

Minutes of a Meeting of Bergh Apton Parish Council on Wednesday 9th September 2009 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall

1 Members Present

Parish Members Present Elizabeth Robinson (chair), Matt Price, Richard Herring, Derek Blake
In attendance: Philippa Fuller (clerk), Cllr John Fuller, Cllr Adrian Gunson and 3 members of the public
Apologies Karen Myhill , Theresa Parfitt on holiday

2 Apologies For Absence and Declarations of Interest

There were 2 apologies for absence. Elizabeth Robinson proposed and Matt Price seconded that the minutes of the Meeting held on 8th July 2009 were a true account. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

3 Matters Arising

HWRC meeting delayed until (October) Clerk to write to Chief Executive of May Gurney to convey the Parish Council's appreciation of the work that May Gurney and their team put in at the Bergh Apton site.

4 Public Consultation

3 members of the public spoke about the proposed local needs affordable housing for Bergh Apton please see below

5 Local Needs Affordable Housing

The Chairman reported that there had been 34 visitors to the public consultation event which had taken place this afternoon/evening. There was overwhelming support for the principle of affordable housing for local people only. At the Parish Council meeting following the event, concerns were raised about whether this was the right choice of site and had another brownfield site ie. the brickworks been considered, concern about the road junction and a question was raised whether there was a need for any housing at all and that this scheme was ruining a nice part of the village. Questions were raised about the procedure and whether the matter would be subject to a full planning application in due course.

Derek Blake Cabinet Member of Planning for South Norfolk said that in the Local Development Framework (LDR) there may be some small developments in the next 40 years during the life of this framework but this scheme in no way set a precedent. He said that geographically this piece of land is at the centre of the village alongside the village sign. Cllr Adrian Gunson said that the proposed plans were a good design and he supported the proposal. He added

that private land could only be used if it was offered and that many areas of the village are without services, like drainage and sewage which would cost too much to install.

In response, John Fuller, leader of South Norfolk, stated that Saffron Housing would be applying for planning permission in due course and this would go to a planning committee and members of the public would be able to have their say. He said a number of sites had been considered, one was withdrawn and many landowners had been written to also asking whether they could offer their land for affordable housing. The professional planners had recommended that this site on Church Road by the Village sign was the best. Mr Fuller reminded everyone that the housing waiting list had increased by 50% to 4,500 in the last 18 months and that the council had been elected on a manifesto commitment to provide a 'handful' of affordable homes reserved for local people in every village.

Clerk has received the following from Peter Ramsdale, Strategic Development Officer, of Saffron Housing:

34 visitors attended the Public Consultation event. 17 comment slips were completed and the topics are summarized briefly below. Some commented on more than one topic.

Support the Scheme – 11

Alternative Site – 7

Concerns raised over future development of field – 6

Concern over road junction – 5

Want property for locals – 2

Like the garden size – 1

6 Finance

- £400 contribution to Church fabric fund for the new path.
- £155.25 Mazars – audit

7 Planning

7.1 Planning Applications – None

8 Standing Orders

Still Ongoing

9 Footpaths/bridleways/vermin/vegetation

No report

10 Play Park

Ongoing

11 Village Hall

Clerk asked to write a letter to John Burrage in support of the rebuilding of the Village Hall

12 Scop Hill

Derek Blake reported that as a result of County Council elections the completion of this project had been delayed. The County Council had agreed to pay for picnic tables at Scop Hill. But the descriptive boards were on hold due to expenditure. The launch will be delayed until the Spring when there will be more funding.

13 The Church

Nothing to report

14 Councillors' Reports

14.1 County Councillor Adrian Gunson

The Hedge on White Heath Road will be cut. The signpost for Lower Kiln Lane/The Street is surrounded by hedging, this will be attended to. Hobart High School has had consistently good results for 7/8 years 60% A-C grades including Maths and English. The Head of Alington School is leaving at the end of the year, there have been difficulties recently in recruiting head teachers. The new traffic lights at Trowse will be introduced in October. As reported by the Clerk the high hedging along the B1332 near the Dove is to be cut back to help with visibility when turning out of Dove Lane.

14.2 District Councillor John Fuller

See Affordable housing above: The Community Pub of the Year is The Pelican at Tacolneston

15 Police Report

PCSO Kevin Nightingale 8TH July 2009 up until now 8th September 2009 there have been :-

13 Reported incidents:-

2 re vehicle Obstruction – No obstruction deemed by officers, 1 Alarm Activation – All in order, 1 Found Property, 1 Domestic, 1 Theft, 2 Re Suspect

vehicle/Occurrences, 1 Nuisance Comms, 2 Civil Disputes, 1 Abandoned vehicle – All ok, 1 Information for Police

3 Crimes:- 2 Thefts, (1 from motor vehicle and 1 other), 1 Domestic

**Our next SNAP meeting is on Wednesday 16th September 2009
7pm at Thurlton Primary School.**

16 Items For Future Agendas

VAT £87.56, Mazars Audit £155.25, Loddon on Call request for a donation, Bergh Apton Magazine request for a donation £65 towards the cost of printing. Audit Commission report – risk assessment.

- Meeting closed 8.25pm
- Dates of Future Meetings: 21/10/09, 2/12/09