Newsletter from Maresfield Parish Council

October 2026

As I write this Newsletter each month I think it tends to be repetitive – repeating that we still need some parishioners to step forward to serve on the Parish Council; repeating that dog waste remains a real problem in the Parish (especially on Maresfield Recreation Ground and our other public open spaces – please pick it up and put in the bin or take it home); repeating that property owners bordering a foot path must keep their hedges etc trimmed back; and repeating that we carry out successful Speedwatch activity but still need more volunteers. I make no apologies for this repetition!

Your Parish Council

Our Parish encompasses the three quite distinct villages of Fairwarp, Maresfield and Nutley. We are entitled to have fourteen Parish Councillors but currently our complement is twelve and so we would welcome volunteers for co-option. The Council meets ten times a year with committee meetings mostly quarterly except for the planning committee which meets every three weeks. Should you be interested the Parish Clerk and I would welcome an initial discussion.

Your Council Tax

The Parish Council sets a budget each year and this expenditure becomes the Parish Precept part of your annual Council Tax Bill. The budget setting process for next year starts at the October 6th meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee in the Parish Office at 7.30pm. The meeting will start with an allocated time for members of the public to raise issues and ask questions. It would help if you would let the Parish Clerk (714555) know if you are attending.

The Uckfield Leisure Centre

The Leisure Centre is an essential community resource much valued by many of our parishioners. However it is often over crowded and is in need of significant refurbishment and expansion. Currently three bodies have responsibility – East Sussex County Council as freeholder, Wealden District Council as Leaseholder and Freedom Leisure as the operator. Presumably the new Unitary Authority, when formed, will inherit the freehold with the lease cancelled on the demise of Wealden District Council. Only then is any meaningful investment likely to be considered. A compelling briefing document has been assembled to support a new campaign to make improvements and this can be viewed on the Parish Council's website.

To keep up to date about local matters the internet and social media are invaluable resources. Useful links are:
https://my.wealden.gov.uk/ http://www.maresfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk/
http://www.uckfieldtc.gov.uk/ https://www.ashdownforest.org/ https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/

And you can also follow us on Facebook.

Martin Craddock – Chairman Maresfield Parish Council