

Minutes of a Meeting of Bergh Apton Parish Council on Wednesday 20th February 2008 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

1 Members Present

Parish Members present: Elizabeth Robinson (chair), Richard Herring, Theresa Parfitt, Karen Myhill, Graham Harber
Apologies: Matt Price, Derek Blake, Cllr John Fuller

In attendance Cllr Adrian Gunson, Philippa Fuller (clerk) 3 members of the public

2 Apologies For Absence & Declarations Of Interest

There were 3 apologies for absence.

3 Minutes Of Meeting Held On 16th January December

Theresa Parfitt proposed and Graham Harber seconded that the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 16th January 2008 are a true account. The minutes were signed by The Chairman.

4 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

5 Public Consultation

Chris Johnson, the tree warden reported that a large Oak tree about 30 ft in height had been cut down in the Bussey Bridge area of Sunnyside – this is a conservation area and he was proposing that perhaps a letter should be sent out to residents in that area reminding them that this was a conservation area and no work on trees can be carried out without prior permission. Also the Trafalgar Oak at the village sign has also been destroyed. Chris Johnson suggested that perhaps the Parish Council might buy another tree for planting next Autumn and perhaps a metal frame could be put around it for protection, This incident has been reported to the Police. The above will be discussed at our next Parish Council Meeting.

6 Representatives from Household Waste Recycling Centre

At a formal meeting in early January Norfolk County Council's cabinet agreed the take-over of EWC's Norfolk recycling centre contract by May Gurney. The arrangements are now completed and the transfer will take place from early February onwards. Security will also be improved at the site with CCTV.

The current planning status was discussed, at the moment this HWRC has temporary planning permission (expires 2012) for a household waste recycling centre. It is proposed that this be made a permanent facility. "The site is not within or in close proximity to any national nature conservation or landscape designations. The site lies within a larger area of undulating farmland within the Tributary Farmland landscape character type as defined in the South Norfolk Landscape Character Assessment. An industrial premises adjoins the site to the south and a restored landfill bounds the site to the north west. The allocation is unlikely to affect protected species or their habitats, or biodiversity Action Plan species or their habitats."

The consultation period is 15th February – 28th March 2008. Any comments can be made on line and all the documents are on the county council website where comments can be made – www.norfolk.gov.uk/nmwdc or email ldf@norfolk.gov.uk. There will also be drop in centres between 10th March and 20th March where council representatives will answer questions – South Norfolk District Council 13th March between 12.00 – 16.00 and at the County Council 14th March between 12.00 – 16.00 or telephone 0844 800 8020 to request copies of the documents.

Clerk has put relevant documents on the parish notice board and also at the Post Office and reference made on the village website.

Mr Waters commented that the new rabbit fence needs to be higher in some places and there is quite a lot of polythene and rubbish on the surface which needs to be cleared up. He felt that the grass cutting was too late in the season and also the trees – namely the larger ash trees – should perhaps have guards around them to prevent damage from the rabbits who are stripping the bark.

The above matters are to be looked into.

Bergh Apton, with Wells, are top of the table on cleanliness of the site – this is a big improvement on the last contract.

Landfill Gas Pollution Control Report:

Monitoring results continue to be satisfactory. The automatic monitoring system is now in operation. Four monitoring points closest to the houses on Church Road are automatically sampled for landfill gas every hour. 5 replacement gas extraction wells have been installed opposite the houses on Church Road.

Site Maintenance:

Grass cutting will be carried out in accordance with the programme agreed with the Parish in previous years. One cut late Summer with one area at the western end cut and raked. The soil imports and tree planting schemes agreed with the Parish have been completed. Ragwort is expected to continue to be a problem and spot spraying will be undertaken again this year. The rabbit proof fence has been erected along the south side of the site. Des Holmes has been in contact with Tony Davy inviting him to visit the site and put forward any conservation suggestions. There is to be a cull of rabbits shortly.

7 Finance

Kaspersky Anti Virus for Clerk's Computer £21.42

8 Planning Applications

8.1 Received

Giants Wood, Cookes Road – Martin Lovatt & Paulette James – Erection of 2kw wind turbine for domestic use. – This was approved by a majority vote 4-1 but concern was raised about the danger to birds, particularly Barn Owls who use the area as a flight path.

9 Annual Parish Meeting Update

Clerk circulated the list of people usually invited to the Annual Parish Meeting – it was felt that a review of the list should be undertaken and it was decided that those organizations affiliated with the Village Hall should give their reports at the Village Hall Annual General Meeting as they already do so and there was no need for them to report again at the Annual Parish Meeting.

10 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.

11 Village Hall Management Meeting

Clerk to confirm with Matt Price that he would be happy to remain the Parish Council nomination to the Village Hall Management Committee.

12 Footpaths

Bridleway No. 15: The work on this bridleway is underway.

13 The Play Area

Karen Myhill 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 had received a quote of

£395 for all the pieces of work that need to be done to the playground. It was felt that as this is such a large quote Karen would look into whether some of the work could be done by local people.

14 Vermin and Vegetation

The rabbit problem has already been addressed by the representatives from the HWRC.

15 The Church/Health and Safety

Theresa Parfitt reported that a new sound system has been installed in the church partly funded by the Broads and Rivers Grant. The electrical work is underway, so the church is closed until 21st Feb. with services taking place in the Village Hall. The East wall damp proofing will be taking place in April/May. The Churchyard workday is 1st March 9.30am onwards, all welcome. The election of churchwarden is 6th April at 9.30am. The Church AGM will take place at Alington School on the 15th April at 7.30pm (election of PCC). The Big Sky concert is 12th April at 7.30pm.

16 Parish Plan Action Points

Richard Herring will contact Sally Leigh and ask through the village magazine for volunteers to join a Parish Plan group to go through relevant action points from the Parish Plan and also discuss new items which might be added ie. landfill site, circular walk and low cost housing.

17 Landfill Site and Circular Walk

Theresa reported that WREN would only be interested in the landfill site but not the circular walk, it was suggested that there could be maps and signage at both entrances to the site but the lease would need to be for 10 years perhaps not on an annual basis. They were not keen on the interactive boards because of vandalism. The deadline to reapply is April. The Conservation Group has written a letter of support for the project and Theresa is in touch with Florence Ellis from South Norfolk District Council to try and secure some additional funding.

18 Events & Correspondence

Thank you letter for a donation received from Loddon on Call.
Clerk has booked the play area inspection for October 2008

19 Items for Future Agendas

Trees in the conservation area – rules and regulations.

20 District and County Councillors' Reports

Adrian Gunson reported that the B1332 Norwich Road, Brooke is being resurfaced and footways are being reconstructed which should help with drainage near the village hall. There have been 4 recent accidents in the vicinity of the Dove Pub and Howe Pits Industrial Estate. It is proposed for there to be 12 industrial units in this area, Amey the street lighting contractors are asking for planning permission therefore it might be possible that a condition of this permission include a right hand turning lane. The Thurton dip is due to be resurfaced in 2008/09. Plans have been drawn up for a new school at Seething, the new school building will be behind the present thatch building and this in turn would be sold off by the County Council for housing – the cost of building a new primary school is about £1.5 million. The post office consultation is 28th March. The Arts Council have cut their funding to many arts projects in the region ie. The Puppet Theatre in Norwich.

Meeting closed at 9.50 pm

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