

# Minutes of a meeting of Bergh Apton Parish Council held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2004 at St Peter & Paul's Parish Church commencing at 7.30pm

## 1 Members

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Parish Members present:	Mr John Ling [Chair]; Mr Derek Blake; Mrs Jean Bobbin; Mr Chris Johnson; Mrs Sally Leigh; Mr David Skedge
In attendance	Cllr J Fuller South Norfolk District Council & 14 members of the public
Clerk	Mrs Philippa Fuller
Apologies for Absence	Mrs Alison Freeman [Chair]; Cllr A Gunson, Norfolk County Council

## 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 6<sup>th</sup> September 2004 confirmed and signed by The Chairman.

### 3.1 Matters Arising

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Mr Ling read out a letter from Alison Freeman that had been written to Miss Lorie Lain-Rogers thanking her for her outstanding service to Bergh Apton as a Councillor and, latterly, as Clerk. There were no other matters arising

## 4 Public Consultation

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### 4.1 Report from District Councillor John Fuller

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Cllr Fuller explained that he had been disappointed by the clumsy & unsatisfactory way that details of the County Council's affordable housing ideas for Bergh Apton had emerged. It was a shame that officials had seemingly not planned the proposal correctly with a lack of consideration of the local geography and the consequent ill-feeling. There was an impression that the whole project had been pre-judged and would be forced upon the village. He maintained that the principle of conducting a housing needs assessment of local people was still valid but reiterated that *if* a need was found, any proposal would be subject to normal planning procedures, which would include parish consultation.

All 19 HWRCs in Norfolk were to be reviewed in the light of wheelie bin introduction under the County Waste Strategy. Access to the road network would be a high priority and it had been suggested that Bergh Apton HWRC had scored poorly in this regard. No changes to the Bergh Apton HWRC would be happening soon as wheelie bins were still to be distributed. Cllr Fuller had obtained a full list of permissions and conditions relating to the HWRC so that a factual record was held by the Parish.

He has been promoted to Leader of the Conservative Group and thus had become Leader of the Opposition on South Norfolk Council.

### 4.2 Members of the Parish

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The open discussion focused on the need for, and the nature of, affordable housing in the village. Mr Debbage said that he had heard from others that his land was to be considered before he had received formal notification. Other residents expressed concern at the proposal for building on Threadneedle Street and the reduction in the rural aspect of the road. The site indicated on the plan seemed to be capable of holding many more houses than had been suggested would be required.

Evy Sayer said that the HWRC was a valuable asset to the area and it would be regretful if it were closed.

## 5 Affordable Housing Survey

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Members expressed disappointment at the sloppy and unsatisfactory way in which this matter had been handled by the County Council, It was felt that the site in Threadneedle Steet was unacceptable as it would detrimentally affect the rural nature and outlook of the street by adding buildings on both sides of the road. John Ling observed that any development on the farming land owned by Norfolk County Council would invite further development and that, in time, the entire area from Threadneedle Street to Church Road might be considered for development, and that the Parish Council is implacably opposed to such an unacceptable this risk in a small essentially rural community

It was noted that Mr Debbage had proposed a site in Alington, which could be sufficient for the two parishes needs. It was felt that, if social housing was to be built in Bergh Apton, there were alternative sites that would be more appropriate, for example in the neighbourhood of the Tayler & Green houses in Church Road.

The nature of the housing survey itself was unclear, with three versions seemingly in circulation.

Derek Blake noted that the letter promised by Mr Mitchell from SNDC confirming that normal planning procedures would apply to any affordable housing application had not yet been received.

The letter from Paul Adams at the County Council had set-out the County's policy and it was felt that there was no point in asking a county officer [Mr Scales] to attend the meeting to re-iterate the points.

**On the proposal of John Ling, seconded by Sally Leigh, it was resolved that the Clerk write to the County Council to express support for the general principle of a Housing Needs Survey but to withhold consent for a survey until the proposed site at Threadneedle Street was deleted from the proposal and asking that alternative sites be considered, especially the one offered by Mr Debbage in Alington. The Clerk would explain that a visit from a County Officer was not needed as Mr Adam's letter was self-explanatory. There would be no further Parish consideration of this matter until the situation with regard to alternative sites was clarified.**

## 6 HWRC

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John Ling explained that the nature of the 'Bergh Apton Tip' had changed so that it was no longer possible to dump just anything but that it was principally for recycling. In fact, about 70% of the materials at the HWRC were recycled, the best performance in Norfolk. Nevertheless, Parish members felt it important that the existing planning permission until 2012 was not extended and if possible the site should be moved to a nearby place with better road access or closed before the 2012 deadline. It was noted that the heavy traffic was causing the Loddon Road to break up in places.

**It was resolved to discuss the HWRC at the next meeting Adrian Gunson could be consulted.**

## 7 Planning

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### 7.1 Applications

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Appl. No : 07/04/1883 F Appl. No : 07/04/1884 LB Location : Barn at Beech Farm Hall Road Proposal : Resubmission of E07/04/0544/F for the conversion of existing barn to residential dwelling

**It was resolved that the application be approved as per comments made when it was first considered in March/April.**

### 7.2 Decisions

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The following decisions were noted

Appl. No : 07/04/1612 H Mr P Tatman Location : Bergh House Church Road Proposal : Proposed single storey extension to rear of dwelling Decision : Approved Delegated 1/09/2004

Appl. No : 07/04/1318 F 1 P Hemmant Esq Location : Barn to rear of White House Farm Proposal : Proposed extension to existing grain store with improved field access Decision : Approved Committee 20/09/2004

Appl. No : 07/04/1803 H63 Canon G J & Mrs M V Phillips Location : Mere Farm House White Heath Road Proposal : Proposed single storey extension to side of dwelling Decision : Approved Delegated 21/09/2004

## 8 Village Sign

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Derek Blake reported that 92 members of the parish had attended the village sign unveiling. The forecast rain held-off until the residents had retired to the Village Hall for refreshments. Cllr Blake

reported that he had a thick file on the Village Sign and he would continue to update this. It was confirmed that the sign was covered by Parish Insurance Policy. Clerk to make sure it was included on Asset Register. John Ling suggested that an item for the maintenance of the new sign be included in the forthcoming budget. It was decided that a cleaning rota would be set up to keep the sign in good order. The Clerk reminded members that the NRCC had given a grant for £500 for the sign and now that it was erected the appropriate form should be returned.

**Members asked the Clerk to write to the NRCC informing them of the sign completion, enclosing a copy of the latest village newsletter, which included an illustrated report.**

## 9 Safety And Risk Assessment

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### 9.1 Sewage Pumping station

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It was noted that the smell from the sewage pumping station on the Loddon Road was often unacceptable but unpredictable. If any resident encounters the smell please contact John Ling who will liaise with Anglian Water immediately as the water company can only decide what to do when a smell is detected!

### 9.2 Inspection Cover – Threadneedle Street

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John Ling reported that the inspection cover on Threadneedle Street was not secure when he was last there. **John Ling would re-check this and investigate who is responsible in case of an accident.**

### 9.3 Crime And Disorder Audit

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**John Ling proposed that this be put on the agenda for the next meeting**

## 10 Finance

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### 10.1 Clerks Finance Report

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The Clerk reported that Miss Lain-Rogers had sent the financial records for 2003/4 to the District Auditor on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2004. The Clerk explained that she had received no up-to-date financial information as the address details for the parish's two bank accounts had not been amended to her address. Owing to the lack of financial information, it was not possible to say whether the scheduled half-year precept payment had actually been received. She would be working through the receipts for this year to establish a set of accounts and draft budget for the next meeting.

**Members signed a letter authorizing a change of address so that future bank statements & financial information would be delivered to The Clerk's address.**

### 10.2 Payments Authorised

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Soanes Signs	Invoice for painting of Village Sign £600 + 105.00 VAT. Expenditure approved but awaiting clarification that Parish Precept had been received Clerk to let Cllr Blake know when the funds are in so that payment can be made straight away.
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## 11 Correspondence

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CORRESPONDENT	SUMMARY
South Norfolk DC	Planning Training – <b>Course on 26/10 Jean Bobbin, Sally Leigh and David Skedge to attend on 11/11 Chris Johnson and Cllr Blake to attend.</b>
South Norfolk DC	Parish Clerks Meeting at South Norfolk 20/10 <b>Philippa Fuller to attend</b>
South Norfolk DC	'Green Sheet' – update on Environmental Services
Soanes Signs	Invoice for £600 + 105.00 VAT for payment re Village Sign
BA Baby & Toddler Group	Letter of Thanks for £50 grant
Norfolk County	Letter from Andy Scales re Affordable Housing

South Norfolk DC	Member of Standards Committee appointed – no ballot required as only one applicant
Alpington Parish Clerk	Happy to proceed with Housing Survey subject to minor changes in Section One. Bob Debbage proposes land next to School for development.
Norfolk County Council	Letter from Paul Adams re background on Affordable Housing incl map showing potential site on Threadneedle Street <b>Clerk to reply</b>
Norfolk Police	Mobile Police Office timetable – No mention of Bergh Apton <b>on Parish notice board</b>
South Norfolk DC	Glossy “Programme of Action” brochure [8 copies]
SNDC	Survey of Dog Waste Bins none in Bergh Apton
Norfolk County	Invitation to Passenger Transport Workshop 27/28/29 October <b>nobody to attend</b>
CPRE	“Field Work” magazine incl how to stop a motorway in your area!
Clerks & Councils Direct Newsletter	General Newsletter for Clerks & Councillors
Diss Police	Letter from PC Alice Watts – research form relating to policing in her area . <b>Chris Johnson, Jean Bobbin and Derek Blake to complete and return to Clerk to meet 30<sup>th</sup> October deadline</b>

## 12 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.

## 13 Police Report

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PC Norton had been informed of the meeting 5 days in advance. No police report had been received.

## 14 Parish Clerk’s Contract

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There is now a new contract in circulation for Parish Clerks and a model Clerk’s contract from Seething Parish had been obtained and this would be discussed at the next meeting.

## 15 Forthcoming Meetings

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November Meeting: Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2004 7.30pm at Village Hall. 15/12/2004; 19/01/2005; 23/02/2005; 30/03/2005; 04/05/2005 [AGM?]; 08/06/2005; 13/07/2005; 17/08/2005 21/09/2005

## 16 Suggestions for Future Discussion & Closing Remarks

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Sally Leigh reported that she had heard that there was some discontentment in the village over the way that the Parish Council ran its affairs. She was anxious to make it clear that if anyone has any comments to make that they approach a member of the Parish Council to air any grievance.

John Ling thanked the Parochial Church Council for allowing us to meet at the Church on this occasion. There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.55pm

Philippa Fuller Clerk, Tuesday, 12 October 2004