

BARCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Planning and Community Services Committee held at the Sports Pavilion, Barcombe on Thursday 8th May 2008 at 7.00 p.m.

609. Present: Councillors N C Lear, C M Arbenz, R Hepple, D J Lloyd, A J MacGillivray, D Skan and R Williams. Also in attendance was Doreen Prior from the Barcombe Mills Society.

610. Apologies for absence: Received from Cllr J O Cornwell

611. Confirmation of the Minutes of the last Meeting: The Minutes of the last meeting held on 6th March 2008 had been approved at the Council Meeting on 18th March 2008.

612. Declarations of Interest: Cllr N C Lear declared a prejudicial interest in item 615; Cllrs R Hepple and D Skan declared personal interests in item 613(ii).

613. Urgent Business Pursuant to Standing Order No.16: (i) Cllr MacGillivray reported that there had been virtually no response from villagers on the information displayed about Lewes District Council's review of conservation areas. It was agreed to let matters rest until revived by the District Council. **(ii)** Cllr MacGillivray asked that the architect chosen to design the new village hall be reminded of the original project brief that there should be an office for use by the parish council and as a resource centre – those present from the New Village Hall committee confirmed this would be done.

614. Barcombe School radio mast: A reply from East Sussex County Council had been circulated to parish councillors; given the technical nature of the response the Clerk had forwarded it to environmental health officers at Lewes District Council for interpretation. A response is awaited.

615. Affordable housing: The Clerk reported that the planning application has been approved. A full copy of the approval had been sent to the Chairman of the Planning Applications Sub-committee and conditions of approval do not appear to be too onerous. The clerk was asked to circulate the copy to parish councillors. A letter from Hastoe to the Housing Corporation giving details of distances of the new development from village facilities would be checked by the Clerk.

Parish councillors were reminded that any applicants for this housing should ensure they are on the Lewes District Council housing list and also, perhaps, register their interest with Hastoe. The parish council's involvement would be merely to try and confirm the local credentials of those selected.

616. Neighbourhood Watch: Cllr Hepple now has 5 volunteers and is seeking a meeting with our PCSO to move thing forward. The discussion moved on to policing and specifically that crimes cannot be reported to the PCSO – they must be reported to HQ in Lewes. Cllrs Lear and MacGillivray will raise at RVRC.

617. Flooding and Emergency Planning: The Clerk has received confirmation from Mr Upton, Station Manager of Barcombe Fire and Rescue Service, that a room can be made available for use by the parish council in an emergency situation subject to the completion of a full Health and Safety induction to the station to include access, signing in, emergency evacuation procedures and first aid points. It was agreed that Cllrs Hepple and Lloyd would undertake the training.

Cllr Lloyd reported that following a meeting with Kean Franks, Emergency Planning officer from Sussex Police, there were still no concrete plans for an effective solution to the issue of flood warnings. The suggestion that a resident of Barcombe Mills put out flooding signs was thought to be unworkable in practice. A meeting between the Police, the Environment Agency and Highways was thought to be the best way forward but had proved difficult to arrange.

The chairman then adjourned the meeting to allow Mrs Prior to speak. The BM Society has arranged a meeting with the Environment Agency, which Cllr N C Lear would attend, and the intention is to provoke some tangible action. Results of the meeting will be communicated to the parish council. It was noted that Ringmer Parish would also have an interest..

618. Parish Action Plan: Progress would be reviewed at the next full parish council meeting.

619. Tin Tabernacle: The Clerk has been advised by District Councillor David Mitchell that licensing officers from Lewes District Council have met with the individuals and confirmed that appropriate temporary licenses are being obtained correctly. The District Council's noise nuisance hot line (01273 484340) will be operational from May.

620. Applause rural touring of the performing arts: The Clerk has received details of programmes and events, these have also gone to the Village Hall Cttee – noted.

621. Correspondence:

East Sussex County Council – Changes to the Planning System – the Clerk has been advised that planning applications will only be processed if Local Validation List criteria are provided. ESCC draft criteria are available to view at www.eastsussex.gov.uk/validationconsultation and comments from parish councils are requested by 9th June 2008. It was agreed Cllr N C Lear will review and comment. In addition, ESCC will make available on its website all planning applications and associated documents including responses received from consultees and members of the public. The parish council has also been asked if it can receive planning application consultations electronically; and whether it would like to receive the consultation by a) an e mail with file attachments b) e mail with links to appropriate web sites c) CD's through the post with files and attachments. We have also been asked for our thoughts on electronic consultation being made compulsory. It was agreed that compulsion was unwelcome and that paper copies of maps etc were vital for public consultations.

Lewes District Council – Local Development Framework – the Clerk has been advised more work needs to be done on the Core Strategy, particularly on housing provision so a new refreshed version of the Core Strategy Preferred Options will be published in 2009 – noted.

SEERA – a copy of the South East England Regional Housing Strategy 2008-11 was noted and passed to Cllr Lear for review.

Lewes District Council – Planning Training: A session was being held on Tuesday 15th July from 6.30 – 9.00 p.m. in the council chamber, Town Hall. Cllrs N C Lear and R Williams will attend, subject to content of final agenda.

Youth Opportunity Fund – a letter detailing these grants for young people from Cty Cllr R StPierre had been circulated and was noted.

Barcombe School – a letter from the Chair of Governors highlighting forthcoming development was discussed and it was agreed Cllr MacGillivray should accept the offer of a briefing session. There were concerns that the plans might overdevelop the site, particularly given the poor access route, and it was felt a public meeting to share details of the school's plans would be helpful.

622. Outstanding action points: These had been covered in the agenda.

623. Close of meeting: there being no further business to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.05 p.m.