

**Minutes of the Meeting of Maresfield Parish Council
held on Tuesday 21st February 2017 at 7.30pm in Nutley War Memorial Hall**

Councillors present: Cllr Mrs L Reeves, (Chairman), Cllr K Ogden, Cllr Mrs L Stevens-Smith, Cllr R Taylor, Cllr Mrs P Handley, CCllr R Galley, CCllr F Whetstone, D Cllr P Roundell, Clerk T Allen, Asst..Clerk C Arnold.

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

2950. To approve apologies for absence and to note other non-attendance. – Cllr M Craddock, Cllr D Barlow, Cllr D Watson, Cllr Miss G Hallin, Cllr A Strevens, DCllr C Hardy, DCllr M Lunn, DCllr T Illingworth

2951. Declarations of interest - Cllr Ogden and Cllr R Taylor as members of the Maresfield Conservation Group and Cllr Ogden as a member of the Maresfield Village Meadows Trust.

2952. To receive written requests for new DPI dispensations – None received.

2953. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 17th January 2017: -

1. For adoption – Cllr Taylor noted that he had been shown as attending the last meeting of Council, when in fact he had given apologies and did not attend. **It was resolved** to adopt the minutes, as amended, as a true record.

2. Matters arising from these minutes not elsewhere on the agenda – Re Item 2936.2 DCllr Roundell noted that DCllr Hardy had been asked about Nitrogen levels and the cost of monitoring them on the Ashdown Forest. The costs were in 2014 £141,000, 2015/2016 £118,000, 2016/2017 (to date) £101,000, with the full year estimated at £166,000' 2017/2018 £122,000 estimated to be spent.

2954. Reports by and questions to: -

1. County Councillors – CCllr Galley's circulated report was noted.

CCllr Whetstone reported on the following items:-

- The request from the Ashdown Forest Conservators for Parish Councils to forward relevant planning applications. The Clerk stated, this can be done, but if one is missed we can't be held responsible.
- [In relation to a question from Cllr Ogden at the last Parish Council meeting] CCllr Whetstone stated that the County Council is not wasting money with snow ploughs, this is bolt on equipment for the front of a gritter.

CCllr Galley stated that ESCC has agreed a £365 million budget for 2017/18.

[In answer to a question from Cllr Ogden regarding works at Bonners School] - CCllr galley noted that the School Governors had full control and schools are entirely autonomous. CCllr Galley noted it may be permitted development works.

2. District Councillors

DCllr Galley stated that a recommended c. £5 per annum rise in council tax was expected to be confirmed at the meeting of WDC to be held on the 22nd February 2017.

On this date, there is also a special meeting to review progress on the emerging new Local Plan; WDC had won the appeal on the Steel Cross development and have challenged the Lewes Local plan regarding provision for mitigating nitrogen deposition.

DCllr Galley noted that the Great British Spring Clean campaign is on 3,4 and 5th March.

[In response to a question from Cllr Mrs Stevens-Smith regarding roadside litter as the A22] DCllr galley noted the problem is with Kier, main street cleaning is its responsibility; due to resource allocation, there are currently delays in clearing this litter.

2955. Parish Wards – issues, needs and Councillors’ reports: -

1. Fairwarp Ward - Cllr Mrs Reeves stated that there will be litter picking by the residents on the B2026 at Fairwarp on the 5th March 2017 as part of the Great British Spring Clean campaign.

2. Maresfield Ward - Cllr Ogden referred to ongoing issues arising from parents of children at Bonners School parking at the Recreation Ground. The Clerk related the history of this matter and it was noted that this is a private road and essentially a private matter for the owners. **Action** Clerk to re-send an earlier letter to the School/parents which sets out the position of the Parish Council.

3. Nutley Ward - No reports.

2956. Council bodies - To receive minutes and decisions, followed by reports from Chairmen and any questions: -

1. Finance & Administration Committee: -

i. Month 10 2016/17 – Financial Reports – The Bank Reconciliation, Cash Book and management reports were received. The Clerk stated that there were no issues to raise.

ii Approval of the release of the 2016/17 Youth Budgeted funding. The Clerk stated there are thriving youth groups which receive funds from MPC. Reverend Cornell has put a proposal together, for this year’s budgets youth project funds. **It was resolved** to release these funds.

iii To approve the internal auditor’s terms of reference. The Clerk stated that the auditor Mark Mulberry is one of the top auditors for Parish Councils and his fees are comparable with others. Cllr Taylor asked how long he has been auditor for MPC; the Clerk stated that this was around four years. **It was resolved** to approve these Terms of Reference.

iv Annual Review of the Council’s system of Internal Audit. The reports circulated by the Clerk were noted. **It was resolved** to adopt these reports.

v Grant Request from Maresfield Village Meadows Trust. The request for a grant from MVMT was noted and discussed.

The Clerk stated that the request was for running costs, noting that it was Council’s general policy not to support such requests. Following discussion, **it was resolved** to reject the application. It was agreed that the Clerk should respond stating that the Council would be receptive to an application relating to material items.

2. Planning Committee: -

i. Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd January 2017 – Received.

ii. Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd January 2017 – Noted.

iii Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 13th February 2017 – Noted.

Cllr Mrs Reeves noted that the Committee had recommended approval for the proposed 8 homes at Mill House Farm.

DCllr Roundell asked about Yew Tree Farm and the Parish Council’s request for an arboricultural report, noting that a Tree Preservation Order could not be supported as the tree was too old. The Asst. Clerk stated that the aim of the request for the report was to establish if the tree should be removed or retained.

3. Environment Committee:-

i. Summary notes of the ESCC SLR meeting held on 7th February 2017. – The minutes of the SLR meeting were noted. CCllr Whetstone noted that the last two SLR meetings were scheduled when CCllrs could not attend.

The next committee meeting is on 7th March 2017.

The Clerk reported on two items being led by Cllr Watson:-

- There had been a significant level of requests for the retention and refurbishment of the red telephone kiosk outside the Nutley shop.
- Operations for the Great British Spring Clean campaign are expected to take place in all three villages.

4. Neighbourhood & Community Development Plan Steering Group:-

i. Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd December 2016 – Received.

ii. Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 30th January 2017 – Noted.

Cllr Mrs Reeves noted that there is to be a meeting with WDC in March 2017, to help understand the WDC situation regarding the production of the NDP.

The Clerk noted that 48 out of the 50 homes allocated to Maresfield in the current WDC Local Plan were already approved for development.

The development of the environmental and habitats assessments was in-hand, using the grant funded consultants at AECOM.

Cllr Ogden expressed his concern regarding the lack of public consultation regarding the Asprey Homes development on School Hill; the Clerk to respond to Cllr Ogden.

5. Road Safety Committee.

i Project reports and general updates -The Clerk noted that the new signage planned on the B2026 for Fairwarp village and Duddleswell Crossroads was in the ESCC programme.

It was noted that the Community Matched Funding request for traffic calming measures in Crowborough Road is being developed with ESCC.

It was noted that the ESCC consultation for introducing a 30mph speed limit in Nether lane had overwhelming local support; ESCC now awaits Parish Council authority so it can make the required Traffic Order. **It was resolved** that this matter should be deferred to the next meeting of Council as costing are awaited from ESCC and it is essential to ensure that these are within the budget set by the Parish Council.

(Cllr Whetstone left the meeting).

6. Maresfield Recreation Ground Committee - No issues to note. The Committee will be meeting on the 23rd February 2017.

(Cllr Galley and DCllr Roundell left the meeting).

7. Communications Working Party - The Clerk reported on the progress in upgrading the Council's web site, noting that, although the current focus is on improving the home page, all aspects of the web site will be reviewed and updated.

It was noted that the Asst. Clerk is working on the social media aspects.

The Clerk stated that Council is fortunate to have Cllr Hallin's expertise.

2957. Outside bodies matters – None.

2958. Appointment of Councillor(s) as representative(s) to WDALC & NWCTP - The clerk noted that a representative was needed for WDALC, following the resignation of Cllr Wilcox and that whilst Cllr Barlow attends the NWCTP meetings, he may need support. **It was resolved** that this matter should be deferred to the next meeting of Council when more members may be present.

2959. Maresfield Conservation Group-the replacement of the white railings on the High Street - Cllr Ogden noted that this is a safety issue and that ESCC had therefore agreed to replace the existing posts with white plastic hollow ones and maintain them; this should happen within a couple of months. Cllr Taylor mentioned that the exit and entrance from the church needed a barrier to prevent children running into the road; Cllr Ogden stated that the Conservation Group would consider this.

2960. NWCTP – extension of the 262 Saturday bus service. The Clerk noted that the 231 service will no longer run on Saturdays and that NWCTP has been asked to consider running this route as an extension to the 262 Saturday service. The Parish Council has been asked by Uckfield Town Council if it will support the proposed new service in principle. **It was resolved** to support this proposal in general, subject to costings and the involvement of other Parishes affected. It was noted that this new service could help ensure the continuity of the 262 Saturday service in the Parish.

2961. To receive a report from, and put questions to the Chairman - There was no report from the Chairman.

2962. To receive a report from, and put questions to the Clerk – No reports or questions raised.

2963. Payments to be made - for approval – **It was resolved** to authorise payments amounting to £6241.01; as shown on the circulated schedule.

2964. Matters arising from the meeting for public communication – No items

2965. Matters relating to Council as Trustee of Maresfield Recreation Ground (MRG) - No items.

2949. Date of next meeting – 21st March 2017 (Nutley).

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20:27.