



# Maresfield Parish Council

REPRESENTING THE VILLAGES OF MARESFIELD, NUTLEY & FAIRWARP

## Minutes of the Maresfield Recreation Ground Committee meeting held remotely on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021 via Zoom

**Present:** Cllr L Stevens Smith (Chair), Cllr Mrs S Cumming, Mrs T Allen, Mr N Beesley, Mr M Budgen, Mr G Prince, Mr A Russell, Mr C Sherwood and Mrs C Goossens (Clerk).

**1 Public session.** There was one member of the public in attendance. No questions raised.

**2 Apologies for absence.** Mr D Barnard and Mr R Smith.

**3 Declarations of interest.** None.

**4 Adoption of the minutes of the meeting held on the 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020.**

The minutes as previously circulated were **Agreed** as a true and accurate record.

**5 Matters arising from these minutes not elsewhere on the Agenda.** None.

**6 Financial reports update.**

The Clerk reported that as of 16<sup>th</sup> February 2021 there was only £435.21 in the bank. The account is depleted due to significantly higher than anticipated Electricity costs, currently under investigation, and the lack of income from clubs due to COVID restrictions. The Parish Council has recently paid a grant of £500 to Maresfield Recreation Ground. It was noted that the contract with Corona Energy is up for renewal in April 2021. It was Agreed not to renew with Corona but to seek a "greener" supplier or revert to EDF.

**ACTION:** Clerk to liaise with Corona Energy to ask for a test meter to be installed and the existing meter examined for faults.

**6.1 To Agree recommending to Council a new account be opened with Unity Bank and existing funds are transferred from Lloyds bank prior to closure of that account.**

The Clerk explained that the current account with Lloyds is archaic in nature. Attempts to update the mandate to allow the Clerk to have access to online banking have been unsuccessful. Currently all statements and payments must be facilitated by Mr John Mason. This motion was proposed by Cllr Mrs Stevens-Smith, seconded by Mr Russell and **Agreed** unanimously.

**7 Clubs Reports:**

**7.1 Football Seniors.**

- No play since the beginning of December.
- It is hoped that Easter weekend will be the first for matches, but the club awaits clarification from the FA.

**7.2 Dynamos Juniors.**

- As above.

**7.3 Cricket.**

- It is hoped/anticipated that play will commence on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> May at home with the last match of the season scheduled for Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September, also at home. The Clerk confirmed that all home matches are now in the MRG Electronic diary. It has been mutually agreed that on days when MCC is playing at home, if the goals are removed by 12pm there is no problem with the Dynamos/Seniors playing through until June. This exception was **Agreed** for the current year only, next year the Footballers will revert to leaving the ground at the end of April.

**7.3.1 Cricket enclosure fencing.**

- This is being addressed by the MCC Committee. **ACTION:** MCC.
- The netting around the square needs additional stakes to support it. Dogs are getting their paws caught in the flattened netting. **ACTION:** MCC.
- It would be useful to have a combination padlock rather than key padlock on the cricket enclosure to facilitate the retrieval of footballs by the Seniors/Dynamos and to allow access for Stoolball practice. **ACTION:** Clerk.



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## 7.4 Stoolball.

- The club still requires a key for the new lock on the side door.  
**ACTION:** Cllr Cumming.
- Awaiting confirmation from Stoolball England reference start date this year.
- Usual timetable is practice in April and begin matches in May.
- The Chairman has sourced a replacement for the old broken shed to rear of the football shed and this will potentially be used for the storage of stoolball equipment.

## 7.5 Bowls.

- No work has been carried out on the green this year.
- Team training will hopefully commence in April.
- Thanks were expressed for the cutting of the fir hedge by the Forest Row Maintenance Team.
- The wooden fence behind the high-level chain-link fence fronting the recreation ground has been decimated. This damage is due to the chain link fence being in a bad state of repair and errant footballs around the nearby goal mouth constantly hammering into it. It is not sufficiently robust to withstand this activity. The wooden fence was installed by the bowls club with a view to deterring rabbits. If a suitable replacement chain-link/weldmesh fence similar to that surrounding the play area was installed a new wooden fence may not be required.  
**ACTION:** Clerk to ask Forest Row Maintenance Team if they are able to repair chain-link fence.  
**ACTION:** Clerk to obtain three quotes for replacement high-level weldmesh fence or similar.  
**ACTION:** Clerk to ask PCSO to carry out random checks at MRG to ensure users are adhering to COVID restrictions.

## 8 Pavilion matters.

### 8.1 Refurbishment update.

Peter Penfold is expected to commence works on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March and hopes to have the refurbishment completed by the end of the month.

The Pavilion is now clear. Changing room 1 is being used for storage but that adjacent to it is empty and could be used for toilets etc if the building work runs over and clubs are back playing at MRG.

**ACTION:** Chris Sherwood to contact Ridgewood FC to ascertain if they still want their TV.

### 8.2 Keys.

It was noted that a designated key cupboard would be a useful addition once the pavilion refurbishment is complete. **ACTION:** Clerk to research.

There is only one key for Changing Room 1, whilst there are spares for CR's 2, 3 & 4.

Cllr Cumming needs to give one key to the side access door to Stoolball Club.

Football Seniors have 1 key but would like a second.

All Pavilion keys to be held by Mark Budgen during refurbishment. **ACTION:** Cllr Cumming.

### 8.3 Storage.

The main pavilion area has historically been used as an overflow storage by all clubs. This is not viable once the refurbishment has been completed. All clubs will need to use their designated storage areas.

### 8.4 Drainage of path and patio.

The patio and path both flood when there is a lot of rain. A French Drain or similar needs installing. **ACTION:** Mark Budgen to take photos and draw plan.

**ACTION:** Clerk to liaise with Forest Row Maintenance team to ascertain if they have the equipment/time/ability to carry out requisite remedial works.

It was noted that a larger area of patio will be required in front of the new servicing hatch and the tree may need to be cut back. **ACTION:** Clerk to discuss with FR Maintenance Team.

### 8.5 Electricity.

As discussed under item 6.



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## 8.6 Management rota.

It was **Agreed** to be a good idea to draw up a rota of individuals willing to check in on the Pavilion on a regular basis. MB/CG/LSS/SC all volunteered. **ACTION:** Clerk.

## 9 Ground matters.

The recent tree survey was noted. **ACTION:** Clerk to obtain three quotations for requisite high and medium priority works.

It was noted that the report did not consider the debris that falls onto the Bowls Club from the Beech tree (T22).

To note - there is a very large pothole on the left-hand side of the drive as you enter Park Farm Lane adjacent with the planter.

## 10 Play area matters.

The equipment has recently been thoroughly cleaned. Weekly sanitisation is being carried out and the most recent quarterly playground inspection found only a handful of low priority items requiring attention.

The residents living adjacent to the Play Area have recently facilitate the reduction of the Eucalyptus trees and branches overhanging the Play Area have been removed – for this the Committee wishes to extend its thanks.

## 11 Date of next meeting – Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

*There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.00.*