

MARESFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

REPRESENTING THE VILLAGES OF MARESFIELD, NUTLEY AND FAIRWARP

Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 3rd December at 7.30pm in the Parish Office, Nutley

Present: Cllr Dr P Handley (Chair), Cllr T Lewin, Cllr Dr B Smith, Cllr A Strevens,
Cllr D Watson, and Mrs N O'Hanlon (Asst Clerk)

1. Public session. None.
2. Apologies for absence. Cllr Mrs L Stevens-Smith
3. Declarations of interest. Cllr T Lewin - Member of Maresfield Conservation Group.
4. Minutes of previous meeting – 10th September 2019
 - 4.1 Adoption. The minutes as previously circulated were **Agreed** and signed as a true and accurate record.
 - 4.2 Matters arising from these minutes not covered elsewhere on the Agenda.

It was noted that the following action points from the previous meeting have been completed.

 - Fencing towards the bottom of School Hill, Maresfield.
 - Weeding of Fords Green playground safety surface.
 - Repair of Fords Green roundabout surround.
 - Repair of Fords Green roundabout deck panel.
 - Replacement of Fords Green entrance gate hinges.
 - Repair of seat with damaged slats at Fords Green and securing of 2nd seat.
 - The repair work in Ashdown Chase.
 - We have done all that is possible with regards to the dog fouling in Clockhouse Lane, Nutley.
 - The speedhump markings in Maresfield have been repainted.

The following matters are ongoing:

 - Clerk to check if nettles have been mown at bottom of School Hill, Maresfield.
 - Flooding outside Church Hall carpark, Maresfield – ES Highways are investigating.
 - Grit bin survey is complete – refilling where necessary to be arranged.
 - Tree warden – no applicants so far – needs further investigation.
 - The Laurels, Nutley – Cllr D Watson trimmed back the worst of the overgrowth. It will need a proper cut back in the spring.
 - Assistant Clerk gave an update on Speedwatch – we now have 10 members who have completed the on-line registration and training and are now organising for the police training session to be held at the MPC office.
5. Play Areas – inspections, maintenance & development: -
 - 5.1 After discussion Councillors decided to stay with Wicksteed for the playground inspections however we will ask them if in future they can provide photos with their report, where necessary, to make it clearer where action is needed.

ACTION: Clerk.
 - 5.2 Fords Green Play Area.

The special swing seat has a strap missing and also has some rough edges –

ACTION: Cllr D Watson will inspect.

Some of the fence posts surrounding the Fords Green play area are rotten.

ACTION: Clerk to chase quotes

5.3 Fairwarp Play Area.

The Play area is covered in leaves. Cllr Dr P Handley advised that the Chairman of Fairwarp Village Hall Committee has offered to organise clearing the leaves.

The Seesaw centre station needs tightening.

ACTION: Clerk to ask John Lazenby to do this.

Seat outside play area is in bad state of repair. **ACTION:** Cllr Dr P Handley will ask Andrew Telford if he knows who is responsible for this bench.

The fencing around the play area is due to be replaced, by John Lazenby, by the end of December.

The play area gate latch needs checking/replacing. **ACTION:** Clerk will ask John Lazenby to do this.

5.4 Maresfield Recreation Ground

Roundabout centre pole seat bracket has a gap and needs repair.

ACTION: Cllr A Strevens will inspect and take photos.

Springer Seesaw fixing caps missing. **ACTION:** Clerk to contact installer.

5.5 Parklands Play Area

Timber struts on wide slide need replacing. **ACTION:** Clerk to obtain quote (Simon Young and another)

The rickety bridge is rotten and needs removing. **ACTION:** Clerk to obtain quote (Simon Young and another)

Burrs on sign bolts to be filed. **ACTION:** Clerk to check this has been carried out.

Slat damage at neighbour's fence line needs repair. **ACTION:** Clerk to ascertain who's fence it is and who is responsible.

5.5.1 Picnic tables not permanently fixed. **ACTION:** Clerk to ask Simon Young and another for a quote for this work to include metal sleeves for legs to protect against strim damage.

5.5.2 Trees

Rowan trees need lower branches removed. **ACTION:** Clerk to arrange for quote from Simon Young and another.

5.5.3 To purchase 2 new football nets at a cost of £215.80 + Vat each was proposed by Cllr T Lewin, seconded by Cllr Dr B Smith and **AGREED** unanimously subject to there being funds available in this financial year alternatively to be put to Council for approval. **ACTION:** Clerk.

6 Footpaths – The point was raised by Cllr T Lewin that on some paths looked after by Maresfield Conservation Group the styles are very high and could cause a problem for some walkers. **ACTION:** Clerk to send an email to MCG asking about the possibility of an extra step where the styles are at maximum height.

7 Roads and Pavements

Cllr T Lewin advised of the issue of cars parking half on the pavement on the Straight Half Mile, Maresfield, causing an obstruction for prams. **ACTION:** Raise with the PCSO when we meet with them. Ask Cllr M Craddock to include the problem in his next parish letter. It was noted that the dropped kerbs requested for Nutley have been agreed by ES Highways and the work will be scheduled in to be carried out.

8 Trees and Hedges

8.1 To review and agree tree/hedge cutting advice letter and procedure.
This was discussed as follows:

- When overgrown hedges etc are identified we put a notice through the letterbox and 14 days later, if ignored repeat with another letter. If there is still no action what can we do to enforce?
- Could the Highways Steward visit and then send a letter?
- Could we copy our letters to the Highways dept.? People may then take more notice of the letter.
- Highways would be inundated if all Parishes copied them in on letters sent.
- We should contact the Highways Steward when people cannot safely get past on the pavement.
- We could have a list of repeat offenders and advise Highway dept. of these.
- We should follow the procedure that is already set out.
- Councillors should not have to discuss with occupant (item 3 of current procedure) as people could feel threatened or be unpleasant.
- Does the procedure need altering? Perhaps redraft so that 2 Councillors inspect and speak to occupier.
- Doesn't believe the procedure needs re-drafting, just be mindful that on occasions 2 Councillors may need to visit together.
- Does the County Tree Warden work for WDC or ES Highways?

ACTION: Clerk to ask County Tree Warden for their advice on what to do when our letter's asking for hedge or tree trimming have been ignored.

9 Fingerposts

It was noted that Ian Johnson from East Sussex Highways advised at the recent SLR meeting that there is no chance of the fingerpost at Fairwarp being reinstated now that there is a metal signpost there.

10 Noticeboards.

10.1 To consider proposal to replace the noticeboard by Nutley shop.

The Clerk had raised the question as to whether this 2nd noticeboard is necessary in Nutley. **ACTION:** Cllr D Watson will make enquiries in the village and it will be discussed again at the next environment meeting.

9.00pm Cllr T Lewin left the meeting.

11 Litter/Dog bins

11.1 The decision about an additional dog waste bin at Maresfield Church Car Park was deferred to the next meeting. **ACTION:** Cllr Dr P Handley will gather more information into why this extra bin is required.

12 Civil Emergency.

12.1 Two week Intern placement to update Community Emergency plan.

The Assistant Clerk explained what the part time Intern would be doing for MPC in February. Cllr D Watson would like to be involved in the Emergency Plan update.

12.2 Generator. **ACTION:** Clerk to progress with Bert Keys and Cllr D Watson.

13 Climate emergency

13.1 Should the Parish Council declare a Climate Emergency?

This was discussed as follows:

- There is no point in declaring a climate emergency unless we also have a plan of action.
- Agreed that we would be open to criticism if we declared a climate emergency without also identifying environmental initiatives.
- Perhaps we should see if we can follow some of WDC's green initiatives such as green electricity when our current contract expires, although many of the WDC initiatives would not be appropriate for our Parish.

- Nutley petrol station has planning permission for an electric vehicle charging point although this hasn't been installed yet.
- Councillors could travel to meetings together when possible.

ACTION: Assistant Clerk to email Cllr R Galley for any advice he can give on what we could consider as green initiatives within the parish. Add to next Environment meeting agenda to discuss further.

14 Road Safety.

14.1 Minutes of previous meeting 2nd April 2019

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

14.2 MVAS update

It was noted that the Groundscrews for the MVAS panels are being installed on 5th December.

Cllr A Strevens advised that there have now been two serious accidents which needed the involvement of the air ambulance, on the Maresfield by-pass, within the space of a few weeks. Will this have a bearing on ES Highways with regards to changing the road markings. **ACTION:** Assistant Clerk to email ES Highways

15 AONB Grants

Sussex LUND grants are awarded each year for High Weald projects that enhance ecology and landscapes in the local areas of outstanding natural beauty. The closing date for applications is 2nd March 2020. Cllr Dr B Smith asked if there are any areas where trees could be planted within the Parish. It was also suggested that thought be given to any areas where wild flowers could be sown. **ACTION:** Application possibilities to be considered and communicated amongst the committee over the next month and discussed again at the next meeting.

16 **Date of next meeting Tuesday 4th February 2020.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.30