

BERGH APTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 13th November 2002 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall

Present: Mr. R. Kerry (Chairman)

Mr. D. Skedge

Mr. P. Butterworth

Mr. C. Johnson

Mr. D. Blake (8.55pm)

Also present the Clerk (Miss L. Lain-Rogers)

1. **Apologies:** were received from Mr. D. Blake who would be late as chairing a meeting in Cambridge and Mrs. E. Robinson who is on holiday.
2. **Resignation of Parish Councillor:** the Chairman said it was with regret that he accepted the resignation of Robert Waters and paid tribute to him for the work he had done on the Council. He had written a letter of thanks to him. After discussion it was agreed that the vacancy be advertised and the Clerk will post the notices and let Mr. C. Walton at South Norfolk Council know. The Chairman will write an item for the Newsletter.
3. **Declaration of Interest:** none
4. **The Minutes** of the meeting held on 9th October 2002 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman
5. **Matters arising:**
 - a) Anglian Water, sewage pumping station, Loddon Road – the Clerk had contacted the Chief Engineer's department based at Whitlingham and it is hoped progress will now be made.
 - c) Newsletter – Sally Leigh has taken on the editorship
 - d) Village Book – this is nearing completion. A query was raised as to how it will be kept up to date. Maria Phillips had written to the Council asking for help in discovering who the Homewatch street co-ordinators were. David Skedge agreed to let Maria know.
 - e) SNC meeting on 14th October – the Clerk said a question was raised about the status of village greens adjacent to Council Housing once the voluntary transfer of the housing stock had taken place, likely to be in spring 2003. Concern was expressed that taking on any responsibility would have cost implications. The Clerk was authorised to ask questions from South Norfolk Council and report to the next meeting
6. **Finance:**
 - a) Clerk's salary 13 weeks 1st August to 31st October @ 2½ hrs for £6.693 = £217.52 and expenses £15.76 = £233.28 proposed for payment by Chris Johnson, seconded by Paul Butterworth and agreed unanimously (cheque no. 700324)
 - b) D. Blake expenses for attending Bus Strategy Seminar in Dereham (12.9.02) £32.90 proposed for payment by Chris Johnson, seconded by David Skedge and agreed unanimously (cheque no. 700325)
 - c) Budget for precept 2003/04 a preliminary discussion was held on this and the precept will be set at the December meeting.
7. **Planning applications:**
Hillside Farm, Welbeck Road – redundant agricultural buildings, change of use to builders offices and storage units (E07/02/1965/CU) this was approved unanimously.
8. **Correspondence:**

21. SNC Supplementary Planning Guidance – responses needed by 25th November
 22. SNC Supplementary Planning Guidance Affordable Housing and Housing Mix - responses needed by 25th November
 23. SNC Local Plan: Responses to Second Inquiry Inspector’s recommendations and notification of further modifications
 24. District Council elections – May 2003 – leaflet encouraging people to stand
 25. NRCC Crisis in Democracy – is it just talk? Seminar -Thursday 28th November at Spooner Row Village Hall – Derek Blake will attend this.
 26. NRCC Taking the Trouble – 21st November Thetford – Derek Blake will attend this.
 27. The Experience Corps – information Philip Hacon is coming to see if he can help with volunteers
 28. NRCC Newsletter October 2002
 29. NRCC funding for village projects
 30. SNC Community Transport Information Afternoon 27th November at South Norfolk House 2pm to 5pm
 31. SNC Emergency Planning, Flooding and Land Drainage – although some roads need improved drainage, it was not felt any areas of the village were potential flood sites.
 32. SNC Planning Department training for Town and Parish Councils Thursday, 28th November 6.30pm at South Norfolk House – Bob Kerry will attend.
 33. SNC minutes from the meeting 14th October of Council Officers and Parish Clerks
 34. SNC Large Scale Voluntary Transfer of Housing – query on SNC owned greens or amenity land.
 35. SNC list of photocopying and reprographics charges
 36. NCC Structure Plan Review – looking towards 2025 – response needed by 31st January, 2003 important meeting at SNC, Long Stratton on Wednesday, 27th November at 7pm – Bob Kerry will attend.
 37. A J Canham – Ground Maintenance Contractor – offering competitive service.
 38. Norfolk Police – Consultation Forum at the Nightingale Centre Wednesday, 13th November at 7.30pm, no one was able to attend as it clashed with the Parish Council meeting.
 39. NCC Strategic Planning for Norfolk and the East of England – Regional Planning Framework – response by 16th December – this item appears to be missing from the file.
 40. Adoption and Family Finding Unit – adoption poster put on notice board.
 41. NCC copy of letter from Cllr. Adrian Gunson to Mr. Peter Tatman re safety A146 at Thurton – circulation, letter missing from file.
 42. The Countryside Agency – Vital Villages 2, Parish Transport Grant and Local Heritage Initiative - circulation.
 43. SNC programme of meetings to October 2003 - circulation
 44. Recycle IT offer of recycled computers to help get people started in IT - circulation
 45. Norfolk Constabulary STEP scheme – circulation
 46. Norfolk Constabulary timetable for mobile office November and December on notice board
 47. Norfolk’s Local Transport Plan 2001/02-2005/06 – circulation
 48. D. Watson Contracting – offering a grass-cutting service – circulation
 49. SNC request for information on local environmental groups - the Clerk will send information on Bergh Apton Conservation Trust.
9. **Village Sign:** the Chairman and Derek Blake had met Mr. Ivan Soanes on 21st October to finalise the designs for the Village Sign. Mr. Soanes anticipated having the revised colour drawings with the Council by Christmas. It was now hoped that the sign could be made within the budget set by the Council.
10. **Appointment of nominative trustee** for Thursby Trust and Poors Allotment: Paul Butterworth outlined the responsibilities of a trustee and said that someone with a good local knowledge of the village was being sought. After discussion Chris Johnson volunteered and he was duly proposed by Paul Butterworth, seconded by Bob Kerry and agreed unanimously. Paul Butterworth will give Chris Johnson a copy of the Trust deed so that he can see the way the Trust operates.

11. **Freedom of Information Act 2000:** the Clerk outlined the responsibilities of the Parish Council under the code. The Council examined the Core Classes of Information items 1 to 6 and decided to adopt the model code without the optional sections. This was proposed by Paul Butterworth and seconded by David Skedge and agreed unanimously.

12. **Other matters for consideration** for future agendas and items for information

- a) EDP Village of the Year report and list of results this was added to the correspondence file for circulation and it was noted that Bergh Apton came first out of the list of four villages who attempted the competition for the first time this year.
- b) Paul Butterworth said the Christmas Dinner was on Sunday 8th December starting at 12 noon, Bob Kerry said he would help with this event.
- c) David Skedge said there was a problem with road flooding in Threadneedle Street adjacent to Royston House. There used to be a pond in the garden which is now filled in. The Clerk to draw Adrian Gunson's attention to the problem.
- d) Chris Johnson said there was a lot of mud on Bungay Lane and the banks have been badly eroded. The Council was not sure whether South Norfolk Council or the County Council have the responsibility of sweeping the roads. The Clerk will ask Adrian Gunson. Chris then raised the issue of the dead oak tree in the copse by the Red Lion. This could pose a danger. The Clerk will contact Mr. Hemmant.
- e) Derek Blake had contacted the Building Regulations department at South Norfolk Council for clarification on the new regulations on glazing, roofing and heating. He is being sent a full copy of the regulations.
- f) Post box by Council Houses – Milton Harris has asked if something can be done to improve the approach to the post box, on wet days the grass can be very slippery. After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk will ask Adrian Gunson for his comments before any work is done as the verge may belong to the County Council.

13. Dates of next meetings: 11th December, 8th January, 12th February, 26th March and 23rd April.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm