

BARCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held at the Sports Pavilion, Barcombe on Tuesday 11th December 2007 at 7.00 p.m.

394. Present: Councillors R Hepple, A J MacGillivray, N C Lear, J C Cornwell and D J Lloyd. Also in attendance were Cllrs J O Cornwell, D Skan, C Arbenz, N Gant and R Williams

395. Apologies for absence: Received from Cllr M Austen

396. 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.

397. Declarations of interest: None were declared

398. Urgent business pursuant to Standing Order No.16: There was no urgent business

399. Budget and Precept for 2008/09: The Budget paper prepared by the Clerk dated 23rd November 2007 was discussed. There was support for the principal of calculating the Precept in two stages – the first element would cover the fixed costs of running the parish; the second would cover funding for any specific projects to be undertaken in the coming year. If a significant (not defined, but suggested as more than £5,000) increase in the Precept was required in a particular year the views of the electorate should be sought to ensure there was local support, and project expenditure should ideally be evenly spread across all activities to ensure as fair a distribution as possible. It was agreed to confirm this approach at the next meeting of the Parish Council and also share it with the electors at the Annual Parish Meeting. There was debate about what projects had priority for the coming year – implementing the sports pavilion stock survey, allotment extension, playing field surfaces, nature reserve project were all mentioned. The likely surplus for projects based on the budget was in the region of £3,500 - £4,500. On the proposal of Cllr Lear, seconded by Cllr Lloyd, it was agreed that the budget prepared by the Clerk should be accepted and a Precept of £23,190, up 5%, should be demanded from Lewes DC. Precise allocation of project expenditure was still to be determined.

400. Expenditure on new playground equipment and refurbishment: Having previously confirmed expenditure on new fencing of £6,410, it was agreed to spend a further £5,290 on a see-saw and train from the same supplier, Playground Services. It was also agreed to allocate a sum of up to £1,000 for repairs and refurbishment to the other playground equipment.

401. Close of meeting: There being no further business to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.40 p.m.