

# MARESFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

REPRESENTING THE VILLAGES OF MARESFIELD, NUTLEY AND FAIRWARP

## **Draft Minutes of the Maresfield Parish Council Meeting held at the Fairwarp Village Hall on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 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 MR P Taylor, CCllr Mr R Galley, DCllr Mr I Tysh, Mrs N O'Hanlon (Clerk) and Mrs L Mitchell (Clerical Assistant)

### **A. Public session** to include question and answer session on Maresfield Recreation Ground parking proposal.

Fifteen members of the public attended.

During the public session there were various views and some useful information shared by members of the public, some of which may have a bearing on the proposed parking plans and need to be investigated by the Parish Council.

The main points raised as follows:

- Contrary to what the PC Chairman had intimated in recent information circulated about football club usage on the Recreation Ground having increased, usage in recent years has actually decreased from the volume of teams and matches playing there a decade ago.
- It was asserted that the increased use of the private car should be discouraged and therefore more parking should not be provided.
- The concept and size of the scheme were questioned as was whether research surveys or other data had been gathered. The lack of a formal impact study was also questioned.
- If the wooden posts are moved to the proposed new location, adjacent to Park Farm Lane, bin lorries and emergency vehicles, which allegedly have turning circle rights over Parish Council land, would be impeded.
- It was alleged that Park Farm Lane is shown to be a 2 way lane on some of the neighbouring house deeds and that they have legal or prescriptive rights over Parish Council land.
- It would be useful to have the Parish Council's boundary marked out.
- Would the proposed scheme leave sufficient room for spectators when clubs are playing? This query was addressed by the Chairman of Dynamo FC who is confident that there would be plenty of room for spectators to safely watch matches.

- Thanks were offered to the Parish Council for their efforts in trying to sort out the parking issues for the village. It was pointed out that currently parking at the Recreation Ground is only for users of the Recreation Ground because of access restrictions over the private Park Farm Lane.
- One of Park Farm Lane's owners, Mr John Clare, confirmed that he would be happy to change the access conditions over Park Farm Lane to the Parish Council's parking area on the left of the lane, so that it isn't restricted to Recreation Ground users and therefore enabling parents to use it for school drop off and collection as well as the wider community.
- Where would the funding come from for the proposed parking scheme? The funding would largely be from CIL monies. The Parish Council is not financially in a position to progress the scheme currently although this is not holding up the works as more investigation and possible amendments are needed before the final scheme is agreed.

**The public session was closed with thanks to all of those who attended.**

**4250. To approve apologies for absence and to note other non-attendance.**

Apologies received from Cllr R Hunter, Cllr Mrs L Reeves, Cllr Dr B Smith and Cllr Mrs L Stevens-Smith.

**4251. Declarations of Interest.** None.

**4252. To receive written requests for new DPI dispensations.** None.

**4253. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2025: -**

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.

**4254. Reports by and questions to: -**

1. County Councillor.

In addition to the written report from CCllr Galley that was circulated with meeting papers he reported that on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March ESCC would be having a meeting to discuss Mayoral/Unity Authorities going forward. The suggestion is that there be a Unity Authority for East Sussex.

With the focus on highways and road repairs, the next problem area to be addressed is Nutley High Street, with patching repairs to start next week on the A22 by Church Fields.

CCllr Galley has been asked to comment on the proposed S106 variation for the Brookworth Homes development on Maresfield's Straight Half Mile. The variation is to remove the bus shelter from the scheme and this is in line with recommendations of Parish Councillors.

CCllr Galley asked for feedback from the recent survey undertaken by the PC, asking residents of Nether Lane in Nutley if they would welcome a review of the speed limit on Nether Lane, potentially reducing the current limit of 60mph to 30mph. Feedback was overwhelmingly in favour and the survey results will be forwarded to CCllr Galley.

CCllr Galley left the meeting.

2. District Councillor.

In addition to the written report from DCllr Tysh that was circulated with meeting papers he reported that the planning condition forbidding occupation of new houses until Southern Water had completed upgrade works was legally challenged recently in regard to a development in Horam. Cllr Tysh was pleased that Wealden's refusal to lift the condition was upheld at appeal.

With regards to the Local Government reorganisations, the emphasis currently is on keeping East Sussex as a whole Unitary but consideration would be given to, say 5 smaller Unitaries making up the area of East Sussex, West Sussex and Brighton and Hove. The Government are not considering any extra money to fund the reorganisations.

DCllr Tysh wanted to make clear that despite some rumours doing the rounds, Wealden DC does not support nor oppose the proposed Owlesbury Farm development.

**4255. Parish Wards – issues, needs and Councillors' reports: -**

1. Fairwarp Ward. Cllr Reeves was not present but had submitted a report about her on-going communications with MP Mims Davies office regarding the need for a mobile phone mast in Fairwarp. It seems that currently mobile phone masts are on hold as new satellite technology is rolled out.
2. Maresfield Ward. The long awaited Underhill bridge repairs have now been agreed and are due to commence in May, subject to the weather.
3. Nutley Ward. A dangerous tree on Nether Lane was reported. **Action:** Clerk to notify the tree to ES Highways as a matter of urgency.

**4256. Council bodies - To receive minutes and decisions, followed by reports from Chairmen and any questions: -**

**1. Finance & Administration Committee.**

- i. Review Months 10 and 11 2024/25 accounts. Noted.
- ii. Internal Auditor Interim report. It was noted that the report, as circulated with meeting papers gave the PC a clean bill of health with no advisory notes.
- iii. Remuneration Panel Councillor allowances. Noted.
- iv. Update from Chairman. None.

**2. Planning Committee.**

- i. Minutes from meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> February and draft minutes from meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025. Noted.
- ii. Update from Chairman. The Chair of the Planning Committee gave thanks to DCllr Tysh for his support in opposing the Limestone Way development in Maresfield.

**3. Environment Committee.**

- i. Parklands lease. It was proposed that the final lease document, as circulated with meeting papers, be signed by two Councillors and witnessed by the Clerk, as per the legal requirements. This was seconded and **Agreed** unanimously. **Action:** Lease to be duly signed at the end of the meeting.
- ii. Nether Lane speed limit review. The feedback received from the Nether Lane speed limit review survey was overwhelmingly in favour of reducing the limit from 60 to 30mph and it was proposed that the Parish Council also supports the review. This was seconded and **Agreed** unanimously.
- iii. Update from Chairman. None.

**4. Maresfield Recreation Ground Committee**

- i. Anti-social behaviour. Due to on going anti-social behaviour at the Recreation Ground, low level vandalism and groups of young people gathering at night by the pavilion, it was suggested that CCTV is installed and the appropriate signage is put up, to try and deter this behaviour. It was proposed that the Clerk be given a budget of £1k to purchase an appropriate CCTV system and get it installed. This was seconded and **Agreed** unanimously.
- ii. Update from Chairman. None.

**4257. Outside bodies matters.** The next Wealden Cluster meeting is scheduled for 19<sup>th</sup> March wherein the team creating the Local Plan give updates on progress.

**4258. To receive a report from, and put questions to, the Chairman.** None.

**4259. To receive a report from, and put questions to, the Clerk.** None.

**4260. Matters arising from the meeting for public communication.** Publish the results of the Maresfield Recreation Ground Parking Proposal consultation.

**4261. Date of next meeting – 15<sup>th</sup> April 2025 (Maresfield Village Hall)**

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

**Public session –** None.

**4262. Matters relating to Council as Trustee of Maresfield Recreation Ground (MRG).**

It was proposed that Aworth Consultants be instructed to carry out the marking of the Recreation Ground boundary for their quoted sum of £590 + Vat. This was seconded and **Agreed** unanimously.

*There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.22*