

BARCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Planning and Community Services Committee held at the Sports Pavilion, Barcombe on Thursday 6th November 2008 at 7.0 p.m.

904. Present: Councillors N C Lear, C M Arbenz, J O Cornwell, D J Lloyd, A J MacGillivray, D Skan and R Williams. Cllr R Hepple and four members of the public were also in attendance

905. Apologies for absence: None received

906. Confirmation and Signature of the Minutes of the Last Meeting: The minutes of the meeting held on 4th September 2008 were approved at the Parish Council meeting on 16th September 2008

907. Declarations of Interest: Cllrs J O Cornwell and N C Lear re minute 913 and Cllrs J O Cornwell, D Skan and R Hepple re minute 917.

908. Urgent Business pursuant to Standing Order No. 16: There was none

909. Conservation Area Consultation Plans: Cllrs A J MacGillivray, C M Arbenz and R Williams advised the meeting that they were all resident within the Barcombe Cross Conservation Area. There was a wide ranging discussion, including comments from members of the public, over the Draft Barcombe and Barcombe Cross Conservation Area Appraisals produced by Lewes District Council. Key issues covered included;

- impact of an Article 4 Directive being established
- perceived lack of enforcement of Conservation Area protection policies
- why is there a perception of separate communities within a single parish?
- what is the purpose of extending the area of the Barcombe Area to include the Church car park and a farmers field.
- why are dwellings like Mongers Farm cottages, which are listed buildings, outside the Barcombe Cross Area?
- how would local residents feel about increased regulation potentially restricting home improvements and extensions.
- how will Lewes DC advise landowners and householders if an Article 4 Directive is introduced?
- the Appraisals seem to have been prepared without any reference to expertise or experience within the community.

It was agreed to invite representatives from Lewes District Council to attend a meeting of the parish council to explain their proposals in detail and listen to and take account of local opinion

910. Parish Action Plan: A meeting of initial stakeholders (Barcombe School, Barcombe Church, Parish Council, Village Hall, WI, Shop, Playgroup, “older people”, Barcombe Mills Society, farming, and “youth”) has been arranged for 18th November 2008 in the sports pavilion at 7.30 p.m. Positive responses have been

received and organisations will be asked for their ideas for a Barcombe Sustainable Action Plan. Cllr N Gant has drafted a questionnaire and the intention is to link with AirS “21st century village” concept

911. Newick Surgery dispensing plans: The Appeal is to be held on 24th and 25th November 2008 and Cllr Lear is working closely with other local parishes to present a coherent and co-ordinated case..

912. Barcombe School development plans: Following the meeting of the Planning Applications Sub-Committee on 30th September 2008 it was agreed that the Clerk should contact his counterparts in Laughton and Wivelsfield to explain the Barcombe situation, ask how the interaction between the School and the Sports Hall works in their communities and what role their parish council’s play in the management of their Sports Halls.

Chairman of Governors, Mr Carwyn Hughes, provided plans of the proposed new development. The intention is to have a new kitchen, remove the HORSAs building and portacabin, revamp the toilets, provide “breakout” facilities for staff and have additional play space round the entire perimeter of the building. The aim is to use the Sports Hall as a canteen at lunchtime and for it to be available for class assemblies during the day. The acoustics will be improved

Mr Hughes stated the Hall should still be a Sports Hall for the community. A specialised surveyor says the floor has 15 years of life left, but had no clear answer how the floor would be replaced at the end of its useful life. He was also asked if the community would have access to the new kitchen but was uncertain on this point. It was emphasised by parish councillors that the community must have use of a kitchen, as the existing facility will disappear if the current plans are implemented.

It was agreed that the School will share their plans with the community at a public consultation exercise which will help the parish council decide whether it supports the plans as proposed. It was agreed Cllr R Williams would represent the parish council at this event. All parents will also be consulted over the plans.

913. Affordable housing: The Clerk reported that Hastoe were in discussion with Bevern View over changes to parking arrangements introduced by Bevern View that differ from the planning approval granted. However, this issue was likely to be resolved shortly. David Askew has advised us that he will be leaving Hastoe at the end of the month when he retires and Sue Lawton will take over completion.

914. Travellers and Gypsies: Cllr Lear was asked to respond where appropriate to the Lewes DC survey.

915. Flooding and Emergency Planning: Cllrs R Hepple and D Lloyd reported on the conference held on 28th October 2008. Barcombe seem well placed and discussions with the emergency services attending revealed they see the role of the parish council is to provide local intelligence to their “Gold Command” structure. Ian Hobson has taken over from Keen Franks as Emergency Planning Manager for Sussex Police. As far as Barcombe Mills is concerned he still wants a local resident to be responsible for putting out flood warning signs – information from Lindsay Frost of Lewes DC indicates there is no money available for flood protection for small rural communities.

916. Policing, PCSOs and Neighbourhood Watch: The effectiveness and resourcing of PCSOs were discussed by Cllr A J MacGillivray with C I Natalie Carron at the recent Lewes District Town and Parish conference. She would like to attend a Parish Council meeting in the future once the new PCSO has settled in. Cllr Lloyd has shown the new PCSO round the village. Cllr R Hepple will liaise with her over Neighbourhood Watch on an informal basis.

917. New village hall: The planning application is still awaited. Grant funding opportunities are still being researched.

918. Correspondence:

(i) East Sussex Fire Authority – Integrated Risk Management Plan 2009/10 – 2011/12 - comments are due on plan by 18th December 2008 and it was agreed that Cllr D Lloyd would review on behalf of the parish council.

(ii) Communities and Local Government – Communities in control; Real people, real power – codes of conduct for local authority members and employees a consultation – comments are required by 24th December 2008 particularly on Q 22 re employee code of conduct for parish councils – it was agreed Cllr A J MacGillivray would review

919. Outstanding action points: These were covered in the agenda

920. Close of Meeting: There being no further business to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40 p.m.