

MARESFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

REPRESENTING THE VILLAGES OF MARESFIELD, NUTLEY AND FAIRWARP

**Minutes of the Maresfield Parish Council meeting held on
Tuesday 21st September 2021 at 7.30pm in Fairwarp Village Hall**

Present: Cllr M Craddock (Chair), Cllr Mrs S Cumming, Cllr Mrs L Reeves, Cllr Dr B Smith,
Cllr Mrs L Stevens-Smith, Cllr D Watson, CCllr R Galley and Mrs C Goossens (Clerk)

A. Public session - None

3720. To approve apologies for absence and to note other non-attendance.

Cllr Dr P Handley, Cllr R Hunter, Cllr T Lewin, Cllr J Lewis, Cllr A Strevens, Cllr Dr E Worrell and DCllr P Roundell.

3721. Declarations of Interest.

Cllr Dr B Smith – Nutley Primary School

Cllr Mrs S Cumming – Maresfield Conservation Group

Cllr D Watson – Nutley War Memorial Trust

3722. To receive written requests for new DPI dispensations. None.

3723. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 27th July 2021: -

1. For adoption. The minutes as previously circulated were **Agreed** to be a true and accurate record. Proposed by Cllr Craddock, seconded by Cllr Mrs Cumming and **Agreed** unanimously.
2. Matters arising from these minutes not elsewhere on the agenda.
The Clerk provided an update regarding the pavement in disrepair between Fords Green and Nutley Bowling Club. This has been inspected by East Sussex Highways and a pothole repaired. Further repairs will not be carried out at this time as the pavement meets safety criteria. It was noted that CCllr Galley had made every effort to assist in this matter.

3724. Reports by and questions to: -

1. County Councillors.

The following points were noted by CCllr Galley:

- The Local Housing Needs Survey will determine from the evidence gathered how many houses and the level of affordable housing required.
- 1225 houses annually is the figure that will be used by Wealden in the preparation of the Draft Local Plan.
- Representations are being made to the Minister of Housing to reconsider this annual figure and the five-year land supply calculation.
- Michael Gove's constituency is similar in nature to Wealden and he may be sympathetic to calls for the five year land supply figure to be reduced.
- Nursery Lane, Nutley Petition for safety improvements – it was disappointing that the East Sussex Lead Members did not support the Parish Council's petition. Some minor signage improvements are anticipated. Officers suggested a feasibility review funded by the Parish Council but didn't suggest what measure may or may not be feasible.
- It was debated whether the Parish Council could instigate the installation of a mirror. CCllr Galley noted that if this did not comply with East Sussex Highways "Mirror Policy", ESH may simply remove any such installation.
ACTION: Parish Office to review "Mirror Policy" and open dialogue home owner opposite Nursery Lane.
- The speed camera on the A22 in Nutley will be back on at the end of October, now with a digital feed.

2. District Councillors. None.

3725. Parish Wards – issues, needs and Councillors' reports: -

1. Fairwarp Ward.

Cllr Mrs Reeves enquired as to the status of the planning application for 25 homes on Straight Half Mile, Maresfield. The Chairman appraised the Council of a recent meeting he and Cllr Strevens attended together with the Clerk with the developers of this land.

It was noted that no update has been received reference the proposed Telephone Mast in Fairwarp. It was confirmed that the Assistant Clerk is following this up.

2. Maresfield Ward.

Cllr Mrs Cumming reported that the disabled swing at Maresfield Recreation Ground Play Area has had to be removed due to vandalism. The harness straps have been cut. The seat has been vandalised numerous times requiring expenditure on replacement parts and previously a whole new swing seat. **ACTION:** Parish Office to arrange erection of signage explaining why swing seat has been removed.

Reports have been received of a construction lorry blocking the Southbound carriageway on the A22 Maresfield turning right out of the temporary access for the SIGMA development. It was also noted that the speed roundels are obscured by vegetation. **ACTION:** Parish Office to contact SIGMA homes site manager and ES Highways reference obscured signage.

3. Nutley Ward.

Cllr Dr Smith reiterated CCllr Galley's comments reference Nursery Lane safety improvements and the disappointing outcome of the Lead Members meeting. A feasibility study would only tell us what we already know and there is no guarantee ES Highways would implement any of the recommendations made.

Cllr Watson reported he had received an enquiry as to whether the Parish Office was closing on a permanent basis. The Chairman confirmed that this is NOT the case.

3726. Council bodies - To receive minutes and decisions, followed by reports from Chairmen and any questions: -

1. Finance & Administration Committee

The Draft minutes of the F&A meeting held on 7th September were noted.

i. Month 4 and 5 2021/22 expenditure and accounts to be noted.

Noted. No untoward expenditure other than large outlay for the new Bowls Club fence at Maresfield Recreation Ground to be taken from CIL reserves. The Chairman reported that he had been thanked by the Bowls Club Chairman the previous evening at the MRG Pavilion "unveiling".

ii. To note External Auditor Report and Certificate 2020/21.

Noted. Congratulations were extended to the Clerk for a clean report on the audited financial statements.

iii. To note results of social media "Health Check" and to consider whether Council should explore concept of an e-newsletter.

The following points were noted in discussion:

- Maresfield Parish Council has a good presence on Facebook and Twitter thanks to Cllr Dr Smith.
- Facebook interactions are mainly with women between the ages of 30-45 and a few over 60s.
- The Chairman's monthly newsletter in the Parish Magazine goes to most households in the Parish.
- We hold approximately 250 email addresses to which a regular e-newsletter could be distributed.
- The Maresfield Parish Council website holds a wealth of information.
- An e-newsletter may be something we could think about at a later date although it was noted that the content would need to be up to date, and a considerable amount of work would be required in putting together such a regular publication.

iv. To approve Barclays Debit Card application. To facilitate the purchase of items without the Clerk having to use her personal Credit/Debit card. This was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Dr Smith and **Agreed** unanimously.

2. Planning Committee.

i. Minutes of the meetings held on 19th July and 9th August and draft minutes of the meeting held on 6th September. Noted.

It was noted that it is essential Wealden Councillors read the papers, take an even handed approach and have an unbiased view when considering applications, as do Parish Councillors.

3. Environment Committee.

i. To discuss and agree ongoing programme for playground sanitisation.

After discussion, the Chairman proposed ceasing playground sanitisation, this was seconded by Cllr Dr Smith and **Agreed** unanimously.

Cllr Mrs Stevens-Smith joined the meeting.

- ii. Update from Cllr Strevens on Road Safety. Not present.
It was noted that Community Speedwatch in the Parish is going from strength to strength and that a couple of new volunteers have come forward as a result of recent publicity.
- iii. To consider the need for a road safety and traffic survey in Maresfield.
The following points were noted in discussion:
 - A traffic survey was carried out some 15 years ago as a result of which the 20mph speed limit and calming measures were put in place and funded from S106 money from the Wellington Gate development.
 - Traffic volumes have undoubtedly increased in the village in the intervening years.
 - There is a suspicion that much of the morning and evening traffic is through-traffic.
 - Drop off and pick up at Bonners School is problematic.
 - The Chairman “floated” the idea of a one-way system on School Hill and this solicited approximately 30 responses from Parishioners.
 - It would be useful to get ideas of possible schemes.
 - It is essential that a survey and subsequent scheme proposals are in place prior to any developments being agreed that could yield S106 financing.
 - An expert opinion is essential to give credence to any proposals the Parish Council may approve.
 - Any implementation of future schemes would of course need to be with the agreement of East Sussex Highways.
 - There is currently a Road Safety Reserve of £5,000.
The Chairman proposed the Clerk obtains quotations for a traffic survey, this was seconded by Cllr Mrs Stevens-Smith and **Agreed** unanimously.

4. Neighbourhood & Community Development Plan Steering Group.

- i. Update from Chairman.
The Steering Group has not met formally but has continued its assessment of the sites put forward in the SHELAA.

Cllr Galley left the meeting.

5. Maresfield Recreation Ground Committee.

- i. Update from Chairman.
The following points were noted in discussion:
 - A successful “unveiling” event was held for Committee members and their partners at the Pavilion.
 - Following the sad news of Mr John Mason passing away, the possibility of renaming the MRG Pavilion as the John Mason Memorial Pavilion was discussed. It was noted that this is a matter for the Maresfield Recreation Ground Committee to consider and make a recommendation to the Trustee.
 - **ACTION:** Clerk to investigate the possibility of solar panels on MRG Pavilion roof.

3727. Outside bodies matters.

The Chairman reported that he would later this week be attending an ESALC event via Zoom for Parish Council Chairmen. **ACTION:** Chairman to raise subject of Climate Change at the forthcoming meeting and enquire as to action being taken by other Parish Councils.
Cllr Mrs Reeves reported that she had recently attended a WDALC meeting.

3728. To receive a report from, and put questions to, the Chairman. None.

3729. To receive a report from, and put questions to, the Clerk. None.

- i. General arrangements for Remembrance Sunday - 14th November.
 - Cllr Strevens to lay the wreath at Maresfield
 - Cllr Mrs Reeves to lay the wreath at the Airman’s Grave if available. Cllr Mrs Stevens-Smith to act as “reserve” if required.
 - The Clerk confirmed that the wreaths have been ordered and will be delivered next week.

3730. Matters arising from the meeting for public communication.

As discussed during the meeting.

3731. Date of next meeting – 19th October 2021

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

3732. Matters relating to Council as Trustee of Maresfield Recreation Ground (MRG).

It was noted that the outstanding matter from the previous meeting would be discussed at the forthcoming Maresfield Recreation Ground Committee meeting to be held on Tuesday 28th September.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.53.