

MARESFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

REPRESENTING THE VILLAGES OF MARESFIELD, NUTLEY AND FAIRWARP

Minutes of the Maresfield Parish Council Meeting held at Nutley Memorial Hall on Tuesday 18th July 2023 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr M Craddock (Chair), Cllr Mrs G Balchin, Cllr Mrs S Cumming, Cllr Dr P Handley, Cllr T Lewin, Cllr Mrs P Penfold, Cllr G Shaw, Cllr R Hunter, Cllr Mrs B Smith, Cllr Mrs L Stevens-Smith, Cllr P Taylor, CCllr R Galley, DCllr I Tysh and Mrs N O'Hanlon (Clerk)

One representative from Dynamos Junior Football Club attending as a member of the Public.

A. Public session

4011. To approve apologies for absence and to note other non-attendance. Cllr R Brickle, Cllr Mrs L Reeves, Cllr A Strevens.

4012. Declarations of Interest. With respect to agenda item 4016, Cllr G Shaw noted that he lives on Park Farm Lane.

4013. To receive written requests for new DPI dispensations. None.

4014. Minutes of the previous meetings held on 20th June 2023: -

1. For adoption. The minutes of the meeting held on 20th June 2023, as circulated with the meeting papers, were **Agreed** to be a true and accurate record. Cllr M Craddock proposed **Adoption**, this was seconded by Cllr Mrs S Cumming and **Agreed** unanimously.
2. Matters arising from these minutes not elsewhere on the agenda. None.

4015. Reports by and questions to: -

1. County Councillor. CCllr R Galley said the State of County report, published in June, had been on today's Cabinet meeting agenda and the discussion had been positive with widespread agreement across the board. He noted also that the County Council was in a sound financial position, with additional funding allocated for Highways. CCllr Galley said the number of children with educational and/or health care plans in place inevitably puts a strain on the finances but that there had been an increase in the budget for funding for schools.

CCllr R Galley said there had been a debate about road safety, particularly around 20mph zones, which had proved to be somewhat contentious. He said he was pushing for the repairs to School Hill to be incorporated into a future works programme. Lastly, CCllr R Galley said that the drainage issue outside the Maresfield Village Hall had been attended to with a repair of some pipework and they are now just awaiting the jetter to wash them through.

2. District Councillor. DCllr I Tysh referred to an Extraordinary Meeting of the District Council held on 28th June with respect to the recent widespread water shortages in the District. He noted that SE Water had given a number of different reasons on different occasions for the issues of low water pressure and water outages.

DCllr I Tysh confirmed that Uckfield Leisure Centre was going to continue for at least another four years. He said there was currently a study being carried out as to the virtue/cost implications of placing solar panels on the Centre's roofs.

DCllr I Tysh noted that The Street Learning programme has been released for September – December 2023. The project offers Wealden and Eastbourne residents, aged 19 and above, a range of academic courses, wellbeing and practical classes.

Turning to planning matters, DCllr I Tysh said that Wealden DC was recommending refusal of the application for a holiday let at Forest Hall. Cllr P Taylor asked if there was any update on the major application at the Ashdown Business Park and DCllr I Tysh said there was nothing to report..

Referring to the issues with the supply of water, Cllr Mrs P Penfold asked whether SE Water accepts they do not actually have a solution. DCllr I Tysh said they did not appear to and were producing what seemed to be a series of excuses for the poor service. Cllr G Shaw noted that Buxted had been without water for 72 hours in the previous week; a key issue for SE Water was ensuring that farmers had access to sufficient water supplies for their animals.

4016. Discuss and consider for adoption the Park Farm Lane Parking Protocol.

Following a series of complaints from local residents of Park Farm Lane about the traffic and parking associated with usage by the clubs of the recreation ground, Cllr M Craddock explained that in accordance with the legal agreement with the land owner of the Lane, there is obligation to attempt to resolve any nuisance arising. The Parking Protocol had been produced with a range of measures designed to reduce the impact of parking and drop-offs, particularly by Dynamos and visiting away teams. Following a number of meetings, all the clubs had agreed to the Parking Protocol in writing. Cllr Mrs P Penfold asked whether overspill parking onto School Hill arising from the clubs' parking at the ground was the Parish Council's responsibility and it was confirmed that it is not. It was **suggested** that copies of 'no parking on the pavement' notices could be attached to offending vehicles. **ACTION:** Clerk.

It was noted that Cllr P Taylor had agreed to look into alternative plans for parking at the recreation ground, to possibly include a turning circle to enable parents to drop off their children. It was also noted that Cllr P Taylor had agreed to represent the Parish Council on the Park Farm Lane Committee.

Cllr M Craddock proposed that the Parish Council approve the Parking Protocol. This was seconded by Cllr P Taylor and **agreed** unanimously.

4017. Parish Wards – issues, needs and Councillors' reports: -

1. Fairwarp Ward. Cllr Dr P Handley said that the fete on 8th July had been a success and well attended despite some wet weather.
2. Maresfield Ward. With reference to the Underhill Bridge repairs, Cllr M Craddock said that the Parish Council had been asked to write to the County Council Director responsible for the works to seek a delay in the repairs as September was not considered a good time by the residents, especially for damming the Shortbridge Stream. Consideration would also have to be given to the European eels which inhabit the Stream. Once a draft has been completed, Cllrs M Craddock and Mrs P Penfold and the Clerk will approve it.
3. Nutley Ward. Cllr Dr B Smith said that the playground refurbishment was progressing well and that FGMC were being very helpful. It was noted that both of the redundant slides are being recycled/reused by residents.

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Cllr M Craddock was pleased to report that the Nutley fete had also been a huge success with beautiful sunny weather on the day and what seemed like a much bigger than usual turnout of both stalls and visitors.

4018. Council bodies - To receive minutes and decisions, followed by reports from Chairmen and any questions: -

1. Finance & Administration Committee

- i. Review and Approve revised Grant Application Form. Cllr M Craddock proposed approval, this was seconded by Cllr T Lewin and **agreed** unanimously.
- ii. Update from Chairman. None except to note that financial reports are unavailable because of holidays but would be forwarded to Councillors in due course.

2. Planning Committee.

- i. Draft Minutes of meeting held on 26th June. Noted.
- ii. Update from Chairman. Cllr M Craddock said that the Design and Access Statement for the revised application at Land at Straight Half Mile was not available at the time of the Planning Committee meeting on 17th July. Thus, the Committee had asked for an extension in time to submit comments until it had an opportunity to consider the Statement (if and when submitted) but, meanwhile, objections to the current scheme would be submitted.

3. Environment Committee.

- i. Update from Chairman. The replacement surface at the Fairwarp play area was now complete and looks very pleasing.

4. Road Safety Committee.

- i. Update from Chairman. None.

5. Neighbourhood & Community Development Plan Steering Group.

- i. Update from Chairman. Cllr M Craddock said that the Steering Group would be meeting within the next month, noting that the site assessment team had had a successful meeting with Wealden DC's corresponding team.

6. Maresfield Recreation Ground Committee.

- i. Draft minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 27th June. Covered under Item 4016 above and noted.
- ii. Update from Chairman. Cllr Mrs S Cumming said that the path refurbishment around the pavilion would hopefully be starting soon, once the drainage system had been finalised.

4019. Outside bodies matters. Cllr Mrs B Smith said that the railways currently has plans to close ticket offices, noting that there is an online consultation about this.

4020. To receive a report from, and put questions to, the Chairman. None.

4021. To receive a report from, and put questions to, the Clerk. None.

4022. Matters arising from the meeting for public communication. None.

4023. Date of next meeting – 19th September 2023 (Fairwarp)

The Parish Council Meeting will close and reconvene as Trustee of Maresfield Recreation Ground

4024. Matters relating to Council as Trustee of Maresfield Recreation Ground (MRG). None.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm.