

# DRAFT

## BARCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of a meeting of Barcombe Parish Council held at the Sports Pavilion, Barcombe, at 19.30 on July 12th 2017.

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**Present: Councillors** Arbenz, Holman, Loughlin, Marler, Mills, Pearce, Stewart

**1465. Apologies:** Cllr Skan, Cllr Grover

**1466. Signature of the Minutes of the last meeting,** Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017, agreed.

**1467. Actions, if any, remaining from the last meeting:**

**Action:** Cllr Marler to comment on Funding Application documents.

**Actin:** Cllr Marler to source bolt for loose fixing on tree

**1468. Chairman's report:**

#### **Bike Jumps**

Apologies for the late inclusion of this item. We have a window of opportunity to get these done before the school holidays. James and Andrew have met with some lads and discussed with some older bikers what is required, plans have been prepared with jumps slopes etc. and we have a contractor ready to start – for an expected cost of £1500. We are proposing to use the existing material that is piled down there, we will not add more. Trees and bushes will be cut back to allow a slalom area through the trees. It is reasonable to assume we will not produce the perfect set of jumps and some will always want something different, however it will be the best we can come up with. We will ask the existing gardening contractor to keep spraying the weeds in the area. It is apparent that off road skate boards are made, and maybe the more inventive kids could use these bike jumps for skate boarding. The council can, of course, ask for more detailed planning and focus groups and we can put the construction on hold until next year.

#### **Hemlock Water Dropwort**

An e-mail was sent to Julia from a woman whose dog became seriously ill from eating the root of the Dead Man's Finger (is she sure!). The dog recovered. Advice was sought and it appears that Hemlock Water Dropwort is a very common plant in wet areas. (chairman's comment – which means all around Barcombe) All parts are poisonous but especially the roots. It is unusual for the roots to be exposed so it does not usually pose a problem. The Parish Council will monitor the situation.

#### **Good neighbourhood schemes**

Janet Dickson of the WI has mentioned that Ringmer have created a very useful taxi service for people who can't drive and need help to get to medical appointments. Private cars are driven, for 45p a mile, to deliver and collect. All drivers need to go through the police check procedures and car insurance policies need to be updated. What does the council think and is there anyone prepared to start this up. The Parish Council is supportive of this but has no capacity within council at the moment to get involved.

#### **Lower Recreation Ground**

I have received criticism about the mowing of the lower recreation ground and a request that it be left as a meadow. As a reminder, this area was created because there was an identified shortfall in recreational space for a village the size of Barcombe. Sport England supported the case and funded its creation. So it remains a recreational area and should not be left to grow wild -brambles nettles would quickly take over and the area would become unused scrubland.

#### **1487. Questions from Councillors:**

Cllr Loughlin raised the following:

The use of weedkiller on recreation ground. This is carried out annually, by a specialist contractor, to maintain the turf. The school is pre-warned. **Action:** Cllr Stewart will enquire about the product used and whether it is necessary for the children to be kept off the grass for a day.

Request that the Parish Council try to have a report in the Barcombe News each month – Cllr Mills offered to help when necessary.

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Highlighted the regrowth of the hedge alongside the recreation carpark. The Parish Council confirmed it will be assessed and replanted as necessary in the autumn.

Queried whether the boys who attended the Parish Council meeting re: skatepark had been thanked. Clerk confirmed that they had received an email.

### **1488. Questions from Electors**

Dr. MacGillivray reported that there have been some changes in the way that the police handle travellers who stop on council owned local spaces. SSLAC have agreed a procedure. **Action:** Clerk to contact SSALC/AiRS for written guidance and share with the village hall committee any information obtained.

### **1489. Subject Reports**

#### **Neighbourhood Plan**

The Housing Steering Group is gearing up for its community engagement activity in September. Papers have been produced on several topics e.g. village demographics. These will be shared at the event and feedback and suggests collected from the community. Clerk has confirmed that a grant of up to £9,000 is available towards Neighbourhood Planning activities.

**Action:** The Housing Steering Group is requested to provide some outline figures for the completion of a targeted Housing Development Plan.

#### **Barcombe Stores**

The project is at the point of collecting the pledged money, to be completed by the end of July. The shop can then be transferred to the new company by the end of August 2017.

#### **Transport and Highways**

Clerk has chased ESCC for quote for 'drive slowly' signs for Barcombe Mills

Clerk has circulated traffic and safety reports re: Boathouse building site on A26

The water leak at Exchange Corner has been reported, reviewed and Highways have declined to do anything further.

#### **Recreation Ground**

Clerk has received skate park information from Newick (circulated) and will approach Plumpton again.

Bike jumps, plans are in place. Proposal: Confirm start date for work at cost of approx. £1,500. *Proposed Cllr Marler, seconded Cllr Pearce.* work will begin by w/b 17/7/17. **Action:** Cllr Stewart to invite Sam to see work. Clerk to ask for cost of adding clearing of weeds from bike jumps to Barcombe Landscapes contract, Clerk to add bike jump maintenance to budget.

Trees: Two quotations have been received for work on the oaks on the recreation ground and ashes alongside the playground. The Council selected a contractor and the work will be completed shortly.

- Land at roundabout tidied and new bench installed.
- Junior goals for lower recreation purchased and will be installed for summer holidays
- Lottery Fund notice received and will be fixed to Pump House
- The garage doors will be repaired over the next two weeks.
- There are four bookings for the lower field over the summer holidays. **Action:** Clerk to raise invoice.
- There has been a request to use the sports pavilion for an exercise class - £10 per hour suggested.

#### **Playground**

The next stage of the consultation will provide observational information on how the different age groups represented in the community use the local open space, both formally and informally. This will take place between July and September 2017. The recording of this information will support design decisions and also funding bids when appropriate. It may also provide information to support the Housing Steering group research. The survey work will provide a chance to let the village know what is being done and the current existing constraints.

#### **Finance**

Quarterly (May-June 2017) financial report circulated (available from clerk on request).

#### **Strategy**

Parish Council Strategy. Cllr Mills has collated information on Parish Council assets and will continue developing the policy document.

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## 1490. Resolutions or recommendations from Councillors:

- Proposal: Adopt Model Publication Scheme (draft circulated pre-meeting) and add to Parish Council website. *Proposed Cllr Marler, seconded Cllr Pearce*
- Proposal: Confirm that the Housing Steering Group should be tasked to produce a Focused Housing Neighbourhood Plan supported by external consultant. It was decided that the proposal did not accurately reflect the situation so it will be amended and re-presented to the council next month.
- Proposal: Confirm that the Playground Working Groups should undertake a second, more detailed stage of consultation. *Proposed Cllr Mills, seconded Cllr Marler*

## 1491. Sign documents:

- Contract re: adoption of phone box.
- Letter to bank requested statement date change statement to end of month.

## 1492. Authorise payment(s)

- Julia Shelley, Clerks Salary, July 2017, £479.01
- Chris Rumary, caretaking, July 2017, £204
- Julia Shelley, contribution to household expenses, May 2017, £45.31
- Bench, Memorial Bench UK, £350.00
- Portable goals for lower recreation ground, James Stewart, £492.00
- Your Home, Your Garden WAB and Barcombe Mills Mowing, May -£410.00, June- £180.00
- Paynes, Boiler Replacement, £490.80
- Graham White, bench installation, £160.00

*Authorisation proposed Cllr Loughlin, seconded Cllr Arbenz*

## 12. Correspondence

**Meeting closed at approx. 20.56pm.**