

**Minutes of the Meeting of Maresfield Parish Council  
held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at 7.30pm in Fairwarp Village Hall**

**Councillors present:** Cllr M Craddock (Chairman), Cllr Mrs L Reeves, Cllr K Ogden, Cllr D Barlow, Cllr D Watson, Cllr Ms G Hallin, Cllr A Strevens, Cllr R Taylor, Cllr Mrs L Stevens-Smith, Cllr Mrs P Handley, CCllr F Whetstone, Clerk T Allen, Asst. Clerk C Arnold.

**A. Public session** – No members of the public were present.

**2984. To approve apologies for absence and to note other non-attendance** - CCllr R Galley, DCllr P Roundell, DCllr C Hardy, DCllr T Illingworth, DCllr M Lunn.

**2985. Declarations of interest** – Cllr Barlow as Director and Trustee of NWCTP Ltd. Cllr Ogden as a member of Maresfield Conservation Group.

**2986. To receive written requests for new DPI dispensations** – None received.

**2987. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 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 – None.

**2988. Reports by and questions to: -**

1. County Councillors - CCllr Whetstone stated that it was his last MPC meeting, as Fairwarp would no longer be in his Ward should he be re-elected. He said he had enjoyed attending MPC meetings and thanked everyone for the past 12 years or so engagement with the Parish Council. Cllr Craddock thanked CCllr Whetstone on behalf of MPC for all he had done for the Parish and for the Community. Cllr Watson asked about Road Sign cleaning on the A22 and noted that foliage now covering many signs needs to be cut. Cllr Craddock asked CCllr whetstone to take note of these observations and arrange the appropriate action.

2. District Councillors - No DCllrs present.

**2989. Parish Wards – issues, needs and Councillors' reports: -**

1. Fairwarp Ward – No matters to report.

2. Maresfield Ward – Cllr Ogden stated there was a dangerous tree by the recreation ground that he is investigating with the assistance of the Asst. Clerk.

Cllr Strevens stated that the number of vehicles parking opposite the Maresfield shop had increased again. He asked the council to approve a second windscreen notice to be applied on safety grounds; **this was resolved** unanimously.

3. Nutley Ward – Cllr Watson asked about progress with refurbishment of the red telephone box in the High Street, outside the shop. The Asst Clerk stated there he had received a quote for removal and refurbishment but he was waiting for another quote to do this work in situ.

Cllr Barlow stated that wheelie bins are being left by refuse collectors in the middle of driveways, which can be a hazard for cars pulling in. Cllr Craddock suggested that Cllr Barlow sends an e-mail to Cllr Galley.

*(CCllr Whetstone left the meeting).*

**2990. Council bodies - To receive minutes and decisions, followed by reports from Chairmen and any questions: -**

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

i. Month 12 2016/17 – Financial Reports – The Bank Reconciliation, Cash Book and management reports were received. The Chairman stated that there were no issues to raise and that the reports represented the unaudited end-of-year position and thanked Cllrs Watson and Ogden for carrying out the Councillors audits of the accounts.

ii. To note 2016/17 accruals and monies carried forward to 2017/18 – Noted and approved.

iii. Annual Risk Assessment report – Noted and approved.

**2. Planning Committee: -**

i. Minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2017 – Received.

ii. Minutes of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2017 - Received

ii. Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2017 - Cllr Craddock noted that the decision notices showed an approval by WDC for the reserved matters relating to the 9 dwellings at Mill Cottage and a refusal at Powder Mill for an additional dwelling.

It was noted that there will be a speed restriction on the A22 bypass due to construction and use of the Rydon Homes access for the development near Wellington Gate; the access to the A22 will be temporary but MPC should continue to press for this to remain as a permanent access once the development is finished.

**3. Environment Committee.**

Cllr Mrs Reeves stated there was nothing to report.

**4. Neighbourhood & Community Development Plan Steering Group:-**

i. Minutes of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2017 – Received.

Cllr Ogden stated that item 6 iii had an inaccurate address and should be amended. Cllr Craddock stated it would be amended at the next meeting as it had been adopted; he did note that the site E1 was in fact correct.

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

Cllr Craddock reported that three members of the Steering Group had a worthwhile meeting with Marina Brigginsshaw, WDC, on the 16<sup>th</sup> March 2017, but which did not significantly progress matters; we may have to wait for WDC's Plan which won't be adopted until late 2018.

The AECOM consultants have advised the Steering Group to move forward with finalising the draft NDP and that they will confirm with WDC whether or not an HRA is now required.

**5. Road Safety Committee:-**

i. Crowborough Road traffic calming– report of the meeting with ESCC held on the 13<sup>th</sup> April 2017 –

Cllr Strevens reported on this meeting with ESCC, noting that various possible solutions were discussed along with budgets available and ESCC 50/50 funding. ESCC has been asked to confirm the applicable fee for this feasibility study and it will report on possible solutions, associated costs and risks.

Cllr Craddock noted that 2016 was the worst year for Wealden KSI's in last decade. Cllr Watson noted that a lack of policing is a major problem. Cllr Craddock stated an active campaign is needed which needs to be fully supported by the PCC and Police.

Cllr Ogden stated that MPC could take on responsibility for 'policing' parking offences. Cllr Craddock said that WDC was looking at decriminalisation; however, MPC would need a paid Parish Warden and significant effort to take control in this area.

ii. Other projects reports and general updates –

**6. Maresfield Recreation Ground Committee –**

The Clerk reported that there is a meeting of the MRGC on the 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

Cllr Taylor stated the play area is well used and asked for the disability friendly swing to be obtained and installed; the purchase is in hand with Asst Clerk.

Cllr Ogden stated that parking by school parents is still an issue at MRG as evidenced by the lack of vehicles when the School was closed for the Easter Holidays

**7. Communications Working Party –**

Cllr Hallin stated that the social media strategy is developing and that the web site is to be populated with updated pictures; work on the home page has been completed and all other pages will now be updated and improved.

**2991. Outside bodies matters – No reports**

**2992. NWCTP – extension of the 262 Saturday bus service -** The circulated papers were noted and discussed.

Cllr Craddock noted that the MPC subsidy for 262 service may reduce with the new extended route as more parishes would be contributing.

**It was resolved** that the proposed 2017/18 subsidy of £1131.91 for MPC be approved, subject to contributions being made by the other Parishes affected.

**2993. To receive a report from, and put questions to the Chairman –** Cllr Ogden thanked the Chairman for supporting his enquiries of the DCllrs at the last meeting of Council, concerning the housing numbers in relation to the various WDC Local Plan versions.

**2994. To receive a report from, and put questions to the Clerk –** The Clerk reported that this is the busiest time of the year, with several audits, annual meetings, village fetes etc.

**2995. Payments to be made - for approval – It was resolved** to authorise payments amounting to £5,606.87; as shown on the circulated schedule. Proposed by Cllr Reeves, seconded by Cllr Barlow and agreed unanimously.

**2996. Matters arising from the meeting for public communication.** No specific items.

**2997. Arrangements for annual Parish events:-**

**1. Village Fetes –** Maresfield is Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2017, Nutley is Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2017 and Fairwarp is Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2017. Cllr Ms Hallin, the Clerk and Asst. Clerk to look at displays for the Council's marquee.

**2. Annual Parish Assembly -** Cllr Craddock stated this will take place on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2017.

i. Annual Parish Report – The Clerk noted that contributions for the Chairman's 'Highlights Reports' and from local clubs/organisations are required by the 5<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at the very latest.

ii. Format and preparations – It was noted that the theme will be on improving communications with Parishioners, but that this is a two-way process, one of the biggest challenges to which is having effectively three separate communities in one Parish.

The Clerk noted that Jim van den Bos will speak on Wealden District Council's approach to engaging with the public; it is hoped that SALC will also supply a guest speaker.

iii. Judging of the nominations for the Marjory Pegg awards for services to the community – There was a tied vote by Councillors and **it was resolved** that the Marjory Pegg salver should be jointly awarded to Mrs Sheila Cumming and posthumously to Mrs Jenny Lazenby, with certificates awarded to the other nominees.

*It was resolved that the meeting go into closed session; as in view of the confidential nature of the next item of business to be transacted, i.e. an employment matter, it was required that the public and press be temporarily excluded and that they are instructed to withdraw.*

**2998. To form a panel to investigate a complaint received from ex. Councillor Mr L Wilcox – It was resolved** that a panel be formed to consider this complaint and to advise Council if any further action is required in the matter.

*(The meeting reverted to open session).*

**2999. Matters relating to Council as Trustee of Maresfield Recreation Ground (MRG) – No items**

**3000. Date of next meeting – Annual Meeting of Council - 16<sup>th</sup> May 2017 (Maresfield).**

*There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20:35*