

BARCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Barcombe Parish Council's Full Meeting, held in the Sports Pavilion on the 10th December 2025 immediately following the Planning Meeting.

Attendees: Parish Cllrs Alexander, Arnold, Gwynne, Holman, Parsons, Smith, and Sokoloff: Julia Shelley (Clerk)

MINUTES

- 1. Apologies** – The Councillors noted that Mrs Skan has moved away from the Parish and is no longer able to maintain her councillor role. The Chairman thank her for her many years of service and wished her well.
- 2. Declarations of Interest.** None.
- 3. Confirmation and signature of the Minutes of the Parish Council** meeting of Wednesday 12th November 2025. The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting.
- 4. Cllr Milligan's report (circulated pre meeting).** Noted.
- 5. Questions from Electorate.** None.
- 6. Questions from Councillors.** None.
- 7. Subject Reports.**

Wild About Barcombe

It was agreed to highlight WAB at the Eco Fair, with a view to re-starting some occasional working groups and link to the area into the Pollinator Path Project.

Recreation Ground

Cllrs Holman and Parsons will meet Joe Wheatly in the New Year to assess the toilet and garage. Both areas may require temporary work to keep them usable until replacement(s) can be completed.

Environment

Cllr Alexander has met a Lewes resident who has experience in wildflower planting and received good advice. The individual will be attending a Barcombe Horticultural Club Meeting to discuss the project in the New Year. Barcombe Parish Council should hear about the grant bid for the Greening Barcombe Project by the end of December 2025.

Active Travel

Although discussions on a cycleway link between Uckfield and Lewes were progressing, the devolution process is distracting the District Council's attention. Little progress is being made currently.

Cllr Saunders has highlighted a traffic management tool - 'Black Cat' - which automatically uploads data to the police and Highways Department. **Action:** Clerk to see what weight planning give to the data, and whether neighbouring parishes would be interested in joint purchase. **Action:** Clerk to contact Traffic Monitoring section for any data held on Barcombe Mills Road. **Action:** Clerk to ask neighbouring parishes if any have parking controls in place.

Footpaths

Cllr Graham attended the NALC Footpath training course which he thought very useful. He is currently walking the paths recorded in the Barcombe Footpath Guide to check their accessibility, with a view to publish the routes in a new format.

Major Developments (cont/...)

Councillors will meet planning officers for detailed feedback on the Parish Council's submission on the Reserve Matters Application for the 'Blackcurrant Field'.

It was noted that the Railway Bridge on the High Street is under investigation; it shows signs of movement.

It was noted that there is a lack of clarity on the sewage provision required for the new Bridgelands development. Connection to main sewage may be possible: the developer is to report.

Community Engagement

There was a positive discussion about producing a community engagement questionnaire in the New Year.

Lewes Local Plan

The Draft Local Plan is due to be out for consultation from mid-December 2025 until late February 2026. It was agreed to hold an open invitation session where people could inspect the Local Plan documents, and find out how residents can comment on the content. Details to be discussed outside the meeting by email. **Action:** Cllr Holman to liaise with Isabel Linington.

8. Proposals

- a. Adopt IT Policy – deferred for revision by Cllr Holman.
- b. Adopt VDU Policy – approved.
- c. Adopt Bio-diversity Policy – approved.
- d. Adopt Freedom of Information Policy & Publication Scheme – approved.
- e. Adopt Social Media Policy – approved.
- f. Adopt Code of Conduct – approved.
- g. Approve Budget 2026-2027 – approved.
- h. Approve Club fees and pavilion hire 2026-2027 – rise approved @ 5%
- i. Approve 2026-2027 Precept request – approved and signed by Cllr Holman and Clerk..
- j. All Councillors to sign Email Permission Slips – completed.

9. Finance

Prior to the meeting, the Clerk submitted the following financial papers:

- a) Payments and receipts for December 2025
- b) Performance against budget as at end of financial year
- c) Statement for Bank and Savings account (quarterly)
- d) Reconciliation for both Bank and Savings account (quarterly)

Items a), c) and d) were signed by Cllr Sokoloff during the meeting as required.

Payments proposed and seconded: Cllrs Alexander & Parsons

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

Signature _____ Date _____

Next Meeting: January 14th 2026