

BARCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Barcombe Parish Council held at the Sports Pavilion, Barcombe on Tuesday 18th September 2007 at 7.30 p.m.

280. Present: Councillors A J MacGillivray, C M Arbenz, R Hepple, N C Lear, D J Lloyd, J C Cornwell and R A Williams.

Also present was District Councillor D Mitchell..

281. Apologies for Absence: Apologies were received from Cllrs D Skan, J O Cornwell, N Gant and M Austen and from County Cllr R StPierre

282. Confirmation and signature of the Minutes of the Meetings held on 24th July 2007: The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 24th July 2007 as recorded by minutes 190 to 203 having previously been circulated were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman

283. Declarations of Interest: The Chairman asked that interests be declared as the relevant item was discussed as he felt this would be a useful training exercise to emphasise to councillors the practical interpretation of the Code of Conduct. Consequently Cllr Hepple declared a prejudicial interest in item 288(ii)(a) and Cllrs Lear and J C Cornwell declared prejudicial interests in item 288(iii)(a) and Cllr C M Arbenz a possible personal interest in item 288(iii)(a)

284. Urgent Business pursuant to Standing Order No. 16: there was no urgent business

285. Public Question Time: There were no questions

286. Questions from Councillors:

(i) The question of a Lewes DC sandbag store at Barcombe mills was raised. D Cllr D Mitchell reported the store offered by Cllr J O Cornwell was not available all year and would require building works. About 200 bags would be needed, and Cllr Cornwell be asked if he has any other ideas. DC Mitchell will explore the possibility of using the redundant electricity sub-station.

(ii) Cllr Lloyd asked DC Mitchell if he was aware of any proactive projects being undertaken by Lewes DC for the benefit of Barcombe – DC Mitchell was not aware of anything.

(iii) Following recent Lewes DC planning approval for 3 dwellings in Munster Green, Cllr Lloyd asked DC Mitchell what was happening to the promised additional parking in front of the Munster Green flats given it was 2 years ago that this was promised. DC Mitchell was very surprised it was that long ago and promised to follow up and report back. He was also asked about the delay in enlarging the car park in Deans Meadow and again he promised to follow up straight away.

Mention was made of the garages, largely District Council owned, in Munster Green and Mongers Farm and whether these were being used for parking or storage. DC Mitchell promised to investigate

A discussion took place on the merits of additional ad hoc developments and consequent parking problems (with loss of green space the only current solution available) and the chairman pointed out that even when the parish council objects they can be overruled by the District Council and in one of the developments referred to above the planning inspector had overruled objections from the District Council.

(iv) DC Mitchell announced that local M.P. Norman Baker would be visiting the village at 7.30 p.m. on Friday 21st September to talk about his role. Councillors expressed surprise at the total lack of publicity.

287. The Chairman's Report: The Chairman reported on a meeting of RVRC where Inspector V Johnson had apologised over the lack of police involvement in recent instances of anti-social behaviour. A letter from a new rural specialist, PC James Vitler, promising more support was passed to Cllr D Lloyd.

288. Reports of Committees:

(i) Transport and Highways Committee: After being proposed by Cllr J C Cornwell and seconded by Cllr D J Lloyd, the Minutes of the Meetings held on 4th September 2007 as recorded by minutes 211 to 221 were adopted.

Matters arising:

a) SID – this has been booked for w/c 24th September for use on the Barcombe Mills Road

b) The Clerk brought displays from ESCC on new parking arrangements. On inspection these were different to previously displayed plans and the interpretative key was unclear. The Clerk was asked to go back to ESCC to seek clarification before the display went on the notice board.

c) The Chairman asked the Committee to remember they had been tasked with investigating the Bluebird community transport and its possible relevance to Barcombe. The Ouse Valley parishes have also applied for funding for a taxi scheme where users would pay 25% of the fare and the funding pool the remainder.

d) publicity arrangements for the youth shelter were in hand

(ii) Recreation Ground Committee: After being proposed by Cllr D J Lloyd, seconded by Cllr N Lear, the Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th September 2007 as recorded by Minutes 222 to 235 were adopted.

Matters arising:

a) caretaker(minute 226(iii)): Cllr Lloyd advised the meeting that he would discuss the new arrangements with the Chairman

b) sports pavilion(minute 230): Cllr Hepple reported he had identified a carpenter prepared to quote for the kitchen work

c) recreation ground strategy(minute 227(i)): Cllr Lloyd reported on a change of strategy for recreation ground funding whereby Cllr Gant was researching funding opportunities taking a holistic view of the whole facility, including allotment extensions, playing field improvements and playground refurbishments. This would involve grant funding of approx £100,000. The Clerk expressed some concerns over the use of council's reserves for pavilion improvements as the Awards for All grant of £10,000 had been obtained on the basis that a significant part of the Council's reserves would be used for playground improvements and they could only be used once. Would the A4A grant have been made available if reserves were not being committed to the playground; and would A4A demand their money back?

On the proposal of Cllr MacGillivray, seconded by Cllr N Lear, it was agreed to use the £10,000 grant from Awards For All plus up to £7,000 from Council reserves and a further £2,000 from revenue surplus to replace the playground fencing and use the balance for replacement equipment

(iii) Planning and Community Services Committee and Planning Applications Sub-Committee: After being proposed by Cllr C M Arbenz, seconded by Cllr N C Lear, the Minutes of the Planning Applications Sub-committee Meetings held on 24th July, 7th August and 6th September 2007 as recorded by Minutes 183 to 189, 204 to 210 and 236 to 242 respectively were approved.

After being proposed by Cllr N Lear, seconded by Cllr R Hepple, the Minutes of the Planning and Community Services Committee held on 6th September 2007 as recorded by

Matters arising:

a) affordable housing(minute 250): 2 reports and e mails giving the up to date position of the project had been circulated in advance had been noted by PCS Committee. Cllr MacGillivray referred to a meeting of the project group earlier that morning. The Clerk will circulate meeting notes as a confidential item in due course. In essence, however, the Willows site was the only one available as an exception site and confidential draft plans were shown to councillors. These were well received although Cllr J C Cornwell wondered if a children's play area could be provided. The hope is that planning approval will be given by February 2008 and the site made available to Hastoe Housing's contractor by March 2008. These timings will allow the non site specific funding from the Housing Corporation to be used for the development. A further public consultation on the specifics of the development will be held in October. This is currently planned for Saturday 20th October, but may be shifted to the late afternoon/evening of 24th or 25th October if the village hall is available. A publicity poster will be prepared. Cllrs Lear and JC Cornwell left the meeting having declared prejudicial interests and the remaining councillors agreed, on the proposal of Cllr A MacGillivray, seconded by Cllr R Williams, to endorse the actions taken to date and their satisfaction with the development proposals.

b) policing issues(minute 251): the clerk confirmed an article had been placed in Barcombe News asking for villagers to report all crime to the police authorities

c) health service issues(minute 254): A summary of the consultation report regarding hospital services in West Sussex, including the Princess Royal had been prepared by Cllr Lear and is attached as appendix 1 to these minutes. The consultation process ends in November and whilst there is a mention of the process and consultation events in the October Barcombe News it was agreed Cllr Lear would edit his report for inclusion in the November issue. Cllr Lear will also prepare a formal response to the consultation on behalf of the parish council.

d) GOSE report (minute 256): Cllr MacGillivray reported that in the report to government on the Draft SE Plan the Public Enquiry Inspectors had recommended no change in the housing allocation proposed for Lewes District.

(iv) Finance and General Purposes Committee: After being proposed by Cllr R Hepple, seconded by Cllr C M Arbenz, the Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th September 2007 as recorded by minutes 259 to 273 were approved.

Matters arising:

a) Princess Royal "fighting fund" (minute 271): After discussion it was agreed not to make a donation toward the fighting fund.

b) bank mandate: It was agreed a new mandate for the Parish Council's bank accounts should be completed – the clerk plus any 2 councillors from either Cllrs A J MacGillivray, D J Lloyd, R Hepple and N C Lear (who comprise the active members of the Finance and General Purposes Committee) are authorised to sign cheques and payment instructions.

289. Correspondence:

- (i)** The clerk reported on a telephone call from County Cllr R StPierre advising of a sewage leak into the Bevern Stream. This had now been fixed but a considerable mess remains. It is possible the Environment Agency will take legal action against Sthn Water
- (ii)** A report from Cllr J O Cornwell on a meeting of the Planning Services User Group has been received and will be circulated by the Clerk

(iii) Lewes District Association of Town and Parish Councils will be held at Plumpton College on 23rd October, 9.25 a.m. to 3.15 p.m. Items on the agenda include the LDF and affordable housing. The conference will be followed by the Association's AGM. Cllrs MacGillivray and Lear will attend as the Clerk is unavailable.

290. Accounts for payment: The following payments were approved
£367.35 – D Ridley – caretaking services 1/7/07 to 30/9/07
£417.13 – Barcombe Landscapes – first half year maintenance contract

291. Outstanding action points: These will be updated by the clerk and circulated

292. Date, time and place of next meeting: Next meeting will be held on Tuesday 20th November 2007 at 7.30 p.m. in the Sports Pavilion, Barcombe.

293. Close of meeting: there being no further business to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.20 p.m.

Appendix 1 to minutes of Barcombe Parish Council dated 18th September 2007

Report to Barcombe Parish Council of a meeting in Lewes on 13th September 2007 about proposals for reorganising West Sussex hospitals including the Princess Royal at Haywards Heath

1. The panel consisted of a chairwoman and:
 - a. West Sussex Primary Care Trust – John Wilderspin, chief executive and Dr Andrew Foulkes, a member of its board. This is the body that commissions
 - b. Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals Trust – Duncan Selbie, chief executive and Matthew Fletcher, Medical Director
 - c. East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT – Nick Yeo, chief executive
 - d. MP – Norman Baker
 - e. Campaign to save Princess Royal Hospital – Dr Herry Ashby
 - f. South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Trust – Sean Mitchell, head of professional standards
2. Three options were expounded:
 - a. Option A
 - i. Worthing major general hospital
 - ii. St Richard's Chichester – local general hospital
 - iii. Princess Royal – community hospital
 - b. Option B
 - i. St Richard's – major general hospital
 - ii. Worthing and Princess Royal – local general hospitals
 - c. Option C
 - i. St Richard's – major general hospital
 - ii. Worthing – local general hospital
 - iii. Princess Royal – community hospital

The proposals did not mention the Royal Sussex County Hospital in Brighton at all.

- d. Definitions:
 - i. Major General Hospital = Acute medicine, A & E, inpatient children's services, emergency surgery and consultant-led hospital births

- ii. Local General Hospital = Urgent care centre, surgical beds and surgery day cases, a range of diagnostics, outpatient clinics and rehabilitation and beds for those with some medical conditions
 - iii. Community Hospital = Minor injuries unit, some diagnostics, community and rehabilitation beds and a team to support people to live independently (like Victoria Hospital at Lewes now)
 - iv. District General Hospital = what we have now in Haywards Heath, Worthing and Chichester
3. Mr Wilderspin and Dr Foulkes outlined the three options and told us why there was no option to do nothing.
 4. All but one of the questions/rants from the floor were slanted against the proposals, including several from health professionals. About a fifth of the two hours was taken up with useful questions and answers. Many who wished to do so were not called to speak. It emerged that:
 - a. Dr Ashby: One in six of the patients using the Princess Royal comes from East Sussex
 - b. John Wilderspin: 70% of routine surgery is local [no one told us what “local” means]
 - c. John Wilderspin: They would put in place new services (bringing services to the community) before making other changes
 - d. Matthew Fletcher: The proposals were evolutionary – nothing yet decided
 - e. Dr Ashby had made contact with forty practices in mid-Sussex and not one GP was in favour of downgrading the Princess Royal
 - f. Dr Ashby wanted to see the Princess Royal maintained as a “Local Acute Hospital” [as now]
 - g. John W: We are keen to look at other options
 - h. Matthew Fletcher/Duncan Selbie: The County hospital and Princess Royal are interdependent; they are one hospital. It has a very good record.
 5. I had a chat with Dr Ashby afterwards. He seems hopeful that some kind of compromise might be possible. He is very actively marshalling opposition to the downgrading of the Princess Royal
 6. More information may be had at www.southeastcoastfff.nhs.uk/ where one can also record comments.

Nick Lear, 14th September 2007