

Minutes of a Meeting of Bergh Apton Parish Council on Wednesday 16th January 2008 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

1 Members Present

Parish Members present: Derek Blake (chair), Elizabeth Robinson, Richard Herring, Theresa Parfitt, Karen Myhill, Graham Harber

Apologies: Matt Price

In attendance Cllr Adrian Gunson, Cllr John Fuller, Philippa Fuller (clerk) 0 members of the public

2 Apologies For Absence & Declarations Of Interest

There was 1 apology for absence.

3 Minutes Of Meeting Held On 5th December

Theresa Parfitt proposed and Liz Robinson seconded that the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 5th December 2007 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 Finance

Precept: Elizabeth Robinson proposed and Karen Myhill seconded and it was unanimously agreed to set the precept at £3827 a small rise of 4%

Playpark Inspection: £70.50

Fairhaven of Anglesey Abbey – carving inscription on the War Memorial - £130.19

Kaspersky Anti-Virus software for Clerk's computer - £25.20 – for 2 years cover

7 Planning Applications

7.1 Received

Mill Farm, Mill Road – Mrs E Robinson – demolition of existing flat roof extension and porch, replace with brick and tile single storey extension to form sun lounge, study and utility room, porch to be rebuilt – APPROVED

7.2 REFUSED

The Bungalow, Mill Road – proposed new dwelling and erection of new barn/outbuilding

8 Standing Orders

Elizabeth Robinson is working on a draft proposal for the Standing Orders for the next meeting; this will be emailed to all Councillors in advance of this meeting. The Chairman noted that there was no statutory requirement for parish councils to adopt standing orders and that care should be exercised in the use of examples promoted by NAPTC as they clearly have a vested interest in promoting their own

product. He would consult with the monitoring officer at SNC (Chris Walton) and seek an electronic version to aid amendment. He would also obtain copies from other parishes including financial protocols.

9 Village Hall Management Committee

Nothing to report

10 Footpaths

Bridleway No. 15: This seems to be an ongoing complaint due to excessive growth of the hedgerow and a stockproof fence being erected some time ago. It appears that the fence was erected in such a way which does not leave the adequate width recommended for this bridleway – Adrian Gunson is dealing with this.

11 The Play Area

Play Area inspection report has been received, Graham Harber and Karen Myhill have kindly volunteered to fork over the bark to improve the levels, Karen will contact Anglian Playground Services to obtain the missing bolt cap and also remove the cable tie on trapeze ring which is an eye hazard. Karen reported that she has cleaned off the graffiti from the wooden shelter and she will paint it black.

12 Vermin and Vegetation

Graham Harber will bring up the subject of the rabbit problem at the next meeting when representatives from County Council and HWRC will be present.

13 The Church/Health and Safety

Theresa Parfitt reported that the Church now has its own committee to deal with the maintenance of the Churchyard and that on 1st March at 9.30 there is to be a working party at the Church – it is proposed to have a working party once a month.

14 Parish Plan Action Points

Richard Herring will produce an update of action points including the need for an assessment for local needs housing. The chairman noted that it was important to revisit the plan against current 'issues and options' as part of the LDF process. The major difference was in addressing parish aspirations in a spatial rather than parochial context.

15 Landfill Site and Circular Walk

Theresa reported that the application to WREN has been received and now an approach will be made to the Local History Group, Conservation Group and BACAT asking for their support. South Norfolk Council is taking on an Environmental Ecology Officer and his first task will be to walk the walk and take note of the plant species.

It was unanimously agreed that Theresa Parfitt has permission to sign the grant application form.

It was also agreed that Theresa would seek further sources of funding including a third party application through SNC to support the Wren application.

16 Events & Correspondence

Request from the mobile Police officers to base themselves at Bergh Apton Village Hall on Wednesdays between 1.40 – 3.10pm. Clerk contacted Village Hall Committee, who are delighted by this prospect.

17 Items for Future Agendas

It was agreed that Chairman would contact John Ling and the PCC with a view to merging our joint footpath proposals. He reported that the conservation trust was preparing an application to the Eastern Rivers Neighbourhood Forum for a grant of up to £2,000 for purchase of a bracken/rough grass cutter. If successful, this machine would be made available for other village groups.

18 District and County Councillors' Reports

Adrian Gunson reported that the Safer Neighbourhoods team are dealing with the anti-social behaviour in Loddon – smashed windows. Their next meeting is in March in Ditchingham. The congestion on the Trowse bypass is still being looked into.

There is some local objection to a new speed limit being proposed on the Loddon Road near The slad turning. The pink road surface at Mill Road/Hellington Corner is to be put down in the spring – this emphasises a danger point. The new sports hall at Loddon Middle School is up and running with gymnastics classes, badminton, and multisports activities

John Fuller reported that the District Council's £400K investment in an Environmental Crimes had allowed the Council to jump from the worst to the best category for keeping streets clean from flytipping & graffiti – In most cases an incident reported by 10am is cleared away by tea time. More money is being made available to ensure that people's homes can be made more disabled friendly. The residents of the Long Stratton area are to receive a questionnaire asking them if they would agree for perhaps up to 1,000 new homes to be built and in return the developer would put in much of the money to build the bypass. South Norfolk Council is the best in the country for processing housing benefits speedily. Community grants are available from the new neighbourhood forums. £2000 has been awarded to the Seething Control Tower to enable them to turn all the lights on and boost tourism.

Meeting closed at 10.00 pm

Dates Of Future Meetings: 20/2/08 (HWRC) ,16/4/08 (APM) 21/5/08, 2/7/08, 3/9/08, 8/10/08, 26/11/08