

MARESFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

REPRESENTING THE VILLAGES OF MARESFIELD, NUTLEY AND FAIRWARP

Draft Minutes of the Maresfield Parish Council Meeting held at the Nutley War Memorial Hall on Tuesday 21st January 2025 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Mr M Craddock (Chair), Cllr Mrs S Cumming, Cllr Dr P Handley, Cllr Mr A Koeppen, Cllr Mr T Lewin, Cllr Dr B Smith, Cllr MR P Taylor, Cllr Mr R Galley, DCllr Mr I Tysh, Mrs L Mitchell (Clerical Assistant) and Mrs N O'Hanlon (Clerk)

A. Public session. Three members of the public attended.

4237. To approve apologies for absence and to note other non-attendance.

Apologies received from Cllr Mrs L Reeves and Cllr Mrs L Stevens-Smith.

Cllr R Hunter was not in attendance.

CCllr R Galley had advised he would be late arriving.

4238. Declarations of Interest. None.

4239. To receive written requests for new DPI dispensations. None.

4240. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 10th December 2024: -

1. For adoption. The minutes as circulated with the meeting papers were agreed to be a true and accurate record. It was proposed that they be **adopted** and it was **agreed** unanimously.
2. Matters arising from these minutes not elsewhere on the agenda.

Cllr Smith advised councillors that, after speaking with the residents of Crowborough Road, rumble strips were not something that they wished the Parish Council to pursue.

4241. Reports by and questions to: -

1. County Councillor. CCllr Galley arrived at the meeting at 20:16 and reported:
 - CCllr Galley had made a strong representation to the County Highways Planner regarding the Highways report for the Limestone Way planning application. The Officer agreed to speak with the developers to ask them to consider alternative access points to the site: directly off the A22 or through the Wealden Indoor Bowls Club car park.
 - The previously vetoed reduction proposal for the speed limit on Nether Lane to 30mph has been revived, how does the Parish Council feel about this? It was agreed by councillors that the residents of Nether Lane should be consulted before a decision is made by Council as to whether the new proposal should be pursued.
Action: Clerk to create a leaflet to be delivered to residents of Nether Lane as far as the corner by the recreation ground asking for their views.
 - Reports of a car being parked on the pavement on the corner of Nether Lane or Nursery Lane causing a safety issue for other traffic.
ACTION: Clerk to report to the PCSO.
 - Would the Parish Council like to see more street lighting in Nutley? After discussion the council agreed that they were not in favour due to the modern streetlights not being in

keeping with the village and the preference being for no additional light pollution obscuring night skies.

- Cllr Taylor thanked CCllr Galley and Balfour Beatty for the steady improvement being seen across the Parish with road surfaces and potholes.
- Cllr Koeppen asked CCllr Galley when the speed limit will change at Horney Common, it was reported that this would be later this year but with no definitive date set yet.

2. District Councillor. DCllr Tysh reported:

- The Devolution white paper has been time consuming since the consultation came out on 16th December and the District Council is not in favour of postponing the County Council elections due in May this year.
- Even though the housing targets applied to Wealden have been increased, the planning policy guidance that was issued in July 2024 hasn't changed and therefore the restrictions currently in place mean that there is no foreseeable way to meet these new housing targets in the draft Local Plan.
- Government advice to District Councils is to press on with Local Plans. Work following the Regulation 18 last year is almost complete and it is hoped to proceed to the Regulation 19 Consultation soon.
- Apologies to residents over the Direct Debit error that occurred over the Christmas period. Would any resident who was affected by this error, which was due to human error, please contact localtax@wealden.gov.uk or call 01323 443 385.

4242. Parish Wards – issues, needs and Councillors' reports: -

1. Fairwarp Ward.

- At a recent community meeting, it was agreed that if the Council wishes to pursue having their own noticeboard, as there is insufficient room on the current board, that this would be supported.
ACTION: Clerk to research the options available.

2. Maresfield Ward.

- The soldiers who use the Village Hall for accommodation on Remembrance Sunday have asked if they can use the MRG Pavilion instead this year. The Clerk advised that this will be discussed at the next Maresfield Recreation Ground Committee.

3. Nutley Ward.

- Concerns over a car parked at the top of Nursery Lane causing an obstruction to visibility when exiting the road onto the A22. The Clerk advised that we are aware of the car and have spoken with the owner in question.
- The road markings on the A22 at the exit from Nursery Lane have faded.
ACTION: Clerk to report to Highways.
- The Fords Green Management Committee meeting is being held tonight. The lease that they hold from The Ashdown Forest Conservators for Fords Green is causing issues as the Committee and Sports Clubs are unable to apply for grants due to the terms of the lease. It is hoped this can be amended and different options are being explored.

4243. 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 10th December 2024. Noted.
- ii. Review Month 9 2024/25 accounts. Noted.
- iii. Review effectiveness of Internal financial controls.
Councillors viewed the documents circulated with meeting papers showing the financial control points considered and the Clerk's responses on how the points are satisfied. Councillors are comfortable that the financial controls in place are effective and robust.
- iv. Review and adopt the Health and Safety Policy.
The changes, as detailed in the meeting papers, were considered and it was proposed that all changes be approved. This was seconded and **Agreed** unanimously.
- v. Update from Chairman. Still awaiting the transfer of Site A, otherwise nothing to report.

2. Planning Committee.

- i. Minutes from meeting held 9th December 2024 and draft minutes from meeting held on 6th January 2025. Noted.
- ii. Update on Limestone Way application – WD/2024/0323/MAO.
The latest response received from Highways is totally unacceptable and residents of Limestone Way should not be asked to park their cars elsewhere for the period of development to allow for the construction traffic to enter and exit the development. The number of units is also still an issue with only a reduction of 4 bringing it down to 37 units. Cllr Tysh agreed with the Parish Councils reasons for refusal and has asked the planning officer to re-open the time schedule for responses to be received. It was noted that two other access points should be considered, one being via the A22 and the second being from the Wealden Indoor Bowls Club car park. The Planning Clerk has, on behalf of the Parish Council, provided a robust response to the application recommending councils refusal.
- iii. Update from Chairman. Nothing else to report.

3. Environment Committee.

- i. Update from Chairman. Nothing to report.

4. Maresfield Recreation Ground Committee.

- i. Update from Chairman. Nothing to report.

4244. Outside bodies matters. None.

4245. To receive a report from, and put questions to, the Chairman. None.

4246. To receive a report from, and put questions to, the Clerk. None.

4247. Matters arising from the meeting for public communication. None.

4248. Date of next meeting – 18th March 2025 (Fairwarp Village Hall)

The Parish Council Meeting closed and reconvened as Trustees of Maresfield Recreation Ground

4249. Matters relating to Council as Trustees of Maresfield Recreation Ground (MRG).

1. Review proposed parking scheme consultation responses.

The papers circulated to councillors included all emails received from residents as well as comments that were posted on Facebook.

Councillors had read all of the responses and concluded these were roughly 50/50 for and against the parking proposal. There seemed to be two main objections; 1) What is the purpose of the parking and 2) Not fully understanding the proposed scheme.

- The purpose of the parking: the responses show that there is an assertion that it is a public car park, an assertion that the parking can be used for parents of children who attend Bonners CE Primary School and an assertion that the parking is for residents to park. None of these are true and the only legal lawful use of the car parking is for users of the recreational ground.
- The proposed scheme: the majority of responses have not appreciated what the scheme is or will look like in its finality.

The survey responses show that there is clearly some misunderstanding around the proposed scheme and about what other options had been considered before the current scheme was picked as the most suitable.

It was suggested that, as the council isn't at the point of being able to make a final decision about whether the scheme is progressed, that an additional information document is created to address the misconceptions about the scheme and clearly and simply lay out the salient information to enable villagers/parishioners to fully understand what is being proposed and why.

ACTION: A paper to be created outlining the full scheme and addressing the responses received. To be distributed to the residents of Maresfield.

2. Update on parking scheme. Revised quotes have been received and are being assessed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20:44