

Minutes of a Meeting of Bergh Apton Parish Council On Wednesday 6th January at 6.30pm In The Village Hall – Following a public planning meeting

Members Present

Parish Members Present Elizabeth Robinson (Chair) David Skedge, Janet Skedge, Chris Bewick, Elaine Horn, Hugh Porter, John Ling

In attendance: Clerk and 11 members of the Public

Apologies There was one apology for absence – Councillor Barry Stone

1 Apologies For Absence and Declarations of Interest

There was one apology for absence – County Councillor Barry Stone

2 Minutes of Meeting Held on 18th November 2015

The minutes of the last meeting on 18th November were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3 Matters Arising

There was one matter arising – The Dance Sculpture on Scop Hill - it was recognised that it was the artist's first work and the fettling is not sound therefore water has got into the joints and frozen and caused significant damage. This will be discussed in more detail at the next Parish Council Meeting but Councillors did favour trying to save the sculpture if it was possible and the cost was not too high. Clerk also confirmed she had contacted the Highway Rangers and asked if they could clean the village road signs.

4 Public Consultation

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7pm – The Public Consultation focused on the development of land South of Cookes Road for the erection of 11 dwellings plus associated roads, landscaping and drainage infrastructure.

A question was asked as to why there are now 11 dwellings proposed when previously 'approximately 7' was proposed. It was explained that the policy text states 'approximately seven houses' could be accommodated, anticipating that this number would be limited by the amount of land required to facilitate the necessary drainage infrastructure for the development. But detailed design work has demonstrated that the site can accommodate 11 houses and their drainage system. It was explained that there are 7 private houses plus one extra to fund the costly drainage project plus 3 affordable homes, the affordable houses consist of two one bedroom houses and a two bedroom house. Because one is semi-detached it looks like 10 houses not 11. The houses will be traditional in design and appropriate for their village setting. People were sceptical about the need for small homes in the village, particularly one bedroom affordable units. But it was explained that the provision of affordable homes was from a brief from South Norfolk Council's housing team, and reflected the *actual* housing needs across the District and 1 and 2 bedroomed homes were in greatest demand.

Members of the Parish Council had attended a meeting onsite with the developer and the engineer explained the drainage proposal BUT the Parish Council would like South Norfolk Council to confirm it is adequate, particularly the foul drainage. For information the drainage system has been designed to meet all the relevant British Standards and other codes of practice and will be signed off by Anglian Water and the Environment Agency before implementation.

There is dense planting along the eastern and northern site boundaries. A mature hedge extends along most of the frontage to The Street and Cooke's Road. To create access from The Street and

Cooke's Road it will be necessary to cut back and replant some sections of the existing hedge. The mature planting around Glebe Cottage and the junction of The Street and Cooke's Road will be retained and there will be new tree planting, (Professor Tony Davy from the Bergh Apton Conservation Society will be consulted)

It was pointed out that members of the public will have an opportunity to comment further on this application at the South Norfolk Planning Committee in early March.

5 Country Councillor's Report

Barry Stone - County Councillor for Loddon Ward, his report was distributed.

The Chairman re-opened the Parish Council Meeting.

6 Finance

6.1 New Signatories on Bank Account

Pending waiting paperwork from Elaine Horn

6.2 Clerk has applied for and received a VAT refund of £787.07.

6.3 Precept - The accounts were distributed and it was agreed to leave the precept the same as last year £3,737 there is a South Norfolk Council Grant of £137 so the parish precept requirement is £3,580 which amounts to £20 shown on bills for a Band D property.

7 Village Hall Management Committee

Nothing to report

8 Planning Applications

8.1 Mere Farm Barn, White Heath Road – Removal of condition 2 of planning application 2009/1410 Ref. 2015/2806 – Approved

8.2 Site BER 1 Cookes Road – Land South of Cooke Road, Bergh Apton, erection of 11 dwellings plus associated roads, landscaping and drainage infrastructure.

The following points were submitted to South Norfolk Council

1. The Parish Council would like there to be at least 2 THREE bedroomed houses to improve the demographic of the village.
2. The Parish Council feel the drainage is adequate but hope that South Norfolk will confirm this particularly the foul drainage.

9 Playpark

9.1 Playpark Repairs

Clerk confirmed she had contacted Kevin Parfitt and he is able to undertake the repairs.

10 Events and Correspondence

Clerk confirmed she had received a letter from the PCC requesting that the precept includes a contribution towards maintenance of the public burial ground at the church yard.

11 Items for Future Agendas

Clerk to contact Councillor Barry Stone to request a discussion on highways issues in the village at the next parish council meeting. Then if necessary invite a member of the highways department to attend a future meeting. Clerk to organise Councillors' training.

12 Dates of future Meetings: 24th February, 18th May APM/AGM, 13th July, 7th September, 16th November