

Minutes of a Meeting of Bergh Apton Parish Council held on Wednesday 25th January 2006 at Bergh Apton Parish Hall Commencing at 7.30pm

1 Members

Parish Members present: Mrs Alison Freeman (Chair) John Ling; Mrs Jean Bobbin, Mr Derek Blake
Mr Chris Johnson, David Skedge
Apologies: Mrs Sally Leigh,
In attendance: Mrs P Fuller (Clerk); Cllr Adrian Gunson (County Councillor), Mr John Fuller (District Councillor) and 2 members of the public

2 Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3 Minutes of Previous Meeting

Chris Johnson proposed and Jean Bobbin seconded that the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 14th December 2005 are a true account. The Minutes were signed by The Chairman.

3.1 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4 Public Consultation

2 members of the public spoke during the public consultation.

5 District and County Councillors' Reports

5.1.1 Adrian Gunson – County Councillor

Councillor Gunson reported that work has now started at Hobart School on the Sports Hall and the all weather pitch – which will be open to the public. Thurton and Seething Schools are now being considered.

The footpath and bridge at Hardley flood are now repaired and a birdhide has been put up by the Loddon Society. There will be new footpath maps for the staithes, eg. Rockland, Loddon and Hardley and pamphlets will be available soon. In Loddon there are new cycle stands in Church Plain and Jubilee Hall and near Chedgrave Shops – curbs are being removed in some residential areas to allow cycle ways.

Councillor Gunson is trying to resolve the traffic light issue on the Trowse bypass which give preference to traffic from the Southern bypass. The dualling of the Attleborough bypass will give access to Attleborough from the southern end but access is also needed at the northern end and this will cost about £2.1 million.

The drainage problems in Church Road are trying to be resolved and there is some improvement with soakaways on Mill Road. The bus service that covers Bergh Apton is now being run by Anglian coaches at a cost of £1.50 - £2 per passenger which is subsidised.

There will be a council tax rise of about 5% which will mean cuts in highway maintenance and cuts to voluntary services.

5.1.2 John Fuller – District Councillor

Cllr Fuller briefly reported about a recent series of Food Safety & Hygiene Courses in Loddon; The successful regulation of French farmers attending a Farmers Market in Wymondham, the forthcoming roll-out of Brown bins for garden waste. These would cost £40 a year to collect garden refuse on a fortnightly basis, which would then be shredded and composted. South Norfolk currently recycles about 30% of its domestic refuse, which compares poorly with Bury St Edmunds & Lichfield, which approach

50%. The LibDem Administration is planning to buy houses on the open market and give them away to Housing Associations. £2.4m has been earmarked for the purpose and Cllr Fuller felt it to be a poor use of Public Money. There is to be a 3-5% council tax rise that amounts to £50 a year for a band D property

6 Finance

6.1 Annual Audit Return

The Annual Audit Return was amended and re-approved and will now re-submitted.

6.2 The Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that The Alliance and Leicester Bank no longer send monthly statements but only one every 4 months which is unworkable it was agreed unanimously to set up an internet account which will mean that bank statements can be printed off whenever needed .

The Clerk reported that a cheque had been received for £545.67 from Rural Action East which is the full remaining balance of the grant for the Parish Plan. This has been paid into the number 1 account and will now be transferred to the Number 2 Parish Plan Account.

One cheque was signed for Kevin Parfitt for £60 for the maintenance of the playarea for the months of October and November.

7 Parish Plan Implementation

The Parish Plan sub-committee have met, progress will be reported at the next meeting.

8 Closed Landfill Site

The Chairman has circulated the draft lease submitted by NCC and a sub-committee has met to fine tune the document. A copy of the lease will be sent to Des Holmes with a copy to Adrian Gunson.

9 Bergh Apton Playground Inspection

The Annual Playground Inspection took place in December. John Ling to report back next meeting with any action points.

9.1 Additional Funding

Suzanne Mayes and Karen Myhill have informed John Ling that there is £600 'fighting fund' for the maintenance of the playground. **Action: Clerk to write to Suzanne Mayes** to accept this kind offer and the money will be ringfenced for playground maintenance only and added to the £1500 playpark reserve already in existence. This money will be transferred to the Parish Council number 2 account when the Parish Plan balance is at £0

10 Planning

10.1 Hempland Close, Cookes Road Site

The clerk reported that she had written to Cadge and Gilbert the legal advisers of the sellers of this piece of land and had requested that all sales information regarding the site include a statement that the present planning restrictions in Bergh Apton would not permit any change of use on this land. The reply was verbal 'Cadge and Gilbert are not currently instructed by the owner of the land and are not actively marketing it.' **The Parish Council will continue to monitor the situation as far as it is able.**

10.2 Planning Applications

The Old Barns, White Horse Farm, School Road
Proposal: Conversion of redundant barns to dwelling with garage and annexe
Applicant: Mr and Mrs A Buford - **Approve**

Holly Cottage, The Street

Proposal: single and two storey extensions to provide new 4 bedroom family home.

Applicant: Mr and Mrs M Price – **Approve**

Chet Cottage, Sunnyside

Proposal: Small extension to kitchen of existing dwelling

Applicant: Mr J A Farrant – **Approve**

10.3 Planning Decisions

Brambly Hedges, Cookes Rd

Proposal: White PVC 'Victorian' conservatory

Applicant: Mr and Mrs D Skedge – **Approved**

The Cottage, Hellington Corner

Proposal: Erection of a conservatory and a first floor extension

Applicant: Mr and Mrs Gooch – **NOT APPROVED**

Barn C, White House Farm, School Road

Proposal: Reconstruction of roof and side wall due to collapse during demolition in respect of barn conversion previously approved under 2005/0974/F **APPROVED**

11 Correspondence

Letter of thanks received from BYRUS following their grant request for £150 for their youth work.

The Clerk reported that the District Council has made a Tree Preservation Order on the Oak tree at Sunnyside.

Clerk reported that a letter had been received from Inspector Lillie about police officers' contact with their designated parishes, two of our meetings per year will now be selected and an officer will attend.

Letter from Vivienne Clifford-Jackson leader of SNDC asking for one member of the parish to attend a Parish and Town Council Conference on 31st March at 10am at South Norfolk House to discuss Affordable Housing, Local Development Framework, and Gypsy and Traveller Sites. **John Ling to attend**

12 Police Report

No Police Report had been received.

13 Forthcoming Meetings

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

Meeting Closed at 9.50pm

Philippa Fuller, Clerk,

Wednesday, 01 February 2006