

MARESFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

REPRESENTING THE VILLAGES OF MARESFIELD, NUTLEY AND FAIRWARP

Draft Minutes of the Maresfield Parish Council Meeting held at Fairwarp Village Hall on Tuesday 21st July 2026 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Mr M. Craddock (Chair), Cllr Mrs. L. Reeves (Vice Chair), Cllr Mrs. S. Cumming, Cllr Dr. P. Handley, Cllr Mr. R. Hunter, Cllr Mr. A. Koeppen, Cllr Mr. T. Lewin, Cllr Mr. J. Polhill, CCllr Mrs. C. Coleman and Mrs. N. O'Hanlon (Clerk)

A. Public session. None

4484. To approve apologies for absence and to note other non-attendance.

Apologies were received from: Cllr Mr. H. Rai, Cllr Dr. B. Smith, Cllr Mrs. L. Stevens-Smith, Cllr Mr. P. Taylor and DCllr Mr. I. Tysh.

4485. Declarations of Interest. None.

4486. To receive written requests for new DPI dispensations . None.

4487. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 16th June 2026: -

1. For adoption. The minutes as circulated with the meeting papers were **Agreed** to be a true and accurate record with the exception of the venue which was incorrectly noted. The Chairman proposed Adoption once the venue was corrected; this was seconded and **Agreed** unanimously.
2. Matters arising from these minutes not elsewhere on the agenda. None.

4488. Reports by and questions to: -

1. County Councillors. CCllr Coleman submitted a report which had been circulated with the meeting papers and also updated Councillors as follows:

East Sussex Highways advised that, due to financial pressures at East Sussex County Council, highways maintenance is being managed on a risk-based approach. Opportunities are being explored to increase community resilience through volunteer schemes to support minor maintenance activities where appropriate.

An update was provided on Local Government Reorganisation. The Government has accepted a modified One East Sussex proposal for the new unitary authority, with elections to a shadow authority anticipated in May 2027 and vesting day proposed for 1 April 2028. It was noted that discussions regarding a potential judicial review are ongoing.

Concerns have been raised regarding water stress in Wealden, including recent water outages and the introduction of a hosepipe ban. It was noted that Wealden District Council has written to Government highlighting the need for housing targets to better reflect water supply constraints and for greater investment in water infrastructure.

Councillors were informed of the Ashdown Forest 'Big One Hundred' celebrations, marking the centenary of Winnie-the-Pooh and the Hundred Acre Wood.

An update was provided on national planning reforms and the anticipated publication of a revised National Planning Policy Framework.

In Nutley, site visits with Highways officers are scheduled for 11 August to consider parking issues at Bell Lane and road safety measures at Nursery Lane. It was suggested that Clockhouse Lane and Nether Lane, at their junctions with the A22 are also looked at during the visit as ill advised parking makes visibility limited at times.

The consultation has opened, into the proposal to reduce the speed limit on the A22 at Horney Common, Maresfield. Correspondence from East Sussex Highways indicates that the proposed reduction is from 60mph to 50mph between the existing 40mph limit at Nutley and a point south-east of Old Forge Lane. Councillors unanimously expressed the view that the speed limit should be reduced to 40mph and requested that the CCllr Coleman press this point with East Sussex Highways during the consultation process.

2. District Councillors. DCllr Tysh gave apologies for not being present. The report he submitted last month, which was circulated with the June meeting papers, covered June and July.

4489. Parish Wards – issues, needs and Councillors' reports: -

1. Fairwarp Ward. It was noted that there was a serious water main leak outside the Village Hall which took the water company 4 weeks to repair. In a time of drought this is very disappointing.
2. Maresfield Ward. Speeding along the Straight Half Mile continues to be very bothersome and it appears that HGV's are regularly routing through Maresfield and down School Hill rather than using the bypass. **Action:** Clerk to contact Steve O'Connell to see what can be done about these issues.

It was reported that when you turn off Straight Half Mile, to access Underhill and Nursery Lane, the signs are often obscured making it hard for drivers to know which way to go at the T junction. **Action:** Clerk to bring this to the attention of ES Highways.

3. Nutley Ward. There have also been water leaks in Nutley that the water company have been slow to repair. It was reported that the Nutley fete was a success with a lot of hard work going into organising it. However visitor numbers were down on last year probably because of the very hot weather coupled with heavy rain in the afternoon.

4490. Council bodies - To receive minutes and decisions, followed by reports from Chairmen and any questions: -

1. Finance & Administration Committee

- i. To review Month 3 2026/27 accounts. Noted.
- ii. To Approve CIL Monitoring Report 2025/26. The completed CIL monitoring report, as circulated with the meeting papers, was considered to be an accurate record of CIL expenditure during the 2025/26 financial year. It was **Agreed** unanimously that the Clerk submit it to WDC.
- iii. To consider and resolve, in principle, that MPC wishes to acquire the freehold of Parklands Play Area and to authorise the submission of an Expression of Interest to Wealden District Council under its Community Asset Disposal Framework.

Parklands Play Area, has been leased by Maresfield PC from Wealden DC for over 20 years. During that time it has been completely refurbished and the maintenance and repairs have been managed and paid for by the Parish Council. It is a very valuable community asset and therefore the Chair proposed that the Parish Council formerly Expresses an Interest to Wealden DC to acquire this asset under its Community Asset Disposal Framework.

This was seconded and **Agreed** unanimously. **Action:** Clerk to submit formal expression of interest and associated business plan to Wealden DC.

- iv. Update from Chairman. None.

2. Planning Committee.

- i. Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 13th July 2026. Noted.
- ii. To note – Proposed development of Oakwood Park Polo Club, to include a David Lloyd Club and an Aldi supermarket. This was noted and Councillors were advised that representatives of the David Lloyd Club will attend the Planning Meeting on the 14th September 2026 to present their proposals and answer questions.
- iii. Update from Chairman. None.

3. Environment Committee.

- i. Draft minutes of the meeting held on 9th June 2026. Noted.
- ii. Approve purchase and installation of additional noticeboard at Fairwarp.

It was proposed to purchase and install an additional noticeboard at Fairwarp for use by the church thus enabling the Parish Council to make full use of all three panels of the existing noticeboard and provide much-needed additional display space.

The proposal, recommended by the Environment Committee and supported by all necessary permissions, was seconded and **Approved** unanimously.

- iii. Update from Chairman. None.

4. Maresfield Recreation Ground Committee.

- i. Update from Chairman. None.

4491. Outside bodies matters. None.

4492. To receive a report from, and put questions to, the Chairman. None.

4493. To receive a report from, and put questions to, the Clerk. None.

4494. Matters arising from the meeting for public communication. Advise the public that representatives of the David Lloyd Club will be presenting the proposals for the development of the Oakwood Park Polo Ground at the Parish Council's Planning Committee meeting on 14th September 2026.

4495. Date of next meeting – 15th September 2026 (Nutley [TBC]).

The Parish Council Meeting will close and reconvene as Trustee of Maresfield Recreation Ground

IN VIEW OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF SOME ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA, THE PRESS AND PUBLIC MAY BE EXCLUDED UNDER THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

Matters relating to Council as Trustee of Maresfield Recreation Ground (MRG).

- 1. To note – April Skies re-appointed as auditor of MRG accounts for 2025/26.** Noted.
- 2. Update on MRG parking scheme.**
 - i. To note – Additional posts to be installed between new access track and the recreation ground to prevent vehicles accessing the playing fields.
Cost for purchase and installation of 22 additional posts as per the existing ones plus 1 removable post for emergency access will be £1800 + Vat. Noted.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm