

# Minutes of a Meeting of Bergh Apton Parish Council On Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at 7.30pm In The Village Hall

## Members Present

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Parish Members Present	Elizabeth Robinson (Chair) David Skedje, Janet Skedje, Elaine Horn, John Ling
In attendance:	Clerk and 4 members of the public
Apologies	There were 2 apologies for absence – Councillor Barry Stone and Chris Bewick

### **1 Apologies For Absence and Declarations of Interest**

There were 2 apologies for absence – County Councillor Barry Stone and Chris Bewick

### **2 Minutes of Meeting Held on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

The minutes of the last meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> January were amended and are to be reissued and signed by the Chairman.

### **3 Matters Arising**

The Clerk confirmed that Janet Skedje and Elizabeth Robinson are the new signatories on the Bank account. Clerk will contact the Highway Rangers again and ask if they could clean the village road signs – update – there has been a delay on this but it is scheduled to be done soon.

### **4 Public Consultation**

The Chairman closed the meeting

#### **4.1 Country Councillor's Report**

Barry Stone - County Councillor for Loddon Ward, his report for February was emailed to all, March report to follow.

#### **4.2 District Councillor's Report**

John Fuller reported that as a result of housing growth near Norwich the ward boundaries need to be altered to go from 2100 electors per councillor to over 2500 electors per councillor which means in rural areas like Bergh Apton that Councillors may have an additional village added. The boundary commission will decide this in the Summer. Ministers have made it clear that a 3 County combined authority is the way forward in the future so it is most likely that Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire will combine. Also because developers no longer send paper copies of plans with their applications as everything is now done online the council is asking Parishes to read plans on line or print them off. The future of Parish Councils will be reviewed by the boundary commission after the district boundaries have been looked at – it will most likely be suggested that Parishes join up with neighbouring Parishes and share costs, share clerk and insurance etc. After 8 years of being able to freeze Council Tax sadly this year it will rise from £130.68 for a band D to £135.00

The Chairman re-opened the Parish Council Meeting.

### **5 Finance**

#### **5.1 Grants available to celebrate The Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

Clerk informed the Parish Council that South Norfolk Council are encouraging local communities to celebrate the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday by offering grants of up to £400 to help towards the cost of

hosting events which will bring people together the events can take place between 21st April (the actual birthday and 12<sup>th</sup> June (the official birthday, and the peak weekend for large scale events to take place) It was decided that Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June would be a good day for a day-long village event. A sub-committee with representatives from village societies and other interested parties are going to meet on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March to come up with some ideas.

- 5.2 Grant £180 given for the maintenance of the public burial ground at Bergh Apton Church

## **6 Training for Councillors**

Clerk confirmed Councillors' training is booked for 6pm on 20<sup>th</sup> April prior to the Parish Council Meeting. Planning training will be taking place at South Norfolk Council soon.

## **7 Bergh Apton Village Website – Chris Mewton**

Chris Mewton did not attend

## **8 Parish Noticeboards**

John Ling to approach Richard Crome and see if he would be interested in replacing the 'unofficial' village noticeboard on Mill Road.

## **9 The Dance Sculpture**

The arm on the sculpture has been re-attached.

## **10 Change to Bus Route**

Norfolk County Council are asking for views on a proposal to change the 86 bus to a scheduled feeder service into Loddon and Poringland therefore no direct bus into Norwich from the village. Clerk has responded and requested the service remains the same and has contacted Barry Stone our County Councillor to ask for his help.

## **11 Village Hall Management Committee**

Elaine Horn reported that the income raised by letting the village hall pays for the running of the hall. The coffee and catch up sessions are going very well the AGM is scheduled for 6<sup>th</sup> April and on 9<sup>th</sup> April there is a village fair. The conservation trust are organising a litter pick on 10<sup>th</sup> April and there is a film night on 15<sup>th</sup> April and jumble sale on 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

## **12 Planning**

- 12.1 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 following an amendment to the plans.

The Parish Council accept the principle of development but have the following reservations regarding this development.

The disparity between the original report by the Inspector that the site was suitable for approximately 7 dwellings and the 11 dwellings proposed

There should be at least 2 THREE bedroomed houses to improve the demographic of the village.

The Parish Council hope that South Norfolk will confirm the drainage is adequate, particularly the foul drainage.

## **13 Playpark**

- 13.1 Playpark Repairs – Kevin Parfitt will take away the unsafe shelter this week
- 13.2 John Ling is contacting a tree surgeon for his opinion on the tree in the playpark that appears to have some rot.

**14 Annual Parish Meeting 18<sup>th</sup> May**

Clerk will send out invites to all the local organisations

**15 Events and Correspondence**

**16 Items for Future Agendas**

Road Signs

**17 Dates of future Meetings:** 20<sup>th</sup> April training at 6pm meeting from 7.30pm, 18<sup>th</sup> May APM/AGM, 13<sup>th</sup> July, 7<sup>th</sup> September, 16<sup>th</sup> November