

**DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting of Maresfield Parish Council
held on Tuesday 16th January 2018 at 7.30pm in Fairwarp Village Hall**

Present: Cllr M Craddock (Chairman), Cllr D Barlow, Cllr D Watson, Cllr A Strevens, Cllr K Ogden, Cllr Mrs P Handley, Cllr Ms G Hallin, Cllr Mr T Lewin, Cllr L Stevens-Smith, DCllr P Roundell, Clerk T Allen, Asst. Clerk C Arnold.

3141. Public session – Mr L Wilcox raised the matter of the ability of Parish Councils to make grants to schools. A discussion with Councillors ensued, covering the Power of General Competence, types of grants and actual examples of grants awarded to Danehill and Fletching schools. The Chairman noted that the Parish Council is making efforts to have a more direct engagement with its schools.

(The Chairman closed the public session and opened the meeting).

3142. To approve apologies for absence and to note other non-attendance. - Cllr Mrs L Reeves, Cllr R Taylor, DCllr C Hardy, CCllr R Galley.

3143. Declarations of interest – Cllr Barlow as Director and Trustee of NWCTP Ltd. Cllr Ogden, Cllr Lewin and Cllr Ms Hallin as members of the Maresfield Conservation Group.

3144. To receive written requests for new DPI dispensations – None received.

3145. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 19th December 2017: -

1. For adoption - **It was resolved** to adopt the minutes as a true record.
2. Matters arising from these minutes not elsewhere on the agenda – Re. Item 3130.2.ii, DCllr Roundell gave an update on the LDE application and related issues for Beech Hill/Beech View, Crowborough Road, Nutley. He stated that the LDE application would be approved; it was noted that WDC Enforcement Officers will now be focusing on the siting of numerous caravans at this site.

3146. Reports by and questions to: -

1. County Councillors – No report.

2. District Councillors – DCllr Roundell reported on the WDC discussion of options available for parking enforcement, noting that no changes are likely to be progressed, with the onus remaining on Sussex Police to deal with parking violations.

[In answer to a question from Cllr Ogden] DCllr Roundell detailed the reasoning behind the purchase of a shopping parade in Hailsham for WDC investment purposes.

[In answer to a question from Cllr Strevens] DCllr Roundell suggested that the matter of the large amount of litter that was revealed, following the cutting of verges along the A22, should be raised with CCllr Galley.

3147. Parish Wards – issues, needs and Councillors' reports: -

1. Fairwarp Ward – Cllr Mrs Handley reported on blocked and overflowing gullies in The Street. Asst. Clerk to report this to ESCC Highways.

2. Maresfield Ward – Cllr Ms Hallin reported that the Maresfield Conservation Group's winter supper, held on the 13th January 2018, went well.

Cllr Lewin reported on the constant flooding of Nursery Lane.

Cllr Ogden reported on two couples seeking social housing.

Cllr Mrs Stevens-Smith reported on the overflowing litter bin opposite the Church and the need for a separate dog waste bin at this site. Asst. Clerk to raise this with WDC.

3. Nutley Ward – No reports.

3148. Council bodies - To receive minutes and decisions, followed by reports from Chairmen and any questions: -

1. Finance & Administration Committee: -

i. Review of Month 9 2017/18 – Financial Reports - The Bank Reconciliation, Cash Book and Management Reports for Month 9 were received, and the Chairman stated that he was not aware of any issues that needed to be raised.

ii. To finalise the 2018/19 Budget and Precept requirement – The Chairman related the background to this matter.

It was resolved to adopt a budget for 2018/19 of £105,055 as set out in circulated reports from the Committee and leaving retained reserves at a level of £44,000.

It was resolved to make a precept request of £92,831 to WDC for 2018/19.

iii. Resignation of the Clerk – recruitment of a replacement – The Chairman reported on the developing recruitment process.

It was resolved to employ a part-time Clerk for 20 hours p/w, with flexibility built in to allow for additional hours to be worked if required.

2. Planning Committee – Cllr Watson noted that the meeting of the Committee scheduled for the 28th December 2017 was not quorate and that responses to the related planning applications due for consideration were delegated to the Asst. Clerk.

3. Environment Committee – No reports or issues raised.

4. Neighbourhood & Community Development Plan Steering Group – The Chairman reported that the first report on the Draft NDP had just been received from our Consultant and it will be digested by the Steering Group to identify action required.

5. Road Safety Committee:-

i. Minutes of the meeting held on 11th July 2017 – Received.

ii. Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 9th January 2018 – Noted.

iii. Update on projects – Cllr Strevens reported on the matters arising from the meeting of the Committee held on the 9th January 2018, as minuted.

It was resolved to hold a special meeting of the Committee, to look at issues relating to the proposal for spending £20K to allow ESCC to assess and design a scheme of traffic calming for Crowborough Road, Nutley.

6. Maresfield Recreation Ground Committee – No reports or issues raised.

7. Communications Working Party – Cllr Ms Hallin reported on ongoing social media posting relating to the budget and precept for 2018/19.

3149. Outside bodies matters – No reports or issues raised.

3150. Implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation – latest position – The Clerk stated that this is still a developing area, noting that there were still some differences of opinion regarding whether the Clerk can also be the Data Protection Officer.

3151. Community Transport report – Cllr Barlow noted that Heathfield PC will withdraw its support for the 262 Saturday service at the end of the current financial year; discussions are being held with Uckfield TC with regard to this route becoming a 'shopping service'.
Regarding the national situation, Cllr Barlow stated that there had been no further news, but it is hoped that the findings of the Select Committee will lean towards the Community Transport sector rather than the commercial sector.

3152. Council's presence at the 2018 village fetes – The Chairman related the background to this item. **It was resolved** that any decisions will be deferred to the next meeting of Council to allow ideas relating to an engaging presence at the fetes to be brought forward.

(DCllr Roundell left the meeting).

3153. Parish Councillors allowances – report from the Independent Remuneration Panel – The Panel's report was received and noted. **It was resolved** to retain the existing arrangements and not to adopt a Basic Allowance for Councillors.

3154. To receive a report from, and put questions to the Chairman – No reports or questions raised.

3155. To receive a report from, and put questions to the Clerk – No reports or questions raised.

3156. Payments to be made - for approval - **It was resolved** to authorise payments amounting to £4935.06 as shown on the circulated schedule.

3157. Matters arising from the meeting for public communication – Agreed 2018/19 budget and precept requirements to be reported on social media and in the Parish Magazines.

3158. Matters relating to Council as Trustee of Maresfield Recreation Ground (MRG) – Cllr Ogden reported on the progress of the agreed parking signs; Cllr Ms Hallin to work with Cllr Ogden on this matter; to draft the wording for the proposed signs and to obtain estimates for their production.

3159. Date of next meeting – 20th March 2018 (Nutley).

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20:53.