

## 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.

---

**931. Present:** Councillors A J MacGillivray, C M Arbenz, J C Cornwell, J O Cornwell, N Gant, N C Lear, D J Lloyd, R Hepple, D Skan and R A Williams. Also in attendance were County Councillor R St. Pierre and PCSO Sally Ann Read

**932. To receive apologies for absence:** Received from Cllr M J Austen and District Cllr D Mitchell

**933. Report from PCSO:** No crime had been reported in Barcombe in October. There has been some graffiti in November which has been photographed so details remain on file for matching against other instances. It is hoped to utilise the “speedwatch” camera once a health and safety assessment has been completed. Barcombe has a quarter of her available time, an allocation approved by her superiors. As she was now familiar with the village and its environs Cllr D J Lloyd asked if she could now introduce herself to all the clubs and societies which will help her intelligence gathering. The Bonfire had caused some concern – potentially there were too many visiting societies and not enough food available. These concerns would be relayed to the organisers.

**934. Confirmation and signature of the last Minutes of the Council:** The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2008 as recorded by minutes 849 to 863 having previously been circulated were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**935. Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Gant declared a potential interest over item 941.

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

**937. Public Question Time:** Cllr A J MacGillivray had been advised by District Cllr D Mitchell that the village car park barrier would be painted in the spring and he hoped the amenity area had improved; he will also keep an eye on the state of Oak Tree twitten.

County Cllr R St.Pierre reported as follows:

- a) the Police have approved the temporary parking order with implementation work planned to start on 22<sup>nd</sup> December.
- b) the Barcombe Mills Road/A 26 junction at Clay Hill is to be improved
- c) ESCC will be putting kissing gates on the tractor bridge at the end of School Path which will complete an easy walking route from Spithurst to the school.
- d) SOCS has caught Southern Water dumping sludge into a tributary of the Ouse
- e) a zero bus review is underway and it is important bus services are used as much as possible if they are to be retained
- f) there is a big push from Highways to clear gullies

Cllr D J Lloyd asked if it was possible for the High Street pavement to be resurfaced to eliminate the trip hazards. A case needs to be made based on types of users and he will meet with County Cllr R St Pierre to progress.

Cllr A J MacGillivray asked about progress on car sharing schemes. Ian Elliott of Transition town, Lewes is the expert; however, schemes need to be driven at the local level with ESCC providing support as needed.

He also asked about residential accommodation for older people which is an essential for smaller communities like Barcombe. County Cllr R St. Pierre reported on a new initiative starting in 2009 called "Care Matters" which aims to give greater financial empowerment and choice to individuals but the impact on residential accommodation is unclear.

Cllr N C Lear asked about the schools development plans and the impact on the Sports Hall. Three key issues are - the use of the sports hall as a day time canteen and assembly area and whether there are other examples where this arrangement works satisfactorily; the life of the sports floor; and continuing use by the public of any kitchen facilities. County Cllr R St.Pierre will cover these points with officers

**938. Questions from Councillors:** There were no further questions

**939. Report from Chairman:** Cllr A J MacGillivray reported on a number of issues

- a) The Lewes District Association of Town and Parish Councils are reviewing the Code of Practice with Lewes District Council
- b) the LDATPC Conference covered a number of topics including the Local Development Framework question "What is the role of the rural area?"; flooding (see PCS minute 915); communication of planning decisions; policing and PCSOs; impact of the Sustainable Communities Act and "citizens panels".
- c) AirS AGM and Conference. AirS has a funding shortfall of approx £250k and may need to start charging for advice or increase the annual subscription. AirS Chief Executive gave a presentation on the reasons behind poor service delivery and funding in rural areas, e.g. use of deprivation data favouring urban areas, organisation of Government Department funding.

**940. Reports of Committees:**

**(i) Transport and Highways:** After being proposed by Cllr J C Cornwell, seconded by Cllr D Skan, the Minutes of the Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2008 as recorded by minutes 878 to 889 were adopted.

**Matters arising:**

**(a) Parking** – See 937 a) above

**(b) Lewes/Uckfield Rail Link** – Draft minutes of the CRCB meeting in October have been circulated and comments made

**(c) Oak Tree Twitten** – see 937 above

**(d) speeding** – the clerk reported that Kingston arrangements are due to be put in place next summer. Kingston engaged traffic consultants to help lobby ESCC at considerable cost. The clerk has not yet received a reply from officers at ESCC. Cllr N Gant expressed frustration at the lack of ability of the parish council to get real action to tackle a problem that concerned the whole community. County Cllr R St.Pierre suggested she arrange a meeting with ESCC's Safety Officer, Helen Pace, early one morning, so she could see the problems at first hand. If the parish council could provide matching funding then it is likely to move up ESCC's priority list.

**e) maintenance works** – Cllr A J MacGillivray reported that verge cutting could be in the schedule of works. An update from the Bevern Stream parishes is awaited.

**(ii) Recreation Ground:** After being proposed by Cllr D J Lloyd, seconded by Cllr N Gant, the Minutes of the Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2008 as recorded by minutes 890 to 903 were adopted.

**Matters arising:**

**(a) public toilets** – refurbishment options are still being considered

**(b) vision for the future** – the meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> November had been well attended and the parish councils plans had received widespread support from all users of the Recreation Ground

**(c) pavilion refurbishment** – work highlighted in the stock survey continues to be undertaken

**(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 6<sup>th</sup> November 2008 as recorded by Minutes 904 to 920 were adopted. After being proposed by Cllr C M Arbenz, seconded by Cllr D Skan, the Minutes of the Planning Application Sub Committee held on 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> September and 21<sup>st</sup> October 2008 as recorded by Minutes 843 to 848, 864 to 870 and 871 to 877 respectively were adopted.

With regard to minute 847, not all councillors had been in agreement. Standing Orders state that if individual councillors wish their vote to be recorded in the minutes then they must say so at the time of the vote; however it was agreed that where decisions were decided by a majority this should be recorded in the minutes.

**Matters arising:**

**(a) Barcombe School development and Sports Hall** – The clerk reported that in Wivelsfield the facilities at the new primary school are not at present being made available to the general public. The local village hall remains the venue for indoor sport. A reply from Laughton was still awaited

**(b) Conservation Area** – The Clerk has written to Lewes DC as requested – nothing further to report at this stage

**(c) new village hall** - it was reported that the new planning application should be submitted on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2008. Parish councillors were concerned that they had not seen the final plans and felt this was essential. A meeting of the Planning Applications Sub Committee will be called for Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2008 to which all councillors will be invited.

**(iv) Finance and General Purposes:** After being proposed by Cllr Hepple, seconded by Cllr D Lloyd, the Minutes of the Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2008 as recorded by Minutes 921 to 930 were adopted.

**Matters arising:**

**(a) Budget and precept 2009/10** – The revised budget dated 10<sup>th</sup> November 2008, having been circulated in advance to all councillors, was accepted and the Precept will thus rise by 5% to £24,350. Cllr A J MacGillivray had researched comparisons with other local villages for 2008/09 as shown below:

Village	Approx Population	Precept	Band D charge
---------	----------------------	---------	---------------

Kingston	850	£22,500	£53
Barcombe	1500	£23,190	£36
Plumpton	1700	£26,312	£40
Wivelsfield	1950	£37,410	£45
Ditchling	2050	£65,028	£67

**941. Parish Plan** – A report on the first Action Plan Group is attached as appendix 1. The parish council accepted the report and supported the furtherance of the Action Plan.

**942. Code of conduct for members and employees** – Cllr MacGillivray had summarised these proposals. There were no issues of concern that required comment

**943. Administration and accounts for Payment:**

The clerk reported that the Annual Return for 2007/08 had been approved without comment by the external auditors, Mazars LLP.

Dates for 2009 meetings – the schedule as circulated was acceptable

The following payments were approved:

Mazars LLP – audit - £334.88

P & G Trower – pavilion repairs - £406.55

Lewes District Council- subject to approval of plans as per minute 940(iii)(c) the payment of the appropriate scale planning fee was approved

**944. Correspondence:**

South East Water – letter received advising it will now publish its formal response to local consultations on its Water Resource Management Plan by 30<sup>th</sup> January 2009.

Freedom of Information – The Clerk had that day been advised by SALC that new FOI procedures needed to be in place from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009. It was not felt practical for a revised FOI Code to be drawn up and approved by the parish council before the end of the year and it was agreed that the Clerk would draw up new procedures for approval in the January meeting. It did not appear that the new procedures would create any conflict or difficulties with existing parish council policy.

**945. Outstanding Action Points:** These will be updated

**946. Date time and place of next meeting:** The Chairman announced the next meeting will be held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2009 at 7.30 p.m. in the Sports Pavilion, Barcombe.

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

## **Appendix 1 -**

### **BARCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL**

#### **Action Plan Group: Report of first meeting, 18 November 2008**

Present: Jackie Cornwell; John Cornwell; Pam Cottingham; Janet Dickson; Nick Gant; Mariana Hollis; Carwyn Hughes; Nick Lear; David Lloyd; Alex MacGillivray; Iris Rook; Dilys Skan; Rowena Williams.

Apologies: Mim Austin/Liz. Rummery (Play Group); Gordon Gurman (Barcombe Stores); John Simpson (Barcombe Church/Bevern View).

It had not been possible to contact youth representatives.

Alex outlined the PC's decision to prepare a Sustainable Action Plan for the Parish using the AirS 21<sup>st</sup>. Century Village as a possible basis for tackling future effects of climate change and peak oil. As the ultimate aim was to encourage residents to change aspects of their life styles, it was reasonable to first discuss this approach with a small group of representatives of organisations and bodies who were active in the Parish before involving the wider public. In looking ahead to the situation in, say, 10-15 years hence a number of recent initiatives suggested that Barcombe might be receptive to considering what measures should be taken now; such initiatives were the new village hall project, affordable housing scheme, monthly market and coffee morning, Wild about Barcombe project, allotments, Rec. Ground Users meeting on future facilities.

The 20 sustainable facilities in the 2009 AirS 21<sup>st</sup>. Century Village Model were considered as possible targets or objectives. There was agreement that the word "sustainable" should be avoided at all costs and alternative wording sought. Whilst AirS intended pursuing a pilot project to devise a tool-kit to encourage small communities to go "sustainable", a number of parishes were already taking steps in this direction, viz. Ringmer (Carbon neutrality), Rodmell (energy), Newick (global warming). Barcombe could also adopt its own approach.

The overall view was that the group favoured action now to benefit the Parish for the next 10-15 years. It was agreed that to advance such interests in the form of an Action Plan required base-line information on the use of existing services and facilities, e.g. the number of residents travelling outside the parish to work and their means of transport. After discussion it was agreed that the most appropriate method to acquire such information was by contacting individual households through a questionnaire via the Barcombe News (and the PC web-site) and an enthusiastic follow-up by group members to retrieve the completed documents. Organisations were asked to place the Action Plan on their agendas; it was agreed that where necessary older people might receive assistance in completing the questionnaire. . Whilst it was desirable to have younger families involved in the project, immediate particular interests centred on residential accommodation for local older people and a car-sharing scheme.

Nick G tabled a draft questionnaire for consideration. It was agreed that the questions would be best presented in a "tick box" format together with each section having space for comments; the introduction would also be amended. Nick agreed to circulate the group with his original draft together with the new version and to seek AirS' advice on the content.

It was agreed to meet on Monday 12 January 2009 to finalise the document and arrangements.

Nick also tabled the results of his attempts to map facilities and assets in the Parish. Such an exercise could be useful in finding such as new areas for allotments or recreational activities. It was agreed that this would be a useful addition to to the work of the group.

#### **Actions**

To recommend to the PC that the Action Plan be pursued

Nick G to prepare revised questionnaire and circulate

Ask PC to contact County Cllr. on progress of ESCC Car-Sharing Scheme

Ask PC to contact Lewes DC Housing and County Cllr. on residential accommodation for older people

Groups to have Action Plan on their agendas

AMacG