

## BARCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Annual meeting of Electors held at the Sports Pavilion, Barcombe, at 18.45 on May 10<sup>th</sup> 2023.

Present: Cllrs Ashbee, Holman, Skan, Sokoloff, Stewart, Cllr Milligan and two members of the public.

**1. Welcome by the Chairman of the Parish Council.**

**2. Apologies:** None.

**3. Signature of the Minutes of the last meeting, Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022:** Agreed.

**4. Chairman's Report:** Many thanks to retiring Councillors Christine Arbenz, Jackie Cornwell, Terry Pack and Mark Stroude who carried out their responsibilities to good effect before leaving the Parish Council in April.

**Planning.** Planning matters have rather dominated the agenda again for the Parish Council as they did during the year 2021/22. Applications have caused parishioners great concern and hopefully the Parish Council has provided a robust response to Lewes District Council. The Reserved Matters (RM) elements of the Hillside planning permissions are still being addressed, through both an enquiry on the initial RM application due to be heard in July and a full council meeting to review the second RM application in June 2023.

The Parish Council ensured that comments on a speculative planning application by Gladman could be received from the entire community by hosting an event, so allowing people to understand the public comment process. We will use this model in future where appropriate.

**Recreation.** New playground equipment and a zip line were installed after a huge effort by many people in the village, and are now used with enthusiasm. The Parish Council has a more improvements to make in the immediate area, such as an all-weather path alongside the playground, and both tidying and re-marking the car park. Other additions to be investigated this year are the installation of a cycle rack and some adult gym equipment.

The next big recreation project is improvement of the Sports Pavilion. Councillors will begin to examine options during 2023.

**Wild About Barcombe (WAB).** The Wild About Barcombe Committee continue to manage the area to good effect.

Underground water storage tanks near the WAB pump house have been made safe. Confirmation of a grant to provide a formal composting area has been successful: the facility will be shared between WAB, allotment holders and sports clubs.

**Traffic/Roads**

Cllr Milligan confirmed that a new contractor has been appointed for road repairs starting on May 1<sup>st</sup>. This change should lead to a better quality of repair. The contract is stringent, requiring the contractor to meet standards for timeliness and robustness.

**5. Finance report.** Accounts were circulated pre meeting. The audit has been completed and is with the internal auditor. The accounts are on track to be presented at the July Parish Council meeting. Reserves were drawn down during 2022/23 to fund the playground work, but thanks to grants and local fundraising, the monies available for the year 2023/2024 are reasonable.

**6. Report from the Parish Council's representative to the Sports Hall Management Committee**

The improvement work for the Sports Hall is underway. A new Committee Secretary (Greg Johnson) has been appointed.

**7. Question Time.** Concerns were raised about parking during school pupil drop-off and collection. As well as the risk to children crossing between poorly parked cars near the roundabout, significant damage is being caused to drains and verges. The Parish Council will remind the PCSO to attend at difficult times, but more proactively will explore the idea of a 'walking bus' with the Village Hall Committee. This would involve the children being dropped and collected at the Village Hall, then walking to/from school with a small number of parents. The number of cars parking at the Village Hall will be minimal.

*Meeting Closed at approx. 7.15pm*