

# Minutes of a Meeting of Bergh Apton Parish Council On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 7.30pm In The Village Hall

## Members Present

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Parish Members Present David Skedge (Chair), Janet Skedge, Chris Bewick, Elaine Horn, Hugh Porter, new members Elizabeth Robinson, John Ling

In attendance: Clerk and 5 members of the Public  
Apologies: There were no apologies for absence

### **1 Co-Option of 2 New Parish Councillors**

Following a vote by the Parish Councillors Elizabeth Robinson and John Ling were co-opted on to the Parish Council

### **2 Appointment of Chairman and Vice Chairman**

Elizabeth Robinson was appointed Chairman – unanimous decision Chris Bewick was appointed Vice Chairman – unanimous decision

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

There were no apologies for absence.

### **4 Minutes of Meeting Held on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2015**

The minutes of the last meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> July were approved and signed by the Chairman.

### **5 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **6 Public Consultation**

The Chairman closed the meeting.

A member of the public enquired about the Dance monument on Scop Hill which has been in disrepair for a number of years, this will be on future agendas. There was a preliminary discussion amongst the members of the public present about the Cookes Road development for 11 houses but as nobody had seen any plans it was too early to discuss it in much detail. The developer will be invited to attend the next Parish Meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> January.

#### **6.1 Country Councillor's Report**

Barry Stone is the new County Councillor for Loddon Ward, his report is attached.

#### **6.2 District Councillor's Report**

John Fuller reported that he is the lead Conservative on the local Government finance panel in London. South Norfolk was responsible for 1% of the national house build this year. He said that as boundary changes will be implemented in South Norfolk by 2017 there will be an opportunity for Parish Councils to consider whether joining up with neighbouring parishes would be sensible, this will be discussed at a future meeting and be completed within 18 months from now – it's worth noting that out of 119 Parishes only 19 had an election. The Chairman re-opened the Parish Council Meeting.

### **7 Finance**

#### **7.1 Appointment of new signatories**

New signatories are Elizabeth Robinson as new Chairman, Elaine Horn and Janet Skedge, relevant paperwork was distributed by the Clerk she will contact the outgoing Parish Councillors – Richard Herring, Jacqueline Byford and Karen Myhill to sign the relevant paperwork to remove their names from the account.

#### 7.2 End of Year Accounts

The accounts have now been audited by Mazars. The precept will be finalised at the next meeting in January to meet the deadline on January 26<sup>th</sup>. Clerk will distribute the accounts in advance to all Parish Councillors. Clerk will apply for a VAT refund of £787.07.

#### 7.3 Bergh Apton Village Hall Hire £30 July-November

#### 7.4 Clerk's Salary – July to November £647.19 plus mileage £39.09 total £686.28

#### 7.5 Grant Request Bergh Apton Newsletter £50

### 8 Village Hall Management Committee

Elaine Horn reported back after attending a recent meeting that there are now new storage facilities at the back of the village hall, there is a Christmas Bingo event on 8<sup>th</sup> December and a fete is being planned in the Spring.

### 9 Planning Applications

#### 9.1 Site BER 1 Cookes Road

Concerns were raised as to the number of dwellings and local drainage issues. It was suggested that there are technical ways to deal with the surface water drainage issue of that land which could help all the residents along Cookes Road. It was resolved to invite the developer and the engineer from Rossi Long to the next Parish meeting to discuss the finer points of the development.

#### 9.2 Playpark Repairs – Elizabeth Robinson will read through the recent playground inspection report and this will be on the agenda in January. Kevin Parfitt has agreed to attend to the repairs highlighted in the report.

#### 9.3 Football Goalpost – This is not going ahead at present and the £1000 from the small neighbourhoods grant from South Norfolk District Council will be used for another project. John Fuller is looking into Bergh Apton and other villages having a wi-fi antenna on the village hall so there is a hot spot in the car park and also wi-fi can be accessed in the village hall.

### 10 Events and Correspondence

Clerk to inform the Rangers that the Parish Council would like to request that the signs in the village are cleaned.

The following is a new process for tree grants in South Norfolk we have partnered with Bussey's who have contributed £10,000 over the next two years for new trees to be planted across the district. We have 5 Neighbourhood Chairman across South Norfolk who have been allocated £1,000 each to be spent in their areas. Tree Wardens will work directly with their Neighbourhood Chairman to identify which tree planting is needed, and the chairman will make the application for grant funding using an online application form.

There are now fewer restrictions on where trees funded by the grant can be planted – which means that there are increased opportunities to work with schools and village hall committees etc.

Bussey's customers will have an opportunity to be involved in the planting of trees – and wardens will be required to make contact with Bussey's to inform them of forthcoming planting events.

#### 11 Dates of future Meetings: 6<sup>th</sup> January, 24<sup>th</sup> February, 18<sup>th</sup> May APM/AGM, 13<sup>th</sup> July, 7<sup>th</sup> September, 16<sup>th</sup> November