

BARCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Planning Applications Sub-Committee held at the Sports Pavilion, Barcombe on Tuesday 30th September 2008 at 7.30 p.m.

864. Present: Cllrs C M Arbenz, A J MacGillivray, N C Lear, J C Cornwell, D J Lloyd and R Hepple. Also in attendance: Mr C Hughes and Mrs S Holden representing the Barcombe School governors and one member of the public – Mikey Lear

865. Apologies for absence: Received from Cllrs J O Cornwell and R Williams

866. Declarations of interest: None were declared.

867. Urgent business pursuant to Standing Order No. 16: Cllr A J MacGillivray read out a letter from Mr and Mrs Robin Moore about a hedge, which was noted

868. Tree work notified:

3852:389/11/9/08 – Entrance to the Grange – crown lift lower secondary growth to give adequate clearance over highway, footpath and garages, remove selected limbs affecting garage on Holm Oak tree (TI of the Order) – no objections

869. Barcombe School:

Carwyn Hughes introduced himself as chairman of the school governors and chairman of the development committee and Sheila as a school governor and informal project adviser.

Carwyn outlined the school's proposals for spending a capital sum of between £0.5 million and £1 million. Ten points:

- a) History: The Horsa building (the canteen) was built in 1951. It had been inadequate for some time.
- b) The school now had the chance to spend between half a million and a million pounds on improvements.
- c) ESCC has made it clear that the school is now a five class school. There was therefore no agenda to grow.
- d) Current roll was 140; intake in future was likely to be limited to twenty per year. The school covers six years.
- e) The school was looking for support from the parish council and from the community
- f) The priority was to replace the canteen but in addition the school was looking for an assembly area, additional storage space, an additional special teaching room
- g) ESCC were telling the school to look at combining the sports hall with the canteen; and that there were lots of precedents.
- h) No plans were yet available. CH promised to consult throughout the process
- i) There would be disruption during the works
- j) Sustainability would be an important consideration. The school would be involving the children in the sustainability aspects

Sheila added that the school buildings were not fit for purpose. The toilets also needed renewing. The sports hall was an “underused part of the school” and would be improved for the community also. The plans prepared by the architect were now undergoing iteration - a process of reducing aspirations to fit the budget.

Questions:

1. CA felt the sports Hall committee had not been kept informed as promised. Reassurance was given that the parish council and the Sports Hall committee would be kept in the loop.
2. She asked about the floor. There was no proposal to change the floor. It was suitable for multipurpose.
3. AM asked about the other precedents mentioned. CH did not know which other schools the County Council was referring to. He thought Northiam might have been mentioned. He would find out and let the clerk know.
4. CA asked about community use of the kitchen. CH said the school wanted the sports hall to be excellent for the community. That would mean community use would include kitchen facilities. [DL doubted whether this would be allowed.]
5. AM was anxious about the sports hall competing with the new village hall. SH and CH asked what he was driving at. In response AM commented that prior to the ageing of the present village hall there was an unwritten agreement in the village that buildings such as the Sports Pavilion and Sports Hall would not normally be offered for public use deemed to be outside their sports/recreational purpose. Such public use is/was catered for by the Village Hall. He said that there were some seven buildings in the parish that could be hired out for functions. This could give problems when applying for funding for the new village hall. In the past it had always been stated that only two of these buildings were under any form of community control and of those the Sports Hall was shared with the School under a management agreement but was dedicated to providing sports facilities, whilst the Village Hall was a building held for the community through a charity.
6. NG asked about rebuilding from scratch. It had already been looked at. He asked about computers etc. No, the whole of the money must be spent on fabric.
7. CA asked about the cost going up. The budget is the responsibility of ESCC.
8. DL asked about the portacabin. Could the space beyond it be used, right up to the boundary? CH said the present scheme was designed to increase the play area for the children.
9. DL asked whether the governors had considered buying more land. CH said that Mr Penfold, the adjoining owner, had not been cooperative in the past. He would like to discuss the idea with DL afterwards.
9. Car parking for teachers was discussed. The school would very much like to find somewhere which would free the playground space.
10. AM asked if the school had considered the “peak oil” future, when people from outside the village might not be able to come to the school. The answer was no, but CH said he would join the sustainability group.

870. Close of meeting: There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.