

# Minutes of a Meeting of Bergh Apton Parish Council on Wednesday 14th February 2007 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

## Members

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| Parish Members present: | Mr John Ling (Chair); Mrs Sally Leigh Mr Chris Johnson, Mr David Skedge, Mrs Sally Leigh; Mrs Jean Bobbin              |
| Apologies               | Mr Derek Blake Mrs Alison Freeman                                                                                      |
| In attendance           | Cllr Adrian Gunson, Cllr John Fuller taking minutes, four officers in relation to the HWRC and 4 members of the public |

## 1 Apologies For Absence & Declarations Of Interest

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The Chairman explained that the Clerk was unavailable and her husband Cllr John Fuller would be taking minutes. Members of the Parish Council expressed their best wishes to the Clerk and wished her a speedy recovery.

There were no declarations of interest.

## 2 Minutes Of Meeting Held On 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2007

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Chris Johnson asked that the date of the War Memorial be corrected from 1922 to 1920

### 2.1 Matters Arising

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Adrian Gunson asked whether the Parish Council would be sending a Letter on the proposed Unitary Authority for Norwich. This would be dealt with under Quality Parish Council Status.

John Ling reported that the Bus Shelter at Hellington Corner had been repaired at an approx cost of £5

In respect of recovery of the VAT on work associated with the restoration of the village war memorial it would be necessary for the Diocesan Registrar to send BAPC a VAT invoice so the VAT element can be recovered. Action John Ling to liaise with Diocesan Registrar

## 3 Household Waste Recycling Centre – Report by Norfolk County Council Representative

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A written report had been received from the officers of Norfolk County Council in respect of the HWRC. [Appendix A] attached.

County Councillor Adrian Gunson introduced the item. Previously there had been half-yearly meetings at County Hall to discuss issues relating to the HWRC. It was felt, following consultation with The Chairman of that committee, expedient for the subject to be included as an item on the agenda of the appropriate Bergh Apton Parish Council meeting so the widest possible local audience could attend with minimum inconvenience. Four officers were attending

- Andrew Harriss Norfolk County Council Officer
- Des Holmes; Norfolk County Council responsible for the management of the former landfill site.
- Pat Kerwen Environmental Waste Control Ltd
- Steve Longdon May Gurney

The meeting was aimed to address

- Current issues
- Future operational changes to take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007
- Planning Permission expires in 2012

Two facets

- Landfill Site
- HWRC operations

Review of the number of bin lorries from the site from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2006. 231 Bin Lorries had been removed from the site spread fairly evenly of the individual days of the week excl weekends. **Noted.**

### 3.1 The Landfill Site

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**Des Holmes** at County Hall would continue to be the main point of contact regarding Landfill Site issues. He started by reviewing the emissions of gas from the landfill site. Tests proved that gas extraction was satisfactory. There had been an encouraging reduction in the strength of the landfill gas being vented over the last 6 months. Methane concentrations in the gas have reduced from 7% to less than 2%. Four extraction wells will need to be re-drilled shortly. A small tripod drilling rig will be used, completed within a week.

There had been bad rabbit damage. A warrener had attended twice but a cull by gas was most effective in winter months when rabbits stayed below ground. He was due again shortly.

Ragwort control & grass cutting would be done in line with requests from the Parish Council.

Brett Aggregates have offered topsoil to form bunds for new tree planting at various points on the site. A proposed site meeting with Brett Aggregates will finalise details. No work will be done until ground conditions improved.

Groundwater sampling had been undertaken in June and November 06. Groundwater results indicate that leachate from the landfill continues to contaminate groundwater near to the site. Low levels of landfill derived contaminants continue to be identified in boreholes to the south and east of the site at consistent levels.

### 3.2 HWRC Planning Status

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Andrew Harriss NCC spoke of HWRC planning issues. The current planning permission expires on 30/9/12. The new Local Development Plan (LDF) will require NCC to produce a waste and minerals disposal plan that specifies the sites they will use. If Bergh Apton is included NCC will make a new application for planning application for use after 2012. The decision to apply for permission is due in 2010 to give two year consultation phase in which public views for and against, sought in 2009, will be taken into account.

From the floor Robert Waters (Valley Farm) asked about the apparent anomaly in that the term of contract for the recently-appointed site operator is seven years (2014) but the site has planning permission only until 2012. Adrian Gunson defined the new contract as being for all NCC's sites, and that it allows for any location to be removed from the schedule

### 3.3 Changes in Operations

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Pat Kerwin advised that NCC has awarded a contract to Environmental Waste Controls Ltd, in partnership with local contractor May Gurney, to operate 18 HWRC sites for seven years. EWC uses electrically-operated compactor skips that will be installed on all sites on a schedule beginning on 21<sup>st</sup> March. These skips enable users to load from ground-level and are shown by other sites in the UK to be quiet in operation.

From the floor Sue Keeler (Church Road) sought assurances that they would not occasion a greater noise level than current operations and asked for details of the skips' operating performance in terms of noise. PK was confident that their hydraulic compression operations would be quieter and agreed to provide decibel readings.

Discussion revealed that compaction should produce a reduction of lorry movements of as much as 40%, using vehicles of the same size as those used at present. The new skips, being covered, will also reduce wind-blown debris across the HWRC and the adjacent Landfill Site.

Mr Ling asked the NCC officers to note that there was a considerable amount of wind-blown litter on the Landfill Site at present as a result of the recent high winds. The officers will ask the site operator to remove this as soon as possible (action Des Holmes).

Steve Longdon, May Gurney said the new contract presented an opportunity to bring innovation to the recycling industry with a much brighter and more professional & user-friendly approach.

### 3.4 Conclusions

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The Chairman thanked those present for attending. This new format with officers attending the Parish Council was successful and it was resolved to repeat this on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm when the new Council would decide whether to continue the format.

## 4 District and County Councillors' Report

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### 4.1 Adrian Gunson

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Alpington School had a very good report. The arrangements for policing were changing and Sonia Lake has left the force. The Hobart Police contact point and Poringland Police Station opening in April. Hobart Sports Hall is being used in the evenings. The all-weather pitch planning application has been submitted this week. The B1332 between Brooke & The Dove will be resurfaced next week. Threadneedle Street repairs.

## 5 Finance

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The following payments were authorised

- Invoice from Kevin Parfitt for play area maintenance £50.00
- Church Yard Maintenance – £150

The Clerk identified a possible underspend of £500 for the year. The Clerk's computer was nearing the end of its life and any underspend could be put into a special reserve for that.

Resolved to appoint Audit Commission for the ensuing year for the external audit.

## 6 War Memorial Update

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John Ling advised that War Memorials Trust has been asked to seek the agreement of English Heritage to the refreshment of the existing names using a technique defined by stonemasons Fairhaven of Anglesey Abbey. Agreement will enable us to qualify for the EH grant of £1,000.

The cost for the work including £150 faculty fee and cost for paving around the memorial had been £4247.50. Income had been £2,000 grant from BACAT, plus public subscriptions of £3589.10, plus £1000 from English Heritage and £218 from War Memorials Trust giving a surplus of £2,659.60.

The PCC owns the ground but the Parish Council owns the Memorial in-trust.

It was **resolved** that Fairhaven's suggestion of emphasising the internal 'V' be implemented. English Heritage grants would be pursued. When the work was completed any remaining surplus would be distributed to the Church for their fabric-fund having regard to the opinions of the donors.

## 6.1 New Name Albert Edward Hamilton Starman

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It had been agreed in January that eleven names be added to the memorial. But a new name Albert Edward Hamilton Starman had been identified. Albert was born in Hellington Corner and had died on a torpedoed hospital ship in the Far East on 4<sup>th</sup> July 1944. Relatives live in Langley. It was agreed unanimously that the name Albert Edward Starman be added to the War Memorial.

## 7 Quality Parish Council – Derek Blake

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In the absence of Derek Blake, leading on this issue, the chairman reminded the members that it is a requirement of Quality Parish Council status that its membership be elected, not co-opted. Norwich Unitary Status. Cllr John Fuller had suggested some wording. It was resolved to accept the wording with minor textual adjustment and this would be sent by hand on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2007.

## 8 Election for delegate to South Norfolk Alliance

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It was resolved to cast the ballot for Graham Martin with John Cowan as second preference followed by Geoff Merchant.

## 9 Planning Applications

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### 9.1 Received

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2007/0195 Barn at Beech Farm, Hall Rd – Alterations to existing barn and conversion to residential dwelling – Mr J Loade. This was **approved** with no objections.

2007/0165 Beckholme, Welbeck Road – Proposed side extension and driveway improvements. – Mr and Mrs Rolfe This was **approved** with Councillors expressing satisfaction with the improved access arrangements that would help highway safety on a dangerous bend.

2007/ 270 Paul Blazer Rosehaven, Mill Road – Ground floor extension and first floor bedroom. This was **approved** with no objections as cannot be seen from the road.

### 9.2 Decisions

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White House Barn, School Rd – proposed single storey wooden clad garage – APPROVED

## 10 Petty Vandalism

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It had been noted that the phone box in Threadneedle had been smashed again [? Five times this year]. The Clerk had reported this to BT. Milkbottles have been smashed on Mill Road. The glass in the parish notice board had been smashed. The Clerk has received a letter from the local Police Community Support Officer. It was **resolved** for the Clerk to ask the new PCSO to attend the next meeting. The PCSO might want to make contact with the Youth Club.

It was resolved to ask Mr Hardesty to refurbish the notice board at Church Road. The board was in need of maintenance and it could be taken off the posts for repair. The underspend could be used to fund this.

## **11 Village Hall Play Area – bark needed for Spring**

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Previous agreement to replenish the bark in the Play Area to be executed as soon as weather permits. If possible the material to be invoiced and paid for in the current financial year. JL will ask Kevin Parfitt if he is available to help with handling and spreading and agree cost.

## **12 Events & Correspondence**

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- Postwarch – DTI Consultation Document – deadline for response 8th March John Ling to respond to the seven questions
- Parish and Town Council Conference – Early notification of date Friday 22nd June 9.30am Noted
- Appointment of secretary–cum–treasurer for Tenwinter and Bergh Apton Parish Charities
- Thank you letter received from BYRUS following a donation for youth work noted
- Proposed changes to the East of England Plan – deadline 9th March for any comments
- East Area Forums – 6th March @ Tasburgh – No Volunteers

## **13 Police Report – By email**

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Poringland Area PC 1276 Sarah Cubitt cubitts@norfolk.pnn.police.uk

## **14 Dates Of Future Meetings**

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25/4/07 Annual Parish Meeting – Invitees to be cleared by Alison before invitations sent.

Dates for 2007: 28/3/07; 25/4/07 Annual Parish Meeting; 9/5/07 AGM; 27/6/07; 1/8/07; 12/9/07 [HWRC Consultation]; 24/10/07; 5/12/07

The meeting closed at 10:02pm

## **15 Appendix A : Bergh Apton HWRC Liaison Meeting 14 February 2007**

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### **Landfill Gas Pollution Control Report**

Weekly gas monitoring results have been satisfactory.

However some of the gas extraction wells at the eastern end of the site are in a poor state of repair and will be replaced. Probably four new wells will be drilled. These are likely to be constructed by a small tripod rig.

The work should be completed in less than a week.

There has been an encouraging reduction in the strength of the landfill gas being vented over the last 6 months. Methane concentrations in the gas have reduced from 7% to less than 2%.

Damage to vegetation growth by gas has not been detected on any areas of the site or in surrounding land.

### **Site Maintenance**

Ragwort continues to be a problem and spot spaying will have to be carried out probably more than once during the year.

Rabbit damage to crops also continues to be a problem. The warrener carried out a cull in the autumn but will be returning during the winter when conditions are better for a more effective cull.

NCC looks forward to the parish's plans for site conservation work for the coming year.

NCC will continue to look for sources of suitable free subsoil to enable tree planting schemes to progress on chosen areas.

Des Holmes

23rd January 2007

### **Ground and Surface Water**

Groundwater sampling was undertaken in June and November 06. The site continues to generate leachate as there is no engineered cap on the site. Groundwater results indicate that leachate from the landfill continues to contaminate groundwater near to the site. Low levels of landfill derived contaminants continue to be identified in boreholes to the south and east of the site at consistent levels. Elevated chloride levels to the east of the site are further increased by the legacy of the former road salt store.

The herbicide and List 1 substance Mecoprop, a common landfill contaminant which degrades very slowly in anaerobic conditions is found in the source term (i.e. leachate within the landfill) at levels around 50 ug/l, and in low levels, below 1 ug/l, in a number of down gradient boreholes.

Charles Wright

25th January 2007