

BERGH APTON PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting on Wednesday, 8th January 2003 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall

Present: Mr. R. Kerry, Chairman

Mrs. E. Robinson

Mr. D. Blake

Mr. C. Johnson

Mr. D. Skedje

Also present the Clerk (Miss L. Lain-Rogers) and Councillor A. Gunson (County Council)

1. **Apologies:** Paul Butterworth sent his apologies as he was detained at work
2. **Declaration of Interest:** none
3. **Appointment of new Parish Councillor:** No one has yet shown an interest. Bob Kerry has written another item for the Newsletter to encourage participation.
4. **Minutes of 11th December 2002** previously circulated were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman
5. **Matters arising:**
 - a) Village Booklet - Homewatch section Bob Kerry will do this after he has contacted John Broughton the co-ordinator for more information.
 - b) Road drainage in Threadneedle Street – Adrian Gunson has asked Highways to deal with.
 - c) GO-East renewable energy and the planning system – Bob Kerry has returned the survey a copy was given to the Clerk to file.
 - d) Mud on road at Bungay Lane and Bussey Bridge. Brian Bowler of South Norfolk Council has inspected this and the mud is so impacted that he has had to pass the matter to Norfolk County Council to deal with. Adrian Gunson will follow this up. Chris Johnson expressed concern at the major damage and erosion to the roadside verges by large agricultural vehicles and lorries. It was felt this might improve with the weight restriction shortly to be imposed on Seething Street
 - e) Post box in Church Road – Milton Harris has made the suggestion that the box be moved adjacent to the present pavement a distance of approximately 4 metres. The Clerk has spoken to the Post Office in Norwich and Mr. Neil Hartley will visit the site and contact the Parish Council with his suggestions in a few months. It was agreed to await his report.
 - f) Dead tree in Red Lion copse – the Clerk will contact the owners again and if no success Adrian Gunson will arrange for the County Council to take action.
 - g) Vital Villages – Derek Blake has made the arrangements for Janet Peachey to attend the next meeting of the Parish Council and has also registered the Council's intention to proceed with a Parish Plan.
 - h) East of England Regional Planning Guidance – Bob Kerry has sent the Council's response
 - i) SNC Housing Forum on 15th January Bob Kerry drew this to Councillor's attention
 - j) Fairhaven, Mill Road ref: E07/01/1258/H the Clerk telephoned John Williams, Enforcement Officer in December to register the Council's concern on the new entrance into Mill Road and has since put this in writing.

Councillor Adrian Gunson's report: was agreed to be taken at this stage as he had another meeting to attend. The Planning Application for concrete crushing at the Contractor's yard at Welbeck Road for three days per calendar year was considered by Norfolk County Council on 20th December. Derek Blake spoke on behalf of the Parish Council and Robert Waters raised concerns of those living close to the site. It was felt to be a helpful exchange of views. Conditions that include the heights of stockpiled material, landscaping and the provision of an earth bund will now be negotiated with the Contractors by officers of

the County Council and they will report back to the Planning Committee. The tonnage to be crushed has been reduced from 3000 to 2000 tons. A close boarded fence was not felt to be appropriate in the particular rural setting close to the Church and Conservation land. Prior notice will be given to residents living close by of the days the concrete crushing will take place.

Closed Landfill Site: Joel Hull has prepared a landscaping plan for the western edge of the site to include additional plots of trees, extensive hedging and a permitted footpath. Chris Johnson said Martin Holl had concerns about the permitted footpath which would enable the public to come close to his chicken sheds. NCC Structure Plan to 2025 – Bob Kerry attended the meeting in Long Stratton. He questioned whether continued growth was entirely desirable and said no one raised the alternative view. Adrian Gunson said much of the development of Norfolk in last 30 years had been that of housing without the accompanying jobs. Most people favour growth but it comes with a loss of heritage. There is also a danger of becoming a dormitory area for London and Cambridge and a retirement area. This can cause pressure on the infrastructure both health services and space on roads. It is important for the County Council to retain a role in planning

He concluded his report by saying that grants are now available from the County Council for bus shelters. He will let Bob Kerry know who to contact to access this funding.

Derek Blake said the Community Champion Scheme which was EU funded also could make funds available to communities for projects such as bus shelters this could be part of the matching funding needed. It also needs someone to take it on.

6. Finance:

- a) Revised salary scale for Clerks: a national pay award has been agreed for Clerks which increases the hourly rate from £6.693 to £6.895 from 1st April 2002 and £6.962 from 1st October 2002 as the Clerk has only been eligible for payment from 1st August the new salary scale will operate from then, after discussion the adoption of the new salary scales was proposed by Liz Robinson seconded by Derek Blake and agreed unanimously.
- b) Citizens Advice Bureau appeal for donation: after discussion a donation of £30 was proposed by Liz Robinson, seconded by Chris Johnson and agreed unanimously (cheque no. 700328)
- c) Norwich Cathedral visitor facilities: it was decided not to support this appeal

7. Correspondence:

1. NCAPTC Area Planning Meeting 20th November notes from meeting – guidance on planning issues
2. SNC Planning Training on 28th November notes from meeting
3. SNC precept tax base 2003/04
4. SNC Credit Union newsletter winter 2002
5. SNC Housing Transfer update 2 (3 copies)
6. SNC Affordable Housing for local people
7. SNC Full Planning permission granted to Hillside Farm for change of use from redundant agricultural buildings to builders offices and storage units ref:E07/02/1965/CU and also to Windyridge, Church Meadow Lane 2no storey extension to rear of dwelling ref: E07/02/2057/H.
8. Citizens Advice Bureau – annual appeal – decided under Finance
9. SNC Tenancy Support – it was agreed to send this to the Newsletter
10. SNC Empty Homes Strategy – action taken earlier in the year
11. NHS Heron local health information for Norfolk – poster on notice board
12. Norwich Cathedral Trust – appeal for funding – decided under finance
13. Youth in the Community Matters
14. SNC IT training – Derek Blake asked if this was restricted to Clerks or whether Councillors could also take advantage of the training. The Clerk agreed to ask Jeanette Wharton the Trainer and also to give him a copy of the training schedule and contents.
15. NCC local bus services dealt with under item 9 on the Agenda
16. NCC report to committee determining the application for concrete crushing for 3 days a year at Contractors Yard, Welbeck Road on 20th December 2002 discussed during the County Councillor's report.

17. Norfolk Rural Community Council Newsletter and survey form 3rd March deadline, circulated
 18. NRCC renew subscription for £12.50 – circulated for consideration at next meeting
 19. NRCC Conference Saturday, 29th March at Easton College, “Rural Villages – Winners or Whingers?” – circulated
 20. CPRE Norfolk Countryside Review – winter issue circulated
 21. CPRE Transport newsletter – circulated
 22. NCC letter from Alison King received via email at 6pm on 8.1.03 concerning the decisions the County Council has to make on where to make cuts in the provision of services. The County has received £26 million less than it needs to maintain services at the present level.
 23. NCC Closed Landfill Site – Joel Hull has written to the Parish Council, the Conservation Trust and the Liaison Committee members to gauge opinions on the planting of trees and hedges on the western boundaries of the site and also to plant additional areas of woodland. A further suggestion is for a permitted path to be established around the perimeter. Chris Johnson again raised the concerns of Martin Holl the adjacent land owner and suggested that he should have the opportunity to speak at the next Parish Council meeting before a decision was taken as to whether to support the permitted path proposal or not. This was agreed. It was further agreed that the Clerk should write in support of the tree and hedge planting scheme.
- This concluded the correspondence and David Skedge asked to be the first Councillor to have the correspondence this time.

8. **Planning applications:** policy and training the notes from the two meetings at South Norfolk House on this matter are included in the correspondence. Derek Blake had followed up the query on the Planning Application form and had been sent the next draft by Mr. Tomlinson. He will make further positive suggestions as to how this form can be improved.
9. **Local bus services survey:** after discussion it was agreed that Derek Blake would fill in the survey form on behalf of the Council. He has produced copies of the bus timetables for most stops in the village and stapled them up, he asked for a volunteer to put the next set up once the new timetables come into operation.
10. **Norfolk Structure Plan to 2025:** after a brief discussion it was felt the subject too important to delegate to one councillor so a meeting was arranged at Mill Farm for 14th January at 7.30pm. Derek Blake tendered his apologies as unable to attend, but agreed to put his thoughts in writing and get them to the Chairman before the meeting.
11. **HWRC Liaison meeting 22nd January 2003:** Bob Kerry will attend on behalf of the Council and asked if any other Councillors would like to go particularly any who had attended before. It was left that anyone who wished to go would get in touch with him. The Clerk expressed a wish to attend.
12. **Other matters for consideration** for future agendas and items for information:
 - a) Village Sign: Bob Kerry had received a note of apology from Mr. Soames who has been unwell. He hopes to have the drawings by the next meeting.
 - b) Broadband – bid for the village. The Clerk said John Ling has written an article for the Newsletter to ascertain how much interest there is in pursuing the matter.
 - c) Parish Council elections on 1st May 2003: Bob Kerry will write an article for the Newsletter and Derek Blake will send him a few ideas to encourage more people to participate.
 - d) Date of Annual Parish Meeting on 28th April the Clerk had checked that the Village Hall was free and that Adrian Gunson can attend. The 12th May was suggested for AGM of Parish Council, the Clerk will check.
13. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 12th February, 2003

The meeting closed at 9.17pm