

# 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 19<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllr Mrs L Reeves (Acting Chair), Cllr Mrs S Cumming, Cllr Dr P Handley, Cllr R Hunter, Cllr A Koeppen, Cllr T Lewin, Cllr Dr B Smith, Cllr Mrs L Stevens-Smith, Cllr P Taylor, CCllr R Galley, DCllr I Tysh and Mrs N O'Hanlon (Clerk)

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

Councillors were asked the question, had they seen the application documents that were submitted to Fields in Trust in relation to the proposed new car parking scheme for Maresfield Recreation Ground and the subsequent email exchanges. It was also asked if the wording used was appropriate.

The Clerk responded, as the officer responsible for submitting the documents and communicating with Fields in Trust, that the Councillors would not have seen the documents and that all information given to Fields in Trust was believed to have been accurate.

Councillors were also asked if they had seen solicitors letters, sent on behalf of one of the Park Farm Lane residents, in relation to the proposed new car parking scheme. Again, the Clerk explained that they had not seen the letters, The Clerk in conjunction with the Chairman had responded to the letters.

### **4212. To approve apologies for absence and to note other non-attendance.**

Apologies from Cllr M Craddock.

### **4213. Declarations of Interest.** None.

### **4214. To receive written requests for new DPI dispensations.** None.

### **4215. 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. It was proposed that they be **adopted** and it was **agreed** unanimously.
2. Matters arising from these minutes not elsewhere on the agenda. None.

### **4216. Reports by and questions to: -**

1. County Councillor. CCllr Galley reported:
  - A very good job is being done of re-surfacing the road on School Hill, Maresfield.
  - He is aware of the sink hole along the Straight Half Mile in Maresfield and has asked questions about it.

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- He has arranged for a Zoom meeting with Southern water and Highways regarding the drainage outside the Village Hall in Maresfield and is hopeful that a collaborative approach might get to the bottom of the issue. It was suggested that run off from the Village Hall car park might be exacerbating the situation.
- He is aware of the issues of lorries going through Maresfield Village and of the parking problems there but says there is not much that can be done.
- One of the residents of Crowborough Road in Nutley is corresponding with the ESCC Chief Executive about the traffic issues which means Councillor Galley will have to leave this with them to deal with.
- The possibility of making all country roads with no central white lines is not currently a realistic possibility it would be a mammoth task and would have to be a directive from the Dept. of Transport.
- The re-surfacing works have been carried out at Heron's Ghyll, just one pot hole remains as there is a leak that needs repairing first.
- There has been concern about the adult social care consultation and what this will mean for the future. Councillor Galley said that no changes would be brought in until April next year at the earliest.

### 2. District Councillor. DCllr Tysh reported:

- Please be aware there is a scam doing the rounds on email saying you have a Wealden District Council parking fine. Do not open this but delete immediately.
- Two Councillors from Uckfield have formally joined the Wealden Alliance.
- There is no news on when the Planning Framework response will be coming out.
- DCllr Tysh met with Southern Water representatives who said they are prioritising customers and the environment but admit that there are many costly problems to overcome with customers bearing the brunt of funding repairs. They are doing works to improve treatment works and to enlarge sewers and drains as well as works to prevent flooding. They have had an extension, until 2050 to meet overflow targets. On 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025 Southern Water are making their first appeal against special conditions imposed upon them in relation to the Old Orchard Farm development in Horam.

## **4217. Parish Wards – issues, needs and Councillors' reports: -**

### 1. Fairwarp Ward.

- There is a pot hole on the B2026 with orange markings round it, is this a Highways marking? Councillor Galley will inspect it and find out.
- Cllrs Reeves and Smith, and Cllr Galley met with local MP Mims Davies on 26 October regarding the need for a mobile phone mast in Fairwarp. Ms Davies has been in discussions with mobile providers. Cllr Galley is going to speak to the Conservators to get their thoughts on sites and getting permission. Possible sites in Fairwarp have been identified.

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2. Maresfield Ward.

- Parishioners are very happy with the road repairs on School Hill which are now nearly complete.

3. Nutley Ward. Nothing to report.

### **4218. Council bodies - To receive minutes and decisions, followed by reports from Chairmen and any questions: -**

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

- Draft minutes from meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2024. Noted.
- Review Month 7 2024/25 accounts. The month 7 accounts were noted and in particular Councillors attention was brought to inflated income of £20,160.00 which HMRC had paid to us in error and will have to be refunded back to them.
- Discuss submitting views on the remote meetings consultation. As this consultation asked for numerous questions to be answered Councillors asked if the Clerk could consolidate them onto one sheet and circulate and each Councillor would then submit their views to be collated.  
**ACTION:** Clerk to draw up and circulate spreadsheet.
- Update from Chairman. None.

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

- Draft minutes from meeting held 28<sup>th</sup> October 2024. Noted.
- Update from Chairman. It is fairly quiet for applications still but at the next meeting the application for the Limestone Way development will be considered.

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

- Discuss supporting the permanent closure of Underhill, Maresfield. After considering the arguments for and against the permanent closure of Underhill Councillors voted unanimously against writing to ESCC to support this but asked the Clerk to write and ask that if and when the road reopens, stricter restrictions are imposed for size of vehicles and speed.  
**ACTION:** Clerk to write to ESCC.
- Discuss the introduction of booking procedure for council tips. After much discussion Councillors voted unanimously in favour of the Clerk writing to oppose any form of booking procedures being brought in for the Maresfield tip.  
**ACTION:** Clerk to write to ESCC.
- Update from Chairman. Nothing to report but next meeting is scheduled for 17<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

**4. Maresfield Recreation Ground Committee.**

i Update from Chairman. Nothing to report but next meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

**4219. Outside bodies matters.** None.

**4220. To receive a report from, and put questions to, the Chairman.** None.

**4221. To receive a report from, and put questions to, the Clerk.** The Clerk reminded nominated Councillors of the SLR (Strengthening Local Relationships) meeting being held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November with representatives of ES Highways which would be held via Teams if the forecast snow made travelling difficult.

**4222. Matters arising from the meeting for public communication.** None.

**4223. Date of next meeting – TBA**

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

**4224. Matters relating to Council as Trustee of Maresfield Recreation Ground (MRG).** None.

*There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.34*