

# Minutes of a Meeting of Bergh Apton Parish Council On Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> April 2014 at 7.30pm At The Village Hall

## Members Present

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Parish Members Present	Derek Blake (Chair), Bob Kerry, Jacqueline Byford, Karen Myhill
In attendance:	Clerk, District Councillor John Fuller and 1 member of the public
Apologies	There were 2 apologies for absence – Adrian Gunson and Richard Herring

### **1 Apologies For Absence and Declarations of Interest**

There were 2 apologies for absence.

### **2 Minutes of Meeting Held on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2014**

The minutes of the last meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2014 were approved.

### **3 Matters Arising**

David Skedge reported that he was disappointed by the response from David Edleston, Senior Conservation and Design Architect at South Norfolk Council about his proposal for a possible designation of a new Conservation Area in Bergh Apton..The response was as follows:

*The statutory definition of a Conservation Area is 'an area of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance'.*

*Paragraph 127 of the National Planning Policy Framework states : 'When considering the designation of Conservation Areas, Local Planning Authorities should ensure that an area justifies such status because of its special architectural or historic interest, and that the concept of conservation is not devalued through the designation of areas that lack special interest'.*

*I note in particular that all the buildings which you have now identified for inclusion in the area, apart from the village hall are already listed as being of special architectural or historic interest, each of which has a fairly extensive curtilage. As listed buildings, there is already a significant degree of protection and in particular, there is a statutory requirement to consider the impact of any new development on the setting of a listed building, which includes development within the curtilage and can also include development outside the curtilage, where the setting is affected.*

*There is little evidence to justify the special interest of the areas of land around the village hall and furthermore with the degree of protection noted above, already in place for the majority of the area that you have identified, I remain of the view that the criteria for designation would not be satisfied and that such a proposal could not therefore be supported.*

Flood Cookes Road – Kevin Parfitt has been dealing with the flood which has occurred as a result of the pipes being blocked by roots and the pond has overflowed into the road. Bob Kerry has investigated who owns the land. John Fuller has spoken to the owner who intends to visit the site this weekend.

### **4 Public Consultation**

Jack Taylor the Chair of Alington Parish Council attended the meeting to speak about the proposed Solar Farm on land north east of Avenue Farm Yelverton. He explained that an Extraordinary Meeting of residents on the 9th April a vote was called 46 objected to the application, 4 abstained and 0 were in favour. The main reasons for the objection were proximity of site to residential dwellings, visual impact of the site, concern about the increase in vehicles using the highway during construction, flood risk, concerns about the proposed use of CCTV cameras, more information needed about the connection of the site to the National grid and the 2 metre high security fencing.

Jack Taylor asked for the Parish Council's support in this matter.

#### **4.1 District Councillor's Report**

There is a new grants fund so grants in the region of £1,000 can be offered for community projects and events. The toilets at the Staithe in Loddon are being refurbished including a shower block. All the public toilets in the 4 market towns are being refurbished. There is a mobile gym based at the Jubilee Hall in Loddon which members of the public can use for 3 sessions a week at very little cost.

#### **4.2 County Councillor's Report**

The Clerk read a report from Adrian Gunson

1. I am very pleased to have got Threadneedle Street and Cookes Road in the surface dressing list for this summer. Hall Road, Thurton (which is partly Bergh Apton) will also be surface dressed.

2. A large public meeting in Alington was almost unanimously against the solar farm application on environmental and other reasons as well as Highway grounds. The Alington and Yelverton Parish Council have written to SNDC with a whole host of objections from residents, which I support.

3. Faster broadband: I have made the point again that a suitable solution must be found for Bergh Apton, scattered community though it is. The Project Director at County Hall accepts this requirement - there are other villages in the same position, eg. Thurton, Ashby St Mary, and Claxton.

The Chairman re-opened the Parish Council Meeting.

### **5 Finance**

5.1 Hire of Village Hall - £60 Clerks Salary £533.85 was paid at year end.

### **6 Annual Parish Meeting and AGM 14<sup>th</sup> May**

Karen and Jacqueline have kindly volunteered to organise the refreshments

### **7 Scop Hill Sculpture**

Nothing to report

### **8 Village Hall Management Committee**

8.1 Richard Herring nominated to continue to be the Parish Council representative on the Village Hall Committee

8.2 In the absence of Richard Herring at the Village Hall AGM – Derek Blake will give a short report

### **9 Planning Applications**

Land North East of Avenue Farm Yelverton Solar Farm 2014/0411 - APPROVED

### **10 Planning Approval**

### **11 Events and Correspondence**

11.1 Clerk read a thank you letter from Peter Knight for the £100 donation to BYRUS

Dates of future Meetings: 14th May AGM/APM, 18th June, 30th July, 3rd September, 26th November, 7/8th January 2015

Meeting closed at 8.30 pm