

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

Councillors present: Cllr M Craddock (Chairman), Cllr K Ogden, Cllr D Barlow, Cllr Mrs L Stevens-Smith, Cllr Mrs P Handley, Cllr D Watson, CCllr R Galley, CCllr F Whetstone, DCllr T Illingworth, DCllr M Lunn, Clerk T Allen.

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

2967. To approve apologies for absence and to note other non-attendance – Cllr R Taylor, Cllr Mrs L Reeves, Cllr Ms G Hallin, Cllr A Strevens, DCllr C Hardy, DCllr P Roundell, Asst. Clerk C Arnold.

2968. Declarations of interest – Cllr Barlow as Director and Trustee of NWCTP Ltd. Cllr Mrs Handley as an employee of The Foresters, Fairwarp.

2969. To receive written requests for new DPI dispensations – None received.

2970. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 21st February 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.

2971. Reports by and questions to: -

1. County Councillors – CCllr Galley reported on the following items:-

- ESCC had to find £17M savings for its new budget, mostly affecting adult social care; however a grant of £11M has been received from Government thus reducing the level of cuts required in this area.
- At the ESCC Lead Member's meeting held on the 20th March 2017, the Nether Lane speed reduction project and ESCC's funding contribution of 50% had been approved.
- ESCC will be entering purdah in w/c 2th April 2017, i.e. prior to the ESCC elections to be held on the 4th May 2017.

2. District Councillors – DCllr Galley reported on the following items:-

- The waste contract with Kier will cease early, in June 2019, by mutual agreement with ESCC ; a new contractor will now be sought. [In answer to a question from Cllr Ogden] DCllr Galley stated that a new waste contract will balance a good quality of service against value for money.
- The emerging Local Plan will be debated at the WDC meeting to be held on the 22nd March 2017.
- Three years of monitoring nitrogen deposition of the Ashdown Forest has shown damage to be greater than forecast. DCllr Galley and DCllr Lunn outlined the effects produced by nitrogen deposition; DCllr Galley to forward a Briefing Note on this.
- Proposed new house numbers have been reduced to 11,500 to 2028, with around 7,000 of these already approved under the 2012 Local Plan. [In answer to questions from Cllr Craddock and from Cllr Ogden] DCllr Galley stated that this represents a reduction from the 19,000 new homes allocated in the current 2012 Local Plan to 2037. Cllr Craddock challenged these figures as he understood the current Local Plan was up to 2027 and had a substantially lower number of new homes provision.
- The WDC case against the Lewes DC Local Plan's lack of mitigation for the Ashdown Forest had been upheld.

DCllr Lunn stated that it is expected that no additional homes, above the current allocation of 50, will be built in Maresfield Parish and that the Ashdown Forest protection zone is now effectively District wide and beyond to surrounding districts.

DCllr Lunn stated that he had received a number of concerns from Maresfield Parishioners relating to a lack of social housing; noting that the current WDC waiting list is quite long. Cllr Craddock stated that the Parish Council was unaware of this.

2972. Parish Wards – issues, needs and Councillors’ reports: -

1. Fairwarp Ward – No reports.

2. Maresfield Ward – Cllr Mrs Stevens-Smith related the ongoing issues with parents parking at the Maresfield Recreation Ground. The Chairman referred to the last meeting of Council and the Clerk’s subsequent positional statement sent to the School and Pre-School. The Chairman affirmed that the Parish Council has no jurisdiction in this matter and that it is the owners of Park Farm Lane who are responsible for it. Clerk to produce a leaflet for parents re-stating the position in this matter.

3. Nutley Ward – Cllr Barlow highlighted the dangers when exiting Bell Lane onto the A22. The Clerk noted that this had been looked into several times in the past with no real solution offered by ESCC, except for the ‘Pavements are for People’ initiative to try to deal with vehicles parked on the pavement. Clerk to raise this issue with ESCC again and include it on the agenda for the next SLR meeting

2973. Council bodies - To receive minutes and decisions, followed by reports from Chairmen and any questions: -

1. Finance & Administration Committee: -

i. Month 11 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 end-of-year position will be presented at the Council’s next meeting.

2. Planning Committee: -

i. Minutes of the meeting held on 13th February 2017 – Received.

ii. Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 6th March 2017 – Noted.

Cllr Watson noted that the Committee had recommended approval for the development of eight homes at the Mill House Farm brownfield site.

3. Environment Committee:-

i. Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 7th March 2017 – Noted.

Cllr Watson reported on developments relating to the red phone kiosk at the Nutley shop. The Clerk noted that the Asst. Clerk will shortly be delivering a paper to Council outlining costs and options.

4. Neighbourhood & Community Development Plan Steering Group:-

i. Minutes of the meeting held on 30th January 2017 – Received.

ii. Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 27th February 2017 – Noted.

The Chairman noted that input from WDC continued to be slow as its Officers were fully engaged in producing its emerging Local Plan; however a meeting with WDC had been held on the 16th March 2017 and a report will follow.

Cllr Ogden stated that he had received complaints from some Parishioners regarding an alleged lack of proper consultation regarding the Asprey Homes development on School Hill. The Chairman noted that this site was delivered through the normal planning process and all members of the public accordingly had the chance to comment. He also stated that the site was announced and adopted by the Parish Council as one of its preferred three sites for development some months before the planning application was submitted.

5. Road Safety Committee:-

i. Project reports and general updates – The Chairman noted that a meeting will take place next month with ESCC Highways representatives to assess the costs of a feasibility study to look into speed mitigation proposals for Crowborough Road.

ii. Nether Lane speed limit reduction – to authorise ESCC to proceed – The Chairman related the background to this item; the following points were noted:-

- Council had previously approved a budget funding limit of £10K for this project; costings received from ESCC showed that the Parish Council's contribution (50%) is estimated at a total of £4,965.
- At the ESCC Lead Member's meeting held on the 20th March 2017, the project and ESCC's funding contribution of 50% had been approved.
- The ESCC survey of residents had revealed overwhelming support for the implementation of a 30mph speed limit.

It was resolved to authorise ESCC to proceed with the implementation of this project.

6. Maresfield Recreation Ground Committee – The draft Minutes of the meeting held on 14th March were circulated and noted. No additional items were raised.

7. Communications Working Party - The Clerk reported on the progress in upgrading the Council's web site, noting that the current focus is on the menus and documents behind the home page. It was noted that the Asst. Clerk is working on the social media aspects and that arrangements for the Annual Assembly and village fetes will be looked at very shortly.

2974. Outside bodies matters:-

1. The Conservators of Ashdown Forest – future funding – The letter from the Conservators dated the 6th March 2017 was noted and discussed; CCllr Galley outlined the top-level financial data. It was resolved that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman will attend the meeting at the Forest Centre at 7pm on the 27th April 2017.

2. London & South Coast Rail Corridor Study – Cllr Barlow related the background to this item and the latest Government position, which is that it sees no case to take forward the reinstatement of the line between Uckfield and Lewes as a Government funded project, but that it is encouraging the BML2 proposals to be further evaluated and delivered by the private sector.

(CCllr Whetstone & DCllr Lunn left the meeting).

2975. Appointment of Councillor(s) as representative(s) to WDALC & NWCTP – **It was resolved** that Cllr Craddock will be the Council's representative for WDALC and that Cllr Watson will support Cllr Barlow by attending meetings of NWCTP.

2976. WDC re. The Foresters Arms – Community Right to Bid nomination – The letter from WDC dated the 27th February 2017 was noted and discussed.

Cllr Mrs Handley gave a briefing on the background to this item

It was resolved that the Parish Council supports the listing of The Foresters Arms on the WDC List of Assets of Community Value.

(CCllr Galley & DCllr Illingworth left the meeting).

2977. Review of the number of Council/Committee meetings – The Clerk's paper dated the 7th March 2017 was noted and discussed.

It was resolved that meetings of the Finance & Administration Committee should in future be scheduled for the months of April, June, October, November and December, with other meetings held on an ad-hoc basis if required.

It was resolved to retain the Environment Committee; to meet quarterly as at present.

It was resolved that meetings of Council should in future not be scheduled for the months of February, June and August, but can still be called if required.

It was resolved that April 2017 meetings of the Road Safety Committee (4th April) and the Finance & Administration Committee (11th April) should be cancelled as currently business is being conducted in Council.

2978. To receive a report from, and put questions to the Chairman – Cllr Ogden noted that the office desks and related items that he has been storing for the Council now need to be moved. It was noted that these are of no quality or value and **it was resolved** that Cllr Ogden can secure a skip for the disposal of these items up to a maximum expenditure of £200.00.

2979. To receive a report from, and put questions to the Clerk – The Clerk reported that the Asst. Clerk has passed his ILCA training and had now started the programme for obtaining his CiLCA professional qualification. The Asst. Clerk was congratulated by all present.

2980. Payments to be made - for approval – **It was resolved** to authorise payments amounting to £11,030.50; as shown on the circulated schedule.

2981. Matters arising from the meeting for public communication – Next Chairman's article for the Parish magazines to include reference to the parents parking situation at Maresfield recreation Ground.

2982. Matters relating to Council as Trustee of Maresfield Recreation Ground (MRG) – No items.

2983. Date of next meeting – 18th April 2017 (Fairwarp).

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21:10.