

BERGH APTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting on Wednesday, 12th February 2003 at 8.05pm at the
Village Hall

Before this meeting at 7.30pm there was a presentation from Janet Peachey of Norfolk Rural Community Council on the subject of Vital Villages and the production of a Parish Plan – see attached report.

Present: Mr. R. Kerry (Chairman & RFO)
Mrs. L. Robinson
Mr. D. Skedge
Mr. D. Blake
Mr. C. Johnson

Also present the Clerk (Miss L. Lain-Rogers) P.C. Andy Norton and fourteen members of the public. Mr. A. Gunson (County Councillor) and Mr. A. Hawthorne (District Councillor) sent their apologies.

Police report: PC Norton said there had been one reported crime in the village this year. An attempted break in which had been foiled by the alarm system. Derek Blake raised the issue of local crimes not appearing on the Homewatch network and PC Norton said he would look into this.

1. **Apologies:** were received from Mr. P. Butterworth who was working.
2. **Declaration of Interest:** none
3. **Appointment of new Parish Councillor:** although one person had responded to the Clerk following the publication of the Chairman's article in the Newsletter, when asked they declined to take up the position.
4. **Minutes of the meeting** held on 8th January 2003 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman
5. **Matters arising:**
 - a) Village Booklet and Homewatch: Bob Kerry had contacted John Broughton and had been given a list of the eight people in the village to whom he passes information. Bob was in the process of phoning these people to ascertain whether they were happy for details of their phone numbers to be put in the booklet, but before he could complete the task the booklet was published.
 - b) Fairhaven, Mill Road ref: E07/01/1258/H the Clerk had received a response from John Williams the District Council's enforcement officer who said the new entrance on to Mill, Road had been a condition placed on the Planning Application by the District Council.
 - c) Bus shelters: Bob Kerry had contacted the person responsible at County Hall (Peter Cudby) and there is now a possibility of 100% funding. The fund is fully allocated for this financial year, but an application can be made from April. The site previously identified as benefiting from a bus shelter namely Hellington Corner is in fact in Alington and would need the co-operation of Alington with Yelverton

Parish Council. The Clerk will speak to Paul Goulding (Chairman). Derek Blake was keen to see the Parish Council pursue this matter and said there were two other sites in the village that would benefit from a shelter. Bus Shelters to be an agenda item for next meeting.

- d) Norfolk Structure Plan: Bob Kerry had sent off the Parish Council's response and gave a copy of this to the Clerk to file.
- e) HWRC Liason Meeting on 22nd January this was attended by Bob Kerry and the Clerk. At this meeting the usual tonnages for recycled materials and lorry movements were presented. In addition there was discussion on the proposed planting of additional blocks of trees and hedges around the western perimeter of the Closed Landfill Site. The Parish Council had written to support this policy after its last meeting but mentioned concerns of the adjacent landowner in relation to the proposed permitted footpath which would take members of the public within 20 metres of his farm buildings. Martin Holl had since telephoned the Chairman with his views as he was unable to be present at this meeting. After discussion it was agreed to ask the Clerk to write to the County Council suggesting that a larger block of trees be planted on the western boundary and that the route of the permitted path be taken to the top of the hill, say half way across the site and be kept away from the western boundary.
- f) Broadband: John Ling reported on the competition to obtain Broadband access for local communities. He said that it was unlikely to be successful in this area as only 29 people have registered their interest on the Thurton exchange so far. BT set a trigger level somewhere between 250 and 750, the target for Thurton is likely to be in the region of 400. In addition whilst the cost of installing Broadband is met by the competition, the individual phone bills of £27 a month are not and on this basis it is very unlikely that many more people will sign up. Derek Blake thought that in time the costs would reduce and there will be other opportunities to connect later. Chris Johnson asked if this should be included in the Village Plan. Bob Kerry thanked John Ling for looking into the matter on behalf of the Parish Council.
- g) Dates for Annual Parish Meeting on 28th April and the Annual General Meeting on 12th May both at the Village Hall were confirmed as available by the Clerk.

6. Finance:

- a) Soanes Signs: Bob Kerry had received the full colour drawings for the proposed Village Sign. Derek Blake did not consider that these constituted a design and specification that would enable the Parish Council to put the work out to tender by two other foundries, he therefore opposed payment. The Chairman said that the Parish Council had authorised this payment in principle at a previous meeting before asking Mr. Soanes to do the work. Liz Robinson proposed payment of £250 + £43.75 VAT = £293.75 this was seconded by David Skedge and passed with three votes for and two abstentions. (cheque no. 700329)
- b) Clerks salary for 1st November to 31st January 2003 £215.59 expenses £62.81 = £278.40 this was proposed for payment by Derek Blake seconded by David Skedge and agreed unanimously (cheque no. 700330.) The Clerk pointed out that in error she had omitted to charge for 2.5 hours the Parish Council agreed that this can be rectified next quarter.

7. Correspondence:

1. SNC Treeline – newsletter Jan. 2003
2. Broadband – competition needs action soon - see item 5 above

3. SNC Housing Strategy 2002/03
 4. Homewatch Newsletter: a system of alarm that can be installed in the homes of the most vulnerable people is offered free for 3 months, it is linked to the Contact Care system. This offer must be taken up by 31st March. Councillors were asked to think if anyone in the village might like to take up this offer.
 5.
 - a) NCAPTC Training for Clerks and Councillors 11th and 25th March
 - b) NCAPTC Seminar on current initiatives challenging parishes 26th March
9.30 Swaffham
 - c) NCAPTC Norfolk Link Jan. 2003
 - d) NCAPTC Area Meeting at South Norfolk House on 20th March at 7pm for
7.30pm notification needed of numbers attending
 - e) NCAPTC Handbook for Parish and Town Councils 2003
 - f) Your Life Awards 2003
 6. Make Space Campaign – meeting Monday 3rd March 7pm Diss. Focus on Youth needs
11 – 16 the Clerk was asked to pass this to the Youth Club.
 7. Jobs and Learning Fayre Wednesday, 26th March Diss
 8. SNC Parish Magazines – seeking information on them – completed by Clerk
 9. Norfolk Matters January 2003 copy for each Councillor
 10. Standards Board letter to Stuart Chaplin
 11. SNC items for Area Forums – 11th March Poringland Primary School
 12. SNC District and Parish Elections 1st May 2003
 13. SNC Horse Tethering leaflets
 14. The Green Sheet
 15. Homewatch Newsletter end of 2002
 16. Norwich and District CAB thanks for donation of £30
 17. SNC Parish Plans from Rachel Gadbury with offer of grant towards matching funding
of £54.60
 18. SNC Notice of intention to adopt Local Plan
 19. Police – new timetables for mobile police stations
 20. Norfolk Accident Rescue Service plea for funding – item for next Agenda to consider
donation
 21. SNC Large Scale Voluntary Transfer of council's houses to a Housing Association –
reply to BAPC letter of 6th January.
 22. Framingham Earl High School – Sports College status
 23. CPRE information
8. **Planning applications:**
- Blue Bell Cottage, Bussey Bridge proposed 2no storey extension to side of dwelling E07/03/0046/H after discussion this application was approved unanimously with the comment that it will enhance the dwelling.
- Road Haulage Depot, Welbeck Road, Bergh Apton – E07/03/0160/F - Demolition of existing buildings and re-building offices. Derek Blake raised the question as to whether another application for planning permission should be considered until the applicant had fulfilled previous planning conditions to landscape the site. Bob Kerry said this application was a separate issue and should be judged on its merits, it was likely the pitched roof would improve the visual appearance of the site. After further discussion the application was approved the voting was two votes for, two votes against and one abstention. The Chairman then used his casting vote to pass the application.

9. **Vital Villages – Parish Plan:** following the talk by Janet Peachey from Norfolk Rural Community Council before the start of the meeting outlining the way to proceed in the formation of a steering committee to take the Plan forwards. Janet Peachey is willing to come and speak at the launching evening, the date chosen was Friday, 28th February. Derek Blake offered to write a letter to be hand delivered by Parish Councillors to every household in the village (235 copies). This letter would invite everyone to a social evening to discuss what is involved and to find volunteers from a wide spectrum of village life including at least one young person. Hilary Ling offered to produce some posters. The Clerk will obtain red and white wine and soft drinks, together with assorted nibbles for the evening. The point was made that at least two Parish Councillors should be on the Steering Committee.
10. **Village Sign:** Bob Kerry said that another meeting would be needed to finalise the details on the sign. A working group will meet on 10th March, Chris Johnson invited Councillors to Bussey Bridge.
11. **EDP Village of the Year Competition:** after discussion the Clerk offered to complete the application form this has to be returned by 14th March.
12. **Other matters for consideration** for future agendas and items for information:
- a) Farrow's site: Derek Blake asked for the current position on the Concrete Crushing application. It doesn't appear that anything has yet been done in the way of landscaping to fulfil the conditions applied by the County Council Planners at their meeting on 20th December. The Clerk was asked to raise the matter with Adrian Gunson.
 - b) Footpath Warden: Graham Harber had sent a message to say the finger post on Bridleway no. 10 has been broken by an agricultural vehicle and needs replacing. The HGV sign at the top of Bungay Lane has gone missing.
 - c) Hedge cutting: Ruth Harris asked if when the hedges were being cut the driver could be asked to bear in mind that horse riders were taller than many vehicles and the stray branches and brambles caused a hazard. The Clerk to ask Adrian Gunson.
 - d) Churchyard maintenance: John Ling asked for support for the costs of the ongoing work in maintaining the churchyard. Bob Kerry said that provision had been allocated for this in next year's budget and the request would be looked at favourably.
 - e) Environmental Liaison Meeting: at Long Stratton on 11th February, Ruth Harris had attended this on behalf of the Parish Council the subject was waste reduction to nil and managing waste as a resource. The Chairman asked that a short report on the work of the Environmental Liaison Group be prepared for the Annual Parish Meeting on 28th April.
 - f) Wind Turbine: Ruth Harris wished to raise the question of a wind turbine to generate electricity for the village and would be willing to offer a site.
 - g) Grant application to the Rural Activities Fund for funds for a village sign. Bob Kerry will complete the form.
13. **Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 26th March, 2003 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall

The meeting closed at 10pm