

# MARESFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

REPRESENTING THE VILLAGES OF MARESFIELD, NUTLEY AND FAIRWARP

## Minutes of the Maresfield Parish Council Meeting held at Maresfield Village Hall on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 7.30pm

**Present:** Cllr M Craddock (Chair), Cllr Mrs S Cumming, Cllr Dr P Handley, Cllr Koeppen, Cllr Dr B Smith and Cllr P Taylor, CCllr R Galley, DCllr I Tysh and Mrs N O'Hanlon (Clerk)

**A. Public session.** Two members of the public attended.

**4199. To approve apologies for absence and to note other non-attendance.**

Apologies from Cllr T Lewin, Cllr Mrs L Reeves and Cllr Mrs L Stevens-Smith and Cllr R Hunter was not in attendance.

**4200. Declarations of Interest.** None.

**4201. To receive written requests for new DPI dispensations.** None.

**4202. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2024: -**

1. For adoption. The minutes as circulated with the meeting papers were agreed to be a true and accurate record. Cllr Craddock proposed **adoption**. Cllr Cumming seconded this and it was **agreed** unanimously.
2. Matters arising from these minutes not elsewhere on the agenda. None.

**4203. Reports by and questions to: -**

1. County Councillor. CCllr Roy Galley reported as follows:

CCllr Galley reported that the County Council is in a very difficult financial position, they still have significant reserves but these are fast being used. They are potentially looking at having to make savings of circa £55m in the next financial year.

At last there is a date for the resurfacing of the High Street in Maresfield, to include the roundabout by the Chequers Hotel down School Hill to Budletts roundabout. The Chairman thanked CCllr Galley for his lobbying over the past few years to get this done.

Some road works have been done at Herons Ghyll and pressure is being put on the water authority to sort out the flooding outside Maresfield Village Hall.

After a meeting at the Underhill bridge last week, attended by CCllr Galley together with representatives of Highways and Balfour Beatty, some local residents and the Clerk, it was decided that Highways needed to go back to the drawing board on the repairs and also consider if the road should be permanently closed.

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2. District Councillor. DCllr Ian Tysh reported as follows:

There will be a meeting to discuss how CIL monies are spent in the future.

It has been suggested that individual residents experiencing low or no mobile phone signal should write to Ofcom. This approach is considered more effective than one organisation writing on behalf of the whole community. **Action:** Clerk to publicise this within the parish.

Three Neighbourhood Plans, for nearby parishes, have been submitted are due to be considered in the near future.

Cllr Tysh met with SE Water about their future investment plans which include the proposed Arlington reservoir and expanding the recycling of water as well as reducing leaks. He has a similar meeting scheduled with Southern Water.

### **4204. Parish Wards – issues, needs and Councillors' reports: -**

1. Fairwarp Ward. Thanks were given to CCllr Galley for pushing for Herons Ghyll road surface to be sorted out.

The water leak outside Moorland Cottage has been sorted out at last; the leak was found to be on private land.

2. Maresfield Ward. The flooding issues outside the Village Hall are still ongoing.

3. Nutley Ward. It was requested that CCllr Galley gets involved with the issue on Crowborough Road of the large lorries that use it. The weight limit is currently 30t which is inappropriate and unsafe for this road. CCllr Galley will bring this up with Highways and try to get the weight limit reduced.

Action: Clerk to email Cllr Galley to remind him about taking up the weight limit with Highways and also remind him about the action point from the last meeting: to look into the suggestion of all country roads having 40mph speed limits if there are no central white lines.

There was recently a nasty accident in Nutley, with the air ambulance in attendance; luckily all parties are now thought to be alright.

### **4205. Council bodies - To receive minutes and decisions, followed by reports from Chairmen and any questions: -**

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

i. Draft minutes from meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024. Noted.

ii. Review Month 6 2024/25 accounts. The 6 months accounts show that after adjustments the accounts are roughly on budget; however, after the unions have agreed salary increases to be backdated to 1<sup>st</sup> April they may go slightly over for the full year.

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- iii. Update from Chairman. The Chairman advised that grant applications had been discussed at the last meeting but final decisions had been postponed as further information was needed on a few applications.

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

- i. Minutes from meetings held 16<sup>th</sup> September and draft minutes from 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024. Noted.
- ii. Update from Chairman. The Chairman advised that most recent applications have related to Maresfield and that an appeal has been lodged for the Hunters Barn application after its refusal by WDC.

Wealden Planning North is shortly to be considering an application for 10 new houses in Maresfield Park for which MPC recommended refusal.

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

- i. Update from Chairman. None as no recent meeting.

### **4. Maresfield Recreation Ground Committee.**

- i. Update from Chairman. None as no recent meeting.

**4206. Outside bodies matters.** It was reported that, at a recent Uckfield Railway Line Committee meeting, it was confirmed that the 11.00pm train from London to Uckfield will be reinstated as from November.

**4207. To receive a report from, and put questions to, the Chairman.** None.

**4208. To receive a report from, and put questions to, the Clerk.** The Clerk advised that an SLR meeting has been scheduled for November with any issues to be included on the agenda to be forwarded to the Clerk.

CClIr Galley asked to be informed when the SLR meeting will be held and he will try and attend.

**4209. Matters arising from the meeting for public communication.** None.

**4210. Date of next meeting – 19<sup>th</sup> November 2024 (Fairwarp)**

CClIr Galley left the meeting.

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

**4211. Matters relating to Council as Trustee of Maresfield Recreation Ground (MRG).**

1. To note - Ongoing consultation regarding the proposed parking project for Maresfield Recreation Ground.  
This was noted and it was agreed that the consultation period should be extended and that further information should be circulated to address some of the concerns that have been raised.  
  
Cllr Taylor advised that he had approached 6 suitable companies, none of which he has had prior dealings with, to obtain quotations for the proposed parking scheme.
2. To note - Complaints have been received alleging breaches of the parking protocol which have been investigated with the relative sports clubs. Noted.

*There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.00*