

Minutes of a Meeting of Bergh Apton Parish Council on Wednesday 25th March 2009 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Members Present

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Parish Members Present | Elizabeth Robinson (chair), Karen Myhill, Matt Price, Richard Herring, Derek Blake, Theresa Parfitt |
| In attendance: | Cllr Adrian Gunson and Philippa Fuller (clerk) |
| | One Member of the Public |
| Apologies | Cllr John Fuller, on District Council business |

Apologies For Absence and Declarations of Interest

Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th February 2009. Derek Blake proposed and Richard Herring seconded that the minutes were a true account. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

Theresa Parfitt informed everyone that the Church had paid for the new paths

Public Consultation

There was no public consultation

Household Waste Recycling Centre

Dan Jacobs and Peter Barnes attended (report on main Parish notice board)

A member of the public commented that the lighting at the site was permanently on at night, it was promised that this would be disconnected within 3 weeks. It was agreed unanimously that the HWRC meetings should be held annually rather than twice a year. There will be another meeting in September this year then the next one will be September 2010.

Local Needs Affordable Housing

There was some confusion regarding the site identified for local needs affordable housing at Church Road. The Clerk had received correspondence from Peter Ramsdale at Saffron Housing saying that the land at Church Road, was now likely to be unavailable before 2010 pending a strategic review of the needs of the whole Norfolk County Council Farms Estate. However, John Fuller & Derek Blake had made further enquiries and were ensuring that the proposed application should not be delayed whilst the review was undertaken.

Detailed Plans had been drawn-up and a special Parishioners' Meeting will be held in due course to discuss the various options.

Finance

- Clerk's Salary - £353.84 including expenses
- Leaflets for Circular Walk Roberts & Son the printers in Loddon £170

Planning

Planning Applications

- Loke House, Threadneedle Street 2009/0219 – APPROVED

- The Old Stables, Sunnyside 2009/0190 – APPROVED
- Land at rear of 1 Church Road 2009/0387 - APPROVED

Planning Approval

- Bluebell Cottage – APPROVED

Standing Orders

Ongoing, Matt Price to review draft Standing Orders and pass to Derek Blake before the next meeting.

Footpaths/bridleways/vermin/vegetation

No report received from Graham Harber.

Play Park

Karen Myhill is obtaining quotes for new playground equipment and football nets and will submit an application to South Norfolk Council for a small Neighbourhood grant.

Village Hall

Matt Price reported that the Village Hall Management Committee is now looking to refurbish the existing Village Hall and extend the Committee Room. It is also proposed to have an archive centre in the Village Hall.

John Burrage had enquired of the County Council about grant funding for the refurbishment. He reported that applications for their grant aid scheme require evidence that they have approached the Parish Council. It was resolved to support the Village Hall Committee's application for a County Council grant.

Matt Price is willing to stand again on the Village Hall Management Committee.

The Church

A programme of Summer Concerts has been produced. There are also to be improvements to the car park.

Circular Walk

Derek Blake has produced a leaflet detailing walks around the village incorporating Scop Hill. It is proposed to have an official opening of Scop Hill in September.

Newcomers Meeting

It was proposed to contribute some money towards refreshments at a newcomers meeting for new residents to the village. The proposed date is Saturday 6th June – village organisations will be present. The Bergh Apton information book needs updating Derek Blake will email it to all Parish Councils for their help in updating it.

Vandalism of Phone Box

Clerk has reported the vandalism of the phone box near the village hall. Clerk will also report general disruptive behaviour around the village i.e. Sandbags in the phone box, tree stump in the road, eggs stolen etc... and will ask for some Police presence in the village as a possible deterrent.

Councillors' Reports

County Councillor

- County Councillor Adrian Gunson reported that he had been to the Safer Neighbourhoods meeting at Stoke Holy Cross – the arson attacks in Loddon were mentioned.
- On the Southern Bypass the lump in the road at Keswick Bridge has been reported.
- Hobart School has received an outstanding Ofsted Report
- Libraries will now have more information on Citizens Advice, Housing issues and District Council information.
- The County Council has spend £1 million extra on the repair of the roads after the bad winter weather. £3/4 million was spent on road gritting.
- The loose cover on Mill Road has been reported to Anglian Water, the building of the new school at Seething is due to start in July/August – the newts on the site need to be re-housed first. The sale of the school building has fallen through so this will now go for sale on the open market and due to the recession may not be worth as much – less value etc.....
- Framingham Road at Yelverton has a lot of standing water by the wood, the field next to it is also flooded – the owner has been contacted.

District Councillor

Derek Blake reported on behalf of John Fuller that South Norfolk Council won its recent judicial review at the High Court in London demonstrating that the boundary committee failed to consult adequately and have not assessed the affordability.

Police Report

From 10th February

- 3 reported crimes - 1 burglary (chainsaw stolen from a shed), 1 domestic, 1 theft of gas bottles
- 8 reported incidents – 1 rowdy/nuisance behaviour, 1 suspicious circumstances, 2 domestic incidents, 1 road traffic collision – (damage only), 1 fire, 2 alarms activates – (accidentally)
- For information: As from 1st April there is going to be a lot of change within the force and one of those is that Loddon is going to have an extra PC (Grant Buchanan) and our own Sergeant (Jim Heath) making the team up to 6 to give the areas they patrol more cover, and secondly the officers are going to work more 5 and 6 day/evening shifts.

Theresa Parfitt and Elizabeth Robinson have kindly volunteered to obtain the drinks and snacks for the Annual Parish Meeting on 29th April

Meeting closed 9.20pm.

Dates of Future Meetings: 29/4/09 (APM), 20/5/09 (AGM), 8/7/09, 9/9/09, 21/10/09, 2/12/09