

BERGH APTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 14th January 2004 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall
Present: Alison Freeman (Chairman) John Ling, Chris Johnson, Jean Bobbin, Derek Blake and David Skedge

Also present: the Clerk (Lorie Lain-Rogers) and nine members of the public. Adrian Gunson (County Councillor) and John Fuller (District Councillor)

1. **Apologies:** Sally Leigh who is away.
2. **Declaration of Interest:** John Ling declared a personal interest as with regard to item 8 Rose Cottage and the adjacent cottage in Whiteheath Road as a friend of Mr. and Mrs. P. Hemmant. Alison Freeman, John Ling and Chris Johnson declared a personal interest in item 8 erection of pole barn at Bussey Bridge and in Chris Johnson's case this is also a prejudicial interest and he will refrain from speaking and voting.
3. **Minutes of 10th December 2003** were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman
4. **Matters arising:**
 - a) 4d. Mothers and Toddlers Group: had sent in a breakdown of their current needs (mainly a storage shed) and this information will be circulated with the correspondence.
 - b) 4e. Village Hall commemorative tree: information on the proposed black poplar to be presented at the next committee meeting
 - c) 6d. The material for the SLCC training course for the Clerk has arrived.
 - d) 9. Large Scale Voluntary Transfer of Housing Stock from the District Council to a Housing Association: the Clerk had spoken to Matthew Cooper and received assurances that as the houses were listed buildings, "Taylor and Green," it is almost a watertight guarantee that the land surrounding the houses will remain as it is. The only way for a 100% guarantee was for the Parish Council to assume ownership but with this would come the annual maintenance bill for grass cutting etc. After discussion and learning from John Fuller that it was already too late to take on ownership of the land it was decided to ask for copies of written agreement under which the land was transferred and to make sure that access, both for enjoyment and maintenance, was written in with regard to the "Burghers of Apton" sculpture by Verena Murtagh.
 - e) 11. Village Sign: Derek Blake and John Ling had taken the pattern to the foundry and all were impressed with the quality and detailing of the carving. East Coast Castings will need to do additional work before it can be cast and this is likely to put their costs up by £145. This to be an agenda item for next meeting. The expected delivery date is in three months by which time the post and groundwork will need to be completed.
 - f) 12. Bus shelter: permission for the siting of the shelter at Hellington Corner has been obtained from Highways. The bus shelter has been ordered and the supply company alerted to the fact that completion must take place before 14th March 2004 to comply with the terms of the Norfolk County Council grant.
 - g) 14. Children's play area: the safety inspection took place in early January and the report is awaited
5. **Public consultation** including reports from County and District Councillors: the proposal to close the meeting was made by David Skedge, seconded by Jean Bobbin and agreed. Adrian Gunson said the requested speed limits in the village for Cookes Road, Church Meadow Lane and the Street would be considered towards the end of the year. The drainage problem in Church Meadow Lane may need an expensive scheme to resolve it. At the Liaison Meeting last night it was reported that bin movements had fallen by 18/19% in the last six months, there was less going in and as the present operator was achieving higher skip weights there were less lorry movements. Green waste is reduced in volume and there is less waste going to landfill, a 71% recycling rate is being achieved

making this one of the best sites. There are no movements on a Saturday, or Sunday. At the worst site for fly-tipping on Welbeck Road a camera is being requested, some information on fly-tipping following a BBC programme on it was presented at that meeting and will be circulated in the correspondence. Farrow's site there was a query as to whether additional hedging had been planted and this will be followed up by the County Council to ensure compliance with planning permission. Closed Landfill site, the gas pipes are to be buried now the land has settled. Methane is not a problem and continues to be vented 8am to 5pm. The water quality will be sampled on 19th January. Hobart High School was successful in its PFI bid and will have the additional facilities open for September 2005. The expected role will be 750 from its present 640. The new coach park will be located opposite the First School. There is the possibility of an all weather surface and fitness centre being built at the same time as the PFI work on the school which would be cheaper and he was trying to get the District Council involved. Derek Blake raised the possibility of the all weather surface and the fitness centre being located at the Jubilee Hall, this is what some local residents would prefer. However the site is less important than the provision of the facilities and the Council was encouraged to write in support of the need for sports provision. The contract for the High School building will be signed in March by the County Council. The bollards on the A146 have been requested for lighting up. The second stage of resurfacing the Loddon bypass from George Lane to High Bungay Road will be done this year as will the Trowse bypass. Flood defence, BESL are still proposing the flooding of 250 acres of marsh to resolve the flood defence needs of the area, however they have not done their homework on the likely consequences of this action. Adrian continues to press for this on behalf of the local community. There will now be a pause for three years during which time they have said they will continue to maintain the banks as at present. It is hoped this will not be in the form of benign neglect. Park and Ride scheme at Harford Bridges opens on Tuesday, 3rd Feb and will have the capacity of twice the cattle market. Local people may prefer this site to the one at Postwick. Long Stratton bypass, Norfolk County Council are now seeking planning permission and there will be a public enquiry which will take the best part of a year. First buses in Norwich are improving their service as 20% were not meeting their deadlines, now it is 5% there was also 9% not running at all. In the county they are performing better. £100,000 has been invested in providing a computer navigational system that will enable the management to know where their buses are. This will also link to road congestion information enabling some of the jams to be avoided. A new manager has recently been appointed. Twelve new buses have been purchased. Too few people complain when the service is not up to scratch. In spite of providing a specialist hotline only about three complaints a week are received. When people receive a poor service they should register their complaints.

John Fuller: reported that Broadband would be available for the Thurton exchange on 22nd April, but those on the Brooke exchange had not yet reached their target figure. The planning permission for Rosedene Farmhouse for change of use of residential outside workshop to race car repair had been refused. The permission had been given for White House Farm listed building insertion of door and window to rear and Shangri la for a two storey extension had been given. East Area Planning Meeting currently sited at Loddon Middle School and meeting once a month was under review and there was pressure for this to be re-located to Long Stratton. Parish Councillors were dismayed at such an erosion of local accountability and democracy and strongly wished to oppose any such move – see item 8. The Voluntary Transfer of Housing is likely to take place on 8th March. New windows and kitchens will be on offer, but so will an increase in rent. Tenants will be able to refuse any improvements if they so wish. A member of the public asked that any recommendation on the planning application for Bussey Bridge Farm to erect a pole barn be deferred to a later meeting to enable those affected to make their views known. Another member of the public asked for more information on the HWRC. Proposal to re-open the meeting was then made by David Skedge, seconded by Jean Bobbin and agreed unanimously.

6. Finance:

- a) Statement of accounts: copies of the budget in the form to be presented in the Newsletter were circulated to Councillors. The Clerk will provide figures on the current balances at the next meeting.

7. Correspondence:

1. Clerks and Councils Direct
 2. Go – East Renewal Energy survey results
 3. NCC further request for survey forms to be returned on Transport
 4. Article by Derek Blake on potential for sports provision in Loddon – action needed – agreed to send letter of interest from the parish
 5. SNC Adopter Group survey – future of mini recycling centres and request for services/help from Parishes – this only applies to those villages which currently have recycling centres.
 6. SNC copy of Annual Programme
 7. SNC Precept Tax base for 2004/05
 8. SNC Area Forum Tuesday, 9th March 7.30pm at Brooke Parish Hall – items for Agenda needed by 9th February.
 9. SNC Draft Strategy for Gypsies and Travellers in Norfolk – the Council agreed that they would like to be involved in the consultative process. Dates 19th January to 13th February. The Clerk to circulate information when received.
 10. SNC Planning Application response: White House Farm, School Road. Listed Building consent given on 31st December 2003 with conditions that apply.
 11. Kickstart Norfolk
 12. NCC Wherryman’s Way – long distance path – opportunity to develop activities along the way
 13. BBC Inside Out – programme notes on Fly Tipping – copies given to Martin Holl and Robert Waters
 14. Orwell Rural Housing seminars in Suffolk
 15. SNC Southern Broads initiative – mobile bandstand
 16. Police Authority budget consultation on Friday, 23rd January 7.30pm at Wymondham
 17. Norfolk Gritting routes
 18. Tree planting within the highway
 19. Mud on road – guide for operators of farm vehicles
 20. Audit Commission Council tax increases
 21. Norfolk Matters Jan/Feb 2004 – copy for each councillor
 22. NRCC Community Chest fund for small projects up to £5,000 to aid in re-generation
 23. Rural Arts Touring research – this draft report will be incorporated into a larger Arts survey covering the whole of the country.
 24. Baby and Toddler Group – information on their needs
8. **Planning applications:** Rose Cottage and the adjacent Cottage, Whiteheath Road, Bergh Apton Ref: E07/04/0016/H and E07/04/0017/H Proposed new 2no storey extensions to side of dwellings with erection of conservatories and detached garages, John Ling observed that this was a further loss of two small cottages (two beds to three) the Councillors supported the application with the suggestion made by Derek Blake that attention be given to insulation between the two buildings to reduce noise transfer. Field View, Prospect Place, Bergh Apton E07/04/0030/H proposed single storey extension to rear of dwelling with erection of replacement detached garage, the only comment related to the query over the siting of the extension which appears on the site plan provided to encroach upon the neighbours land. **Bussey Bridge farm:** E07/03/2476/AG erection of pole barn this was deferred until a Planning Meeting 6.35pm on Friday, 23rd January at the Village Hall. **East Area Planning Committee** - letter from South Norfolk Council seeking a response from the Council on whether to retain Loddon as the location and if so whether to also keep the same venue. There was considerable concern on this matter and the Clerk was asked to write to Chris Walton making the strongest case possible for the retention of the East Area Planning Committee. It was felt that this was an important part of democracy enabling local people to have their voice heard. This was an area where cost cutting should not be the only criteria, planning is too important. Long Stratton is too far away and not a focus for local people. All you do is transfer costs, and in fuel economy it is likely to be much more expensive.

9. **Parish Plan:** John Ling said he and Annetta Mann were working on the software to create a user friendly set of questions. The trial questionnaire is expected to be ready for testing shortly. The Clerk confirmed that the setting up of the bank account is expected to be completed in a week.
10. **Appointment of School Governor** to Alpington and Bergh Apton VA Primary School: so far the Clerk has not been successful in finding a volunteer, one more name was suggested and the Clerk will contact her.
11. **Other matters for future agendas** and items for information: the Chairman asked if Councillors were emailed with information that needed a response would they send a reply to say whether or not they were able to attend a particular meeting as this will save time on additional phone calls. Risk Assessment to be an agenda item next meeting. The invitation list for the Annual Parish Meeting is to be circulated to Councillors in preparation and PC Andy Norton asked to attend that meeting. The date for the next Liaison Meeting at County Hall will be on Wednesday, 7th July at 7.30pm. A vote of thanks was recorded to Mrs. Janet Skedge for providing some very welcome refreshments.
12. **Date of next meeting** Wednesday, 11th February 2004

The Meeting closed at 9.20pm