**MARESFIELD CONSERVATION GROUP**

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee**

**Held at 7.00pm on Wednesday 20th October 2021 at The Chequers, Maresfield**

**Present:**

Jo Lawrance (JL)

John Smith (JS)

Jacqui Royal (JR)

Bruce Milton (BM)

Ian Shaw (IS)

Stephanie Bassett - Minutes Secretary

**APOLOGIES:**  Stan Sadowski, Rob Penfold, Alex Clarke and Dick Thompson.

**1 . DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

No conflicts of interest were declared.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES DATED 22nd SEPTEMBER 2021 & MATTERS ARISING**

The Minutes were approved. All matters arising were covered under this Agenda.

**3. TREASURER’S REPORT - JS**

Income

Subscriptions £2227

Gift Aid £ 500

Parish Grant £1000

Sale of cards £ 29

“1840” book £ 8 \*

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Total £3764

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Expenditure since March

£1872

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Surplus £1892

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Total Bank Balance £10858

\* The cost of production for the “1840” booklet was £407. Any proceeds above this amount will go to Maresfield Historical Society.

BM has 12 copies and will use these to restock the Post Office when needed.

Sticky labels showing the £4 price are to be added to all copies.

**4. MEMBERSHIP and WEBSITE – SS**

SS will update at next meeting.

ACTION: SS

JS confirmed that he has paid £111.75 for the annual website subscription.

**5. FOOTPATHS GROUP - JS**

JS said that the recent article in the Parish Magazine has attracted more volunteers. However regular attendance is still an issue, which makes planning difficult.

The fingerposts and white gates will be repainted once there is a spell of dry weather.

JS has received favourable comments from Fairwarp residents for the work done on the grass verge at Lampool Corner. A request for unwanted/surplus perennials for planting along there has been included in the Parish Magazine article.

It is understood that 10 soldiers will be available to help the Footpaths Group during Remembrance weekend. These will be deployed to clear the verge along Straight Half Mile and the footpath by Blue Auto.

IS arrived at this point.

The soldiers will also be working in the churchyard.

It was confirmed that individuals are responsible for the planters. JL asked that attention be given to the one in Underhill.

**6. UNDERHILL PARAPETS**

The parapet has once again been sprayed with green paint.

JL and AC attended the Parish Council meeting and understand the Council to be supportive in undertaiking a joint endeavour to improve the safety of the Underhill parapets. The Council will contact Wealden Councillor, Peter Roundell, for advice. JL will contact Laura Stevens-Smith for an update before the next MCG meeting on 20th November.

ACTION: JL

**7. FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

**Remembrance Weekend**

Angie Welton will liaise with JS to allocate 10 soldiers for work around the village (see above). Members of the Footpaths Group will also be helping.

It was agreed that MCG will have a table during the relay race to promote the organisation and to encourage the runners. A rota for manning the table will be necessary. Balloons, leaflets to promote the church fundraising initiative, MCG membership forms, a bucket for donations, rubbish bags, plus small bottles of water for the participants will be needed.

JL will contact Angie Welton for further details about the weekend so that plans can be finalised.

**ACTION: JL**

**Xmas Tree**

JS will speak to Mr and Mrs Cox.

JL has received an email from Pat Palmer with details of the person who sold us a tree last year.

The Church will not be involved in the lighting event this year. There will be a Nativity Story with refreshments in the church building and a meal at the Chequers at 6pm.

**Quiz - March 12th 2022** (confirmed by JL email 26 October)

Pat Palmer will be compere. IS will organise the questions and book the Village Hall.

ACTION: IS

**Village Clean Up – April 2022**

This will be organised to tie in with the national Keep Britain Tidy campaign. JL said that as few people turned up on Sunday morning, Saturday will be promoted as the main day, but participants would be able to choose whether they do Friday, Saturday or Sunday.

The recent Village Clean Up resulted in 18 bags being taken to the tip. SS has sent an email of thanks to the volunteers who came forward to help over the weekend. It was disappointing, though, that the Recreation Ground was once again littered shortly afterwards. JR has spoken to the Recreation Ground committee and they are securing the bins to the ground and providing a boot scraper.

**AGM 2022­**

A date of 11th May was proposed and JL will book the Village Hall as well as put the date in the newsletter.

ACTION: JL

NB: Date now confirmed as 3rd May by JL email of 26 October)

**Summer Supper – 2nd July**

JL will check the dates of the village fetes in Fairwarp and Nutley to make sure there is no clash.

**8. BENCHES FOR BONNERS**

The Committee is willing to make a contribution towards the purchase of the School’s preferred option of rainbow coloured plastic benches (£355 + VAT each) and will offer to help assemble them. The MCG logo will be added to any bench purchased. In return the MCG would like the opportunity to promote family membership to parents. JL and JR are to approach the headmistress

Action: JL/JR

**9. WINTER NEWSLETTER – JL/JR**

The Committee approved a re-designed newsletter in the form of a 3-fold leaflet which can fit into a DL envelope for mailshots. It will also have the advantage of fitting Point of Sale displays. The Christmas edition will feature a Christmas design on the front and contain a message from the Chair, a calendar of events, information on membership and an application form on the back. Elements from the logo will be used to explain the various roles of the MCG.

It was suggested that merchandising information be included as well.

ACTION: JR/AC

JL thanked JR and AC for their hard work.

**10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

* **Merchandising**

There are A5 cards, postcards and tea towels available in the Post Office but are not easy to spot. It was suggested that the MCG logo be added to future printings. Also, the Chequers may be persuaded to display merchandise.

ACTION: AC/JR

* **Village Fete – JR**

Gillian Bullock has offered to organise the fete next year – date 12th or 19th June. It was felt MCG would support a working group but not accept her invitation to join the fete committee.

JL is to ask Ann Thompson if she is able to run a plant stall.

ACTION: JL

The condition of the marquees is in doubt. BM, JS and IS will inspect and clean them, if still serviceable, but responsibility for erecting them should pass to the fete committee. In the meantime BM will investigate the cost of hiring marquees from the Scouts.

ACTION: BM/JS/IS

MCG is holding £1,900 fete money.

JL will email Gillian the result of our discussions.

ACTION: JL

* **Ugandan Refugee Exhibition – JL**

JL has had a preliminary meeting with Angie Welton, Carol Jeffree and the Ugandan lady via Zoom and a further meeting will take place at the beginning of November. The exhibition is planned sometime between July and September and will chiefly involve the Church and the Historical Society. MCG may get involved at a later stage.

* **Planning Applications - IS**

The planning application for the fence on School Hill was rejected. He expressed disappointment that so few objections had been received despite the email to members.

IS raised his concern at the number of large scale developments being proposed for the village and said that the Council is now in discussion to develop the field next to the Recreation Ground. This is in addition to the development at Wellington Gate. BM suggested requesting an ecological survey.

It was agreed that the MCG should become more active as this is in line with one of the founding principles of the MCG. IS will request to join the Parish Council’s planning list and BM will contact Wealden Council to join theirs. This will allow SS to circulate information and planning links to the membership.

ACTION: IS/BM

**DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS :**  17th November and 15th December.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.