

Minutes of a Meeting of Bergh Apton Parish Council on Wednesday 27th October 2010 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Members Present

Parish Members Present Elizabeth Robinson (chair), Derek Blake , Karen Myhill, Theresa Parfitt (taking the minutes)

In attendance: Cllr Adrian Gunson, 4 members of the public

Apologies Richard Herring, Matt Price, Suzanne Mayes, Cllr John Fuller and Philippa Fuller (clerk)

1 Apologies For Absence and Declarations of Interest

There were 5 apologies for absence.

2 Minutes of Meeting Held On 8th September 2010

Derek Blake proposed and Karen Myhill seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 8th September 2010 were a true account. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

3 Matters Arising - There were no matters arising

4 **Public Consultation** - There was no public consultation.

5 District & County Councillors' Reports

Cllr Adrian Gunson reported that there were difficulties in spreading available monies to cover the expanding elderly population – it may involve more testing (not means testing) but testing people's actual needs. Although extra money will be given to social services and the NHS it will not be enough to maintain standards. There will not be enough money to grow services such as libraries and IT equipment. There is a loss of £20 million currently each year through drawback adjustment.

The A11 is scheduled for 2012/2013 but capital for other projects such as the Long Stratton bypass will not be available. There is still a debate how effective speed cameras are, the Loddon to Thurton cameras may be saved by a partnership by the Police and the Council. Reports on pot holes in the village have been made.

John Fuller sent a report delivered by Derek Blake: The CSR could have been a lot worse, but the result of the Comprehensive Spending Review announced by the Chancellor George Osborne last month will still hit local councils hard.

The Government's support for South Norfolk Council will now drop by a quarter over four years. If we didn't change and we just carried on as before, we'd have to increase your Council Tax by 10 per cent a year for each of the next four years to make up the shortfall.

Indeed we have frozen your Council Tax for two of the last three years. So, although we had already got our own house in order by reducing staff numbers and trimming £1.7m from our budgets over the last two years, we're now going to have to repeat the process. At least we did make an early start.

Living within our means and behaving in a business-like manner is what you expect. We are No1 of all councils in the country in several areas – but this top performance costs money. So, over the next few months as we balance the books, we may conclude that it is better to aim less high than to cut out some services altogether.

The public sector has an opportunity to work more closely together and we are actively involved in projects to extend the joint working that already happens into new areas of activity. That joint working strips out costs and avoids wasteful duplication.

The good news is that the Government will be giving us new powers to help local people and local communities to help themselves, and we have 119 parish councils to look after. We know from the way you work with us that many of you care deeply about your community and want to do more. So we will be on hand to help make that a reality.

We'll also be investing some of our reserves in building new commercial developments that will support a new generation of businesses and generate income to support local services. We will play our part in helping the private sector dig us out of the recession. The council is still in business and we plan to stay in business. That's the best way to deliver the services you tell us you need, but at a price you can afford.

6 HWRC Planning Permission

The planning permission expires in 2012. The next Parish Council meeting will be a public meeting to discuss this more fully. The surrounding Parishes have written in support of the HWRC. Cllr Addrian Gunson said if the site closes there will not be another one in the area, new sites are now near larger populations. This site is viewed by County Council as uneconomical as it is a small site. The waste and minerals plan say it is an unsuitable site. Derek Blake said that if the site were closed the County would look for another use which may be unfavourable.

7 Finance

- Play Area Inspection Report £75.20
- Precept to remain the same – confirm at next meeting.

8 Local Needs Affordable Housing

This is low cost housing for local people only.

The scheme is progressing well, the houses are currently being brick clad. They are due to be completed and ready for occupation February 14th. Housing officers are contacting prospective tenants informing them that choice base letting will be available.

Drainage/flooding – District and County council have inspected the site and no issues have been raised, Derek Blake is continuing to observe. The EDF dispute about the transformer is still on-going. The letter about the local needs affordable housing in the last magazine will be responded to privately.

9 LDF Sites – Derek Blake

There is a CD available where all sites specific have been listed. The process is still on-going many of the sites will be rejected during the initial consultation. We do not have a 5 year plan, this could lead to a development of a site (major development). One solution would be for SNC to leave the partnership as they have a 7 year land supply while other partners have less.

10 Play Area Inspection Report

There are various rotten beams and supports. Karen will report at the next meeting with an action plan having contacted the play area inspectors. There is a reserve fund of £1500 in the bank for this purpose.

11 Planning Applications

11.1 Beckholme, Welbeck Road – Mr Rolfe APPROVED by Parish Council

11.2 Hall Farm Barn – Mr Meynell variation of planning permission – APPROVED by Parish Council

12 **Planning Approval** - Thatched Cottage, Welbeck – APPROVED AT COMMITTEE

13 The Playpark

Fencing work following vandalism still to be done. Karen Myhill to contact Graham Harber

14 **Village Hall Management Committee** – No report

15 The Church

The Harvest Festival collection of £189 will be donated to Farm Crisis Network and the Norwich Foodbank. The Bishop of Thetford has approved four members of the congregation to administer the Chalice at Services of Communion. Lights to illuminate the parking area have been made and are put in position by the gates when there is an evening event. The monthly luncheons continue to be held in Church on the last Tuesday of each month, if anyone is interested in assisting with the preparation of the meals, please contact Liz Meynell. Investigations are proceeding for curtains to be hung at the rear of the church to contain the heat in the Welcome Area. A booklet on the history of the Church is being prepared and will be available at the start of the Sculpture Trail. Repairs to the stonework at the east end of the Church were carried out by Fairhaven & Woods in the Summer. Further repair to the building need to be carried out, quotations will be obtained for these works and the PCC will apply for a Faculty to enable them to proceed. Investigations are continuing for a replacement board to display the list of services inside the main notice board. Pat Waters confirmed that plans for an extension at the Church are deferred.

16 Sculpture on Scop Hill

Theresa Parfitt to contact Karl Harvey about the repairs to the sculpture.

17 Scop Hill Update - See above

18 Events and Correspondence

Choice Report – no action, Goose Barn – no action, Mr R Burton report – no action

19 Items For Future Agendas

Clerks Salary and expenses, noticeboard repairs, Play area inspection report, HWRC consultation, precept decision

- **Report police** – There was no police report

20 Dates of Future Meetings:

- 1st Dec, 19th Jan, 9th March, 27th April Annual Parish Meeting, please note Thursday 19th May post-election AGM, 22nd June, 20th July, 7th Sept (HWRC) 19th Oct, 30th Nov, 11th Jan 2011 – Meeting Closed at 9pm