

Minutes of a Meeting of Bergh Apton Parish Council on Wednesday 3rd September 2008 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

1 Members Present

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

0 members of the public

2 Apologies For Absence and Declarations of Interest

There was 1 apology for absence

3 Minutes of the Meeting held 2nd July 2008

Matt Price proposed, Derek Blake seconded minutes were 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 Local Needs Affordable Housing

Abi Dennington-Price, the Housing Strategy & Enabling Officer from South Norfolk Council confirmed that a Local Needs Housing Survey is NOT required as there are 10 people on the housing waiting list that live in Bergh Apton so this demonstrates that there is a local need for affordable housing. Three pieces of land have been put forward to the District Council firstly for the informal comments of the planners, they are:

Land almost opposite the Village Hall and land on either side of Church Road, close to the Taylor and Green homes:

Saffron Housing Trust will then prepare draft layouts and approach the Parish Council for comments, Saffron works closely with the planning department. There will also be a public consultation event for members of the public to make their views on the draft layouts known. Anyone with a housing need is urged to get their name on the South Norfolk Housing Register see also www.gnhomeoptions.org.uk. Abi will hope to report back at November's meeting.

7 Finance

- Insurance for sculpture at Scop Hill - £47.25 insurance confirmed in writing but awaiting the invoice

- £4,000 cheque received for the cost of the sculpture - £1,000 received from May Gurney and £3,000 from County Council
- Clerk's Salary and expenses £652.95
- Cheque to Lucy Unwin for sculpture £3750 plus £66.75 for expenses

8 Planning Decisions

The Anteros Centre, School Road – Mr J.W Hemmant - REFUSED

Lower Sallows, Church Road – Mr M Hardesty, use of land for keeping of horses and erection of stable block – WITHDRAWN

9 BT Phone Box Adopt a Kiosk Scheme

It was unanimously agreed to Adopt the phonebox at Sunnyside for £1 rather than lose it, it will not be in working order. Clerk to ensure we have a supply of the paint for the phonebox.

10 Adoption of Freedom of Information Act

It was unanimously agreed to adopt the Freedom of Information Act – no further action needed.

11 Bergh Apton Magazine

Sally Leigh has asked in the past whether there is anyone else who would like to take over editing the Bergh Apton Magazine. Clerk to confirm with Sally if this is still the case. Action: Parish Councillors to suggest possible candidates for this role.

12 The War Memorial – Addition of new name Stephen Hallett

Parish Councillors requested some further information on what the criteria is for judging residency as they felt that Stephen Hallett was not a true resident of the village (he had spent at least 5 school holidays at Bergh Apton Manor as he was unable to return to India, his home, during the holidays.)

13 Standing Orders

Draft proposal still being circulated

14 Footpaths/bridleways/vermin/vegetation

No report

15 Village Hall Management Committee

Matt Price reported that there would be a loss of income for the Village Hall as Thurton Players were no longer up and running, the Pilates class had moved and the Mother and Toddler group was no longer there either. The Brass in the Park during the Summer had raised £4,000. Most public money is now going towards the 2012

Olympics so there is not a great deal of hope for public funding for a new Village Hall at the moment.

16 The Church

Theresa Parfitt reported that more services are likely to be conducted by members of the congregation. A successful Pet Service was led by Pat Waters and a Service of Christian Unity will be held on 11th January. The car park wall repairs have been completed for 2008 with a group of local youth under Lorie Lain Rogers leadership and a group of young offenders/probationers with their minders have been working in the churchyard. Maria Phillips has run a series of successful churchyard clean-up days in the Churchyard. Rabbit fencing has been installed along the south boundary of the car park with the Conservation Trust. Churchyard path improvement will be carried out. A specific fund-raising appeal from the community is likely. 2009 concert season has been arranged – 7 concerts. It has been decided that an equal share of the funds raised will be offered to the Village Hall to assist with the new hall funding.

17 Scop Hill and Circular Walk

Derek reported that on top of the £4,000 received from the County Council and May Gurney he had also been promised £2,200 from South Norfolk Council to help with the extra costs for example the leaflet that will include the Scop Hill walk. Later this year or most probably early Spring there will be an official opening of the site with all the donors invited, already there is press/TV interest.

18 Events and Correspondence

Letter from Loddon On Call re. a grant – this will be considered at the next meeting.

19 District and County Councillors' Reports

John Fuller, District Councillor reported that small grants of up to £2,000 are available to help small organisations - £50,000 has been invested to improve Loddon Car Park with resurfacing and an improved recycling centre, the ticket machines needed to be simplified and the signage made better so they will not be in use until this is complete – it will be free to park for 2 hours in Loddon after that there will be a charge, this will free up car park spaces for the shoppers rather than people who were using them to park all day.

Adrian Gunson, County Councillor – reported that Dodger's Loke is a restricted byway ie. For horse/horse and cart/pedestrians but not for cars and motorized vehicles – there will be restricted byways posts going up at either end. The new Thurton School is due to be opened by the Bishop of Norwich. The 50mph speed limit sign is up on the Loddon Road on the north side of Highways Nursery. Drainage improvements are underway on Mill Road and the ditch has been dug out in Church Meadow Lane. Hobart School has a new mobile classroom to accommodate the extra children now at the School. The County Council is currently working on a programme to improve bus stops throughout the County, this includes the provision of raised kerbs and textured paving to make it easier for people with

restricted mobility to use the buses. The bus stop on the Norwich Road outside 'Peace Haven' is to have this work carried out in December.

20 Police Report

From the 3rd September up until 5th October there have been;-

4 crimes these are 3 at the same place 2 x Burglaries and 1 criminal damage,

1 Burglary (outbuilding). Reported incidents 5, they are as follows;-

2 as mentioned above - 1 Suspicious Circumstance (Bogus caller)

1 Message (report of reckless driving) 1 Rowdy nuisance behaviour.

Theft of Fuel is still on the increase in and around the area, and oil / diesel was stolen from one of the crimes mentioned above

21 Items for Future Agendas

Budget, Loddon on Call grant request, Churchyard footpaths and Anglian Water.

Meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Dates Of Future Meetings: 26/11/08, 7/1/09, 11/2/09, 25/3/09, 29/4/09 (APM), 20/5/09 (AGM) 8/7/09, 9/09/09, 21/10/09, 2/12/09