

BARCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Barcombe Parish Council held at the Sports Pavilion, Barcombe on Tuesday 16th September 2008 at 7.30 p.m.

849. Present: Councillors A J MacGillivray, M J Austen, J C Cornwell, J O Cornwell, C M Arbenz, N C Lear, D J Lloyd, R Hepple, D Skan and R A Williams.
Also in attendance were District Councillor D. Mitchell and PCSO Sally-Ann Reed

850. To receive apologies for absence: Received from Cllr N Gant and County Councillor R St. Pierre

851. Confirmation and signature of the last Minutes of the Council: The Minutes of the Meetings of the Council held on Tuesday 22nd and 30th July 2008 as recorded by minutes 760 to 776 and 777 to 780 respectively having previously been circulated were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

852. Declarations of Interest: The following were declared - Cllr J O Cornwell and J C Cornwell prejudicial interests re items 857(i)(b) and 857(ii)(c) and 857(iii)(d); Cllr N C Lear prejudicial interest re 857(iii)(c); and Cllrs D Skan and R Hepple personal interests re 857(iii)(d)

853. Urgent Business Pursuant to Standing Order No.16: There was none

854. Public Question Time: The new PCSO introduced herself to the meeting. She has been training for a year in Hailsham but believes she will now be firmly based in Lewes and deployed to cover Barcombe, Hamsey and Newick for the foreseeable future. Unfortunately she can only drive automatic cars but hopes to be qualified to drive police vehicles within six months. Her collar number is 25874. She is Lewes born and bred, and will go on a parish familiarisation tour with Cllr Lloyd in the near future.

District Councillor D Mitchell reported (i) that the amenity area in the village car park would be planted out in the autumn and Mrs Lamont had kindly agreed to maintain the area; (ii) The maintenance of Oak Tree twitten was an ESCC matter and County councillor R St.Pierre has indicated this may be a task for the “two men and a van” scheme. Cllr D J Lloyd expressed his dismay that such a simple matter had taken so long to resolve. (iii) The District council is deliberating whether it should have a mayor, who cannot be removed, or a leader of the council, who can. (iv) in response to a question from Cllr D J Lloyd, District Cllr Mitchell agreed to find out when the car park at the Mongers Green flats would be started

855. Questions from Councillors: None

856. Report from Chairman: This is attached as Appendix 1. With regard to the Annual Town/Parish Council Conference the date was now confirmed as 23rd October and attending would be the Clerk and Cllrs Skan and Lear with Cllrs MacGillivray and J O Cornwell attending through other avenues.

857. Reports of Committees:

(i) Transport and Highways: After being proposed by Cllr J C Cornwell, seconded by Cllr D J Lloyd, the Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd September 2008 as recorded by minutes 787 to 797 were adopted.

Matters arising (a) Parking - County Cllr R St.Pierre has advised the Clerk that ESCC has noted all the comments from the public consultation and is considering its position.**(b) Lewes/Uckfield Rail Link** – It was agreed that a submission setting out the views of the parish council prepared by Cllr MacGillivray and Cllr Lear should be sent to ESCC and the CRCB; the views of Isfield and Hamsey Parish Councils supporting the non re-opening of the line but expressing concerns that a “once and for all” decision had not been made and other objections were noted – full copies held on file **(c) bus services** – see Chairman’s Report

(ii) Recreation Ground: After being proposed by Cllr D J Lloyd, seconded by Cllr M J Austen, the Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd September 2008 as recorded by minutes 798 to 812 were adopted.

Matters arising (a) playground hedge – it was agreed that the hedge should be cut back to a height of approximately 8 feet at a cost of about £250 and that Cllr D J Lloyd would advise Mr. D Blackford that the work was to take place. **(b) public toilets** – it was agreed that the exploration of refurbishment options should be pursued as per the Committee’s recommendations (minute 809) **(c) vision for the future** – the proposals put forward by the Committee (minute 805) were agreed

(iii) Planning and Community Services:

After being proposed by Cllr N C Lear, seconded by Cllr D Skan, the minutes of the Meeting held on 4th September 2008 as recorded by minutes 823 to 834 were adopted. After being proposed by Cllr N C Lear, seconded by Cllr D Skan, the minutes of the Planning Application Sub Committees held on 5th August and 4th September 2008 as recorded by minutes 781 to 786 and 816 to 822 respectively were adopted

Matters arising:

(a) flooding – Cllr MacGillivray reported that this matter had been discussed at RVRC on 15th September. It was agreed that, in a further attempt to generate some positive actions, the Clerk should write to Sussex Police Divisional Commander N Carron, East Sussex Highways Director R Clubb and the Environment Agency to seek a joint meeting to devise effective solutions to a problem that won’t simply disappear.

(b) PCSO and neighbourhood watch – (minute 830) The Clerk has written to Newick and Hamsey parishes as required and a sympathetic response from Hamsey Parish Council has been received, but they suggest waiting until November to see how the new PCSO settles in. This was agreed. **(c) affordable housing** – Cllr

MacGillivray reported the land purchase and access issues were progressing satisfactorily and that Hastoe were seeking tenders for construction from five contractors. Lewes DC were finalising the Section 106 agreement which would include the priority allocation for those with Barcombe connections. If there were insufficient demand then cascade protocols would be established. Cllr MacGillivray suggested that, subject to review by councillors, the rules established for the Side Hills development would be appropriate. **(d) new village hall – planning application and update** – it was agreed to apply on behalf of new village hall committee for amended planning consent which would save half the application fee **(e) Barcombe school development plans** – the parish council welcomed an approach from the governors to present their development plans to the parish council before a planning

application was submitted. The Clerk was asked to invite their representatives to a special meeting of the full parish council on Tuesday 30th September. **(f) GOSE** - Cllr MacGillivray reported there were no items requiring comment in the amended Draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East

(iv) Finance and General Purposes: After being proposed by Cllr D J Lloyd, seconded by Cllr R Hepple, the minutes of the Meeting held on 4th September 2008 as recorded by Minutes 835 to 842 were adopted.

858. Parish Plan: Cllr MacGillivray reported he had met with Cllr N Gant to discuss a possible way forward linking Cllr Gant's sustainability expertise with the RVRC Sustainability Small Parishes Check List described in the Chairman's Report. The absence of a parish plan might disadvantage Barcombe going forward and the proposal was that, before the next full parish council meeting, a core group of residents representing groups like the school, the church, the WI, the play group and the parish council initially meet to plot a way forward. Other groups that showed an interest could join as the project gathered momentum. The AirS concept of the 21st Century Village would be an important model to follow. This proposal was well received and agreed as the way forward

859. Administration and Accounts for Payment:

Mrs S Hepple – caretaking services -1st June to 30th September 2008 - £367.25
Appreciation was expressed for the way the Hepples had prepared the pavilion at very short notice for the September meeting of RVRC. No charge had been made for the use of the pavilion for this meeting

860. Correspondence:

Charlton Athletic Football Club – an offer to parish and town councils was noted
SEERA – A partial review of the South East Plan to take account of the needs of gypsies and travellers is being undertaken. Consultation responses are required by 21st November. It was agreed Cllr Lear will review the papers and report to the next meeting of Planning and Community Services Committee.

Lewes DC – a letter and brochures concerning “Fume Free Friday” 19th September were noted

AirS – an assessment of parish clerk workloads, particularly consultation papers, is being undertaken in October

861. Outstanding Action Points: These were covered in the agenda.

862. Date time and place of next meeting: The Chairman announced the next meeting will be held on Tuesday 18th November 2008 at 7.30 p.m. in the Sports Pavilion, Barcombe

863. Close of Meeting: There being no further business to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15 p.m.

Appendix 1 - CHAIRMAN'S REPORT SEPTEMBER 2008

Bus and Community Transport Review. At the T&HC on 2 September it was reported that ESCC had commissioned consultants to carry out the above review in the county. At the same time, the July RVRC meeting had been given details of an AirS project concerning a Demand Responsive Transport System (DRTS). T&HC raised the question as to the liaison, if any, between these two initiatives. I have now been able to discuss the matter with Teresa Gittins, Head of Strategy & Communications, AirS, who confirms that AirS responded during the first round of consultations by the ESCC consultants. AirS is particularly concerned that should financial restrictions cause ESCC to withdraw subsidises for rural bus services (e.g. the Barcombe Bus), then the community transport system should not be expected to provide readily available alternatives unless appropriate infrastructure is already in place. As the ESCC bus subsidies are drawn from numerous departments, there is a view that the resulting administration costs may be unwarranted at this time. AirS has put forward their DRTS scheme as a future means of organising transport in the County, i.e. bus, social services vehicles, taxi and voluntary car schemes. DRTS would provide a centrally located office, which would act as a one-stop information point for transport users in the county with a booking facility capable of providing rapid response transport services “on demand” from intending passengers. Two of the main objectives of the ESCC Review are to produce a draft Bus Strategy and a Community Transport Strategy. Once the Bus Strategy has been prepared parish councils will be amongst those to be consulted.

Annual Town/Parish Council Conference, Plumpton College, October 2008.

Arrangements are presently being made for this conference by Lewes DC (the sponsor/host), SALC and our Lewes District Association (LDALC). Intentions to date are for the morning session to consist of presentations by DC officers based on issues identified larger through LDALC (retrospective planning applications, agricultural development rights, Sustainable Communities Act, devolution of functions to T/PCs). Separate afternoon sessions are being planned for parish and town councils. SALC, LDALC and AirS have been discussing a format for the PC session (clustering, LEADER, RASP (Rural Access to Services Programme), Small Parishes Sustainability Project have been suggested). Invitations should be issued soon by LDC - *two representatives per council*. Date now confirmed as 23 October.

Statement of Understanding : LDALC/RVRC. This Statement along with a copy of the LDALC Constitution has been recently circulated to PCs seeking approval and/or comment. Examples of the different working areas of the two groups were seen during their July round of meetings. Amongst other items RVRC received a report from its Sustainability Sub-Group on a pilot scheme to promote sustainability issues in small parishes, i.e. community strategy/development. LDALC, on the other hand, considered new government initiatives (Community Empowerment Bill etc.), i.e. local government matters.

RVRC Sustainability Sub-Group: Small Parishes Sustainability Check List. The proposal is to identify several small parishes interested in taking part in this project to test out a sustainability check list and identify local issues based on an updated AirS 21st. Century Village concept. East Chiltington, Rodmell, Plumpton and Barcombe have been suggested. *Could this be a route to our Action Plan ?*

AJMacG

