

Minutes of a Meeting of Bergh Apton Parish Council held on Wednesday 23th November 2005 at Bergh Apton Parish Hall Commencing at 7.30pm

1 Members

Parish Members present:	Mrs Alison Freeman (chair) John Ling; Mrs Jean Bobbin, Mrs Sally Leigh, Mr David Skedge
Apologies	Mr Chris Johnson, Mr Derek Blake
In attendance	Cllr Adrian Gunson (County Councillor), Mr John Fuller (District Councillor) and one member of the public

Declaration of Interest

Mr David Skedge declared an prejudicial and personal interest on a planning matter relating to the discussion about his planning application for a conservatory.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

John Ling proposed and Jean Bobbin seconded that the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 26th October 2005 are a true account. The Minutes were signed by the chairman.

2.1 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3 Public Consultation

There were no matters raised by members of the public.

4 District and County Councillors' Reports

4.1.1 Adrian Gunson – County Councillor

Work is in progress on the drainage at Upper Kiln Lane and Church Meadow Lane and the problem with soakaways on Mill Road is in hand; Coaches will cease running the subsidised bus service that covers Bergh Apton. NCC are putting the service out to tender and these should have been received by the end of the month; With the closure of the Police Station at Loddon the Post Office will become the main contact point and there is also an internet point which has proved unreliable in the past.

St Matthews, Baynard House in Chedgrave which is a home for people with learning difficulties is considering efficiency changes to the staffing arrangements as a result of a new initiative introduced by the Government in 2003 this would mean there would be no one on duty between 6am and 9am and from 5pm to 11pm. There is to be public meeting at the Church Rooms, Chedgrave on Tuesday 6th December at 7pm for the public to raise issues of concern.

Hobart School has its planning permission and building work should start around Christmas time.

4.1.2 John Fuller – District Councillor

Cllr Fuller reported that: The planning application for a new Gypsy & Travellers site at Seething airfield had been refused. Free bus travel would be available to over 60's and disabled from April 2006 but this is, at the moment, only for journeys within South Norfolk District. The South Norfolk Credit union should be encouraged and an article for the magazine would be written. The Government's settlement to Councils made above-inflation council-tax increases inevitable but would be subject to capping. Issues relating to the LDF and affordable housing would be covered later in the meeting.

5 Finance

5.1.1 Payments

Cheques were signed for Bob Kerry for £30 for maintenance to the bus shelter at Hellington Corner and Chris Roe £90 for maintenance of the Village Sign area and £1631.90 for Roberts & Co, the printers of the Parish Plan. It was **noted** that the £350 loan to the No2 Parish Plan account would be repaid by the end of the financial year.

5.1.2 Clerks Financial Report

The Clerk reported that there is £5695.39 in the bank with an estimated £1116.49 expenditure still to come before the end of the financial year. With bank interest to come of about £100 this would mean the year end forecast balance would be £4678.90 less the £1500 Playpark reserve giving £3178.90 available reserves at 31/3/06. The Council was solvent.

5.1.3 Precept

A Budget for Fiscal Year was circulated and discussed. On the proposal of Sally Leigh and seconded by John Ling it was **resolved** unanimously to set the precept for 2006/7 at £3530, a rise of £5 on the 2005/6 year.

6 Parish Plan Implementation

The Parish Plan was discussed briefly. It was noted that a number of Action Points & recommendations had been made. The Parish Council needed a plan to implement these proposals and a strategy to put this in-hand would be discussed at the next meeting. Clerk to place on agenda for January meeting.

7 Parish Nominations for Tenwinter Trust

The Parish Council discussed the nominations for the Tenwinter Trust. It was felt that the existing Trustees were the obvious candidates and on the proposal of John Ling and Sally Leigh it was **resolved** that Paul Butterworth, Kevin Parfitt and Christopher Johnson serve for a period of four years as Trustees of the Tenwinter Charity.

8 Website Training

Sally Leigh reported back after her training course. It was a very informative course and the newsletter is now accessible on the Website, there will be a calendar of all village events. Sally asked for feedback on the website and for villagers to say what they wish to have included in the future. The Chairman thanked District Councillor John Fuller for all the work he had done on the Website over the past year.

9 Local Development Framework & Affordable Housing

John Fuller introduced the subject of the Local Development Framework and the on-going situation on affordable housing. The affordable housing debate had been overtaken by the LDF and Travellers-and-Gypsy issues. The Council policy was unstable and it was probably best to wait for the LDF to determine affordable housing policy than push too hard at this stage. Councillors agreed with this approach.

It was **noted** that no new sites for residential development had been proposed by developers in this round of the LDF consultation. Nevertheless, it was felt that the issue of affordable housing was an important one. After a discussion it was **resolved** that the Clerk would write to Alan Gomm of South Norfolk Council suggesting that Bergh Apton be treated as a Countryside Settlement, but one where affordable housing for bone-fide local people may be appropriate on an exceptional basis thanks to the proximity of a school, shop, main road & bus service. It was not considered that the development of market housing would be supported.

10 Closed Landfill Site

The Chairman has circulated the draft lease submitted by NCC for discussion at a future meeting. Cllr Gunson suggested that further delay be avoided if the opportunity of leasing and securing the land was not to be lost. **Action:** To be discussed at January meeting.

11 Bergh Apton War Memorial

John Ling reported that invitations to tender for the restoration of the War Memorial are ready to send out. The cost estimate could run into thousands of pounds. It was agreed unanimously to appoint Brian Krill as a consultant for this project on a voluntary basis.

12 Bergh Apton Playground

12.1 Additional Funding

Suzanne Mayes and Karen Myhill have informed John Ling that there is an existing 'fighting fund' for the maintenance of the playground held by themselves. They would transfer this sum to the Parish Council. It was unanimously **resolved** to accept this kind offer and the money will be ring-fenced within Parish Council funds for playground maintenance and added to the £1500 playpark reserve already in existence.

12.2 Maintenance

Anglian Playgound Services have visited the site to consider the comments of the annual play area inspection, particularly with reference to compliance with the requirements of BS EN 1176 Part 2. John Ling's report on Anglia Playgound Services visit is attached., it recommends nine actions After a discussion on the report, it was **resolved** to accept all the recommendations with regard to safety Clerk to liaise with John Ling and let Mr Allen, Play Area Inspector have a copy of the Parish Council's report on the play area before the next inspection.

13 Planning Applications

13.1 The Old Barns, White House Farm, School Road

Proposal: Conversion of redundant barns to residential unit. Applicant: Jessant Homes Ltd - **Approve**

13.2 Brambly Hedges, Cookes Rd

Mr Skedge left the meeting. Proposal: White PVC 'Victorian' conservatory. Applicant: Mr and Mrs D Skedge - **Approve**

13.3 The Cottage, Hellington Corner

Proposal: Erection of a conservatory and a first floor extension Applicant: Mr and Mrs Gooch - **Approve**

13.3.1 Cooke's Road Site:

The Parish Clerk has written to vendors through their legal advisers asking that the planning restrictions on this site are advised to all prospective buyers. The matter to be progressed at the next PC Meeting.

14 Planning Decisions

Sulby House, Mill Road, Bergh Apton 2005/1998. Proposal: 2no storey end extension and single storey rear extension to provide new garage and annex. Applicant: Mr and Mrs C Barfe – APPROVED

Shoemakers Cottage, Threadneedle St 2005/1837. Proposal: Ground and first floor extensions to existing dwelling – APPROVED

Lower Sallows, Church Rd 2005/1827. Proposal: Change of use from residential garden to ménage - APPROVED

15 Correspondence

15.1 Grant Request from Byrus.

On the proposal of John Ling and seconded by David Skedge it was agreed to give a grant of £150 to the Bramerton Group of Churches for their youth work.

15.2 Election of Standards Board Representative

It was proposed to vote for Brian Pearce – from Wortwell Parish Council to be Parish Member of the Standards Committee.

15.3 Consultation on Amalgamation of Police Forces –

A consultation paper from Norfolk Constabulary on the amalgamation options for police forces in Eastern England was considered. It was **resolved** to vote for 2 forces which would comprise: Norfolk, Suffolk & Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire, Herts & Essex. Clerk to return survey.

16 Police Report

No crimes had been reported by the Police

17 Forthcoming Meetings;

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
Sunday, 27 November 2005