

## BARCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of a meeting of Barcombe Parish Council held at the Sports Pavilion, Barcombe, at 19.30 on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020

**Present: Councillors:** Arbenz, Holman, Marler, Pack, Skan, Smith, Stewart, Stroud

#### MINUTES

1781. Apologies; Cllrs Cornwell, Loughlin, Mills.

1782. Signature of the Minutes of the last meetings, Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020  
**Agreed.**

1783. Action Matrix

Wildflower verges – see Chairman's Report

Well covers. Ongoing Cllr Stewart will initially contact one local company for a free site visit. Cllr Loughlin has identified a specialist company and they will be approached subsequently.

WAB compost area – waiting for dryer weather.

Trees on School Path –Ongoing, Planning Application completed.

1784. Chairman's report

#### **Sussex University/flood alert system**

I sent an e-mail to the mechanical engineering department of the university describing our issues with flooding at Barcombe Mills and asked if it were possible to create a mechanism to accurately measure and sign water depth. I had an excellent response and I met with Dr Esra Sorguven, Senior Lecturer in Fluid Mechanics and Thermodynamics – Research Department, Dr Zhengguo Sheng Senior Lecturer in Advanced Networks and Communications – School of Engineering and Sam Wu MSc, at Barcombe Mills to describe the problem.

They were very positive and propose that the problem be used as an actual live problem for their engineering students.

I explained that we have no money to fund this, but as it may be part of the engineering research dept they have funds to cover it. However I think we should help as much as possible and will have to prepare the ground with Highways, Ringmer PC, and others yet to appear.

The outcome should help all commuters from the village and save all the rescue costs.

**Action:** Clerk to email Ringmer and explain students will be visiting site.

#### **Hamsey Parish Council.**

James and I met with Tamsyn d'Arienzo the Chairperson. I feel we should establish a good line of communication with our neighbouring parishes. The existing associations do not contribute much and I think we will have a bigger voice with more of us, in particular with traffic congestion at Earwig Corner, planning matters and a better pooling of knowledge. I hope to continue this dialogue and bring in Chailey and Isfield.

**Wildflower verge.**

Ben Kimpton is keen to create a wild flower “meadow” on the verge on the right hand side down School Hill. It is not outside any house in particular and is cut by ESCC as their patch. A ‘pathway’ will be maintained at the front for pedestrians.

**Action:** Clerk to contact Highways.

### **VE Day**

Friday 8th May. Activities will begin after Barcombe Fun Run and will be driven by the Bonfire Society and the Church – should the PC get involved?

**Action:** Several Councilors agreed to attend the planning meeting, Cllr Marler to circulate details.

### **Eco Fair**

This will be held in the Village Hall on Sat 7th March – I think it is important that we stay in touch with current concerns providing it does not become political in any way nor be part of a protest group. The organisers have asked for a contribution of £100 to cover the hire of the Hall and catering expenses.

The Council **agreed** to support Fair with a donation on £100 subject to confirmation that the event has no political affiliation.

### **Neighbourhood Planning**

I attended a conference yesterday about it, given by consultants.

Bare bones stuff – 60% of NP's do not allocate sites – most take 2-6 years – most teams lost members and came down to 2-3 people - any later adjustments mean the whole thing has to start again – Lewes Town NP took over 2 years and involved consultants and focus group meetings from all ages, eco groups, protest groups ect. and in the end only 25% of the electorate took part in the final referendum.

### **Footpaths**

The Footpath Club want to re-map all footpaths in the parish and update their existing footpath book. They would like financial help to produce the book, which is sold.

It was agreed that when figures are available the Footpath Club can approach the Parish Council for a grant towards printing costs.

One resident has reported a broken footpath gate in Spithurst and asked if we can get it repaired and mentioned the Monday Club. We need to clarify land owners ownership/responsibility and I will plan to meet the Monday Club to find out exactly how they work, options, costs, conversations with land owners etc.

**Action:** Cllr Smith agreed to meet the Monday Club.

### **The Scouts**

have asked the PC for help to fund the purchase of an insulated shipping container to store all camping gear, at £5,000. The existing huts are no longer functioning.

The Parish Council will ask the Scout Group to clarify costs and are very willing, in principle, to provide matched funding from the Solar grant Fund.

### **WAB**

The Parish Council recorded their thanks to all supporters for a great performance at WAB at the January work day. The area is looking great and the number of helpers is fantastic.

1785. Questions from Councillors.

Cllr Skan highlighted the WI Village Litter Pick on the 14<sup>th</sup> March. There are a few areas of the village not yet allocated so a few more volunteers would be welcome. Litter Picking Kit can be collected from the Village Hall.

Cllr Skan also reported that the Telephone Box Bookswap @ The Pub should be up and running shortly.

1786. Questions from Electors.  
None

1787. Subject Reports

### **Recreation/maintenance**

The mowers have been fully serviced (see payments).

The Playground toilet repair is booked in.

Cllr Stewart will visit the playground with a contractor to agree a pre-spring tidy – weeding and cleaning. The spring clean will be done before there Easter Break. The Lewes District Council Annual Assessment has been booked. **Action:** Cllr Pack to share details of Tennis Club contractor with Cllr Stewart.

The Bowls Club have drawn attention to the uneven paving at the front of the pavilion – Action: Cllr Stewart will ask a contractor to inspect.

The Bowls Club have also suggested that additional signage to the recreation ground and clubs would be valuable. **Action:** Cllr Marler and Holman will have a look.

### **WAB**

Firepit bench repair has been chased and should happen shortly.

It was agreed to discuss what work the contractors do at the WAB as currently with the excellent levels of support the WAB Group may prefer to only engage contractors for specific tasks. **Action:** WAB Working group to discuss and feed back to the Parish Council.

**Speedwatch.** The clerk circulated a short report on the Speedwatch pilot. It was agreed that the cost of hiring a mobile speed sign should be sought. The volunteers who had attended the sessions run through the autumn/winter were thanked. **Action:** Clerk to contact ESCC.

1788 Resolutions or recommendations from Councilors:

- Adopt amended Code of Conduct for Members as recommended by Lewes District Council. **Agreed.**
- Adopt Model Finance Guidance 2019 as recommended by SSLAC. **Agreed.**
- The Clerk recommended that a new internal auditor is used for 2019-2020.  
The clerk recommended that the internal auditor was changed, in line with SSLAC best practice ,however the councilors decided to continue with the current internal auditor.

1789. Sign documents. None

1790. Authorise payment(s):

- Julia Shelley, Clerks Salary, February 2020, £516.10
- Julia Shelley, Household expenses, February 2020, £45.31
- Tim Austin, Cleaning/caretaking January 2020, £240.00
- Richard Osmond, Green Keeping, £690.00
- Julia Foster, refund defibrillator pads, £49.18
- Julia Foster, refund electricity bill, £148.06
- Julia Foster, refund 'Planning for Communities' Course for Chairman, £56.10
- Alan Marler, Gift for use of residential electricity for Christmas Tree.£13.80
- Jackie Cornwell, Xmas Tree expenses, £65.00
- Nick Lanaway, Mower Service, £1180.00

*Proposed and seconded Cllr Cornwell and Holman*

1791. Correspondence:

- VE75 Celebrations. *See Chairman's Report*
- Village Gates. The correspondence on this subject was noted and when costs of the proposed work are available local opinion will be taken into consideration.
- Old Railway Line, Anchor Lane. The council noted the concerns raised with Lewes District Council about people living onsite and will monitor the situation.
- Donation request to Eco Fair. *See Chairman's Report.*