

## BARCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

### **Minutes of a Meeting of Barcombe Parish Council held at the Sports Pavilion, Barcombe on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2008 at 7.30 p.m.**

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**1011. Present:** Councillors A J MacGillivray, C M Arbenz, M J Austen, J C Cornwell, J O Cornwell, N Gant, N C Lear, D J Lloyd, R Hepple and R A Williams.

Also in attendance were County Councillor R St. Pierre and Mr C Hughes and Chris Morris and Katya Bowen, Lewes DC Conservation Officers

**1012. To receive apologies for absence:** Received from Cllr D Skan, District Councillor D Mitchell, PCSO S-A Read and D Prior.

**1013. Conservation Area (CA) Plans:** Minute 909 set out the concerns of the parish council and Chris Morris and Katya Bowen, Conservation Officers from Lewes District Council, attended the meeting to explain the Plans. In summary:

- Although the two Barcombe conservation Areas are different places with different characteristics, Lewes DC recognises that Barcombe is a single community and will adjust the Plans to reflect this.
- The extension of CA to include the church car park and adjacent field was to ensure control was possible over any future development plans for outbuildings etc. The extension was being opposed by the church and no decision has yet been made.
- Little comment from local residents had been received on the plans. It was accepted there would be mixed views on the removal of permitted development rights.
- Concern was expressed over the width and shade of the yellow lines recently painted by East Sussex County Council Highways and this would be followed up by the officers.
- Some properties had been excluded from the CA when inclusion might have appeared more logical, namely: Berewood House, Church Road (senior officers felt the railway bridge formed a better natural boundary); Mongers Farm cottages (already protected as they are listed buildings); and Croft Ham (not of sufficient age to be appropriate).

It was agreed Cllr N C Lear would comment on the Plan on behalf of the parish council and pass these to Mr Morris in advance of the consultation deadline of 30<sup>th</sup> January 2009.

**1014. Confirmation and signature of the last Minutes of the Council:** The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2008 as recorded by minutes 931 to 947 having previously been circulated were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**1015. Declarations of Interest:** Cllr N C Lear declared a prejudicial interest over minute 1024(ii).

**1016. Urgent Business Pursuant to Standing Order No.16:** There was no urgent business.

**1017. Public Question Time:** An issue over paving sets at the new Lewes DC car park at Munster Green has been raised with District Councillor David Mitchell but the problem appears minor and will be covered in final snagging checks.

County Councillor R St.Pierre reported work has started on implementing the Draft Order. It was agreed comments and suggestions should be compiled by Transport and Highways Committee for consideration at its meeting in March and comments submitted in time to meet the ESCC deadline.

She also expressed some concerns over uneven footpaths and road surface ruts in The Grange which is a private road. She will ask ESCC if they can do anything at the entrance to the road but other work is likely to be a matter for residents. The Clerk has been asked to check the legal documents relating to the Recreation Ground regarding any commitment on the parish council to contribute to the upkeep of the road.

Concern was expressed over speeding issues on Deadmantree Hill to the Rainbow; Spithurst Road; Hamsey Road; Barcombe Mills Road. Despite promises, the PCSO has not arranged for the speed camera to be used and the Clerk was asked to advise County Councillor R St.Pierre of these roads of concern. The clerk reported on the detail he had received from ESCC on the "Strengthening Local Relationships" programme. This involves formal liaison meeting between parish councillors, the clerk, officers and potentially our County Councillor. Although these have been arranged in the past on an informal basis, the beauty of this initiative is its formality which should make it harder for agreed work request to be ignored or forgotten.

County Councillor R St.Pierre had attended meetings in Ringmer and said it worked well.

County Councillor R St.Pierre reported that there might be funding available for cycle ways in rural areas and her preference would be a link from the Rainbow to South Chailey to help travel to school.

**1018. Questions from Councillors:** There were none.

**1019. Report from Chairman:** Cllr A J MacGillivray reported on three issues:

(i) Lewes District Sustainable Communities Strategy – LDALC is meeting on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February to discuss this initiative, which links with the LDF. He would be attending with Cllr J O Cornwell.

(ii) Lewes/Uckfield Rail link – a deputation from the Central Rail Corridor Board are addressing an all party Parliamentary group on this topic on 9<sup>th</sup> February. This meeting is open to the public and minutes will be circulated. At that point the parish council can consider if further action or communication is necessary.

(iii) South Downs National Park Campaign – Pressure group campaigners are petitioning for the inclusion of Lewes in the National Park and the Sussex Express reported that a campaign group were also seeking the inclusion of Offham, Hamsey and Cooksbridge. It was concluded that the intention was merely to seal off the northern boundary on a rough line from Ringmer to Offham and there was unlikely to be any negative impact on Barcombe.

**1020. Reports of Committees:**

**(i) Transport and Highways:** After being proposed by Cllr J C Cornwell, seconded by Cllr R Williams, the Minutes of the Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2009 as recorded by minutes 954 to 965 were adopted.

**Matters arising**

**(a) Parking** – see minute 1017 above.

**(ii) Recreation Ground:** After being proposed by Cllr D J Lloyd, seconded by Cllr C M Arbenz, the Minutes of the Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2009 as recorded by minutes 966 to 977 were adopted.

**(a) grant applications** – a meeting to co-ordinate applications will be held shortly

**(b) pavilion refurbishment** – close monitoring of the pavilion by Cllr and Mrs Hepple and some urgent repair work by Mr A Steadman had prevented major damage in the recent cold snap

**(iii) Planning and Community Services:**

After being proposed by Cllr C M Arbenz, seconded by Cllr N C Lear, the Minutes of the Planning Application Sub Committee held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2008 and 8<sup>th</sup> January 2009 as recorded by Minutes 948 to 953 and 978 to 984 respectively were adopted

After being proposed by Cllr N C Lear, seconded by Cllr M J Austen, the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2009 as recorded by Minutes 985 to 1000 were adopted.

**Matters arising:**

**(a) Barcombe School development and Sports Hall** – At present there was nothing further to report.

**(iv) Finance and General Purposes:** After being proposed by Cllr Hepple, seconded by Cllr A J MacGillivray, the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2009 as recorded by Minutes 1001 to 1010 were adopted.

**(a) Freedom of Information Act** – the new arrangements were endorsed; the clerk reported they were now published on the web site

**1021. Parish Plan** – Cllr A J MacGillivray circulated copies on the notes of the Action Plan Group held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2009. Although this is a village initiative, the parish council is seen as the driving force behind the project. It was therefore agreed that:

(i) parish councillors supported the initiative and were prepared to provide time and help toward the project

(ii) Cllrs N Gant and D J Lloyd will liaise with Hedley Cornwell at Barcombe News to try and link with their distribution network

(iii) Cllr N Gant will get quotes for printing the questionnaires

(iv) a donation will be made to Barcombe News if their resources are used

(v) collection arrangements will be devised by Cllrs N Gant and D J Lloyd.

(vi) a working group of Cllrs N Gant, D J Lloyd and A J MacGillivray plus Mr G Gurman and the Clerk will be established.

(vi) it was agreed to launch the questionnaire at the Annual Parish Meeting and distribute these as soon as possible after the Meeting.

**1022. Annual Report and Annual Parish Meeting 2009:** Chairmen of committees were reminded the deadline for copy to be at Barcombe News is 14<sup>th</sup> March 2009. They were therefore asked to have their reports to the Chairman by 1<sup>st</sup> March 2009 to allow for editing etc.

Currently the Annual Meeting is scheduled for 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2009. However, after a discussion about making the meeting more interesting and encouraging greater attendance it was agreed to consider a different format. Although a formal "meeting" must be held, the idea of holding this in the village hall on a

Saturday morning followed by informal sessions regarding the Action Plan and other relevant topics will be considered by parish councillors. Cllr A J MacGillivray will consider the legal implications with SALC.

**1023. Administration and accounts for Payment:** The following payments were approved:

R Wells - £150 – web site uploads

M Wilson – £104.42 - clerks expenses and administration costs

D Lloyd - £10.91 – pavilion light bulbs

**1024. Correspondence:**

(i)The Clerk had received a request from Mrs Doreen Prior that the parish council write to the Environment Agency confirming that the Barcombe Mills area had been used for recreational purposes for more than 20 years. This would be used to support her claim for damages against the Agency following an accident with a tree. It was agreed the Clerk would draft a simple letter confirming the area had been used by the public for time immemorial. Cllr N C Lear will review the letter before despatch.

(ii)East Sussex County Council – Draft Cycling Strategy – this has been published and the focus is clearly on urban areas. It was agreed that Cllr J C Cornwell will reply on behalf of the parish council to try and ensure the rural parishes are not forgotten.

Lewes DC – Affordable Housing –S106 agreement – a request had been received to seek the parish council’s views on the inclusion of residents of local parishes as qualifying residents. It had previously been agreed that those mentioned in the Side Hills agreement (Chailey, Newick, Plumpton, East Chiltington , Ringmer and Hamsey) were acceptable but it was not felt appropriate to include St John Without.

(iii)Police – crime figures for December had been circulated. It was agreed the Clerk would ask the PCSO to report figures direct to Barcombe News so up to date figures can be published widely.

**1025. Outstanding Action Points:**

**1026. Date time and place of next meeting:** The Chairman announced the next meeting will be held on Tuesday 17th March 2009 at 7.30 p.m. in the Sports Pavilion, Barcombe.

**1027. Close of Meeting:** There being no further business to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30 p.m.