

Minutes of a meeting of Bergh Apton Parish Council held on Wednesday 23rd February 2005 at Bergh Apton Parish Hall commencing at 7.30pm

1 Members

Parish Members present:	Mrs Alison Freeman [Chair]; Mr John Ling; Mrs Jean Bobbin; Mr Chris Johnson
In attendance	Cllr Adrian Gunson Norfolk County Council and 3 members of the public
Clerk	Mrs Philippa Fuller
Apologies	Mrs Sally Leigh, Mr David Skedje, Mr Derek Blake and Cllr John Fuller

2 Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

3 Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 19th January 2005 were confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by The Chairman. John Ling proposed and Jean Bobbin seconded.

Minutes of the planning meeting held on 14th February 2005 were confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by The Chairman. John Ling proposed and Jean Bobbin seconded.

3.1 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4 Public Consultation

No residents raised any issues of concern.

5 District and County Councillors' Reports

5.1 Report from County Councillor Adrian Gunson

Cllr Gunson referred to the failed PFI project to refurbish 91 schools in the County. A change in Government policy meant that Capital Money could now be borrowed for the purpose. A consequence of this was the rebuilding Hobart School could now proceed and it was hoped work would start this Summer with the project completed by 2007. It was still hoped that the Thurton and Seething Primary Schools could also be rebuilt.

Loddon bypass – As part of the re-surfacing of the Loddon bypass a new right turning lane into Stubbs Green had been added to improve highway safety.

The Wherryman's Way would open at the end of May;

Whitlingham Visitors' Centre and Lake would open in May, this water sports centre would be run by the County Council but managed by the Broads Authority it would link the North and South Broads.

The hospital access from the Cringleford bypass would open at the end of March giving direct access from the A11.

The Park and Ride at the Thickthorn roundabout would open in April taking the pressure from the Harford Park and Ride.

The Church Meadow Lane speed restriction is going through the system and the Mill Road drainage problems are being attended to.

5.2 Report from District Councillor John Fuller

John Fuller [with Derek Blake] were attending a meeting of the District Council.

6 Planning

6.1 Planning Applications

There were no applications to be considered

6.2 Planning Decisions

There were no decisions to be reported.

7 Affordable Housing Sub Committee Report

Alison Freeman, John Ling, Derek Blake and David Skedge had met to discuss the proposed survey. It was agreed in principle to adopt the Winfarthing Survey, which is the most simple of the approved questionnaires [2 page] but, with one of two amendments.

Julie Leathers, a former housing officer, who lives in Bergh Apton, has offered to be an advisor and help to fine-tune the survey.

7.1 Points Raised:

It was felt important to know who has made the application, and also they must have connections with the village – it is the objective of the Parish Council to compile a list of people who require affordable housing.

John Ling reported back from a Scrutiny meeting he attended at South Norfolk District Council. He had sought confirmation from the committee that housing officers assessed survey results for compliance with selection criteria. He reported that despite an understanding by parish councillors that this was the case [from Mr Keith Mitchell at the parish council meeting of 6th September 2004] it was not.

He reported that the Planning and Housing Officers said that there was no procedure to verify the responses and it was not their normal practice to review the returned surveys. This cast doubt on the integrity of the survey process if no validation of the responses was undertaken by the Strategic Housing Authority [the district council].

It was then **resolved** to set up a meeting with John Tomlinson, Head of Planning, (or a representative) John Fuller, District Councillor for Bergh Apton and member of the planning committee and Keith Mitchell, Housing Strategy Manager and some members of the Parish Council to clarify the responsibilities of Parish & District Councils when undertaking the survey. Clerk to arrange.

7.2 Letter from County Council

John Ling asked for it to be **noted** that the letter from Alison Smith, Policy, Performance and Research Officer at County Council stated that 'In the event that Bergh Apton Parish Council decided not to support the development of affordable housing on County Council land, we would not wish to pursue the matter further'.

8 Finance

8.1 Clerk's Financial Report

The clerk reported that the parish finances had been strengthened considerably in the month by the unbudgeted receipt of £4,208.95 from the VAT refund for the calendar year's 2002-4.

On the proposal of John Ling, The Council unanimously thanked the Clerk for her success in respect of the VAT Refund. It was noted that the deadline for applying for the VAT refund for the playpark had nearly passed.

8.2 Payments Authorised

Cheque 700390	Sally Leigh for Bergh Apton Newsletter	£50
Cheque 700391	Yelverton PCC – Byrus Grant for work of youth project	£200

8.3 Latest Financial Balance

Taking into account cheques just authorized, the financial position was thus

Today's "True" Bank Balance	£	4,978.13
Add Back Chqs Not Presented	£	107.99
Today's Statement Bank Balance	£	5,086.12
Est Income To Come	£	2.50
Est Expenditure To Come	£	767.50
Est Year End Bank Balance	£	4,213.13

8.4 Playpark Special Reserve Fund

It was **resolved** to consider whether to establish a special reserve to fund future maintenance of the playpark using money from the VAT refund. Agenda Item for next meeting.

9 HWRC/Farrow Re Tree Felling

Alison Freeman has received a very pleasant letter from Mr G Collins at T. Farrow Construction Ltd informing her that he had carried out the hedge planting on 8th/9th February and also 9 trees were planted in suitable areas around the yard too.

Alison Freeman had replied to thank Farrow and to say that this is acceptable to the Parish Council and Mr Collins has promised to make good next planting season if any of the plants have died. Alison Freeman thanked Cllr. Gunson and asked him to pass on her thanks to Mr. Andrew Harris, the Monitoring and Control Officer at the County Council, for all their help in this matter. Adrian Gunson would report back after Andrew Harris had inspected the site.

10 Village Play Area Inspection

Following an inspection, which had been conducted by South Norfolk Council in December, a site visit had still to be arranged to look at some of the points raised in the report for this year. **Action: Alison Freeman and John Ling**

11 Village Hall Users Survey

A survey had been received from the Village Hall Management Committee asking for the Parish Council's views on the Village Hall. Councillors **suggested** that a smaller 'soundproofed' room for committee meetings would be useful as an alternative to the main hall. Clerk to respond to Management Hall Committee.

12 Mud On The Roads

Sally Leigh had been asked by a Parishioner to mention the excessive amount of mud on Red Lion Road. Adrian Gunson informed the Parish Council that the matter was in hand.

13 Correspondence

	CORRESPONDENT	SUMMARY
1	Norfolk County	Letter expressing disappointment with article in Parish Magazine Re Affordable Housing and wishing Parish Council luck in identifying alternative suitable site.
2	Bergh Apton Newsletter	Request for £50 Grant
3	Village Hall Committee	Request for Nominee: David Skedge was nominated.
4	Christmas Lunch Committee	Letter of thanks for £50 Grant
5	Air Ambulance	Circular letter requesting grant aid – unable to help on this occasion
6	Norfolk CC	Letter re appointment of Congestion Supremo [lives in Brooke]

7	SNDC	Letter & Survey Form re Amenities in Bergh Apton. Needs to be completed by village resident – John Ling to complete
8	SNDC	Invitation to East Area forum. 8 th March. Chaired by John Fuller. Attendees required
9	ODPM	Letter re Freedom of Information Act and appointing responsible officers [normally the Clerk]
10	SNDC	Extract from planning committee agenda re Bergh Apton House [for information]

13.1 Correspondence Action Points

BYRUS Grant application The Vicar had written to ask for a grant to support the work of the BYRUS Youth project in the area, which costs over £20,000pa. The Parish Council asked the Clerk to write to The Vicar in support of the Youth project and explain that our ability to support financially is constrained by our finances. Nevertheless on the proposal of John Ling it was **resolved** to send a cheque for £200 to further BYRUS's work..

14 Appointment of Village Charity Trustees

The Vicar had written to the Council to ask that the list of Parish Charity Trustees be approved and to recommend a further Trustee. It was **resolved** that the Clerk write to Rev'd Peter Knight to acknowledge his letter and to affirm those who have offered their services. The Parish Council has approached Mr Bob Debbage to be a Parish Charity Trustee. [Clerk's Note: Mr Debbage accepted the nomination]

15 Police Report

There were no burglaries reported since the last meeting.

16 Forthcoming Meetings

25/4/05 before Annual Parish Meeting; 04/05/2005 [AGM]; 08/06/2005; 13/07/2005; 21/09/2005

Philippa Fuller, Clerk, Monday, 14 March 2005