

BARCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Barcombe Parish Council held at the Sports Pavilion, Barcombe on Tuesday 20th May 2008 at 7.30 p.m.

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

644. Election of Chairman: On the proposition of Cllr J O Cornwell, seconded by Cllr D J Lloyd, Cllr A J MacGillivray was elected as Chairman for the coming year and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. Councillors formally recorded their appreciation of the contribution of Cllr MacGillivray to the work of the parish council in the preceding year.

645. To receive apologies for absence: Received from Cllr R Hepple and District Councillor D Mitchell.

646. Election of Vice – Chairman: On the proposition of Cllr N C Lear, seconded by Cllr C M Arbenz, Cllr D J Lloyd was elected as Vice – Chairman for the coming year

647. Confirmation and signature of the last Minutes of the Council: The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 18th March 2008 as recorded by minutes 552 to 569 having previously been circulated were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

648. Declarations of Interest: Cllr N C Lear declared a prejudicial interest in item 660(iii)(c).

649. Appointment of members to standing committees: It was resolved that the following members would serve on the following committees:

Transport and Highways: J C Cornwell, J O Cornwell, N Gant, D Skan and R Williams

Recreation Ground: D J Lloyd, R Hepple, N Gant, C M Arbenz and M J Austen

Planning and Community Services: N C Lear, C M Arbenz, D Skan, R Williams and J O Cornwell

Finance and General Purposes: R Hepple, N C Lear, D J Lloyd and J C Cornwell
It was noted that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman are ex-officio members of all committees

650. Appointment of Representatives to Outside Bodies:

(i) Barcombe Sports Hall Management Committee: It was resolved that Cllrs C M Arbenz, D Skan and J C Cornwell be appointed for the following year

(ii) Barcombe Sports Council: It was resolved that Cllrs D J Lloyd and R Hepple be appointed for the following year

(iii) Lewes District Association of Local Councils: It was resolved that Cllrs A J MacGillivray and J O Cornwell be appointed for the following year

(iv) Rural Voices, Rural Choices: It was resolved that Cllr N C Lear, with Cllr N Gant as deputy, be appointed for the following year.

(v) Barcombe New Village Hall Committee/ Village Hall Management Committee AGM: It was resolved that Cllr A J MacGillivray be appointed for the following year

(vi) Barcombe Mills Society: It was resolved that Cllr N C Lear be appointed for the following year.

651. Authorisation of signatories: It was agreed that the following councillors would be authorised to sign on the Bank accounts with HSBC Bank plc– Cllrs A J MacGillivray, D J Lloyd, R Hepple, N C Lear and J C Cornwell
It was further agreed that any two of the above, plus the clerk, will be required for any transaction or payment to a third party.

652. Appointment of bankers: It was agreed that the parish council's bank accounts should continue to be maintained with HSBC Bank plc.

653. Appointment of auditors: It was agreed that Mr R Peck should continue as the parish council's internal auditor and it was noted that Mazars continue as the appointed external auditors.

654. Inspection of Deeds and Documents: The deeds and documents held by the Clerk were available for inspection.

655. Urgent Business Pursuant to Standing Order No.16: (i) Newick pharmacy – The Chairman has been contacted by Newick Parish Council over plans by the Newick Health Centre to open a dispensary in their Chailey surgery which would offer deliveries to non Newick parish residents. There are fears this may affect the viability and future of the Lloyds Chemist shop in Newick. The process of obtaining approval from the PCT had also been shrouded in secrecy with neither the Friends of the Health Centre nor the Parish Council being formally consulted over the plans. The delivery service provided by Lloyds is much valued by Barcombe residents. It was agreed that Cllr N C Lear, who has undertaken much research into the legalities of the plans, and the Clerk would prepare a communication expressing concerns over the new plans and the overall process which would be sent to the approving PCT, the Newick Health Centre and Norman Baker, M.P. **(ii) Lewes/Uckfield Rail Link –** The Chairman reported on the establishment of an informal protest group based in Hamsey and Isfield, a member of which is the Chairman of Hamsey Parish Council acting in a personal capacity. Following advice given by the Clerk and SALC the Chairman advised the meeting that the draft copy of the Study Group's initial draft proposals was to be regarded as confidential and the contents could not be divulged by him to the protest group or any other party, including the parish council. It was hoped the proposals will be in the public domain in time for the July cycle of meetings.

656. Correspondence:

Mrs S Hepple – letter received concerning the public toilets – it was agreed this would be referred to the Recreation Ground Committee for consideration.

Bayer Landscapes Cycle Club – The Clerk has been advised by Mr Mark Markowski (01444 246599) that the club will be holding a cycle race on 8th June, starting from Newick Scout Hall, and running between 9.30 a.m. and 12.30 p.m. The event will be signposted and marshalls in place. The club would be keen to use a local facility in

Barcombe for refreshments etc but lack of parking is an issue in Barcombe. Some concern was expressed that on the same day there was a charity cycle ride in aid of St Peter and St James Hospice. The Clerk was asked to advise Mr Markowski of this potential conflict.

East Sussex County Council – a Community Emergency Planning Conference is being held on Tuesday 28th October 2008 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at East Sussex National Golf Club. It was agreed that Cllrs D J Lloyd and R Hepple will attend.

East Sussex County Council – “Improving Our School Buildings” consultation opportunity - It was agreed that Cllr C M Arbenz will review and respond on behalf of the parish council before the deadline of 31st May 2008.

South East Water – a letter notifying a 13 week consultation period on its Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report, including public exhibitions (4th June at Haywards Heath and 25th June in Ringmer) was noted.

Sussex Police – an e mail had been received advising the parish council of current resource shortages. The impact on Barcombe would be that as well as covering Barcombe, Hamsey and Newick the PCSO would now cover Chailey as well. This was felt to be unacceptable and would be raised at the next meeting of RVRC alongside other policing issues. The Clerk was also asked to ascertain how much of the PCSO’s time was allocated to Barcombe.

East Sussex County Council – a reply to the use of 70 seater buses on some routes was noted – it was felt to be a scheduling logistics issue.

East Sussex County Council Highways – a notification of works on Town Littleworth Road was noted.

Barcombe PTA – a request for permission for mothers to camp on the site of the new village hall in the summer holidays was granted

657. Public Question Time: There were no public questions

658. Questions from Councillors: there were no questions from councillors

659. Report from Chairman: (i) It was reported that the Lewes District Association of Town and Parish Councils is being re-established and Cllr MacGillivray has been appointed as the Chair on a temporary basis. Given potential changes to local government structure this will be an important forum and it will also have a representative on the Lewes District LSP. Its annual conference, sponsored by Lewes D C will be at Plumpton College on 14th October. A draft memorandum of understanding with RVRC will also be completed. It was noted that East Chiltington and Streat parishes were exploring the possibility of taking responsibility, and the budget, for some Highways issues but nothing had yet been finalised. (ii) RVRC Transport Issues Group had met. One issue raised was bus services starting just before the 9.30 a.m. deadline for a free service. The meeting felt that ad hoc local solutions were inappropriate but the Chairman had been advised by the representative from Coutryliner and ESCC that the time of the bus from Barcombe could be adjusted slightly to solve this problem.

660. Reports of Committees:

(i) Transport and Highways: (a) Parking - The clerk had circulated the latest final plan from ESCC which was not entirely correct. It was agreed the Clerk should request as follows: the spaces outside the Rectory be retained as agreed by Rupert Clubb, Director of Transport and the Environment, ESCC; double yellow lines be

extended to the north west past Gable cottage to give full protection to the roundabout; and the operational hours of the “green” (no return within 4 hours) lines be clarified

(ii) Recreation Ground: (a) Playground – The clerk reported the RoSPA safety inspection had been received and the self closing gates had been given a clean bill of health. Overall RoSPA commented that “considerable resources and work have been put into the playground which has resulted in a much higher standard of provision – new equipment, fencing barriers and gates have improved site considerably”. Some maintenance work is required but nothing above that already planned by the parish council. Any volunteers for the refurbishment work would be welcome. **(b) bowling green extension** – it was felt this was unlikely to occur

(iii) Planning and Community Services: (a) new village hall – nothing more to add at this stage

(b) radio masts – a response from Lewes District Council was still awaited

(c) affordable housing – Cllr MacGillivray has been approached by a local resident complaining that the planning approval was made by officers under delegated powers which stifled their chance to have their say. Other concerns were expressed over availability of the accommodation for single people and those with genuine Barcombe connections, but the fears expressed are not obviously based on hard evidence.

(d) flooding – Cllr Lear reported he has attended a meeting of the Barcombe Mills Society and prepared a report for the next Planning and Community Services Committee.

(e) Barcombe School development – Cllr MacGillivray has spoken to the Chair of Governors regarding the funding allocation of £650,000 and the parish council representatives to the school had been summoned to an emergency meeting which has been summarised by Cllr D Skan. It was still unclear what precisely was planned and when and the Clerk was asked to contact the Chair of Governors and the Head Teacher to arrange a meeting with any available parish councillors to try and ensure clarity over the school’s plans.

(f) parish plan – no developments at this stage

(iv) Finance and General Purposes: (a) Barcombe Mills Society – the arrangements set out in minute 636(i) were confirmed **(b) Insurance** – The Clerk has received a very positive endorsement from the Hampshire Association of Local Councils and has put the new 3 year agreement with Norwich Union via Came and Company in place.

661. Accounts for Payment: The following accounts were approved for payment:

AirS – Subscription - £40

Broker Network Limited – Insurance with Norwich Union - £1,540.38

PP Estates Ltd – Strimmer - £384.00 (cost to be deducted from first half year grant to Sports Council)

M Wilson – Clerk’s expenses 6/3/08 – 20/5/08 - £95.69

662. Date time and place of next meeting: The Chairman announced that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday 22nd July 2008 at 7.30 p.m. in the Sports Pavilion, Barcombe.

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