

# Minutes of a meeting of Bergh Apton Parish Council held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2004 at St Peter & Paul's Parish Church commencing at 7.45pm

## 1 Members

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Parish Members present:	Mrs Alison Freeman [Chair]; Mr John Ling; Mr Derek Blake; Mrs Jean Bobbin; Mr Chris Johnson; Mrs Sally Leigh;
In attendance	Cllr A Gunson, Norfolk County Council; Cllr J Fuller South Norfolk District Council
Clerk	Mrs Philippa Fuller
Guests	Mr Keith Mitchell & Ms Imogen Isern [South Norfolk District Council]
Apologies for Absence	Mr David Skedge

## 2 Declaration of Interests

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There were no declarations of interest

## 3 Minutes of Previous Meeting

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Minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2004 and the minutes of the special planning meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2004 were read, confirmed and signed by The Chairman.

### 3.1 Matters Arising

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There were no matters arising

## 4 Public Consultation

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### 4.1 Report from County Councillor Adrian Gunson

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Cllr Gunson reported that The Trowse bypass is to be resurfaced and therefore access to Southern Bypass will be closed on some evenings; Hobart High School GCSE results were third best in Norfolk with Wymondham College being the the first. Noting Wymondham College is a special case therefore Hobart is second after Litcham School; The 30 mph speed limit in Church Meadow Lane had been confirmed and was effectively an extension of the 30 mph limit on Mill Lane, both roads being C-class roads on the HGV route to Whitings Blockworks;

#### 4.1.1 Speed Limits in The Street & Cookes Road

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The findings of the recent speed survey in The Street and Cookes Road and as all the speeds recorded were compliant with a 30 mph limit, it was felt that the introduction of a 30 mph limit would have no real benefit. Members discussed the relative merits of speed limits in the village. It had been suggested by the Highways Engineer that another pedestrian warning sign be erected in The Street, to warn vehicles using The Street from the south. It was felt that these would be ineffective and would unnecessarily clutter the street-scene.

**On the proposal of John Ling and seconded by Jean Bobbin it was resolved to object to the introduction of pedestrian warning signs on The Street. Clerk to reply to the Highways Engineer.**

### 4.2 Report from District Councillor John Fuller

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Cllr. Fuller introduced the subject of affordable housing in the district highlighting the following facts: 2600 people are on South Norfolk's housing waiting list; people on average incomes can't afford to buy their own house; people in housing need include people on low incomes, those fallen on hard times, newly-forming households (young people leaving home, newly-divorced, newly-bereaved.) New social housing can be restricted to residents of Bergh Apton foremost, cascading to

neighbouring villages after that. He introduced Keith Mitchell [Housing Strategy Manager] and Imogen Isern [Rural Housing Enabler] from South Norfolk District Council.

## 5 Affordable Housing Survey

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Keith Mitchell explained that a local landowner had offered anonymously a small parcel of land at nil value for the construction of social housing under the management of a registered housing association. New development in Bergh Apton is not normally permitted but under housing policy HOU13 exceptions can be made to this provided that the need for social housing can be proved by a survey to all householders undertaken by NRCC. Similar villages undertaking this include Denton, Bunwell, Tivetshall and others. Best practice states that the survey can only be undertaken by the NRCC with Parish Council co-operation therefore Mr Mitchell asked for formal approval from the Parish Council to undertake the survey.

Members discussed the proposal in detail highlighting disquiet over the confidentiality of the identity of the landowner; planning blight and house values; size of development; long-term development precedent; whether any proposal would be subject to normal planning procedures (yes),

**On the proposal of John Ling and seconded by Sally Leigh it was resolved that Parish Council consent for the local housing needs survey be withheld until the identity of the landowner and the location of the land be revealed and that written confirmation be made that any resulting planning application for social housing would be subject to normal planning procedures.**

## 6 Planning

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### 6.1 Applications

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07/04/1803 H Mere Farm House, White Heath Road, proposed single storey extension to side of dwelling.

**It was resolved that the approval be approved provided the roofing materials are identical to the rest of the house.**

### 6.2 Decisions

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07/04/1366 LB 13 Church Road replacement of windows, doors fascias and bargeboards with matching UPVC units and boards has received full planning permission.

## 7 Village Sign

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John Ling reported that Peter Annis had been approached and would be delighted to unveil the village sign. Date changed to Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> September at midday. Hilary Ling said she would approach John Phillips to bless the sign as Peter Knight is unavailable. Sally Leigh will ensure refreshments are provided in the Village Hall afterwards. Advertising for the event will be via a poster campaign.

## 8 Finance

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CPRE Subscription	It was decided not to renew this subscription saving £25.00
NRCC Subscription	It was decided not to renew this subscription saving £12.50
Soanes Signs	Invoice for painting of Village Sign £600 + 105.00 VAT. Expenditure approved wef 1 <sup>st</sup> October following receipt of Parish Precept
Norfolk Association of Town & Parish Councils	Training for Parish Clerk. £30 approved.

## 9 Correspondence

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ODPM	Consultation Paper on the pay/role of County Council Political Advisors. <b>Action: Decided not to respond</b>
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CRPE	Norfolk Countryside Review Newsletter incl article on Rural Housing Need
Norfolk Police	Explaining that no-one can come to PC Meeting & Local Crime Review
NRCC	Letter from NRCC with background on Housing Needs Assessments and providing draft letter & an alternative survey form used in the last few years.
Norfolk CC	Speed Limit in The Street & Cookes Road rejected on grounds that average speed is 28 mph
British Telecom	Removal of BT Phonebox at Sunnyside suspended owing to sheer volume of responses.
Norfolk Playing Fields Assoc	Summer 2004 Newsletter.
Norfolk Fire Authority	Consultation about Risk Strategy 2004/5. <b>Action: Decided not to respond</b>
CPRE	Introductory letter from new chairman & Subscription Demand - £25
NRCC	Subscription Renewal – Final Demand £12.50
NRCC	General Newsletter & Invitation to “Carry on Communities” conference 26 <sup>th</sup> Sept @ Easton College
NRCC	Report on conversion of 6 Norfolk Village Halls into “Community Service Centres” – none in South Norfolk
East Norfolk Rural Transport Partnership	Introductory letter from new officer
Norfolk County Council	Norfolk Local Transport Plan Annual Progress Report
Leader+	Newsletter & invitation to submit projects for funding.
Chet Valley Festival Group	Program of Events re Loddon Festival 23 <sup>rd</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> October
Robert Waters	Signage re HWRC. <b>Clerk to reply to Robert Waters in support of his HWRC letter.</b>
South Norfolk Council	Appointment of member of Standards Committee. Larger parishes only – not BA
South Norfolk Council	East Area Forum, Loddon, 7 <sup>th</sup> September – <b>Action John Fuller and Derek Blake to attend</b>

## 10 Parish Plan Update

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Derek Blake reported that work on the Parish Plan was suspended whilst the next tranche of funds was released by the Countryside Agency.

## 11 Retiring Parish Clerk

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**Upon the proposal of Alison Freeman seconded by John Ling it was resolved for the Chairman to write to the retiring clerk, Miss Lorie Lain-Rogers to thank her for her long and valuable service to the Parish Council.**

## 12 Forthcoming Meetings

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October Meeting: Monday 4th October 7.30pm at St Peter & Paul Parish Church

November Meeting: Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2004 7.30pm at Village Hall

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.35pm

Philippa Fuller

Clerk, Friday, 17 September 2004