

BARCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Barcombe Parish Council meeting held via Zoom on **Wednesday 9th December 2020**.

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

AGENDA

1887. Apologies: None

1888. Signature of the Minutes of the last meeting, November 11th 2020

1889. Action Matrix (circulated pre-meeting)

1890. Chairman's report – see Planning Summary Report at end of this document.

1891. Questions from Councillors.

1892. Questions from Electors. None

1893. Subject Reports:

- Recreation ground. The fence outside the school is broken/rotten. A replacement will be fitted tomorrow.
- Mills car park. The height barrier has been driven into. Cllr Stewart had the damage repaired.
- Pump House. Brickwork above the doorway was in a dangerous condition. Repair now made.
- Water wells in Wild About Barcombe. Cllrs Holman and Stewart met the MD of Mackleys, the company which used Barcombe Mills car park for storage recently while repairing a bridge; in future they may repair the bridge on Church Road. The wells are a small project for them, but one it seems keen to help with. We wait a response from the MD regarding our request to open the main well; also to try to utilise the well in the Pump House (Mackleys will recommend someone to do this), and to cover the remaining wells securely. A report/estimate will be circulated when received.
- Father Christmas. You may recall that Santa's visits to Barcombe through the years have been organised either through the Rotary Club or more recently, by the Fire Brigade. Sadly neither option is now open. However, Cllr Stewart has arranged to borrow Hamsey PC's sleigh. With the help of Orla Smith from the Barcombe Baby & Toddler Support Group and the PTA we are arranging a volunteer-led visit to the village: this means that neither the PC nor the PTA will have to deal with too much red tape. Costs are estimated at £150 maximum, which includes amplifier hire and chocolates for all children. The Parish Council agreed funding. We have spoken to Bevern View with a view to with COVID-19 restrictions and its inclusion, and are working with BV's management to ensure this. Cllr Stewart will approach the Fire Brigade to see if it can help run things. The date suggested for Santa's visit is Monday 21st December, the night after Hamsey's event.
- Playground. The Working Group circulated its proposed village-wide questionnaire to Councillors. A survey will be launched in the New Year with paper copies in the shop and an online version.
- Pavilion. An alternative design is under review. This aims to simplify design and reduce cost without compromising improvements to facilities.
- Finance. The Clerk presented a draft budget. The Chairman requested that a second budget should be prepared based on a precept of 0%. Councillors will vote on their preferred option in January 2021; the budget adopted will then be used to support BPC's Precept request to Lewes District Council.

1894. Sign Documents. Terms of Reference for Planning Committee. Agreed to review draft and adopt at January 2021 meeting.

1895. Proposals. None.

1896. Authorise payment(s):

- Julia Shelley, Clerks salary, December 2020. £530.40
- Julia Shelley, household expenses December 2020. £45.31
- Tim Austin, cleaning/caretaking November 2020. £280.00
- Rob Peck, internal audit. £130.00
- SC Design, Pavilion Development. £400
- Graham White, Pump House repair. £425.00
- Shaun Broadway, fencing. £240.00

Paid between meetings:

- Orla Smith, Grant to Barcombe Baby & Toddler Support Group, £74.55
-

Chairman's Report – Lewes District Plan

Building in Barcombe

It is important that we report to the village the latest disappointing information from a meeting between Lewes District Council's Planning Department and the Parish Council.

The Briefing Paper from LDC has been uploaded to our website. The basic points are:

1. The government obliged councils across the country to build a certain number of houses each year. In 2016 the Lewes District Plan could meet the required allocation of 275 houses for the necessary five-year period to 2021.
2. That allocation has increased to 600 per year* and now cannot be met. Therefore the Lewes District Council Local Plan will be considered 'out of date' (redundant) in May next year. It also means that all Neighbourhood Plans over two years old – painstakingly written by Parish Councils – will be redundant.

The result will be a 'presumption in favour of sustainable development'. Essentially this will mean the rules have gone; developers are likely to be granted planning permission without the normal objections, and development will be permitted outside current planning boundaries.

This situation is unlikely to change until Lewes District Council can prepare a new plan which may not be until 2023.

In principle it means that houses in numbers equivalent to the size of Barcombe would be built in Lewes District area every year, with no obligation to improve the road and other infrastructures. It should be noted that Lewes itself is in the South Downs National Park and therefore excluded.

To reach these new targets Lewes DC will continue to contact all local landowners to ask if they wish to put their land forward for development.

Please note that at previous calls for sites, ten fields around Barcombe were put forward for development and three were granted permission, with one later withdrawn. The new call may well involve fields that had not previously been put forward and re-applications for sites previously refused.

A map of the existing sites is available on the Parish Council website – www.barcombepc.net.

** In the December Parish Council meeting Councillor Linington stated that the algorithm used to produce the housing number allocation may be challenged. This could mean a reduction in the proposed allocation.*