

Minutes of a Meeting of Bergh Apton Parish Council on Wednesday 12th September 2007 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

1 Members Present

Parish Members present: Derek Blake (Chairman), Richard Herring, Theresa Parfitt, Elizabeth Robinson

Apologies: Graham Harber

In attendance: Cllr Adrian Gunson, Cllr John Fuller, Philippa Fuller (clerk) 2 members of the public

2 Apologies For Absence & Declarations Of Interest

There were 2 apologies absence. Derek Blake declared an interest. As District Councillor he declared an interest in respect of planning applications as he is a member of the South Norfolk Council East Area and Main planning committees.

3 Minutes Of Meeting Held On 25th June and 24th July 2007

One alteration was made to the minutes, Adrian Gunson pointed out that the new 50mph sign is to be put between The Slad and Highways Nursery. Liz Robinson proposed and Karen Myhill seconded that the minutes of the previous meetings held on 25th June and 24th July are a true account. The minutes were signed by The Chairman.

4 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

5 Public Consultation

There was no public consultation

6 Household Waste Recycling Centre

Derek Blake welcomed Mark Allen, the Waste Resource Manager from County Council and Richard Alexander from Environmental Waste Control – the new contractors. Derek praised the smooth handover to the new operators and said that so far everything is going very well.

Report Attached: But in summary the new contractors began in April with the introduction of low-level bins without steps for non-recyclable and green waste. All sites now collect tin foil, soup and drink cartons and gas bottles for recycling and cooking oil recycling will be introduced soon. Rabbits have continued to be a problem so Norfolk County Council is therefore erecting a rabbit proof fence along the southern boundary of the site. This will be completed in about a month's time.

The Clerk will be the new contact if there are to be any additional lorry movements into the former landfill site as there were in July when the agreed tree planting was taking place, the County Council will, as always, be responsible for putting up appropriate signs. Richard Alexander said he would look into the issue of empty waste skips being present within the licensed area. There was a complaint about the amount of thistles which had gone to seed and the amount of nettles on the site, it was felt that more frequent cutting might be necessary. Also another question from the floor was why an electric board was being set up 150m from the flare – Mark Allen to contact us with an answer.

Derek Blake reported that the Conservation Group had seen many plant species of note on the site.

7 District and County Councillors' Report

Adrian Gunson reported that at Hobart School the all weather pitch would be ready by the beginning of November - the District Council, County Council and a few Parishes had all contributed to it. The swimming pool needs upgrading but funds would be needed if it were to open to the wider community at the moment is fit for School swimming. The rebuilding of Thurton School will be completed by Autumn 2008. The George and The Dragon Public House is re-opening this week. The kerbstones have been concreted in on the corner of Threadneedle Street and Mill Road. Drainage work is being carried out by No4/5 Church Road as well as improving drainage on Sunnyside, Sunnyside is closed for the next 3 weeks for this work to be carried out. Adrian Gunson reported that at a meeting with Police in Loddon anti social behaviour and speeding were the main issues.

In reply to a question from the Clerk Cllr Gunson informed everyone that farmers who received money from the Rural Payments Agency were obliged to cut the footpaths that run across their fields, it was expected that they do that to receive their payments - this issue was brought up at the last meeting by Graham Harber.

John Fuller from the District Council spoke about the plight of the Post Offices, 2,000 are under threat of closure - he had written to all post masters and invited them to a meeting to discuss the issue. A new environmental Crimes Team has been established to deal with flytipping and graffiti - anything reported before 10 am will be dealt with by tea time.

Neighbourhood Forums are being set up - there is about £80,000 in the fund and any deserving voluntary group or perhaps a holiday playscheme can apply for some of it - about £2,000 for each group, it is up to the community to nominate a deserving cause.

The Anglian Regiment is due back from Afghanistan soon and the District Council in conjunction with Great Yarmouth Borough Council will be holding a Civic Ceremony in Great Yarmouth to say thank you to Our Regiment.

8 Finance

Clerk informed Councillors that the Accounts for 2006/7 have been internally audited by Bob Kerry and are now ready to send to the Audit Commission: The Chairman and Clerk signed the statement of accounts and the Annual Governance statement. The new high interest deposit account - Community Instant Access Account is ready to use, it was agreed to move all the money over to this account leaving £200 in the old account

- War Memorial - Fairhaven of Anglesey Abbey - £428.88 - Addition of stone kerbing and fixing
- Clerk's Salary - 6 months including mileage 1st April - 30th September £613.57

9 Planning Applications

9.1 Received

- o 2007/1893 Holly Lodge, Sunnyside - Mrs G Wilcox - **APPROVED (4 and 1 abstention)**

9.2 Decisions

- o Field View, Prospect Place - **REFUSED**
- o Glebe Cottage - Cookes Rd - **APPROVED**
- o Eglantine, White Heath Road - **APPROVED**
- o Heath House, Threadneedle Street - **APPROVED.**

10 Standing Orders

Liz Robinson reported that this was on-going, the Norfolk Association of Town and Parish Councils produce a book with guidelines and a model for standing orders, Liz will obtain one copy and report back next month.

11 Village Hall Management Committee

Clerk read a report received from Matt Price. The only comment was that the price for cutting back the conifers seemed rather high, £1,300. (Report attached)

12 Footpaths

Graham Harber - no report

13 The Play Area

Graham Harber - no report

Theresa Parfitt reported that the bark had been delivered and spread by Kevin Parfitt, Matt Price and Graham Harber. The Parish Council expressed their thanks to them for doing this. It was agreed that Karen Myhill would oversee the playpark and ensure that any problems or vandalism are dealt with - Karen has offered to inspect the playpark on a regular basis, this is needed for our insurance.

14 Vermin and Vegetation

Graham Harber - no report

15 The Church

Theresa Parfitt reported that the Church had postponed their proposed building project for 3 years so that the village could concentrate on one project - the re-building of the Village Hall. The wall had been rebuilt between the Church grounds and the car park by a group of young people.

Theresa again reported the railings that are missing near the Taylor and Green houses on Church Road

Action: John Fuller

16 Parish Plan

Derek Blake to give Richard Herring a computerised copy of the grid of action points for the Parish Plan.

17 Landfill Site and Circular Walk

It was agreed that Theresa Parfitt would work with Derek Blake on the proposed circular walk. Derek Blake reported that the Parish Council are eligible to apply for a grant for signage for the walk around £30,000 and there could be third party funding from South Norfolk District Council of around £200/£300. The County Council confirmed that it was in order to have a sculpture along the walk, this would be included in the WREN proposal.

18 Events & Correspondence

Appeal from Loddon-On-Call - Action Clerk to invite their representative to a future Parish Council meeting.

Clerk read a letter from Zurich who look after the village insurance, the letter confirmed that the landfill site is covered - Limit of Indemnity is £5,000,000

Village Green 2009 - Energy Saving for your village, Derek Blake to return the form expressing interest.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm

Dates Of Future Meetings: 24/10/07, 5/12/07