

**DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting of Maresfield Parish Council  
held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2017 at 7.30pm in Maresfield Village Hall**

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

**3103. Public session** – Mr L Wilcox addressed Councillors, thanking CCllr Galley for his support and contribution over the last few years in trying to secure traffic calming measures for Crowborough Road. Mr Wilcox also questioned the accuracy of the minutes of the previous meeting in relation to the public session; the Chairman explained that it is not the purpose of minutes to record full details of the public session.

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

**3104. To approve apologies for absence and to note other non-attendance** – Cllr Ms G Hallin, DCllr T Illingworth, DCllr M Lunn.

**3105. Declarations of interest** – Cllr Barlow as Director and Trustee of NWCTP Ltd. Cllr Ogden as a member of the Maresfield Conservation Group.

**3106. To receive written requests for new DPI dispensations** – None received.

**3107. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2017: -**

**1. For adoption** – **It was resolved** to adopt the Council minutes as a true record.

**2. Matters arising from these minutes not elsewhere on the agenda** – None.

**3108. Reports by and questions to: -**

**1. County Councillors** – CCllr Galley stated that both he and the Director of the Forest were dismayed at the comments made by the Parish Council in raising concerns regarding productivity, commercial and people management/control. Cllr Watson stated that he had heard of concerns regarding the management of the Rangers. CCllr Galley detailed some of the tasks carried out by the staff and stated that great improvements had been made over the last five years or so. He will put this matter on the agenda for the next meeting of the Parishes Liaison Panel. CCllr Galley also asked for hard evidence to support these allegations.

[Referring to the previous Parish Council meeting] CCllr Galley stated that Queens Drive is a private road and therefore ESCC has no grass cutting responsibilities there, except for its standard cutting of the verges.

CCllr Galley referred to the recent email from ESCC Highways regarding the proposal not to proceed with the implementation of a 30mph speed limit in Nether Lane, Nutley, because recent average traffic speed measurements were low, and any changes could actually increase vehicle speeds. The Chairman stated that this was unfortunate, as the aim is to prevent accidents and not just to react to them. This matter will be followed up by the Parish Council's Road Safety Committee.

Cllr Ogden raised the issue of the positioning of the School Crossing warden near to Park Farm Road, stating that this has caused additional congestion and illegal parking along this private road. The discussion developed into the history behind the illegal parking at Park Farm Road, the effectiveness of traffic calming measures on School Hill, and the responsibilities of the owners of this private road. It was noted that the issue of illegal parking is not the responsibility of the County, District or Parish councils.

2. District Councillors – DCllr Galley stated that WDC had agreed in principle that under the new contract, yet to be negotiated, a charge would be levied for residents who wish to continue to use the garden waste collection service.

DCllr Roundell stated that WDC is awaiting the details of the Chancellor's budget with regard to the building of low-cost/affordable homes and the ability to raise loans for this purpose.

**3109. Parish Wards – issues, needs and Councillors' reports: -**

1. Fairwarp Ward – Cllr Mrs Handley noted that some Parishioners had expressed their delight in hearing that the guide post for the corner of Old Forge Lane/B2026 is to be reinstated.

2. Maresfield Ward – Cllr Ogden stated that the housing issue he had referred to at the last meeting of Council had now been resolved.

Cllr Strevens reported on the remembrance service at St Bartholomew's Church, at which representatives of the Royal Corps of Signals were present. The Clerk to look at whether formal Parish Council representation is appropriate at all such services in the Parish.

3. Nutley Ward – [In answer to a question from Cllr Watson] The Asst. Clerk reported that he is awaiting a quote for the placing of shelving in the newly refurbished telephone kiosk next to Nutley's shop.

[In answer to a question from Cllr Barlow] The Clerk undertook to find out when the water main works on the A22 at Horney Common and beyond will be completed.

Cllr Strevens reported on the defibrillator and CPR training that was conducted on the 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017 in the Nutley War Memorial Hall and he recommended that everyone should take advantage of such training should it becomes available again.

**3110. Council bodies - To receive minutes and decisions, followed by reports from Chairmen and any questions: -**

**1. Finance & Administration Committee: -**

i. Minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2017 – Received.

ii. Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2017 – Noted.

[In answer to a question from Cllr Watson] The Clerk reported that he is looking into the question of the Parish Council's ability to make grants to its schools and will report on this at the next meeting of the Committee.

iii. Month 7 2017/18 – Financial Reports – The Bank Reconciliation, Cash Book and management reports for Month 7 were received and the Chairman stated that he was not aware of any issues that needed to be raised.

iv. Consideration of the 2018/19 Budget and Precept requirement – The circulated reports were received and noted. The Chairman stated that the Committee will propose the retention of the current level of Road Safety project funding. It was noted that the percentage figure for the likely proposed precept seems high, but that in monetary terms the amount was quite small. This is because the precept for 2017/18 had been reduced as some of the Road Safety project funds had been returned to Parishioners.

**2. Planning Committee: -**

i. Minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017 – Received.

ii. Minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2017 – Received.

iii. Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017 – Noted.

iv. Siting and use of caravans at Beech Hill, Crowborough Road – Cllr Watson led a discussion of the various issues at this site and of the recent LDE application.

Cllr Watson stated that it is thought that some of the applicant's evidence in regard to ownership of the property and the siting of the caravans was incorrect.

DCllr Roundell summarised the position as follows: -

- LDE applications cannot be taken to Committee. However, Officers will be fully briefed on the situation.
- Regarding the discharge of sewage etc., this is to be investigated by WDC Building Control.
- Action still needs to be taken in relation to four of the caravans and this will be chased up.
- Issues regarding the payment of Council Tax and business rates are being looked into.
- Action may also be taken regarding a possible curtilage infringement.

The Chairman noted that DCllr Mrs Newton had been asked for but had not given the requested assurance that a similar situation would not arise again.

**3. Environment Committee** – No issues reported. Noted that the Committee next meets on the 5<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

**4. Neighbourhood & Community Development Plan Steering Group** –

i. Minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2017 – Received.

ii. Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2017 – Noted.

iii. Report from the meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017 – The Clerk noted that the Draft Minutes of this meeting had now been circulated. Referring to these minutes, the Chairman reported that the Draft NDP had now been finalised and is to be sent to the approved planning consultant for its 'health check'.

**5. Road Safety Committee:** -

i. Residential area along Crowborough Road – Cllr Strevens noted that this is on the Agenda for the Committee's next meeting.

ii. Nether Lane introduction of a 30mph speed limit – Cllr Strevens noted that, following CCllr Galley's report that ESCC Highways is not to proceed with the implementation of a 30mph speed limit, this is on the Agenda for the Committee's next meeting.

iii. Acquisition of Mobile Vehicle Activated Signs (MVAS) – Cllr Strevens reported on the effectiveness of these devices.

The Asst. Clerk noted that we are now awaiting ESCC permission in the form of a licence to operate these devices under its new policy.

iv. Update on other projects – The circulated report from the Clerk was noted.

Cllr Strevens referred to the new signs and resurfacing at the Duddleswell crossroads. The Clerk noted that the signs for the B2026, to be placed either side of The Street, are in the ESCC Highways works programme.

**6. Maresfield Recreation Ground Committee** – Noted that the Committee next meets on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2017.

**7. Communications Working Party** – The Clerk noted that he and Cllr Ms Hallin are continuing to update the Council's web site; most of the current work is in relation to the requirements for Freedom of Information and financial reporting.

**3111. Outside bodies matters** – No items.

**3112. North Wealden Community Transport Ltd – report from Cllr Barlow on potential changes in Government Legislation** – Cllr Barlow referred to his circulated reports, detailing the background, issues, and potential impact on services surrounding the likely need for CT operators to operate by the same regulations as commercial companies. It was noted that there is no imminent risk to services.

**3113. Implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation** – The circulated Action Plan from the Clerk was noted.

**3114. Boundary Commission 2018 Constituencies review** – The Chairman outlined the background to this item, noting that geographically these proposals did not make sense. **It was resolved** that no response from the Parish Council was required at this stage.

*(CCllr Galley & DCllr Roundell left the meeting).*

**3115. WDC re. street naming – Maresfield Business Park** – Councillors to suggest names to the Clerk, as alternatives to the developer's proposal for 'Michael Way'.

**3116. To receive a report from and put questions to the Chairman** – No reports or questions.

**3117. To receive a report from and put questions to the Clerk** – The Clerk stated that the Council's annual dinner will be held in January 2018.

**3118. Payments to be made - for approval** – **It was resolved** to authorise payments amounting to £5445.62 as shown on the circulated schedule.

**3119. Matters arising from the meeting for public communication** – The Chairman to continue to explain the budget and precept position for 2018/19 in his monthly newsletter.

**3120. Matters relating to Council as Trustee of Maresfield Recreation Ground (MRG)** – No items.

**3121. Date of next meeting** – 19<sup>th</sup> December 2017 (Fairwarp).

*There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20:50.*