

# Minutes of a Meeting of Bergh Apton Parish Council held on Wednesday 21st September 2005 at Bergh Apton Parish Hall Commencing at 7.30pm

## 1 Members

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Parish Members present: Mrs Alison Freeman (chair) John Ling; Mrs Jean Bobbin, Mr Chris Johnson, Mrs Sally Leigh, Mr Derek Blake  
Apologies: Mr David Skedje, Cllr John Fuller (District Councillor)  
In attendance: Cllr Adrian Gunson (County Councillor)  
Mrs Philippa Fuller (Clerk) and no members of the public

## 2 Declaration of Interests

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None

## 3 Minutes of Previous Meeting

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Jean Bobbin proposed and Chris Johnson seconded that the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 27th July 2005 are a true account. The Minutes were signed by the chairman.

### 3.1 Matters Arising

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There were no matters arising.

## 4 Public Consultation

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None

## 5 Finance

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The Clerk has delayed her Salary until next month while she waits to hear the revised pay scales from the National Association of Local Councils. The accounts for 2004/5 have been audited by Bob Kerry, the internal auditor and are now ready to be sent to the audit commission. The Clerk reported that the bank balance is £4876.68 and the precept of £1762.50 is due in 2 weeks.

## 6 Closed Landfill site

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Background: The Closed landfill site liaison committee met on August 1<sup>st</sup> where an opportunity arose for the parish council to acquire the management and use of the closed landfill site. The meeting discussed the County Council's proposal to establish a permissive path through the site (this is a path to which the public is given access by a landowner but on which there is no right of way, and to which access may be withdrawn by the landowner at any time.) This path would run from the junction of Welbeck Road with Church Road up to the bridleway that crosses from Welbeck Road to the junction of Church Road and The Street. Some immediate neighbours have expressed concern about their lack of privacy.

On the proposal of John Ling and seconded by Derek Blake it was proposed to move forward with negotiations to prepare a budget for the management of the site, with a lease which would provide the Parish Council with funds from the County Council for the costs of vegetation management and rabbit fencing. **In principle and subject to the lease the Parish Council is interested in acquiring the lease of the section of land to the east of the bridleway as an amenity for the people of Bergh Apton and surrounding area.** Unanimous decision.

## 7 District and County Councillor's Reports

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Cllr John Fuller asked the Clerk to say that to celebrate the bicentenary of the Battle of Trafalgar South Norfolk District Council had purchased 200 young Oak trees which are to be made available to villages in South Norfolk. Chris Johnson said that he had already requested 2 Oak trees, and proposed that one be planted next to the village sign and the other in the Churchyard.

Cllr Adrian Gunson reported that the new bus station in Norwich had opened and the new watersports centre at Trowse was also now open. The drainage scheme in Alington was starting and the work in Upper Kiln Lane in Bergh Apton would soon begin. He had also reported the damaged footpath map outside the village hall and this would be repaired. It was hoped that the Hobart School extension would be completed in 2006. There are to be more cycle rack in Church Plain in Loddon and by the bus stops in Chedgrave. Advice was being sought by the County Council from a forrester to advise on the overhanging branches of the Oak tree on Sunnyside... **Action: Chris Johnson will find out if the Oak on Sunnyside has a tree protection order on it.**

Adrian Gunson also informed the Parish Council about an **important public meeting about the closure of Loddon Police Station to be held on Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> October 2005 at 7.15pm at Hobart High School, Loddon (main hall) Chief Superintendent Tony Cherrington and Chief Inspector Nick Davison would attend.**

## 8 Affordable housing:

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John Ling reported back from a meeting with Anne Bishop, of the Rural Housing Trust. She explained that it was unlikely that Bergh Apton is sustainable enough for any affordable housing unless it was clustered with other settlements in the area which would make it sustainable. The Norfolk Rural Enabler, Mike Cramp is to speak to the Housing department at South Norfolk District Council to have their agreement to go ahead with a Rural Housing Trust Housing Needs Survey in the Parish. **It was proposed by Jean Bobbin and seconded by Sally Leigh that the survey would be delivered in the middle of January with the middle of February being the deadline and by the end of March the Rural Housing Trust would complete the analysis and report back to the Parish Council their findings. – Unanimous decision**

## 9 Planning Applications

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Shoemakers Cottage, Threadneedle Street, Bergh Apton 2005/1837/H  
Proposal: Proposed ground and first floor extensions to existing dwelling  
Applicant: Mr S P Smith, Shoemakers Cottage - APPROVE

Lower Sallows, Church Road, Bergh Apton 2005/1827/F  
Proposal: Change of use from residential garden to ménage  
Applicant: Mr and Mrs M Hardesty - APPROVE

Fern Cottage, Mill Road, Bergh Apton 2005/1871/H  
Proposal: Erection of first floor extension above existing kitchen/utility room  
Applicant: Mr Paul Goulding - APPROVE

### 9.1 Planning Permission

#### Cooke's Road Site

John Ling brought to the attention of the Council the concern expressed by village residents that an agricultural site for sale on Cooke's Road may attract the interest of parties whose purpose may be to adapt any purchase for the installation of temporary homes or more permanent domestic occupation. The Council directed the Parish Clerk to contact the legal advisers of the sellers and ask that all sales information regarding the site includes a statement of the present planning restrictions in Bergh Apton.

### 9.2 Planning Decisions

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Sulby House, Mill Road, Bergh Apton 2005/1477  
Proposal: 2no storey end extension and single storey rear extension to provide new garage and annex - REFUSED

Oak Villa, Hellington Corner, Bergh Apton 2005/1573  
Proposal: 2no storey rear extension - APPROVED

## 10 Bergh Apton War Memorial

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John Ling reported that the lettering on the war memorial is in a poor condition. Brian Krill, the area representative for the war memorials trust has agreed to provide support and advice on the work that needs to be undertaken. It falls under the authority of the Parish Council. **It was resolved that John Ling would report back with a plan and costs. Jean Bobbin proposed and Chris Johnson seconded.** Unanimously approved

## 11 Website Training

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John Ling reported that the decision from Leader+ for funding was due any day now, this would, if successful, give 50% of the cost of the course ie. £150. **John Ling proposed and Jean Bobbin seconded that the Parish Council would contribute £45 towards the cost of the course** and with the contributions from other village organisations this should cover it fully. Unanimously approved. Sally Leigh would like to attend the November course.

## 12 Playground Inspection Report

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It was unanimously decided to accept the Playpark report put together by Parish Councillors following the inspection report by Steve Allen, Play Area Inspector for SNDC. The Clerk had found out various costs of items which might be needed in the future, these will remain on the file for when they are needed. Anglian Playground Services who installed the equipment are to visit the site to measure the chain links on the cradle seat swing as the Annual Inspection Report states that the swing chains do not comply with current regulations. A quote from Kevin Parfitt had been received to maintain the play area – to lift and level bark mulch, cut back vegetation and general tidy up, £60 then as appropriate keep bark mulch level and prevent compaction of bark, £40 per visit. – It was agreed by a unanimous decision to ask Kevin to do this work.

## 13 Parish Plan

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Derek Blake reported that the Parish Plan would be launched on 28<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30 in the Village Hall, and everyone in Bergh Apton would be invited. At this launch ownership of the Parish Plan would be given to the Parish Council.

## 14 Police Report

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No crimes reported for Bergh Apton

## 15 Forthcoming Meetings;

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26/10/05; 23/11/05; 25/01/06; 22/2/06; 29/3/06; 26/4/06 Annual Parish Meeting; 03/05/06 AGM; 14/6/06; 26/07/06; 06/09/06; 11/10/06; 22/11/06

Philippa Fuller, Clerk,