

DRAFT

BARCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Barcombe Parish Council full meeting held via Zoom on Wednesday 14th April 2021 immediately following the Planning meeting.

Attendees: Cllrs Arbenz, Cornwell, Loughlin, Marler, Mills, Pack, Skan, Smith, Stewart, Stroude.

MINUTES

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Holman

2. **Signature of the Minutes of the last meeting, Wednesday 10th March 2021:**
The Minutes were recorded as a true and accurate record.

3. **Action Matrix (circulated pre-meeting):**

4.

The following actions have been closed.

- Location for additional memorial bench.
- Rubbish behind Pavilion.
- Clearance of compost area in Wild About Barcombe.

5. **Chairman's Report:**

Next month I shall stand down from the Parish Council after an enjoyable ten years – it's now time for someone else to take over. The new Chair and Vice Chair will be elected at the next Parish Council meeting on the 5th May, after the Annual Village Meeting. Existing Parish Councillors will vote.

Once my resignation is formalised there will be a casual vacancy on the Parish Council which will be advertised in due course. The remaining Councillors will be up for re-election in two years as the Council is currently halfway through its normal four-year term. If in two years sufficient members of the community show an interest in joining the Council, an election can be held.

Housing

Lewes District Council has made an error in one of the descriptions of land put forward for development in Barcombe. Some 80% of the land described as 06BA has changed hands, and the new owners have made it clear that their part will not be developed. This is the area behind Grantham Bank and Barcombe Place.

The remainder of 06BA which is the field directly below and to the side of the Village Hall appears to still be, correctly, included in the District Council's 'call for sites'.

Flooding

The Environment Agency is very unresponsive to the plan of working with Sussex University to allow the installation of flow meters to alert local people and drivers to flooding at Barcombe Mills. The Chairman will update the University that the project has reached a dead end, at least for the time being. The Parish Council will continue to work with the Environment Agency to better manage the situation at Barcombe Mills.

The Parish Council would like to thank Alan Marler for his hard work over the last ten years. He has been a positive and pro-active Chairman.

6. **Questions from Councillors:**

- An additional Councillor representative is required for the Sports Hall Committee: Cllr Loughlin volunteered.
- It was noted that the TetraPak recycling bin the High Street car park has not been removed. Action: Clerk to ask Lewes District Council for advice on its removal.
- The wells at the Pump House remain unresolved.
- Action: Cllr Stewart will approach Mackays again.

7. **Questions from Electors:** None.

8. **Subject Reports:**

A new memorial: 'Parke Bench'.

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Cllr Stewart met Rowena Williams and agreed a location for a memorial to her parents. The plan is for it to go between one football goal and the Tennis Pavilion, backing on to Pump House. The bench is on order, together with an inscribed plate.

Recreation Ground

The Bowls Club removed all its rubbish from behind the Pavilion; the caretaker and Cllr Stewart removed and disposed of all the PC's material. This left only items belonging to the Cricket Club. As it is to have a clearing session, the area should once more be tidy. A pest controller is dealing with rats spotted in the area.

There are a number of small repairs underway around the Rec.

- A replacement slab for the steps of the pavilion
- The wooden and wire fences alongside the path from the top entrance of the Recreation Ground will be strengthened and repaired.
- The Pavilion ceiling is to be repaired following water damage associated with broken roof tiles; the latter were replaced free of charge by Steve Heasman. As similar problems have happened many times we may need also to replace damaged roofing felt.
- Two builders are quoting for improvements to the car park toilet block.

Anti-social behaviour

There have been several reports of a group of teenagers generally being a nuisance in the playground, the school and the lower field, leaving broken glass on the lower field and in the shelter. Cllr Stewart has alerted our PCSO, who will monitor the area and provide a presence.

Wild About Barcombe

This was recently taken over by bird watchers ('twitchers') after a rare bird appeared. While a nice way to celebrate ten years of WAB, it proved difficult thanks to the number of people, cars and cameras in what is normally a family play area. Cllr Stewart spoke with a group today: one person asked if we have an option for donations to the Parish, as quite a few were happy to do this. Any money raised will be used for WAB, perhaps to purchase bird boxes. On the negative side, cars have been parked all round the village, side streets are full and (more importantly) no families could use the area thanks to the number of twitchers. The PCSO is aware of the situation and will monitor the area.

Meanwhile, it is very good to see our sports teams getting back training and competition. This, plus the recent sunny weather, means that the Recreation Ground is again fully used.

Playground

- An update from the Playground Working Group was circulated pre-meeting.
- A letter has been received about the playground fence and protective matting. The Caretaker will make a repair to the net as in interim measure.
- The position of the goal mouth was also raised. However there is currently nowhere better. It was noted that children have always kicked balls against the fence even before the goalmouth was present.

Pavilion

Electrical circuits will be tested on the 8th June 2021.

Finance

A draft audit document will be prepared for the May meeting.

9. Sign Documents: None

10. Proposals:

- Agree to set up a 'Just Giving' page to collect donations for Barcombe Mills car park. **Approved. Action:** Clerk to set up and order a banner for the car park.
- Make a policy decision regarding refreshment provision at Barcombe Mills (review annually).
- It was agreed to refuse all concession requests during 2021, then review this decision in April 2022.
- Rubbish in Barcombe Mills car park will be monitored.

11. Authorise payments:

- Julia Shelley, Clerks Salary, April 2021: £530.40
- Julia Shelley, Household expenses, April: £45.31
- Tim Austin, Cleaning/caretaking March 202: £291.61

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- Barcombe Landscapes, compost heaps and hedge: £108.00
- ESALC, Membership Subscription: £509.17
- Rates, Lewes District Council: £349.30

Proposed by Cllr Stroud, seconded by Cllr Loughlin.

12. Correspondence:

- A request was received to advertise at Barcombe Mills car park.
- It was agreed to restrict advertising at Barcombe Mills.
- Create a proper frame for banners at the roundabout.
- Cllr Smith and Steward will meet Chris Rumary to design and build the structure.
- A request for a seed swap on the Recreation Ground was received. The Parish Council is very happy to support this.

Meeting ended: 20.36