

# Minutes of a Meeting of Bergh Apton Parish Council on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2009 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

## 1 Members Present

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

2 members of the public, Cllr Adrian Gunson, Cllr John Fuller

## 2 Apologies For Absence and Declarations of Interest

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There were 2 apologies for absence.

## 3 Minutes of the Meeting held 26<sup>th</sup> November 2008

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Matthew Price proposed and Theresa Parfitt seconded that the minutes were a true account. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

## 4 Matters Arising

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There were no matters arising.

## 5 Public Consultation

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There was no public consultation

## 6 Community Composting – Cllr Tony Game

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Cllr Tony Game spoke about community composting:

Community composting is a great way to deal with garden waste in an area, even where people may also use home composters or the Brown Bin (garden waste) scheme.

There are hundreds of community composting projects currently running all over the country, including two South Norfolk parishes, Denton and Geldeston.

A lot of people wonder what it is all about. Community composting is where local people work together to increase the amount of composting, with benefit to both the environment and the local community. Schemes across the country are very diverse, but all of them have a few key things in common: local people are the driving force, environmental protection is one of the motivating factors, and practical sustainability is the outcome! Most schemes share the following characteristics:

- They are small scale, low cost and use minimal mechanisation
- Local people are involved and are often highly motivated, bringing materials from their own or other people's gardens
- Education and awareness raising activities are carried out, and the local school often becomes involved. The end product (lovely compost!) is usually distributed or sold locally, or used to grow plants for the local community. Minimal finance is required. When projects grow they may receive finance from

local, central or European government agencies through grants, sponsorship and contracts (including Recycling Credits)

· By-products can be useful and may include heat, worm breeding projects, cleaner wheelie bins and improved soil fertility!

Denton and Geldeston have already shown it can be done in South Norfolk.

A grant from South Norfolk will cover the initial start-up costs around £1,000.

The garden waste is weighed and the figure submitted to South Norfolk and at the moment the Parishes receive around £46 for every tonne they compost.

**Action: Clerk to send information about community composting to the magazine Elizabeth Robinson to mention it in her next report to the Bergh Apton magazine**

## 7 Finance

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- Precept for 2009/10 was confirmed as £3827.00 the same as last year
- Grant Request from PCC for upgrading the graveyard paths, annual maintenance of the graveyard, signage and proposal for a grit bin. – Christopher Meynell and Maria Philips attended the meeting.
- **Action: Adrian Gunson will take up the possibility of a sign asking for people to drive slowly. Matt Price offered to obtain a quote for a grit bin**
- It was proposed by Theresa Parfitt and seconded by Matt Price to, in principle, offer £200/£250 towards the maintenance of the churchyard and also a one-off donation of £400 towards upgrading the paths in the graveyard. The above will be on the next agenda.

## 8 Planning Applications

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- 8.1 The Bungalow, Mill Road – Mr and Mrs Blazer – Amendment to application 2008/1575 for proposed replacement dwelling – addition of an extension with internal alterations APPROVED
  - 8.2 2, Sunnyside, Bergh Apton – Mr R Wilcox – Single storey rear utility room extension and new lean-to roof over flat roof 2008/2478 APPROVED
  - 8.3 Land at Mill Road, retrospective application for retention of summerhouse – Ms V Castleton - APPROVED
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## 9 BT Phone Box Adopt a Kiosk Scheme

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This is going ahead.

## 10 Play Park

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The Play Area inspection has just been received Karen Myhill has kindly offered to attend to a few minor issues. A quote for £60 has been received for some tree cutting work which needs doing – This will be on the next agenda.

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## 11 The Church

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Theresa Parfitt reported that over 400 people attended Church events over the Christmas period.

## 12 District and County Councillors' Reports

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Cllr John Fuller reported that there is at present a staff freeze and staff at South Norfolk will be redistributed within the organization. Fewer planners are needed owing to the reduction in people moving house and therefore the number of searches undertaken is less also. In the last year South Norfolk has doubled the number of people giving up an hour or more of their time a week to take up sport it is the biggest improvement of any council anywhere in England - £1million has been pumped into the 3 leisure centres in South Norfolk. Included in the local plan there is to be a 'new town' in 2026 in the area around Mangreen.

Cllr Adrian Gunson reported that with the recession income is down in the planning department as waste and mineral extractions are down too. Also more elderly people now qualify for free help with care. As a result of unemployment the uptake of school meals has risen. Patching work is to be undertaken on Bungay Lane due to the heavy lorries using it. The new hatching on the B1332 right turning to Howe Pits is too wide and will be attended to shortly. The traffic lights on the Trowse bypass will hopefully be adjusted this year as the new contractors agree this needs to be done. Planning approval for the Northern Distributor Road is being delayed as a report needs to be submitted on how it will benefit the City of Norwich. Loddon Parish Council is to discuss the traffic problem in Loddon as there is a lot of congestion. Work on the roundabout on the A47 at Mattishall has been completed – now the Norwich to Dereham section of the Southern bypass needs to be dualled. There is still more delay from the Government on the local government reorganization.

## 13 Police Report

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December 2008 until now 7th of January 2009 there has been:- 6 reported incidents as follows -3 road reported incidents, 1 Burglary, 1 rowdy / nuisance behaviour and 1 Criminal Damage. 3 Crimes have been recorded: - 1 theft of generator, 1 criminal damage (to village hall) and one theft (of a gas bottle).

## 14 Items for Future Agenda

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Loddon On Call grant request, Churchyard footpaths grant request, quote for tree cutting at the Playpark, £661.74 received from playpark account (now closed) Grit bin

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Meeting closed at 9.10pm. **Dates Of Future Meetings: 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**