

MARESFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

REPRESENTING THE VILLAGES OF MARESFIELD, NUTLEY & FAIRWARP



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Parish Clerk Mrs Claire Goossens

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Statement by Maresfield Parish Council

The Nutley Memorial Charitable Incorporated Organisation (“CIO”) owns and operates some Community facilities in Nutley for the benefit of Nutley residents. These are activities often undertaken by Parish Councils. The CIO has no legal or financial connection with Maresfield Parish Council.

The Parish Council is aware of the concern of some Nutley residents over the recent reorganisation of the Nutley War Memorial Trust into the CIO and current activity around the consultation and decision process in respect of the CIO’s Strategic Plan.

The Parish Council urges the CIO to apply the same high levels of Governance and Transparency in all its dealings to which parish councils are obliged to adhere.

The Parish Council urges the CIO to suspend its consultation on its Strategic Plan and to defer its proposed ballot because:

i The country is in a state of crisis due to the pandemic and normal communication and consultation through public meetings and neighbourly discussions are impossible. The NWMT previously took major decisions by votes at public meetings of Nutley residents and the CIO website states “*There will be no changes in how the Trust operates*”. Currently only Nutley residents who are active on-line have access to the Strategic Plan and they can vote only if they sign up to membership of the CIO on-line.

ii For a proper consideration of both Option 3 or Option 4 in the consultation document a) an appreciation of the Wealden planning policies which could apply to the two sites is necessary and at the very least pre-application advice should be obtained from Wealden planners and communicated to Nutley residents and b) the results of an exhaustive search of the Village for a site for two replacement tennis courts should be communicated to Nutley residents.

Authorised at a meeting of the Parish Council on 12th January 2021.