

## BARCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting of Barcombe Parish Council held at the Sports Pavilion, Barcombe, at 19.30 on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

**Present: Councillors: Arbenz, Cornwell, Holman, Marler, Skan, Stewart.  
Three members of the public.**

### MINUTES

1704. Apologies; Cllrs Loughlin, Mills, Pack

1705. Signature of the Minutes of the last meetings, Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2019.  
**Agreed.**

1706. Actions from the last meeting.

- PWG meeting. WAB Meeting held, PWG meeting to be organised.
- Bird sightings Clerk to co-ordinate adding to website. Complete.
- Discuss dogs on recreation spaces with Newick clerks. Reply circulated.
- Ownership of BT Box on High Street. Clerk reports belongs to a private landowner, assumption is it's the pub. Clerk can supply contact email if landlord wishes to check.
- Additional bin for recreation ground. On order.
- Village Gate specification. Cllr Stewart to investigate. C/F
- Review site of wells. C/F.
- Quotes for Pump House Windows. Cllr Stewart.
- Reply to cricket match letter. Complete.
- Establish Social Media account. Cllr Mills has completed.

1707 Chairman's Report

I was invited by Julia Edwards, the Lewes District Council, Neighbourhood Planning Officer to explain why Barcombe Parish Council considered creating a Neighbourhood Plan a waste of time. So I did, on Mon 24th June. We discussed the points I published in the Steering Group paper of August last year. We spoke amicably for nearly two hours and much remains the same:-

- a) Planning boundaries are not secure, as evidenced in Barcombe. Areas outside the new planning boundary currently coloured red could change to green if the developers could overcome the restrictions that made them red in the first place. New sites are constantly being reviewed.
- b) Housing numbers are a priority for Lewes District Council and should allocated development sites elsewhere in the District become undeliverable, Barcombe could be allocated more.
- c) Affordable housing obligations can be moved to other sites to make the prime site viable.
- d) Once sites are allocated through the SHELAA and included in the Local Plan, they remain allocated and time will not deny that.
- e) It is up to the developer to sort out access routes with the Highways authority, (examples of Clayhill and Cooksbridge show that this is not a big obstacle). Water and electricity supplies and flooding are down to the developer to sort out.

- f) Any Neighbourhood Plan is not allowed to conflict with the Lewes District Local Plan, which means that as the Local Plan is now be valid until 2030, it makes any idea of a Neighbourhood Plan for Barcombe even more pointless.
- g) Current inactivity on the three Hillside Plots is not down to LDC.
- h) Barcombe as a settlement site, will not be permitted to grow in large chunks. Large development sites will not be accepted by LDC.
- i) I tried to emphasise our preference for smaller houses for first time buyers and downsizing families.
- j) Sustainability is a weird term, in Julia's opinion, houses being built now will not last more than 100/150 years.

I also explained that I thought that creating a Neighbourhood Plan was a divisive process in a small community like Barcombe. Inevitably people would vote for development away from their own back gardens, and what right does a group of volunteers on the Parish Council, without planning or development experience have to decide who wins or loses.

## 2) Neighbourhood Watch

Does anyone want to become the co-ordinator for Barcombe? A system currently exists for the Cooksbridge area where the current co-ordinator wants to step down. It is a valuable communication process from the police and it could be much advanced.

**Agreed** to ask for a volunteer in Barcombe News.

## 3) Can we decide to change our name to the correct Barcombe Cross – and add white entrance gates?

It was **agreed** to pursue the installation of village gates and ask for costs for replacing/adding road signs.

4) Barcombe Cross millennium sign – do we repair, replace or improve, same for the Meridian Line marker? Cllr Stewart confirmed repairs in hand.

## 5) Should we leave the grass verges left uncut to create little meadows (Ben Kimpton)

It was felt this was a good idea where road safety and access for pedestrians can also be provided. Mr Kimpton will be asked to provide some suggested locations.

6) What should we charge for the hiring of the pavilion for parties? Clerk confirmed that the charge is £15 for the first hour then £10 for each subsequent hour.

Apologies received from Cllr Linington.

1708. Questions from Councillors.

1709. Questions from Electors.

The Parish Council was asked to comment on two aspects of the Lewes District Council Local Plan relevant to Barcombe Parish; the proposed footpath and the re-opening of a railway station at Barcombe. **Action:** Clerk to provide comments to LDC.

The Parish Council was asked to write to Southern Water about the ongoing issue of waste discharge into the river. **Action:** Clerk to draft a letter.

1710. Subject Reports

### **Maintenance/recreation.**

Cllr Pack is undertaking several small repairs to the pavilion.

The Parish Council is continuing to work with Neighbourhood First to ensure dumped vehicles are removed from the village carparks.

The documents for the re-development of the scoreboard are being gathered.

**Playground Working Group**

The group are meeting w/b 15<sup>th</sup> July 2019. **Action:** Clerk to add to August agenda.

**Financial strategy.**

Deferred until August Meeting.

**Sports Hall shower re-configuration.**

Parish

1711 Resolutions or recommendations from Councillors:

Co-opt two councilors to Barcombe Parish Council. **Elected** Mr G Smith and Mr M Stroude

Solar grant application for Bowls Club (circulated pre-meeting) - £250.00 provided.

**Action:** Clerk to provide contact details for ESCC fundraising advisor.

1712. Sign documents.

Accept Annual Accounts

Audit Documents. Cllr Marler and Clerk (as responsible officer) signed documents

1713. Authorise payment(s):

- Julia Shelley, Clerks Salary, June 2019, £516.10
- Julia Shelley, Household expenses, June 2019, £45.31
- Tim Austin, Cleaning/caretaking June 2019, £. 313.28
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1714. Correspondence:

- Request for barrier access to Barcombe Mills carpark by large commercial vehicle. It was agreed not to provide barrier keys to anyone at this point as it puts the onus on preventing access on someone other than the Parish Council.
- Request to use Pavilion for social group. Clerk has requested additional information on requirements.

**ALL MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL AND ITS COMMITTEES ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**