

BARCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Recreation Ground Committee held at the Sports Pavilion, Barcombe on Tuesday 3rd November 2009 at 8.05 p.m.

1411. Present: Councillors D J Lloyd, R Hepple, J.C. Cornwell, N Gant, C M Arbenz, J O Cornwell and A J MacGillivray.

1412. Apologies for absence: None

1413. Confirmation and Signature of the Minutes of the Last Meeting: The minutes of the meeting held on 8th September 2009 were approved at the Parish Council meeting on 22nd September 2009.

1414. Declarations of Interest: Cllr D J Lloyd over minute 1422

1415. Urgent business pursuant to Standing Order No. 16: It was reported that the Allotment Society's grant application for an enhanced water supply had been delayed as the society does not have a bank account. This is being remedied.

1416. Recreation Ground – Grant Applications: The Clerk was asked to organise a meeting between Cllrs Gant, Lloyd, Hepple and himself to progress this matter

1417. Wild About Barcombe: Cllr N Gant reported on a meeting he and the Clerk had attended with Chris Bibb, a Lewes DC play projects officer. He had been supportive and enthusiastic about the WAB plans and gave some guidance on risk/benefit analysis for play equipment. He had also suggested contacting Hadlow Down parish council as it is creating an entire "build it yourself" play area. The Clerk had made contact and received some useful guidance and contacts which he will follow up. WAB project group is meeting w/c 9th November.

1418. Sports pavilion: Further refurbishment expenditure will be considered after the next meeting of Finance and General Purposes Committee. The Chairman outlined plans being developed by the Sports Council for a "stable" style store area to be built against the hedge. In principle the Committee saw no objections subject to a planning application being submitted.

1419. Caretaker: A detailed list of tasks had been prepared by the job holder who has confirmed her desire to leave the post at the end of March 2010 at the very latest. It was agreed this was an opportunity to thoroughly review the role, including hours worked and the level of payment, and potentially increase the duties to incorporate some aspects of playground safety checks. The Clerk was asked to prepare an advert for Barcombe News. It was not felt appropriate for the Parish Council to become involved in the internal workings of the Sports Council as the latter has been formally appointed by the former to manage the recreation ground. However, if help or support was needed on preparing job descriptions for roles within the Sports Council then the Parish Council would give whatever help it could. A review of the Sports Council licence could be undertaken.

1420. Tree inspection: Following a recommendation from Gary Saunders, ESCC Tree Officer, the Clerk had contacted KPS Contractors Ltd. After a site visit to the oak tree at the Barcombe Mills Car Park, the company had quoted £280.00 for a climbing inspection and Picus test and £600.00 to crown reduce and remove any dead, dying and dangerous branches. The representative from KPS felt there was no immediate danger. The Clerk was asked to instruct KPS to undertake the picus and climbing checks. If crown reduction is required then competitive quotes will be obtained.

1421. Playground – safety inspection and gates: The Clerk reported that a safety inspection, arranged by Lewes DC, had been undertaken this year by The Play Inspection Company Ltd. Eighteen items had been assessed and of these eight were deemed “low” risk and ten were “very low” risk and there is relatively little to do immediately. The Clerk will work with the Chairman to prepare a schedule to be worked though.

A spring on one of the self closing gates had broken and the Clerk had received a quote from Playground Services of £269.00 to replace – the spring itself is £39.00. On advice from Mr C Bibb of Lewes DC the Clerk had asked Mr Don Burtenshaw (07801 689826) to quote. He is used by Lewes DC for virtually all their gate and fence repairs. It is important that the repair is done soon but at a rate that represents value for money.

At the meeting mentioned in minute 1417 it emerged that, as well as the annual safety checks, more regular formal checks of the playground should be undertaken. The Clerk has received a quote from Lewes DC which will undertake a monthly check for about £6 per month and it was agreed to take up this offer. The Clerk has also received a schedule used by Newick parish council for a weekly review undertaken by the village handyman. Something similar could be incorporated into the Caretakers responsibilities.

1422. School building works: The Chairman reported on the new school build and its effect on the Recreation Ground facility. He is continuing to liaise with the Governors via Mr. Carwyn Hughes. Car parking remains an issue and it appears that currently neither the parish council nor the School are able to police its use. All complaints are now being directed to Mr Hughes. The Chairman intends to speak to the Governors regarding post build parking strategy.

At the commencement of the building of the external Sports Hall storeroom, contractors requested access over the ground to deliver building materials. The site Foreman has given assurances that any surface damage caused would be rectified and that drivers would keep as close as possible to the existing boundary wall, not turn on the ground, but reverse, and not encroach within two metres of the football pitch, or any other playing surface. They will also take into account ground conditions.

The Football Club have asked the Parish Council to note that footballs are being burst on the flint facing, scaffolding and Heras security fencing (7 in seven weeks). Temporary use of a cricket site screen is helping, but the Club may request a more permanent solution when the building work is completed. It was unfortunate that the flint facings to the wall, and their impact on footballs, were not noticed at the planning stage. The Clerk has sought guidance from Messrs Hedleys over potential enforcement options to ensure the car park on the recreation ground is available for recreation ground users.

1423. Correspondence: None

1424. Outstanding action points: These were covered in the agenda

1425. Close of meeting: There being no further business to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.35 p.m.

