

BARCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held at the Sports Pavilion, Barcombe on Thursday 10th January 2008 at 7.55 p.m.

447. Present: Councillors R Hepple, A J MacGillivray, N C Lear and D J Lloyd.

448. Apologies for absence: Received from Cllr J C Cornwell

449. Confirmation and signature of Minutes of last meeting: The minutes of the last meeting held on 8th November 2007 were approved by the Council at its meeting of 20th November 2007. The minutes of the meeting held on 11th December 2007 will be approved at the next Council meeting on 22nd January 2008.

450. Declarations of Interest: Cllr R Hepple declared a personal interest in item 452

451. Urgent business pursuant to Standing Order No.16:

(i) Cllr MacGillivray reported that SALC have queried the election costs for a number of local parishes with Lewes DC. A review has been undertaken and a report prepared for consideration by the Chief Executive. SALC has also discussed the issue with NALC. Apparently a survey of 56 parish councils in England revealed the average number of councillors elected was 11 (the same as Barcombe) and the average cost was £4,500 (our bill was £2,921). Whatever the outcome it was clear Lewes DC should have advised parish councils of the likely size of the bill before precepts were set for 2007/08.

(ii) Committee chairman were reminded that they should begin to prepare their reports for the Annual Parish Meeting and all councillors were asked to consider topics for discussion at the meeting – contenders include the Lewes/Uckfield rail link, Wild about Barcombe, NHS changes, Trading Standards “road show” and a decision would need to be made at the full council meeting on 22nd January.

452. Allotments: Plans agreed at RG Committee on 8th January (minute 425) were summarised by Cllr Lloyd and noted.

453. Administration: The following accounts were approved for payment.

Steadman & Son – new shower element and timer control - £460.56

Barcombe Landscapes – 2nd half of maintenance contract - £652.13

Clerk – expenses – 17th Oct 07 – 10th Jan 08 - £145.07

S Hepple – caretaking services – 1/10/07 – 31/12/07 - £367.25

Advance Screenprint(Sussex) – sign for Affordable Housing meeting - £56.40

Cllr Lloyd reported work would begin on the kitchen w/c 14th Jan. The contractor had also quoted to replace the rotten window in the referee’s room in the pavilion- approx £300 in upvc and £500 in wood. The clerk was asked to contact Lewes DC about the implications of using upvc in the Conservation Area which is the committees preferred option given low cost and low maintenance.

454. Barcombe Mills Car Park: It was agreed that as the annual rent paid by the Royal Oak covered the net rates payment and typical annual maintenance costs it should remain at £250 p.a.

455. Correspondence: None received

456. Outstanding action points: The Clerk was asked to contact Mr W Hope to ask for his help in tidying up arrangements with the Land Registry over land at Barcombe Mills Car Park, the old scout hut land in the recreation ground car park and the pumphouse.

457. Close of meeting: There being no further business to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.20 p.m.