

## BARCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

### **Minutes of a meeting of the Planning and Community Services Committee held at the Sports Pavilion, Barcombe on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2008 at 7.20 p.m.**

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**823. Present:** Councillors N C Lear, J O Cornwell, D J Lloyd, A J MacGillivray, D Skan and R Williams. Also in attendance was Mrs S Holden and one member of the public

**824. Apologies for absence:** Received from Cllr C M Arbenz

**825 Confirmation and Signature of the Minutes of the Last Meeting:** The minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2008 were approved at the Parish Council meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2008

**824. Declarations of Interest:** Cllr N C Lear re and Cllr J O Cornwell re item 829

**825. Urgent Business pursuant to Standing Order No. 16:** The summary regarding the Lewes/Uckfield Rail Link referred to in Transport and Highways Committee minute 794 had been circulated. It was agreed Cllr MacGillivray and Lear would work on a final submission to go to the Central Rail Corridor Board and East Sussex County Council

**826. Newick surgery dispensing plans:** The application is to be reheard which represents a success for the local opposition campaign and was welcomed by the committee

**827. Barcombe School radio mast:** Cllr A J MacGillivray summarised the position for the benefit of Mrs S Holden, attending on behalf of the School Governors. Mrs Holden reported the matter had been subject to lively debate within the school; that all possible advice on safety had been taken; and that local authorities tended to be very strict with installations like this on their own buildings. She also felt the parish council should have been approached in advance of installation. It was agreed this matter should be regarded as closed.

**828. Barcombe School capital programme:** Again, Cllr A J MacGillivray summarised the current position. Mrs S Holden reported that the School has been given a large sum of money but given the condition of the building it would need to be spent wisely. A sub-group of the Governors, including herself, had been set up to progress matters. An architect has been appointed to draw up plans and once these are finalised then the governors will be happy to share their plans with the parish council.

**829. Affordable housing:** The Clerk reported that Hastoe were asking that the Parish Council to sell access rights to the site for a nominal £1 consideration and take responsibility for keeping the access in good repair and condition and clean, properly lit and free from obstructions, subject to Hastoe paying a fair and reasonable proportion of these costs. The parish council's legal advisers, messrs Hedleys, had advised against taking on the latter obligation. It was agreed to sell the access rights for £1 and to resist taking any financial obligations for maintenance etc.

**830. Neighbourhood Watch and policing:** In the absence of Cllr Hepple there was nothing to report, but given the lack any real support from the Police it was felt the project should be mothballed in November unless any real, positive initiatives emerge in the meantime. PCSO Wendy Baulcombe has resigned and there is no immediate replacement in view. It was agreed that the parish council still had grave concerns over the lack of a visible police presence on a regular basis. It was agreed the Clerk should i) write to the new divisional commander, Inspector Natalie Carron, asking for progress on a replacement PCSO and ii) contact Hamsey and Newick parish councils to see if a joint approach could be taken to improve the level of consistent and constant policing support

**831. Flooding and Emergency Planning:** The topic of flooding is on the agenda for the next meeting of Rural Voices Rural Choices and it was agreed Cllrs A J MacGillivray and J O Cornwell would attend and speak for Barcombe. There are particular concerns in the Barcombe Mills Society and it would like to see a flood emergency plan in place. The parish council needs to demonstrate, if challenged, that has a plan and is ready to react in the best interests of residents. Cllr D J Lloyd reported that the Police emergency co-ordinator was on long term sick leave and would not be replaced. Cllrs Lloyd and R Hepple are attending an emergency planning conference in October and Cllr Lloyd was asked to prepare a first draft of an emergency plan for the committee meeting in November

**832. New village hall:** Cllr D Skan reported on progress. A project manager has been appointed to take the project to planning approval; the current funding position was explained; Messrs Hedleys are acting for the village hall committee on the land/fund transfer with Mrs Lear; Mark Cornwell has been given permission to plant crops on the land but at his risk if building work needs to start before harvest and the crop has to be lost. As the parish council owns the land, the Clerk was asked to write to Mr Cornwell to confirm this position.

**833. Correspondence:**

Action in rural Sussex – Invitation to AGM and Annual Conference on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2008 at Ardingly with the theme “Rural Services – Hard to reach or hard to find?”. Cllrs MacGillivray and Lear will attend  
East Sussex County Council – The Clerk has received a letter regarding a campaign to inform residents of their “duty of care” over rubbish disposal and a new “Take Care of Your Rubbish” poster. It was agreed to highlight this in Barcombe News.  
NHS - ESD & W PCT (i) there is to be a Patient and Public Involvement Day 8th September in Uckfield - noted (ii) Patient Prospectus 2008/09 – Cllr R Williams will read and report accordingly  
GOSE – proposed changes to the Draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East – any views or responses are required by 24<sup>th</sup> October 2008. It was agreed that Cllr A J MacGillivray will review

**834. Close of meeting:** There being no further business to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30 p.m.