



Maresfield Parish Council

REPRESENTING THE VILLAGES OF MARESFIELD, NUTLEY & FAIRWARP



Draft Minutes of the Maresfield Recreation Ground Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 26th September 2023 at 7.30pm in the Maresfield Recreation Ground Pavilion

Present: Cllr Mrs Laura Stevens-Smith (Chair), Cllr Mrs Sheila Cumming (Vice-Chair), Mrs Tracey Allen, Mr Simon Clark, Cllr Rob Hunter, Mr Graham Prince, Mr Chris Radcliffe, Mr Alan Russell, Mr Robert Smith, Cllr Mr P Taylor and Mrs Nancy O'Hanlon (Clerk)

- 1 Public session** – Three members of the public attended, all are members of the Park Farm Lane Lawful Users Committee. A statement was read out to the Committee. Included in the statement were thanks for the parking protocol that has been put in place and acknowledgment that the permitted users are observing the new protocol. Also in the statement was some background information on the entrance to PFL and the proposal that is being put together by PFLUC for the reinstatement of ornate metal fencing and gates. In addition there are proposals for resurfacing the Lane, WDC advice has been sought for this and a planning application being prepared. In principle, without the benefit of final details, members of MRGC voiced positive opinions at the proposals with the belief that the metal railings would enhance the aesthetics of the PFL entrance and the lane itself would benefit greatly from being resurfaced.
- 2 Apologies for absence** – None.
- 3 Declarations of interest** – None.
- 4 Adoption of the minutes of the meetings held on the 23rd May and 27th June 2023.** The Minutes as circulated were **adopted**.
- 5 Matters arising from these minutes not elsewhere on the Agenda.** None.
- 6 Financial reports update.** The Clerk reported that the Lloyds bank account has now been shut down with any remaining funds transferred to the Unity bank account. The bank balance as at 25/09/23 was £2185.77 with no out of the ordinary payments to report.
- 7 Update on Park Farm Lane parking protocol.** From the public session it was noted that the residents are happy with the protocol that has been put in place and that so far it has satisfactorily dealt with the nuisance factor of club traffic. The clubs, in particular Dynamos, reported that they have put a lot of effort into instigating this protocol and that so far both home and away teams are adhering to the new rules. This will be monitored closely moving forward. The question of local residents using the permitted user parking spaces at MRG was raised. If this becomes an issue in the future, it may well have to be addressed.
- 8 Update and discuss future of Bowls Club area.** Mr Allen Russell advised the Committee that with sadness the Maresfield Bowls Club will close down and vacate the bowls pavilion and grounds from the end of October '23. Mr Russell praised the efforts of Cllrs Stevens-Smith and Cumming over the years. He said that there are some Bowls Club assets that are for sale and would welcome contact from any person or club interested. All MRGC members expressed their regret that the Bowls Club was closing.
- 9 Update from Peter Taylor on Recreation Ground future parking provision.** Cllr P Taylor reported that he has been tasked with considering proposals for additional parking provision at MRG and also the possibility of a turning circle for a drop off/pick up area. Cllr Taylor will report back in the future when proposals are more formulated.
- 10 Update on Park Farm Lane Lawful Users Committee.** Noted as per the report in the Public Session and the papers circulated. Tracey Allan from stoolball asked the question that if gates were installed how would access for clubs be impacted IE key for each club etc to access. From the statement read out in the public session it was stated that these details had yet to be finalised but assurances were given that clubs usage and access would not be curtailed or negatively impacted.

- 11 **Discuss purchase of storage shed.** Now the old shed behind the pavilion has been removed and the base refurbished prices will be sought for a replacement shed and research carried out as to whether planning permission will be required.
- 12 **Pavilion matters**
 - 12.1 **Departure sheets and reporting of damage/issues.** Clubs were reminded of the need for pre departure checks and to report any damage or issues to the parish office.
 - 12.2 **Proposed installation of under-sink water heater.** This is still required, quotes will be updated with the intention of getting the water heater installed asap.
 - 12.3 **Update club contacts.** The club representatives confirmed which names could be removed from the MRGC circulation list.
 - 12.4 **Update on first aid training.** The Clerk reported that currently St. Johns Ambulance are not able to offer this training and a commercial company that offer this service is prohibitively expensive. Cllr Stevens-Smith has a contact who may be able to help and will make enquiries.
 - 12.5 **Update on Legionella testing.** It was reported that the first stage of this process has been carried out by an operative from The Testing Lab who spent several hours at the pavilion and is now preparing a report on the next steps to be taken.
- 13 **Clubs Reports:**
 - 13.1 **Football Seniors.** Chris Radcliffe reported that the Seniors are only 3 weeks into their season but won their first home game so a good start. The Veterans side is short of players at the moment although they are hopeful of more joining.
 - 13.2 **Dynamos Juniors.** Simon Clark reported that the Dynamos are 4 weeks into their season. They have 160 children signed up with a waiting list of a further 50. Their teams range from under 6s – 16 years and include a girls team.
 - 13.3 **Cricket.** Cllr Rob Taylor reported that the cricket season has now finished but as Buxted's first year at the ground it went very well.
 - 13.4 **Stoolball.** Tracey Allen reported that stoolball finished a month ago and despite a lot of rainy days they still managed 12 games. The new shed arrangement put in place has made storage a lot easier for them.
 - 13.5 **Bowls.** None.
14. **Ground matters**
 - 14.1 **Update on pitch maintenance.** It was noted that Barcombe are doing a good job with the grounds maintenance programme.
 - 14.2 **Update on relaying path around the Pavilion.** The path and patio refurbishment is now complete apart from laying some extra turf which will be carried out in October.
 - 14.3 **Removal of old equipment eg. football posts on ground beside MCG shed and in cricket enclosure etc.** Representatives of both Cricket and Dynamos have confirmed that unwanted equipment will be removed and all areas will be tidied up in a timely manner.
15. **Play area matters.** None.
16. **Date of next meeting – Tuesday 28th November 2023.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.51