

# MARESFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

REPRESENTING THE VILLAGES OF MARESFIELD, NUTLEY AND FAIRWARP

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## Minutes of the Maresfield Parish Council Meeting held at Maresfield Village Hall on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at 7.30pm

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

### A. Public session

None.

**3996. To approve apologies for absence and to note other non-attendance.** Cllr R Brickle, Cllr R Hunter, Cllr G Shaw, Cllr Dr B Smith, Cllr A Strevens.

**3997. Declarations of Interest.** None.

**3998. To receive written requests for new DPI dispensations.** None.

**3999. Minutes of the previous meetings held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023: -**

1. For adoption. The minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> May, 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 T Lewin and **Agreed** unanimously.
2. Matters arising from these minutes not elsewhere on the agenda. The Clerk confirmed that the Bowls Club repairs were completed by the end of May '23.

**4000. Co-Option of Gnina Balchin to fill Councillor vacancy in Fairwarp Ward**

The Chair proposed that Mrs Gnina Balchin be co-opted to fill a Fairwarp Ward vacancy, this was seconded by Cllr L Reeves and **Agreed** unanimously.

- i. Appoint Gnina Balchin onto the Environment, Finance and Administration and Road Safety Committees. The Chair proposed that Gnina Balchin be co-opted onto these three committees, this was seconded by Cllr P Handley and **Agreed** unanimously.

**4001. Co-Option of Peta Penfold to fill Councillor vacancy in Nutley Ward.**

The Chair proposed that Mrs P Penfold be co-opted to fill a Nutley Ward vacancy, this was seconded by Cllr L Stevens-Smith and **Agreed** unanimously.

- i. Appoint Peta Penfold onto the Finance and Administration, MRGC and Planning Committees. The Chair proposed that Mrs P Penfold be co-opted onto these three committees, this was seconded by Cllr S Cumming and **Agreed** unanimously.

**4002. Reports by and questions to: -**

1. County Councillor. CCllr Roy Galley believes that it will shortly be announced that there will be an enhanced road investment of circa £15m for this year and next year, more details to follow. CCllr Galley continues to campaign for School Hill in Maresfield to be a priority in getting the road surface and drainage issues sorted out. Cllr M Craddock feels that it should not just be a patching job, that it needs a rethink and to be properly engineered. Cllr Galley reports that the on-going drainage problem outside Maresfield Village Hall is due to be tackled this month.

A letter is being sent to residents of Underhill regarding bridge repairs and improvements which are scheduled to take place later this year, in September. Some Underhill residents have requested that the road remains closed to through traffic even after the bridge is repaired; this is getting push back from ES Highways but there are on-going discussions.

2. District Councillor. DCllr Ian Tysh advised that research done in the wake of the recent elections found that 26,728 people voted in Wealden and only 38 didn't have the required ID to allow them to vote, of these, 20 returned with their ID.

DCllr Tysh reported that it has been resolved by WDC to explore every avenue to try and keep Uckfield Leisure Centre open and discussions are underway with ESCC.

Thirteen charitable organisations have had their funding extended for another year by WDC, including Ashdown Forest Conservators.

There were various causes of the recent water supply issues, a sudden surge in demand due to the hot weather together with mains pipe failures, blockages and leaks. SE Water refused to declare an emergency so no other agencies could step in with help.

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Following the recent elections DCllr Tysh advised that he is now part of the Wealden Cabinet and has been given the portfolio for planning.

Cllr P Taylor asked DCllr Tysh if the fact that water companies are unable to efficiently deliver water to existing households is taken into account when planning decisions are made for new developments. DCllr Tysh explained that currently WDC have a condition in place that does not permit new houses to be occupied until additional resources are in place to cope with foul drainage. DCllr Tysh is pushing for the same conditions to be introduced for drinking water.

### **4003. Parish Wards – issues, needs and Councillors' reports: -**

1. Fairwarp Ward. Cllr L Reeves reported that the potholes in Fairwarp remain an issue and that currently there is no further news on the mobile mast.  
The Fairwarp village fete will be held on July 8<sup>th</sup>.  
Cllr Craddock advised that the new playground surface in Fairwarp will be installed week beginning July 10<sup>th</sup> and will be completed well before the school holidays.
2. Maresfield Ward. Cllr S Cumming advised that an email had been received from a Maresfield resident regarding hedges that need trimming back that are obstructing pavements. The Clerk has responded to the resident and the hedge causing the main issue has been cut back. The Clerk advised that the wide slide at Parklands play area will have the new eco surface surround installed on 10<sup>th</sup> July, weather permitting.
3. Nutley Ward. Cllr M Craddock reported that pot holes continue to be an issue in Nutley. The village fete will be held on 24<sup>th</sup> June.  
The playground refurbishment will commence before the end June, to be completed well before the school holidays.

### **4004. Council bodies - To receive minutes and decisions, followed by reports from Chairmen and any questions: -**

#### **1. Finance & Administration Committee**

- i. Draft minutes from meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> June '23. Noted.
- ii. Review Month 2 2023/24 accounts. Noted.
- iii. To Approve Annual Governance Statement for 2022/23. This was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr T Lewin, **Agreed** unanimously and signed as required.
- iv. To Approve Annual Accounting Statements for 2022/23. This was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr T Lewin, **Agreed** unanimously and signed as required.
- v. To Note, Internal end of year Audit. The report as circulated with papers was noted.
- vi. Review and Re-Adoption of the following Risk Assessments
  - a) Financial
  - b) Office
  - c) OtherThe Chairman proposed adoption of these risk assessment which only have very minor amendments, this was seconded by Cllr L Reeves and **Agreed** unanimously.
- vii. Review and Approve revised Grant Application Form. It was agreed to review this at the July Council meeting.
- viii. To Note, the MPC resilience plan will be updated with current, relevant information, using the Community Resilience Plan template provided by WDC. It was noted that the Clerks would obtain the necessary details of safe places where residents could go in an emergency.
- ix. Update from Chairman. None.

#### **2. Planning Committee.**

- i. Minutes of meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> May, and draft minutes of meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> June. Noted.
- ii. Update from Chairman. Cllr M Craddock gave a short update in the absence of Cllr A Strevens. Cllr Craddock mentioned the correspondence that all Councillors received regarding the water sports planning applications in Cackle Street, Nutley, the contents of which were noted.

#### **3. Environment Committee.**

- i. Update from Chairman. None.

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### **4. Road Safety Committee.**

- i. Update from Chairman. The Chairman, Cllr A Stevens was absent but Cllr P Handley reported that she had contacted Ian Johnson from ES Highways with regards to putting up '20 is plenty' signage in Fairwarp but he said this was not permissible.

### **5. Neighbourhood & Community Development Plan Steering Group.**

- i. Update from Chairman. Cllr M Craddock reported that there had not been a recent meeting but our site assessment team propose to discuss with WDC officers the site assessments they have carried out, to compare them with WDC assessments of the same sites, to see if we are on the same page with regards to suitability.

Cllr Roy Galley left the meeting.

### **6. Maresfield Recreation Ground Committee.**

- i. Draft minutes of meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May. Noted.
- ii. Update from Chairman. Cllr L Stevens-Smith said that it was disappointing that no Park Farm Lane representatives came to the May meeting where the parking and nuisance issues were discussed at length.  
It was agreed at the meeting in May that a first aid course would be useful. **Action:** Clerk to make enquiries into courses available.  
There had been a request to hold a vintage car rally at the MRG but the Committee agreed it would not be good for the ground to have a large number of vehicles driving over it. The Clerk advised the organisers that unfortunately it could not be held at MRG.
- iii. Discuss and Agree Legionnaires disease Risk Assessor for Pavilion. Cllr L Stevens-Smith proposed that as per the recommendation circulated with the 3 quotations with council papers that the Testing Lab quotation should be accepted, this was seconded by Cllr T Lewin and **Agreed** unanimously.
- iv. Discuss and Agree Park Farm Lane paper. The contents of the paper circulated were noted. Cllr M Craddock proposed that he be authorised to agree a new maintenance contribution percentage, subject to final approval by Full Council. This was seconded by Cllr L Stevens-Smith and **Agreed** unanimously.  
It was agreed that a formal MRG Access and Parking Protocol should be drawn up and adopted by the MRGC. An Extraordinary Meeting of the MRGC will be called as soon as possible and in the meantime the Protocol will be drawn up.

**4005. Outside bodies matters.** None.

**4006. To receive a report from, and put questions to, the Chairman.** None.

**4007. To receive a report from, and put questions to, the Clerk.** None.

**4008. Matters arising from the meeting for public communication.** None.

**4009. Date of next meeting – 18<sup>th</sup> July 2023 (Nutley)**

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

**4010. Matters relating to Council as Trustee of Maresfield Recreation Ground (MRG).** None.

*There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.24 pm*