

BARCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Barcombe Parish Council held at the Sports Pavilion, Barcombe, at 19.22 on December 13th 2017.

Present: Councillors Arbenz, Cornwell, Grover, Holman, Loughlin, Marler, Mills, Skan

1516. Apologies: Cllr Stewart, Cllr Pearce

1517. Signature of the Minutes of the last meeting, Wednesday 11th October 2017: Agreed.

1518. Road safety presentation:

Chairman's summary of traffic situation in Barcombe.

Traffic speed and volumes are a problem for all villages. We have tried to find answers over many years with many discussions with The Highways Agency and the Council.

Unless things change we are left with the following assumptions: -

- Outside the Village the speed limit is 60 and will probably remain so. There needs to be a set number of houses fronting a road over a given stretch to reduce that, such as the 40 at Spithurst. Barcombe Mills doesn't have that, nor the houses on the Crink.
- Traffic volumes will not go down. New housing in Uckfield and Ringmer will cause greater build up towards Lewes and thus more traffic routing through Barcombe. Additionally the increase in internet shopping creates more van traffic and speeds.
- Because of the costs of road building and land ownership -- roads will not be widened. The Crink will stay as it is. Footpaths and cycle paths outside the Village boundary cannot be provided.
- Speed humps and traffic calming measures cannot be applied on unlit roads and certainly not at 60mph – they create a hazard. Equally, without lights the same applies to the Village. Although there are examples in Kingston and Ditchling and Beggars Wood Road of calming without street lights.
- The verges at the side of many of our approach roads are narrow and there is not enough room to display slow down signs or gates. Farm traffic, hedge and verge cutting can easily damage destroy signs.
- Speed display signs have been considered and could still be used in the Village but would be questionable on the approach roads.
- Neighbourhood speed patrols have been used and petered out.

Kate Graham (East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service) and Steve O'Connell (Community SpeedWatch) provided advice on improving local road safety. The presentation will be added to website.

Operation Crackdown allows individuals to report anti-social driving <http://www.operationcrackdown.org/>

Actions: Cllr Cornwell to contact previous Speedwatch team (Nigel Hills) with a view to restarting group using new system. Mr O'Connell to visit and identify sites where speed monitoring could be carried out. Clerk to contact the Think Campaign for posters and signs. Kate Graham to work with local fire brigade to place road safety signs within village. Cllrs to raise identified issues re: road marking, village gates with ESCC Highways at February meeting. Clerk to add road safety leaflet to websites and circulate via school and noticeboard.

1519. Chairman's report:

There will be a Drop In Meeting on the 14th January in the Village Hall, run by the Steering Group to explain where we are in the new housing developments planned for the Village and how we can influence the process. The main parts of the Lewes District Council Local Plan Part 2 are on the Parish Council Website www.barcombepc.net. The Parish Council were asked to provide a display banner for the roundabout and some other literature, plus non-alcoholic refreshments. Expected cost is around £100. **Proposed:** Cllr Marler, Seconded Cllr Holman.

Nick Gant and others are doing a great job in preparing display posters and questionnaires.

Some form of Neighbourhood Watch seems a good idea, especially since last week's window breaking spree around the village. So far the information circulated by the police in their support of Neighbourhood Watch has not been relevant to Barcombe, but I am being circulated on this and others can be too. If anyone in the village

would like to receive this information currently supplied, please contact me. In the meantime I will make sure relevant information is passed on. This can also be put on the Barcombe Community Facebook page.

CLLr Skan has prepared an information leaflet on a proposed Good Neighbour Scheme for Barcombe. I think we should all support this. CLLr Skan will advise on the next steps in publicity need and general information. CLLr Skan reported that several volunteers have come forward and the group will begin meeting and identifying funding in January. The Parish Council will be approached for a small grant to start the project.

The Chairman took the opportunity to record the Parish Council's thanks to Hedley Cornwell for his repair and painting of the bus shelter. This was done without asking and at his own costs. Thank you. **Action:** Clerk to write and thank Mr Cornwell.

Keep it Clear Campaign (circulated). **Action:** Clerk to promote information on website and notice board.
<https://www.southernwater.co.uk/keep-it-clear>

Apologies received from CLLr Sheppard, CLLr Linington was present.

1520. Questions from Councillors:

The Housing Steering Group would like the Parish Council to write to Lewes District Council confirming that O1BA is recorded as a recreational site and that this classification will remain in place regardless of future plans for other locally identified housing sites. This is a repeat action as earlier letter has not been acknowledged.

Action: Clerk to draft letter. Clerk to obtain a copy of the LDC Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

Outside Toilet. Continues to improve, soap dispenser ordered. The issue remains of the value of having the 'urinal'. **Action:** CLLr Mills, Marler and Stewart to meet and discuss.

Hedge requires assessment and replanting (during winter). **Action:** CLLr Marler and Stewart to review

1521. Subject Reports

- **Update on WAB**

Allotment compost delivery – agreed as long as it is placed on plastic and kept tidily.

Grass cuttings – issue of where to stack. **Action:** CLLr Marler will identify a location where they can be placed, consider building some bins.

Notifiable Invasive Grass (New Zealand Pygmy Weed) in WAB pond. Advice is to fill in pond in. This will be carried out (winter job) and a site for a new pond considered when the risk of the weed re-appearing has been assessed. **Action:** CLLr Marler will arrange a meeting to look at possible sites for replacement pond.

Tree donation to school, these can be requested next year with a view to planting in November 2018.

Action: Planting locations to be identified.

Fruit trees – the gardening club have been asked if they would be willing to provide a fruit tree pruning class so that the trees can be maintained well.

- **Finance: December update (circulated pre-meeting)**

For information: if PWLB repaid earlier than scheduled date there is a loss of reduced interest rates. The outcome is a £2,000 saving but this would take the majority of our saving account.

Action: CLLr Marler to arrange a meeting to discuss the three year spending plan in detail.

- **Playground**

The Playground Working Group have organised a clean-up play spaces. The Parish Council thanks them for this.

- **Housing**

The Parish Council should comment on The Part Two Joint Strategy document. **Action:** Parish Council request that the Housing Steering Group advice on content of response paper. **Action:** Parish Council to seek clarity on the planning status of BA01, no acknowledgment has been made to letter sent in November 2018.

1522. Resolutions or recommendations from Councillors:

- **Proposal:** Accept budget 2018-2019 (Clerk - circulated pre-meeting) *Proposed Cllr Loughlin, seconded Cllr Mills*
- **Proposal:** Agree Precept request of 2% (Clerk- circulated pre-meeting) *Proposed Cllr Loughlin, seconded Cllr Mills*
- **Proposal:** School crossing patrol (lollipop person) for the crossing at top of School Hill (Councillor Mills) The Parish Council would have to pay for this as the number of children crossing is lower than the East Sussex required figure. The cost would be £3,750 but ESCC would manage the process and employ the crossing person. An alternative would be a team of volunteers. **Deferred until February 2018 whilst further information and opinion gathered.**

1523. Sign documents: None

1524. Authorise payment(s)

- Julia Shelley, Clerks Salary, December 2017, £494.65
- Chris Rumary, caretaking, December 2017, £204
- Julia Shelley, Household expenses, December 2017, £45.31
- Barcombe Forestry, tree pruning, £1,080.00
- Your Garden, Your Home, final cut of Barcombe Mills carpark, £120.00
- South East Water, Water bill, £521.54
- Wightman & Parrish, cleaning equipment, £122.99
- Mr Osmond, greenkeeping, £675.00

Authorisation proposed Cllr Loughlin, seconded Cllr Marler

1525. Correspondence

Meeting closed at approx. 21.30