



Maresfield Parish Council

REPRESENTING THE VILLAGES OF MARESFIELD, NUTLEY & FAIRWARP

Minutes of the Maresfield Recreation Ground Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 22nd November 2022 at 7.30pm in the Maresfield Recreation Ground Pavilion

Present: Cllr Mrs Laura Stevens-Smith (Chair), Cllr Mrs Sheila Cumming (Vice-Chair), Cllr Rob Hunter, Mrs Tracey Allen, Mr Alan Russell, Mr Chris Radcliffe, Mr Russell Horscroft, Mr Robert Smith and Ms Rosie Barnes (Assistant Clerk)

- 1 **Public session.** None.
- 2 **Apologies for absence.** Mr. Graham Prince.
- 3 **Declarations of interest.** None.
- 4 **Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on 27th September 2022.** The Minutes as circulated were **adopted**.
- 5 **Matters arising from these minutes not elsewhere on the Agenda.**
 - Cllr Cumming noted that Mr Lewis and Mr Veal may still have copies of keys to the pavilion. **ACTION:** Asst. Clerk to email Mr Lewis and Cllr Hunter to speak with Mr Sheffield at Buxted CC to ask if he has received a set of keys from Mr Veal.
- 6 **Financial reports update.**

The Asst. Clerk relayed the current balance and noted that the energy bill for the pavilion had reduced substantially since June.

It was **agreed** that the contribution of £500 from the Maresfield Conservation Group should not be earmarked for future fetes but instead should be available to be used more broadly, as and when appropriate.
- 7 **Payment of subs.**

Cllr Stevens-Smith noted that it was becoming difficult for the parish office to establish what the payments made by the clubs were for. **ACTION:** all clubs **agreed** to let the office know what payments during the past year related to and to itemise all future payments. In addition, it was **agreed** that the clubs would provide the office by the end of this year with their proposed sessions.
- 8 **Parking issues on Park Farm Lane and the High Street.**

Cllr Stevens-Smith noted the continued problems with parking on training and match days and suggested that parents and players could make use of the car parking available at the Wealden Bowls Club. Mr Horscroft said that the Chequers PH had agreed to the use of their car park on Saturday and Sunday mornings. He said that Dynamos intended to invest in some more traffic cones to deter parking along the High Street and at the entrance to the ground and would also review the working in the emails that get sent to parents about parking. Mr Horscroft said it was impossible to know who was responsible for any inconsiderate parking or damage but apologised if any of this did relate to the club.
- 9 **Pavilion matters.**

The Asst. Clerk gave a brief update on acquiring a new water heater for the kitchen and said that an electrician and plumber were in place to do the work once their schedules allowed.

Cllr Stevens-Smith said that the defibrillator at the pavilion was still out of order and the nearest one was located at Maresfield Village Hall. She said that the Parish Council was looking into purchasing extra defibrillators.

 - 9.1 **Signing of departure sheet – report any breakages or problems.**

Cllr Cumming said that the departure sheet had not been signed in over two months. She reminded the clubs to run through the checklist each time on departure to ensure that all lights, heating, etc. were turned off and sign the departure sheet. In addition, she asked that any problems or breakages are promptly reported to the office so that action can be taken.
 - 9.2 **Flood damage to changing rooms.**

Cllr Cumming summarised the cause and outcome of the recent flood damage in the pavilion. Mr Radcliffe was thanked for his help at the time and it was agreed to also thank Ms Fox and her husband. **ACTION:** Asst Clerk to write to Mr and Mrs Fox on behalf of the Parish Council and MRG Committee.



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10 Clubs Reports:

10.1 Football Seniors.

Mr Radcliffe said that the season was going well and there were 3-4 more games to be played up to mid-December. He said that most away games were now played on 3G surfaces. He noted that the age requirement for the Vets team had been reduced to 35 years. It was **agreed** to add the contact numbers for the Vets and Seniors to the Parish Council website. **ACTION:** Mr Radcliffe to forward contact details to the office.

10.2 Dynamos Juniors.

Mr Horscroft said there was now an all-girls U7 team called Dynamo Rebels and the team had been registered with the League. He said that the club was thriving and still over-subscribed; one team was at the top of its division. The various difficulties with the older age group progressing from Juniors to Seniors was noted. For example, older players sometimes join the Seniors but then leave to go to university.

10.3 Cricket.

Cllr Hunter said that Buxted CC were very much looking forward to using the ground. He said that their groundsman, Mr Sheffield, had started work on the square and had also produced a plan for maintaining the outfield. **ACTION:** Cllr Hunter to forward details of this plan to the office to assist with a future tender for the maintenance of the ground.

Mr Horscroft said that he had investigated FA grants for pitch maintenance and said that one of the criteria was that the Parish Council would guarantee that football would be played on the ground for a certain amount of time. It was noted that it was not uncommon for grassroots football to use grounds owned by councils. Mr Horscroft said he was happy to follow this up, once a signed agreement was in place. **ACTION:** item to be taken to the Trustees at the next Full Council Meeting.

Mr Horscroft said also that the Dynamos were considering funding moveable goals to replace the goals that are fixed in place. This would avoid the goal mouths becoming too worn in one place.

10.4 Stoolball.

Mrs Allen noted that the season was over. She asked about the possibility of a new shed to store the club's equipment. Cllr Stevens-Smith assured that plans for a new shed were being incorporated into the overall works around the pavilion (e.g. the works to path/patio).

10.5 Bowls.

Mr Russell said he had raised the possibility with the Bowls committee of the club working with Dynamos to encourage cross-playing and it had been very well received. Mr Russell said that an Extraordinary Meeting had been called to discuss whether the club would continue and that he been vocal about the need to keep it going. It had been agreed unanimously to carry on for next season (April 2023-24). Mr Russell asked if Cllr Stevens-Smith might explore with the Trustees what their thoughts would be if the club did fold in the future. **ACTION:** put item on next Full Council agenda for Trustees to consider.

Mr Russell said that, meanwhile, the club was organising social events, including the forthcoming Big Lunch. Cllr Cumming said that she had booked the ground for a 'Coronation Picnic' on 7th May 2023 and that the club, along with the other clubs, could once again participate and encourage new members to join.

11. Ground matters.

11.1 Discarded goal posts

Cllr Cumming said there were discarded goals behind the sheds and in the cricket enclosure. **ACTION:** Mr Horscroft said he would have a look at them and arrange for them to be removed. Cllr Cumming also noted that a metal BBQ had been placed in the large bin at the ground.

ACTION: Mr Horscroft to make some enquiries.

Mr Horscroft asked whether it would be possible to have the grass cut before the weekend.

ACTION: Asst. Clerk to speak with Barcombe about this asap.

Mr Horscroft raised two other issues: firstly, he noted that the bins were often overflowing and not being emptied as often as needed. **ACTION:** Asst Clerk to follow up with Wealden DC. Secondly,



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Mr Horscroft said there was an ongoing and increasing problem with dog owners not picking up after their dogs. **ACTION:** Asst Clerk to look into obtaining more signage asking dog owners to be more considerate.

12. Play area matters.

None.

13. Date of next meeting:

Tuesday 28th February 2023

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.34.