

BERGH APTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 17th July 2002 at 7.30pm at the
Village Hall

Present: Mrs. E. Robinson (in the Chair)

Mr. C. Johnson,

Mr. R. Waters

Mr. D. Blake

Also present the Clerk (Miss L. Lain-Rogers) and three members of the public. Mr. A. Hawthorne (District Councillor) had sent his apologies and Mr. A. Gunson (County Councillor) arrived after another meeting.

1. **Apologies:** were received from Bob Kerry and David Skedje (both away)
2. **Declaration of Interest:** none
3. **Minutes of the meeting** held on Wednesday, 12th June 2002 were agreed as a correct record and signed. The planning meeting minutes from Monday, 8th July 2002 were also agreed as a correct record and signed.
4. **Matters arising:**
 - 5.2 SN Alliance Community Plan: Derek Blake reported on his continuing efforts to obtain the software to facilitate a village appraisal. He suggested that the literature from the producers of the software be circulated with the correspondence.
 9. Homewatch: Derek Blake said one additional person in the village had agreed to allow their name to be added to the list for circulation. South Norfolk now has a Homewatch Association with John Leeder as Chairman, Jimmy Rivett as Treasurer and John Broughton as Secretary. Derek had asked that the Agendas be circulated before the meeting so that those who wish to participate know the subjects to be covered before agreeing to attend the meeting. The planned two days training had to be abandoned through lack of support.
 7. Audit: the Clerk said that the accounts had been taken to South Norfolk House on 17th June and that the Chairman would be collecting them on Friday, 19th July.
5. **Finance:**
 - a) Cancellation of cheque no: 700316 for £15.00 payable to NCAPTC for Chairmanship Course on 24th June this course was oversubscribed and Liz Robinson is unable to attend the next course on 16th September
 - b) Insurance for play area: as Suzanne Mewton was present she gave a resume of the installation of the play equipment and anticipates completion by Friday, 26th July. Discussion followed on how best to facilitate the hand over and the insurance cover that will be needed. The Clerk had obtained a quote from the Parish Council insurers of £380 plus tax per annum for it to be covered under the Council's "all risks" policy. The original quote had been for £165 but the increase over a period of three years shows the increasing claims being made. The Clerk said some reduction might be possible by reducing cover on the bark. Robert Waters said that public liability cover now needed to be £5m. The Clerk will confirm this with Zurich Municipal. Derek Blake suggested a meeting be called to arrange the take over and that Paul Butterworth be asked if he could draft the form of words needed. The Clerk thought it would be helpful if the Play Area Committee provided a copy of their minutes agreeing the hand over. It was also felt that clarification of the role of the Village Hall Committee was important and the Clerk will contact Maggie Smith. The question of the annual inspection

was covered and Suzanne said that the installers do the first year's inspection as part of their contract. Derek Blake said he had contacts in the field of inspections and may be able to obtain a competitive quote for future years. Suzanne said the anticipated shortfall in their funding which the Parish Council had agreed to underwrite was £950. She is making an application to BACAP for an additional sum from this year's distribution.

6. Correspondence:

1. The Countryside Agency
 - a) Vital Villages update
 - b) Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998
2. SNC Community Transport – passed to Liz Robinson
3. SNC Building regulations 2000 – reference replacement windows – this will affect every resident in the parish – information and notice board
4. SNC Planning procedure changes - information
5. SNC Planning application – Hollylodge Farm, Loddon Road, ref: E07/02/0799/H - partial demolition and extension of existing rear wing and erection of greenhouse – given full planning permission and listed building consent.
6. SNC Agenda and Minutes of the East Area Planning Committee for 16th July 2002 – extensive coverage of the application for dwelling on Church Meadow Lane ref: E07/02/1190/F
7. SNC Project Support Service – new service to assist with grant applications also Outstanding Achiever awards for young people.
8. SNC agenda items for Area Forum by 10th August for meeting on 10th September at Brooke Village Hall and agenda items by 14th September for meeting between Town and Parish Clerks and the Management Team at SNC on 14th October.
9. SNC Puppy School – poster for notice board
10. Norfolk Police new scheme to encourage Special Constables to volunteer through employer sponsorship – item for the Newsletter and notice boards
11. Abbey National business banking for Parish Councils – good rates of interest at 3% on both current and deposit accounts - information
12. NCC Social Services – poster for adoption services meetings – Newsletter and notice board.
13. Village information booklet – letter from Maria Phillips asking for a representative from the Parish Council to attend the meeting at Mere Farmhouse on 11th September at 7.30pm. As there is a Parish Council Meeting arranged for that night no member of the Council will be free to attend. Derek Blake suggested that Kevin Parfitt (whose idea a village information booklet originally was) be asked to attend on behalf of the Parish Council this was agreed unanimously. Liz Robinson will ask him.
14. HWRC – copy of letter to Adrian Gunson from Bernie and Jean Bobbin detailing problems with the Anti-Waste lorries passing their house and travelling down Whiteheath Road. This letter was read out by the Chairman and after consideration it was agreed that some degree of dispersion was desirable and that the Council did not oppose the use of Whiteheath Road for some lorry movements particularly when the lorries were routed to Aldeby. However it will clarify the need to also use Welbeck Road where there are designated passing places. A report from Anti Waste on lorry movements is anticipated shortly. Anti Waste had confirmed that the movements of skips on Sundays were not planned and were part of the moving in process. They have agreed to (except in very unusual circumstances) have no movements on Sunday and are aiming for none or very limited movements on Saturday. It was thought the commercial style vehicles using the site were in fact transporting domestic waste. The operators have no incentive to receive commercial waste. The letter from Mr. and Mrs. Bobbin also detailed the height of waste in the skips and the damage to trees that was sometimes caused. In part this is caused by

lack of maintenance of cutting back overhanging branches and can cause a problem to buses. Last week a trailer load of straw bales brought down large branches in The Street. It was thought that the new domestic rubbish collections planned by South Norfolk Council to facilitate a higher level of recycling may have the effect of reducing vehicle movements to and from the HWRC. Derek Blake said and Councillors agreed that the site was poorly placed in relation to main road access and the Council would continue to press for its removal when the current permission expires in ten years. By then the way in which recycling is handled may have changed. Derek Blake said “Fly tipping” continued to be a problem from time to time and Adrian Gunson said all incidents should be reported to South Norfolk Council who will arrange for it to be cleared.

15. Norfolk Rural Community Council Newsletter with an insurance survey to complete to assess Parish Councils needs detail their experiences.
 16. Norfolk Constabulary – Annual Report
 17. Norfolk Matters for June/July – a copy given to each Councillor
 18. Village Appraisals – information obtained by Derek Blake
 19. Whitlingham Proposed Visitor Centre to be developed in the Flint Barn
 20. Norwich Hospital and Research Park – public consultation and road access options – Adrian Gunson had arranged that all Parish Councils have been sent a copy for their comments. It was agreed that it was difficult to consider the detailed options at the meeting and Derek Blake suggested a photocopy of the information be made for each Councillor and this can then be decided at the meeting likely to be called next week concerned with the Play Area. He also suggested that neighbours and hospital users be consulted for their views so as to obtain as wide a consultation as possible.
7. **Planning Application:** Fiddlers Cottage, Threadneedle Street erection of garage attached to main dwelling ref: E07/02/1288/H – after examination of the plans and discussion it was agreed unanimously to recommend approval.
 8. **Transport working group:** Liz Robinson said she had discovered the percentages she had worked out now needed to be converted back to actual numbers, but when this is done the application form will be sent off. Derek Blake commented on the bus service and its increasing use. Adrian Gunson said new timetables will shortly come into operation, he asked who was the Bus co-ordinating officer for Bergh Apton. As no one on the Council knew the Clerk will ask Chris Limbach, she will also ask whether sufficient timetables could be made available to distribute with the Newsletter.
 9. **A146 - suggestions for increasing safety:** this was a letter with statistics and drawings from Mr. Peter Tatman asking for the Council’s support for his proposals. A copy of the information was given to each Councillor. The Council discussed the proposed turning lanes but felt whilst supporting safety measures in general unable to comment on the particular scheme. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr. Tatman. Cllr. Adrian Gunson said there had been a reduction in road accidents since the introduction of the 40mph speed limit and the camera was in almost continuous use, a pedestrian refuge is planned to be built in the autumn. One of the problems with road widening is that it can increase speed and therefore accidents and that many services gas, electricity, and sewerage are located under footpath and will therefore make road widening very expensive.

County Councillor’s report: Trees in Threadneedle Street, the County Council now has a report on the trees and this confirms that some work needs to be done. He asked for the names of the owners. Robert Waters thought the County Council might find that they are the owners of some of the trees. Chris Johnson (Tree Warden) would support the cutting back of dead branches overhanging the road but thought the rest should be left there had been a report of both bats and owls using the trees. Adrian Gunson said that Highways must take

action once a report is received. The oak tree at Red Lion corner was mentioned as also needing attention. Cllr. Gunson continued that the road flooding by the phone box in Threadneedle Street will need a drainage scheme. There is also a problem of surface water in Church Meadow Lane where a hedge was taken down and this will need to be included in the programme in due course. The County Council has applied to the Government for funding for a new Hospital access road, the new bus station and changes to contra flow system for buses in the city. The Long Stratton bypass goes for public consultation in October but residents living to the East and West of Long Stratton are opposing the alternative routes. A northern distributor road for Norwich will be consulted upon.

10. **Village Sign:** Bob Kerry had sent a report to the meeting that he had obtained all the measurements needed by the designer and asked him to proceed with the work previously agreed by the Council. A letter detailing the costs will be sent to BACAT in time for their meeting on Monday.
11. **Sewage pumping station on Loddon Road:** the Clerk had contacted Anglian Water to alert them to the increased smells since the new installation work had been done in the spring. An engineer had telephoned her to obtain full details of the problem. He said that a report would be sent to the Council. Comment was also made on the increased noise emanating from the station and this will also be drawn to Anglian Waters notice.
12. **Telephone boxes:** the Clerk detailed the research done in order to ascertain if the red phone boxes were under threat of removal. After numerous phone calls to BT, National Heritage, the Department of Culture, Sport and the Media and back to BT she had found that the only way to ensure their retention was to obtain listing for them, this must be done through English Heritage. After discussion it which all Councillors expressed a desire to keep the red phone boxes, it was proposed by Derek Blake and seconded by Chris Johnson and agreed unanimously that English Heritage be asked to list the three phone boxes.
13. **Tenwinter Trust report and annual accounts:** in the absence of Paul Butterworth this was not available
14. **Other matters for consideration** for future agendas and items for information:
Cars on the car park at the Village Hall with loud music late at night - Chris Johnson raised this matter and Derek Blake asked if the Village Hall Committee were aware of the problem. The Clerk will speak to Mrs. M. Smith.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday, 11th September 2002

The meeting closed at 9.35pm