**3572. Reports by and questions to:**

1. County Councillors.

CCllr Galley reported as follows:

- 75% of pupils are back at school across East Sussex.
- No schools are closed, all have pupils in varying numbers.
- Ventilation is an important factor in keeping people well.
- There are some difficulties currently with Test and Trace.
- There are no proposals under devolution discussions likely to affect Town or Parish Councils.

2. District Councillors.

DCllr Roundell reported as follows:

- WDC is expected to alert Parish Councils as to which sites have been put forward in the recent SHELAA. It is anticipated that there will be a degree of consultation.
- The housing land supply issue is expected to continue.
- It is hoped that a current Government White Paper Consultation will provide WDC with an opportunity to request greater input into the delivery of infrastructure to support housing development. WDC does not currently have much control over where and when infrastructure is delivered.
- ESCC and WDC hold three monthly meetings to discuss infrastructure planning i.e. what developments are coming up and what infrastructure is required.
- Many houses are being approved through the planning system, but it is unknown whether they will all be built as a slowdown in the demand for new homes is anticipated.
- WDC awaits guidance from Government as to what role it will be expected to play in enforcing the "Rule of 6".

*DCllr Roundell left the meeting.*

**3573. Parish wards – issues, needs & Councillors' reports:**

1. Fairwarp Ward. None.
2. Maresfield Ward.

- Maresfield Village Hall has reopened but things have taken a step back since the introduction of the "Rule of 6". Clubs are up and running albeit on a reduced basis.



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- The drain outside MVH did not appear to be coping with heavy rainfall some weeks ago despite investigations and works by ES Highways. This will need to be monitored.
  - The new bus shelter has been installed on Straight Half Mile.
  - There was a lot less litter than in previous years collected over the Clean Up Weekend, possibly due to people picking litter on a regular basis.
  - The refurbished iron gate has been replaced on the churchyard. Thanks to Maresfield Conservation Group for arranging and paying for this work.
  - The village is looking lovely.
3. Nutley Ward.
- There continue to be some homes on the Crowborough Road still needing to cut their hedges.

### 3574. Council bodies - To receive minutes and decisions, followed by reports from Chairmen and questions:

#### 1. Finance & Administration Committee:

- i. Month 4&5 2020/21 Accounts to be noted. Noted.
- ii. Adoption of new pay scales as agreed by NJC. **Agreed** unanimously. It was noted that the F&A Committee decides the pay scales for the Clerk/Assistant Clerk and these are determined according to the job description, size of parish and experience. Increments can be awarded for good service and additional training etc.
- iii. To note and Agree terms of engagement letter from new internal auditor Farsight Consulting. Noted and **Agreed** unanimously.
- iv. Update on launch of fully accessible Parish Council website. The Clerk reported there will be a soft launch with all statutory information available from 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020. Further development of the website will continue in the coming months with the aim being to make it a Parish wide resource. **ACTION:** Councillors and Clerk/Asst Clerk to record 1-2-minute video for inclusion on website.

#### 2. Planning Committee:

- i. Minutes of the meetings held on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> August. Noted. All applications as discussed at these meetings were reasonably straightforward. The exception being a Change of Use application which MPC Planning Committee refused based on the limited information put before them. Further supporting information was later available to WDC and Officers subsequently approved the application.
- ii. Verbal report on the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> September.

Maresfield was again put before the committee. Several issues remain unaddressed and the committee repeated its previous recommendation for refusal. It is anticipated that this application will go before WDC's Planning Committee North in October.

#### 3. Environment Committee:

- i. Report from Chairman. There have been no recent Committee meetings, the next is scheduled for early October. Earlier this month Cllr Dr Handley attended a Climate Change event and will report to Council on this once it has been reported to the Environment Committee.
- ii. Road Safety Update. The following points were noted:
  - There is an SLR meeting scheduled for 22<sup>nd</sup> September.
  - Sussex Police will be increasing its presence on the roads this week in line with project EDWARD (Every Day Without A Road Death).



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- There will be three Speedwatch sessions this week in support of project EDWARD.

#### 4. Neighbourhood & Community Development Plan Steering Group.

##### i. Report from Chairman.

The Steering Group has been active with several informal meetings and will be becoming increasingly active with the impending SHELAA consultation results. WDC have been asked by the Steering Group to calculate how many houses Maresfield Parish will be expected to accommodate up to 2028 and 2038, respectively. Most new development will undoubtedly be in Maresfield because the protection afforded to Nutley and Fairwarp by the Ashdown Forest is thought likely to continue. The A22 is a de-facto development boundary and it essential to protect against development on the West side of the bypass.

#### 5. Maresfield Recreation Ground Committee.

Council noted the minutes of the meeting of the MRG Committee held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September as circulated with the meeting papers.

##### i. Internal Pavilion Refurbishment – to consider recommendations of MRG Committee and Agree contractor to carry out works.

The following points were noted in discussion:

- Graham Parr kindly drew up plans and various revisions free of charge.  
**ACTION:** Clerk to write letter of thanks.
- Four quotations were received based on the drawings and required specification. Two at a high level and two at a lower level.
- The Assistant Clerk carried out an independent review verifying the comprehensiveness of the quotes received, as per the document circulated with the meeting papers.
- The Electrical Consumer unit will almost certainly need replacing at an additional cost of approximately £1000.
- Following recommendations from the Working Party and the Assistant Clerk, the MRG Committee unanimously Agreed to recommend to Council that Mr Peter Penfold be appointed as contractor for the works.
- The Parish Council has received confirmation from WDC that this is an appropriate project for use of CIL monies.

The Chairman proposed the appointment of Mr Peter Penfold to carry out internal pavilion refurbishment, this was seconded by Cllr Dr Handley and **Agreed** unanimously.

It is anticipated that the works will take three weeks and will be carried out at the end of January 2021 and this is agreeable with all clubs using the facilities.

**ACTION:** Clerk/Asst Clerk to revert to all contractors.

##### ii. To Agree expenditure of up to £32,000 on Internal Pavilion Refurbishment works to be funded from CIL monies.

The Chairman proposed expenditure of up to £32,000 on Internal Pavilion Refurbishment works to be funded from CIL monies, this was seconded by Cllr Strevens and **Agreed** unanimously.

**ACTION:** Clerk to investigate parameters of word “recreation” under terms of the Trust Deed. If necessary, liaise with Charity Commission to extend parameters.

**ACTION:** Clerk to add MRG Usage Policy to website.

*CCllr Galley left the meeting.*

3575. **Outside bodies matters.** None.

3576. **To receive a report from and put questions to, the Chairman.** None.

3577. **To receive a report from and put questions to, the Clerk.** None.



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- 3578. Matters arising from the meeting for public communication.**  
**ACTION:** Clerk to put Chairman's Monthly report on website.  
**ACTION:** Cllr Dr Smith to put update of MRG Pavilion improvements on Twitter and Facebook.  
**ACTION:** Cllr Dr Smith to put details of MPC Planning Committee recommendation for refusal of 25 homes on Straight Half Mile, Maresfield on Twitter and Facebook.
- 3579. Date of next meeting – 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020.**

**The Parish Council Meeting will close and reconvene as Trustee of Maresfield Recreation Ground.**

- 3580. Matters relating to Council as Trustee of Maresfield Recreation Ground (MRG).**  
None.

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