

Minutes of a Meeting of Bergh Apton Parish Council On Wednesday, 27th March 2013 at 7.30pm At The Village Hall Members Present

Parish Members Present Richard Herring (Chair) Bob Kerry, Karen Myhill, Jacqueline Byford
In attendance: Clerk, District Councillor John Fuller and 5 members of the public
Apologies There were 3 apologies for absence – Adrian Gunson, John Ling Scop Hill Warden, Derek Blake

1 Apologies For Absence and Declarations of Interest

There were 3 apologies for absence.

2 Minutes of Meeting Held on 9th January 2013

The minutes of the last meeting on 9th January were approved and signed.

3 Matters Arising

There was one matter arising, Bob Kerry confirmed that the Green Pastures are happy to have a new village noticeboard sited at the Farm Shop. Karen Myhill to obtain a quote.

4 Public Consultation

4.1 District Councillor's Report – The Local Plan Process- John Fuller

Cllr Fuller explained the latest situation on the allocation of sites for development as part of the well-established local plan process. He said that in other parts of the district some sites had been withdrawn, many as a result of fresh information from the County Council in respect of highways or education capacity in local schools. For legal reasons there would be an 8 week consultation period to give time for the affected landowners to provide more information.

He explained that the deletion of sites wasn't the case in Bergh Apton and that the owners of the two sites [opposite village hall and next to Dodgers Lane] were still actively promoting them. That said, it was possible that the notional allocations [10 houses & 5 houses respectively] might still be fine-tuned at the point at which the Inspector reviewed the plans.

Moving on, he explained that the Council was only able to *allocate* sites for 5 houses or more. There had recently been changes in the national planning law that seemed to indicate that *brownfield or infill* land capable for developments of less than 4 houses was available for development on a *windfall* basis. Such applications would be subject to a planning application process. What this meant was that it was possible that sites at The Brickworks and smaller infill plots in the village might come forward *for developments less than 5 houses* if their owners applied for planning permission in the normal way. The Council wasn't promoting these but would have to respond to events if the owners submitted proposals and would have to apply the new planning law accordingly.

4.2 County Councillor's Report – Adrian Gunson –

My apologies for BAPC as there is a meeting of Hobart Academy Trust tonight. My comments for your PC are:

1. I attended the inaugural ceremony for the planting of the trees on the closed landfill site.
2. The missing arm of the signpost at the top of Lower Kiln Lane was found in the hedge – Clerk has it.

3. I reported large potholes near Washingford House as being urgent and on checking if they have been repaired, I also reported potholes on Threadneedle Street near the Manor and on the Alington side of the bend.

4. The rebuilding of the footway at Hellington on the A146 was completed in February. For particular reasons there is one frontage where the footway will be done later.

5. I strongly support the proposed extension and other works at Green Pastures, but I do believe that with the increased turning movements we should have a 50 mph limit on the A146 at Hellington Corner.

6. The Environment Agency, after 10 years of pressure locally, much of it led by myself, have agreed to rebuild the Southern bank of the River Chet between Loddon and Nogdam End. These repairs should prevent the bank being overtopped so frequently that they eventually collapse. By maintaining the integrity of the banks into the future with regular maintenance as well, the long term navigability of the Chet will be monitored and Loddon will remain a tourist centre for Broads tourists.

4.3 Police Report –

PCSO Kevin Nightingale was able to attend tonight's meeting. Calls to the Police are as follows: Criminal damage to a vehicle, harassment/domestic, a theft of a rotavator at flytrap nurseries and theft of a trailer (used in the robbery at flytrap nurseries) a number of rural shops have been broken into and there continues to be oil stolen from oil tanks.

The Chairman re-opened the Parish Council Meeting.

5 Co-opt a new Parish Councillor

Deferred

6 Finance –

7 The Parish Green Deal Scheme

This is a scheme where householders can claim cash back from the Government on energy saving improvements like insulation, front doors, windows and boilers. Those interested can contact the Energy Savings Advice Service on 0300 123 1234 to register their interest

8 Oil Purchase Scheme

This is a scheme run by Norfolk RCC to help provide rural communities with cheaper fuel it is a bulk oil buying scheme. Clerk to put information in the newsletter diary, if there is space.

9 Scop Hill Report February/March

Clerk read a report from John Ling

RESTORATION OF "THE DANCE"

In my January report I undertook to come up with a proposal to repair damage to The Dance and to put the whole sculpture into a better state of strength and condition. I attach a short summary of the recommended process that includes costs.

This is a simple and effective solution that will result in a robust sculpture that will endure for a very considerable time.

The logic of carrying out rescue and restoration, rather than abandon the work to decay and destruction, is thus: (1) it would be difficult to justify abandoning a sculpture with a purchase price of close to £6,000; (2) it is a serious and attractive piece of work by a noted sculptor; and (3) it is a physical publicly-accessible reminder of the great (and possibly now historic) village experience of a

Sculpture Trail. I do trust that the Council will agree that the scheduled repair costs, when measured against this yardstick, are modest and responsible. It is also worth considering that one or more of your co-purchasers may also agree, and assist with the funding of the repairs.

TREE PLANTING

The tree-planting scheme reported in January has now been completed. Something over 250 “whips” have been established on the open area defined in the plan attached to the January 2013 report comprising a wide variety of trees including indigenous fruiting varieties, but no ash nor large forest trees (oak, beech etc).

RAGWORT ERADICATION

I would appreciate the Parish Council’s agreement that we move forward with the project I suggested in January - a programme to eradicate ragwort - with the objective, within two years, of cutting and baling the grass on the open lands of Scop Hill. Without ragwort eradication the potential crop is unusable for feed for which there is a demand as cattle and horse feed. Without that crop being taken off the nutrients in the green vegetation that stays in place creates conditions far too rich for wildflowers that try to establish themselves in this area that is, effectively if not in classification, a nature reserve. Thus taking the crop is a win/win project.

There are two ways to do the work required: (a) appointing a professional contractor or (b) the purchase of an effective weedkiller approved for non-professional use and paying someone locally to apply it. BUT the timing is critical. If the eradication plan is to begin this year the work must start before the flowers develop and seed heads form. If the Parish Council agrees in principle to do this work I will obtain prices and develop a proposal in time for the next meeting.

GREAT CRESTED NEWTS

You may have noticed, or been asked about, the green plastic fencing that has recently been erected in the area of the main gate into Scop Hill. It is all to do with the great crested newt, a European Protected Species safeguarded by a significant array of UK Laws relating to the environment and wildlife.

During the planning new drainage arrangements at the HWRC the NCC ecologist established that there is a colony of these creatures in and around the pond, near the main gateway into Scop Hill, into which water drains off the hill before being piped away to the Conservation Trust’s marsh and thence into the River Chet.

As a result, considerable work has been done by NCC to protect the colony, part of which is the green plastic fencing that encircles the colony and allows the NCC’s licensed operator to capture the newts and transfer them into a safe temporary pond while the work takes place.

RESTORATION OF “THE DANCE” A RECOMMENDED METHOD

Process summary

1. The welded figures to be separated (they are bolted together) into their individual bodies and transported to St Olaves.
2. Each figure to be individually shot-blasted to reveal its essential structure and condition and transported back to Street Farm, Bergh Apton.
3. Each figure to have whatever work is required (including re-attachment of the detached arm to its body) with a maximum of one day per figure, to make the condition of each figure as robust as possible.
4. The repaired and strengthened figures to be transported to St Olaves to be zinc-coated and finished with final black powder coating.
5. The figures to be returned to Bergh Apton, re-joined as “The Dance” and set in their original location but fixed on raised steel plates (seven in total) to improve stability and to keep all anchored feet clear of the ground.

Contractors

The work will be carried out by capable and experienced professionals: (1 above) Aerocote of St Olaves and (2) Carl Harvey in Bergh Apton. Costs of this work can be summarised as:

- (1) Each figure to be shot-blasted, zinc-coated and finished with black powder coat: £50 each.
- (2) Maximum one day allowed for each figure to be welded and fettled: £200 each.
- (3) Fabrication of seven steel plates: £50
- (4) Transport: free, with help of Bergh Apton resident

That is a project budget (including all applicable VAT and materials) of £1,300, with a possible reduction in welding costs if time consumed is less.

It was agreed to thank John Ling for his report and ask him to go ahead with this project. On the subject of ragwort the Parish Council would, as John suggested, like him to obtain some prices and develop a proposal for the next meeting following the APM on May 22nd.

10 Annual Parish Meeting 22nd May

Refreshments will be available from 7pm with the meeting commencing at 7.30 followed by a short Parish Meeting and AGM

11 Planning Applications

- 11.1 2012/2149 – Green Pastures Farm Shop amended plans – APPROVED
- 11.2 2013/0162 The Old School House, School Road – APPROVED
- 11.3 Bussey Bridge Farm, new straw barn 2013/0228 - APPROVED

12 Planning Approval

13 Village Hall Management Committee

14 Events and Correspondence

15 Items for Future Agendas

Parish Council Audit

Dates of Future Meetings: 22nd May APM/AGM, 3rd July, 11th September, 20th November