

Minutes of a Meeting of Bergh Apton Parish Council held on Wednesday 22nd November 2006 at Bergh Apton Parish Hall Commencing at 7.30pm

Members

Parish Members present:	Mrs Alison Freeman (Chair); Mr John Ling; Mr Chris Johnson, Mr David Skedge; Mr Derek Blake; Mrs Jean Bobbin
Apologies	Mrs Sally Leigh, Mrs Philippa Fuller (Clerk)
In attendance	Cllr Adrian Gunson, Cllr John Fuller and 1 member of the public from Seething Parish

1 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman explained that the Clerk was unwell and that her husband, John Fuller had volunteered to Clerk the meeting this evening. Members of the Parish Council asked that their best wishes be communicated to the Clerk and wished her a speedy recovery. It was agreed that Mr Fuller clerk the meeting.

2 Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the October meeting were reviewed and were agreed to be a true account. The Minutes were signed by The Chairman.

4 Matters Arising

4.1 Bridleways

The Chair reported that the bridleways to Welbeck & Dodgers Lane had been cut and expressed thanks to County Cllr Gunson for arranging this.

4.2 Parish Council Reception at South Norfolk

The Chair reported that she had attended a civic reception in Long Stratton to thank the many Parish Councillors of the District and conveyed the thanks of the District Council Chairman to members in appreciation and recognition of the hard work done by Parish Councillors in general.

4.3 Berghapton.co.uk

John Ling asked whether any progress had been made in transferring the berghapton.co.uk domain name to the Parish. The Chairman referred to the hard work that Mr Paul Braybrook had undertaken when the village website was set-up in the early pioneering days of the Internet. She reported that she had recently written to Mr Braybrook to thank him for his contribution on behalf of the parish. Councillors reiterated this appreciation. The Chair hoped that, now the website had become so much more a village branding issue, the domain-name registration could be regularized in the near-future.

5 Public Consultation

Mrs Rous of Seething Fen, attended to complain about clay pigeon shooting across the parish boundary in Bergh Apton. She said that the sound echoed down the valley to her house and the peculiar configuration of the valley seemed to focus the sound at her house and this was causing distress. In her view the clay pigeon activity was unneighbourly and was damaging to her residential amenity. It was also taking place in a conservation area.

She asked the Parish Council whether they would support an investigation into the situation. The Parish Council **resolved** for the Clerk to write to the Planning Department at South Norfolk and ask for an enforcement officer to investigate. The Parish Council also wished to clarify the general planning rules/conditions relating to clay pigeon shooting in general. A further letter of complaint about the activity had been received by a B Skinner, also of Seething Fen.

6 Councillor Feedback

6.1 County Cllr Adrian Gunson

Hobart High School had been completed at half term; Sports Hall to open in the new year; slight difficulties with all weather pitch as site space now limited. Thurton School to be replaced. Trowse Traffic Lights resequencing to be trialled shortly to reduce congestion. Long Stratton by-pass hold-up as result of delays to CPO notices to 'protect-the-line'. A146 (Loddon bypass): a series of accidents. PFI on streetlights will aid replacement and save money/energy with more intelligent lighting timings. Recent flooding on the Chet being investigated – looks like the flood alleviation might have actually made the problem worse in Chedgrave; BESL re-checking their computer modeling.

6.2 Cllr John Fuller

Berghapton was one of 12 parishes out of 119 in South Norfolk to have contested elections in 2003. Encourage Parish Council to use new powers to promote elections. It was **resolved** that John Ling circulate a leaflet using words from South Norfolk within the 11Says magazine with a view for asking Candidates to come forward.

7 Finance

7.1 Precept

On behalf of The Clerk, Mr Fuller outlined the draft budget for 2007/8 and explained the forecast outturn for the current year would be £332 surplus. It was **resolved** to have a special finance subcommittee to discuss the precept, which had to be finalized at the next meeting on 3rd January 2007.

7.2 War Memorial Restoration

A bill for £2317+vat = £2450.22 had been received from Fairhaven Masonry for the war memorial restoration. Mr Ling explained that the village appeal had raised £2818 from 83 individual donations and gift-aid added £621 to this. The money for the Fairhaven invoice [plus the 10% retention] would be transferred to the Parish Council shortly from the appeal committee account. A 10% retention would be invoiced in 12 months time. It was **resolved** to approve the Fairhaven invoice but the cheque would only be mailed by The Clerk when the funds had been transferred from the appeal account to the Parish Council account. It was **noted** that £231 + vat retention should be accrued in Parish Accounts for payment in November 2007.

7.3 Other Payments

£33.85 re-imbursed to The Chairman in respect of refreshments at the opening of the new Amenity Area at the former landfill site.

7.4 Financial Report

Mr Fuller reported that the Actual Income YTD was £4,269.57 and Actual Expenditure YTD was £2,068.83 leaving a current Bank Balance of £6,598.62. With Forecast Expenditure To Come of £1,868.00, the Forecast Year End Bank Balance was £4,730.62, Less Playpark Reserve of £1,500.00 meant that forecast Year End Available Funds would be £3,230.62. The forecast budget surplus for the year was £332.74. Councillors **noted** the report.

8 Digital Projector

BACAT had decided that they would like to grant up to £1100 to the Parish Council for the purpose of purchasing a digital projector, screen and spare lamp for use by village organizations. It was **resolved** to thank BACAT for this grant and to **authorize** Mr Ling to specify a suitable machine and purchase it.

9 The War Memorial

Mr Ling reported that the restoration was complete. Councillors thanked him and Mr Johnson for their hard work in achieving this in time for the annual Remembrance Sunday Service. Mr Ling explained that there was a small surplus in the appeal account and that it would prevent further damage at the base caused by mechanical strimming if flagstones could be laid around the base. The indicated cost was about £350-400. As this money had been raised by the appeal, it was **resolved** for Mr Ling to proceed with this work.

Mr Ling and Mr Johnson reported that they had undertaken approx 500 hours of research into Bergh Apton's fallen men and it appeared that up to 12 men might have been missed off the roll of honour. It was proposed that a report be brought before the Parish Council and PCC during January with the view of recommending that these names be added to the war memorial. A grant from English Heritage might be available to assist with this. If approved, it was proposed that their names be added to the memorial in February with a service to take place in the spring. Councillors **approved** this draft plan and awaited the January report.

10 Gypsy & Travellers

Councillors **noted** that the Whiting family had appeared to have started legal proceedings to evict the band of travellers who had occupied the former brickworks. At this stage it was acknowledged to be a private matter for the Whitings but The Clerk had written to the District Council to make the point that respect for the Whitings decision to delay eviction until December did not constitute a toleration of the site.

11 Planning Training

Alpington Parish had enquired whether Bergh Apton would wish to engage in joint planning training. With elections approaching it was **resolved** not to accept the invitation and leave matters to the new Council.

12 Signage and Noticeboards

Mr Ling explained that he had become aware of a potential source of grant funding to provide interpretation boards and signposts for a village circular walk. 14 signs/boards were proposed for the walk along the lines of those on the Wherryman's Way. Councillors **resolved** to endorse the plan and **authorized** Mr Ling to submit a grant application on behalf of the Parish Council for the proposal.

13 Village Play Area

Mr Ling explained that Mr Parfitt would be undertaking preventative maintenance over the next few weeks. The inspection by the District Council had been delayed by staff sickness but was due to be conducted shortly. Replacement bark might be required in the spring.

14 Planning

14.1 2006/2404 White House Farm, School Road, Bergh Apton To convert, by way of renovation, plus extension of outbuildings into a community arts centre

The Parish Council has NO OBJECTIONS to the development and SUPPORTS it. In principle it wishes to ENCOURAGE this sort of Arts-based development. It will tidy-up a scruffy corner of the village. The Councillors were impressed with the application statement and in particular the use of traditional materials and detailing. The councillors were sympathetic to the Cultural Tourism Benefits and the way in which it was proposed to engage local schools and youth groups in its work. The development accords with the aspirations of the Bergh Apton Parish Plan.

14.2 2006/2320 Cookes Road, Bergh Apton Proposed erection of greenhouse and shed and construction of pond

The Parish Council has NO OBJECTIONS to the principle of development for a greenhouse and shed.

It does OBJECT to the creation of a further pond on the following grounds: There are two ponds in existence close by already which are sufficient for drainage purposes. Historic maps of the village do not show streams in the area as mentioned in the applicant's statement. The size of the pond is greater than that required for drainage and suggests that a leisure activity might be planned. More information required,

If the Planning Authority were minded to approve the application, it would be important that no retail sales were permitted to ease traffic load and fears of another garden centre being developed in open countryside.

14.3 2006/2328 Land Off Barras Hill estate, Sunnyside, Bergh Apton Single storey residential log home

The Parish Council OBJECTS to this development on the following grounds: There is a fundamental policy objection to new residential development outside the development boundary in Bergh Apton. The site is within a conservation area. The design is not in keeping with anything close by. The footprint of the building is large. Insufficient information regarding access, landscaping etc

15 Future Agenda Items

- Byrus Grant: A grant application letter had been received from Byrus highlighting the £24,000 running costs.
- War Memorial Update
- Parish Circular Walk Update
- BACAT Digital Projector
- Precept

16 Correspondence

Mrs Freeman reported that Mr Waters had written to her expressing disappointment at the Royal Mail's mis-delivery of post for the HWRC to his private house. **Noted.**

17 Forthcoming Meetings

3/1/07; 14/2/07; 28/3/07; 25/4/07 Annual Parish Meeting; 9/5/07 AGM; 27/6/07;12/9/07;
24/10/07; 5/12/07

Meeting Closed at 9.30pm

John Fuller, Taking minutes in the absence of The Clerk
Friday, 24 November 2006