

Minutes of a Meeting of Bergh Apton Parish Council on Wednesday 26th November 2008 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

1 Members Present

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

6 members of the public

2 Apologies For Absence and Declarations of Interest

There was 1 apology for absence and also Cllr John Fuller who was attending another meeting.

3 Minutes of the Meeting held 8th October 2008

Karen Myhill proposed and Graham Harber seconded that the minutes were a true account. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

4 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5 Public Consultation

Comments were made by members of the public about the local needs affordable housing and whether anyone had objected. To date no one has objected to these new sites (see below) and there will be a public meeting when everyone can make comments on the proposed plans and it will go through the correct planning procedures to be determined finally.

6 Local Needs Affordable Housing

Abi Dennington-Price, the Housing Strategy & Enabling Officer from South Norfolk Council attended the meeting and reported the following

Site 1 - Land adjacent The Street & Church Road (close to the Village Sign)

This is a very open site, at a slightly lower level than the road, surrounded by a drainage ditch. Due to its openness, any development on the site would have a significant impact and will be detrimental to the open countryside character of the area. I remain unconvinced that this site is suitable for a stand-alone small development of affordable houses. There maybe some potential however for some of this land to come forward as part of a more comprehensive scheme of development that will allow for the existing site characteristics to be taken account of. However, any such development will need to be sensitive to the existing open nature of the site, as well as the amenities and setting of the existing development on the opposite side of the road.

Site 2 - Land at Church Road (next to existing Tayler & Green properties)

This site, opposite site 1, shows promise. It is adjacent existing properties (Tayler &

Green to the east) and has an established boundary which would help to screen/soften any development proposed. An access would have to be created off Church Road, however it appeared to me that visibility should not be too difficult to achieve. A footpath runs along side the site, so this would need to be taken into account. Finally, and importantly, the adjacent Tayler & Green properties are listed buildings. Any development of this site would have to be, I repeat, have to be of a high quality that respected the design and layout of the Tayler & Green properties. Overall, this site would appear to have good potential for a small development appropriately designed houses.

Site 3 - Land at Cookes Road (opposite the Village Hall)

This site is surrounded on 3 sides by mature hedging. In fact, I could not gain access to the site for an internal inspection, however it would appear just to be part of a larger paddock. A significant amount of hedgerow would have to be removed to get a front aspect to the development. Given locations of the entrance/exit points for the village hall opposite, access to the site could also be difficult to achieve. The proximity of the village hall is of benefit to this site, however, I feel that unless a suitable access could be found [which may not be easy], then I would not wish to support the development of this site.

With the above comments from Planning Officers in mind, Abi suggests that the Parish Council moves to progress site 2, keeping site 3 (and possibly site 1) as 'reserve', should serious problems arise with site 2 as we progress.

Abi confirmed that as there are 10 people (and possibly more as the need may have risen since an article appeared in the village magazine) on the housing waiting list that live in Bergh Apton so this demonstrates that there is a local need for affordable housing.

Saffron Housing Trust will now 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.

It was agreed unanimously to proceed with site 2 – It would be a small development probably no more than 6/8 houses/flats – the mix will be reported at the next meeting and would be in keeping with the listed Taylor and Green houses which would be adjacent.

7 Finance

- Draft Precept for 2009/10 was handed out – deadline 9th January - Matt Price and Derek Blake will report back at next meeting
- Alliance and Leicester now owned by Banco Santander
- Sculpture Accounts as follows: £1,000 from May Gurney, £3000.00 from County Council, £2,200 from South Norfolk Council, £200 from Parish Council Total: £6,400

Outgoings: Bacat: £1,250, Lucy Unwin – Sculpture £3,750 and her mileage £66.75 Total outgoings £5066.75

£1333.25 left to be used for leaflets detailing the Green Walk around £500, markers, picnic tables next to the seat and 2 boards at entrance and exit (County Council are providing)

- Fairhaven – Addition of 2 names to the War Memorial £123.38
- Audit Commission fee £120 plus vat £141
- Play Area inspection - £74.03 – South Norfolk Council
- Chris Roe £150 mowing area around village sign for one season
- Clerk's Salary up to 31st December incl. back pay following pay increase £377.97
- Grant Request from PCC for upgrading the graveyard paths, annual maintenance of the graveyard, signage and proposal for a grit bin. – Parish Councillors felt that a substantial grant would increase the precept enormously so if that were to be the case it was decided then to ask the village to consider that proposal and whether they would wish the precept to rise. On the other hand if it were to be a smaller sum of money then Councillors would make a decision without involving the Village. Maria Phillips from the PCC will report back before next meeting roughly what sort of sum the PCC had in mind.
- Clerk reported that the audit for year ended March 31 2008 had been approved by the Audit Commission and the annual return is displayed on the Village noticeboard.

8 Planning Applications

- 8.1 Church Road numbers, 7, 9, 17, 18 Replace existing timber door unit with upvc
- 8.2 Lower Sallows, Church Road, Bergh Apton – Use of land for keeping of horses and erection of stable block - resubmitted
- 8.3 Bluebell cottage, 55 Bussey Bridge – Demolition of existing conservatory and replacement with new garden room
- 8.4 Hall Farm Barn, Gravel Pit Lane – conversion of redundant barn to residential use – amendment to earlier proposal

ALL THE ABOVE APPROVED

9 BT Phone Box Adopt a Kiosk Scheme

The contract was signed by the Chairman – Clerk to find out if the phone box can be listed.

10 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. – No names were put forward

11 The War Memorial – Addition of new name Stephen Hallett

Parish Councillors have been given further information by John Ling on what the criteria is for judging residency as they had 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.) - Upon reflection it was agreed unanimously to add Stephen Hallett to the War Memorial –

This will be done in the Spring when the stonemason returns to do some further work.

12 Standing Orders

Draft proposal still being circulated

13 Play park

The Play Area inspection has just been received and has been circulated

14 Footpaths/bridleways/vermin/vegetation

It was reported that the gates at the entrance and exit of Scop Hill are stiff (Action: Clerk)

15 Village Hall Management Committee

Matt Price reported that the Village Hall Management Committee was minded to propose a smaller hall or perhaps refurbish the existing hall with an extension. A sub-committee has been set up to look into various proposals.

16 The Church

Theresa Parfitt reported: 1. Services – A Parish team capable of taking services is growing. In the recent shoe box service 10 took part and it was attended by 50 of all ages. Next year a training course will be held and 6 from Bergh Apton will be going. 2. To take advantage of the church Christmas decorations a series of events will take place – poetry reading, organ recital, a magician. 3. On 11th January, a service of Christian Unity will take place, with a Salvation Army band. Afterwards there will be a pot luck lunch at the village hall. 4. The church has launched an appeal for Sanyu Babies Home in Kampala, to raise £6,500 to pay the salaries of 3 nurses. 5. As mentioned above a major financial commitment towards Improving access to churchyard especially for wheelchairs, is being made. 6. The Youth Club needs helpers. 7. Craig Doyle has resigned as Treasurer due to work pressures and Theresa Parfitt has agreed to take over. 8. A series of 8 concerts has been arranged for 2009. 9. Planning has started for a major event in 2011 – a variation to the Sculpture Trail – with BACAT

17 Events and Correspondence

From South Norfolk Council, in case of flooding the nearest supply of sandbags are at the Garden and Seed Centre, Bridge Street, Loddon.

Letter from Councillor Tony Game about community composting – a successful way to deal with garden waste at a local level – Clerk to organize for Councillor Game to attend a Parish Council meeting.

Festival of the Arts – South Norfolk Council would like to advertise any local arts event in a publication promoting all events in South Norfolk – **Action Theresa Parfitt**

18 District and County Councillors' Reports

Adrian Gunson, County Councillor – reported that the new Thurton School had been opened by the Bishop of Norwich

Planning permission for a new school at Seething is underway –

Drainage work is being undertaken in Seething Street and Wheelers's Lane to the Village Hall – the Post Office remains open.

Hobart School need a new classroom as there are 30 more children.

Adrian Gunson attended the SNAP (safer neighbourhoods meeting) in Poringland..It was reported that crime in Poringland had diminished due to the greater Police presence, Cllr Gunson reported that crime in Loddon and surrounding villages had actually increased. This was blamed on lack of resources.

The MD of Eastern Counties Bus Service has promised to monitor the buses on the A146, complaints range from buses being full and people having to stand, bad timekeeping and excessive speed. New double decker buses are being put on to help with this.

A11 dueling has been brought forward to 2010.

There is a new turning lane on the B1332 by the Dove.

The Park and Ride charges are to change they will now charge per person instead of per car – for information this service is subsidized by £2million per year.

19 Police Report

Since 8th October until now there have been no reported crimes and only two reported incidents they were 1 suspicious circumstance (no offence, all in order) and 1 road related mud/water leak on road.

20 Items for Future Agendas

Budget, Loddon On Call grant request, Churchyard footpaths grant request, Playpark inspection report

Meeting closed at 9.25pm

Dates Of Future Meetings: 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