

BARCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Recreation Ground Committee held at the Sports Pavilion, Barcombe on Tuesday 6th May 2008 at 7.45 pm.

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

595. Apologies for absence: None received

596. Confirmation and signature of the Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of a meeting held on 4th March 2008 had been approved at the Council Meeting on 18th March 2008.

597. Declarations of interest: None were declared

598. Urgent Business pursuant to Standing Order No. 16: There was no urgent business.

599. Wild About Barcombe: It was agreed Councillors Gant and Lloyd will work on obtaining a quote to level the tennis court field. It is still planned to develop a final plan over the summer/autumn and apply for Lottery funding as soon as practicable

600. Playground:

The new ball fence is popular with neighbours as it is much quieter. Its height is 3.0m compared with the old fence of 3.2m. The incidence of cricket balls being hit into the area will be monitored.

The Council has become aware that since the installation of new self closing gates in the children's playground there have been accidents involving young children. In every incident reported the gate concerned was the one adjacent to the pavilion. The Clerk has received a letter from the grandmother of the child allegedly injured by the self closing gate on 17th April. The letter explained the circumstances and, whilst supporting the concept of the gates, enquired if such incidents had occurred elsewhere. Two other incidents have now been reported.

Neither the suppliers of the equipment nor Andy Frost, Lewes District Council's Play Officer, had heard of similar problems with this type of gate. The Clerk had arranged with Mr Frost for RoSPA to bring forward their annual inspection of the playground and this had taken place on 2nd May. Results were awaited. Cllr Lloyd had visited all the play facilities in Lewes and they all had similar gates.

It was agreed the Clerk would write to the family expressing the parish council's sorrow over the accident; wish the young girl a speedy recovery; advise them of the safety inspection; and emphasise the need to exercise a degree of supervision over young children in the playground. The Clerk had contacted the parish council's insurers but they would only wish to be advised if a formal claim against the parish council was received. It was agreed Cllrs MacGillivray and Lloyd would draft an article for Barcombe News emphasising the need to supervise young children and that they should not use the gates as play equipment.

Cllr Lloyd and the Clerk had that evening visited one of the other families involved. Cllr MacGillivray expressed appreciation for the work undertaken by Cllr Lloyd investigating these incidents.

A working party would begin repainting after the Spring Bank Holiday weekend. Cllr Gant was also looking at the possibility of painting designs on the tarmacadam surface.

601. Sports pavilion: The Chairman reported on excellent progress made by the new caretaker and how the pavilion was looking much smarter. Further expenditure would be considered at Finance Committee

602. Recreation Ground – playing surface improvements: The Chairman reported that the Sports Council had agreed to contribute £1,000 towards the levelling of the recreation ground and a sponsor had agreed to contribute a further sum. Further grant opportunities will be explored by the Clerk and Chairman.

603. Allotments: It was reported that the pile of soil would be moved shortly and spraying and root clearance would also begin.

604. Bowls Club:

(i) extension to the green – the Club would like the parish council to explore the possibility of extending the size of the green to 6 x 6. Approximately 30 feet of land would be needed from two adjacent landowners and it was hoped this might be gifted or made available at a peppercorn rent. Cllr MacGillivray will speak informally to Mr & Mrs Williams and it might be the parish council could write on behalf of the Club to the C. Seager Trust

(ii) a request has been received from the Club for permission to erect advertising signs from sponsors. The Clerk has been advised by Lewes District Council planning officers that permission would almost certainly be needed but as these are only to be temporary signs to be put out when the green was in use permission would not be required. The clerk will write to the Club giving approval

605. Grange Road tree planting: As any trees would cast more shade on the bowling green it had been agreed that the three donated trees would now be used in the Wild About Barcombe project

606. Correspondence: None received

607. Outstanding action points: all covered in the agenda

608. Close of meeting: There being no further business to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.20 p.m.

