

**Minutes of the Meeting of Maresfield Parish Council
held on Tuesday 20th March 2018 at 7.30pm in Nutley Memorial Hall**

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

3160. Public session. There were 3 Park Farm Lane residents Steven Patterson, Mark Budgen and Zoe Ferguson plus John Clare who stated he was one of the owners of Park Farm Lane Maresfield. Mr Clare raised the issue of the boundary at the Maresfield Recreation Ground and wanted to know how to move forward. One resident stated that the school parking was not now an issue. However, at weekends the Lane is overwhelmed by vehicles parked by people attending to play football; he was concerned about the restricted access for emergency services.

Cllr Craddock noted that users of the recreation ground are lawful users, but the school traffic is the parents responsibility and not a Parish council matter. Cllr Taylor noted that some parents use MRG and so become lawful users. Mr Clare stated that the school does not have any right to use it. He asked if the MRG committee has influence over the clubs. Cllr Craddock agreed and that clubs should be reminded that parking is limited. New signs will be put up as a reminder. Mr Clare noted that further understanding is needed and that a working party may resolve this. Another resident said that coaches reverse up to her driveway. Cllr Taylor agreed that this should not be happening. Cllr Craddock stated he will suggest that a sub-committee is formed to examine Park Farm Lane.

Mr L Wilcox raised the matter of Crowborough Road. He stated the residents wanted to make their point about speeding and he was surprised that it was being discussed tonight. He said that there are 27,000 vehicles using the road per week, that £120,000 is not a lot to spend and MPC were the only ones who could help. He stated that a new sign had been installed on the A22 which must have cost a hundred thousand pounds.

Cllr Craddock said he was unaware of a new sign but it would have been installed by ESCC who are responsible for highways.

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

3161. To approve apologies for absence and to note other non-attendance. Cllr G Hallin, Cllr L Reeves and DCllr C Hardy.

3162. Declarations of interest. Cllr Barlow as Director and Trustee of NWCTP Ltd. Cllr Ogden and Cllr Lewin as members of the Maresfield Conservation Group.

3163. To receive written requests for new DPI dispensations. - None

3164. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 16th January 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.

Cllr Watson raised the issue of a grant for schools and stated he had no specific interest in any school. He suggested that MPC may like to offer Nutley and Bonner school the opportunity to assist young people in the Parish. Cllr Craddock noted that both schools can apply for a grant, but the project must be viable and worthwhile; an application could come from the Governors or the Head teacher. Cllr Watson stated that at a recent SALC meeting on Data Protection that the Clerk should not be the data protection officer. Cllr Craddock noted that there would be a conflict of interest if that happened. Cllr Watson asked DCllr Roundell for an update on Beech Hill. DCllr Roundell that the owners were trying to justify the position of the land in dispute and this will be considered shortly.

3165. Reports by and questions to: -

1. County Councillors.

CCllr Galley stated he had sent out a report on the current financial position and recycling. 7 libraries out of 24 are to close. There is a consultation on waste sites including possibly closing Forest Row. There is no reduction to any school funding and all will get a 1% increase. Litter on the A22 verges is an issue.

Cllr Lewin reported there was a problem with a storm drain in Straight Half Mile which he reported to ESCC Highways. Cllr Watson noted that the A22 on west side between Nutley Arms and the shop the sidings were tidied. He asked if similar attention could be given to the east side. CCllr Galley thought it had been done. Cllr Taylor thanked Cllr Galley for assisting with heating repairs for a local resident

2. District Councillors.

DCllr Roundell reported that he attended a recent Local Plan meeting. WDC are trying to protect their position for when the plan goes to the Planning Inspector and by June there may be a published draft plan. Cllr Strevens asked about the 25 Rydon homes yet to be built. DCllr Roundell stated that he did not have an answer; however a consultation due out on the NPPF may address planning consents not implemented. Cllr Ogden asked about Nitrogen testing on the Forest and that it should be done in the Forest and not on the roadside. DCllr Roundell stated the problem is damage is done beside the road.

3166. Parish Wards – issues, needs and Councillors’ reports: -

1. Fairwarp Ward.

Cllr Handley reported that gulleys had been emptied and a pot-hole had been filled.

2. Maresfield Ward.

Cllr Ogden reported that he believed that builders at the School Hill site were parking in Park Farm Lane.

Cllr Stevens-Smith noted that posts on the green between Forest Park and Parklands needed replacing to discourage illegal parking. Cllr Craddock asked that WDC repair the posts. Cllr Stevens-Smith reported that the defibrillator will be in place at Maresfield Village Hall in the next few weeks

3. Nutley Ward.

Cllr Watson wanted to thank all those people across the Parish who took part in the Great British Spring Clean. He mentioned that the Fords Green Management Committee were still pursuing their plans with the pavilion. Cllr Barlow reported that the sidings and trees growth needed to be cut back between on the A22 between Nutley Arms and the shop. He also noted that the Bell Lane junction with A22 has reduced visibility and is dangerous due to parked cars. Cllr Craddock advised that all Councillors report dangerous issues to the police.

3167. Council bodies - To receive minutes and decisions, followed by reports from Chairmen and any questions: -

1. Finance & Administration Committee: -

i. Review of Month 10 & 11 2017/18 – Financial Reports.

The Bank Reconciliation, Cash Book and Management Reports for Months 10 & 11 were received, and the Chairman stated that he was not aware of any issues that needed to be raised.

ii. Resignation of the Clerk – recruitment of a replacement.

Cllr Craddock reported that there were 3 expressions of interest, 3 applications but one had withdrawn, and one had found a job; The remaining applicant would be interviewed on 29/3/2018.

iii. Offer from the Clerk to carry out selected ‘end-of-year’ tasks, post retirement. Cllr Craddock proposed that up to £1,000 is spent to close the accounts; this was carried unanimously.

iv. To appoint the Asst. Clerk as a Bank Signatory. This was carried unanimously.

Cllr Craddock stated that on the future Bank Mandate there should be two Councillors and the Chairman in group A. Group B would be the Clerk and the Assistant Clerk. Signing would be any two from A or one from A and one from B. Proposed by Cllr Craddock, seconded by Cllr Ogden, carried unanimously.

2. Planning Committee: -

i. Minutes of the meeting held on 12th February 2018.

ii. Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 5th March 2018.

Cllr Watson reported that there were no specific items of interest apart from a rapid vehicle charging station at Nutley garage - a sign of the future.

3. Environment Committee: -

i. Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 6th March 2018.

No issues to note.

4. Neighbourhood & Community Development Plan Steering Group.

Cllr Craddock informed the meeting that the NDP committee will meet on 29th March but there will be further delays as WDC have yet to complete their Local Plan.

5. Road Safety Committee: -

i. To debate and vote on whether, in principle, MPC is willing to spend £20K on a traffic calming design & implementation scheme for Crowborough Road.

Cllr Strevens reported build outs could be a solution, but it would not reduce traffic and he would like to know the residents' views. Cllr Craddock stated that if £20,000 were spent on a study then MPC would effectively be committing to implementing this scheme. Cllr Strevens noted that residents are concerned about speeding but build outs could increase the danger. Cllr Handley noted that all residents should agree. Cllr Taylor noted that £20,000 was a lot of money to pay for a full design. Cllr Craddock asked that more information is needed from residents as to what they want, as it may be countered by objections. The vote for the scheme was not made as Councillors wanted more information to do so.

ii. Update on projects.

The current projects were noted with no further updates.

6. Maresfield Recreation Ground Committee.

No issues to note but Cllr Craddock asked that the football teams are briefed about parking at weekends.

7. Communications Working Party.

No reports or issues raised.

3168. Outside bodies matters.

No reports or issues raised.

3169. Implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation.

The Assistant clerk reported this is still a developing area.

3170. Community Transport report.

Cllr Barlow reported a letter had gone to the transport minister, but a negative reply was received. It appears the Government are generally in support of commercial operators. Cllr Watson noted that the service is a vital community service for the elderly particularly those without any transport.

3171. Council's presence at the 2018 village fetes. Cllr Craddock noted that the MPC marquee was barely visited at all 3 fetes. It was proposed that MPC do not attend the fetes this year and gauge reaction from this. It was carried unanimously.

3172. 2018 Annual Assembly and Marjory Pegg Community Awards. Cllr Craddock reported that this year's theme will be Community resilience and reminded that the nominations for the Majorie Pegg awards were open.

3173. To receive a report from and put questions to the Chairman.

No reports or questions put.

3174. Payments to be made - for approval.

Cllr Craddock proposed seconded by Cllr Lewin and carried unanimously.

3175. Matters arising from the meeting for public communication.

Nothing to note.

3176. Matters relating to Council as Trustee of Maresfield Recreation Ground (MRG): -

- 1. Correspondence from Gambit Management re. 'Lawful Road Use Park Farm Lane'.**
- 2. Correspondence from Gambit Management re. 'Park Farm Lane on the SW side of High Street Maresfield'.**

Cllr Craddock noted the issues as above concerned the management of the private road and parking. The second matter was the correct boundary line of MRG and Park Farm Lane. He recommended a sub-committee is formed for the first issue so this can be managed. Cllr Craddock proposed Cllr's Taylor, Ogden and one other for the sub-committee, Cllr Watson volunteered. This was carried unanimously. It was decided that there should be liaison with the lawful users who may be co-opted onto the sub-committee.

Cllr Craddock noted the correspondence about the boundary issue between MRG and Park Farm Lane. The Council needs professional advice before entering into any agreement, either a property solicitor or a Chartered Surveyor who specialises in boundary disputes. Cllr Taylor noted that there were 4 different interpretations. Cllr Craddock agreed that the position was confused and MPC needed to get it right and seek agreement with the landowners. He proposed an independent Chartered Surveyor is appointed, seconded by Cllr Taylor and carried unanimously.

3. Correspondence from Maresfield Cricket Club re. 'Fence for Compound and Pavilion facilities'.

Cllr Taylor reported that the cricket nets had been vandalised and the Cricket Club were seeking a grant. Cllr Craddock stated that MPC are responsible for the boundary. Cllr Taylor noted that MPC should pay

for the boundary and inner fence. Cllr Craddock noted that this request seemed to be urgent. Cllr Taylor stated that MPC should agree to pay for the fence and the Cricket Club should pay for seating. The fencing would cost £1650. Proposed by Cllr Craddock, seconded by Cllr Lewin and carried by a majority.

3177. Date of next meeting – 17th April 2018 (Fairwarp).

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21:30