

Minutes of a Meeting of Bergh Apton Parish Council Tuesday 25th June 2019 at 7.00pm In The Village Hall

Members Present

Parish Members Present
 David Skedge (Chair), Janet Skedge, John Ling, Hugh Porter,
 Steve Whitby

In attendance: Clerk Julie Gosling, 1 member of the public (item 7)

Apologies: Cllr Barry Stone

1 To receive apologies for absence and declarations of interest

Apologies as above and no declarations of interest.

2 To approve minutes of meeting held on 22nd May 2019

The minutes of the meetings held on 22nd May 2019 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3 To report progress on items not on Agenda arising from last meeting

3.1 Item 3.1 – Rowan Tree Plaque – Hugh Porter confirmed that the plaque had now been installed.

3.2 Item 3.2 – Councillor Fuller’s report on Broadband – Clerk had circulated information from John Fuller re broadband provision in Bergh Apton. Contact at Norfolk County Council directed people to the Openreach website to ascertain current provision. She had also said that when Openreach updated her she would pass on information to the Parish Council. Works currently being undertaken by Openreach in the village.

3.3 Item 3.5 – Planning Appeal – 2018/0758 - Cookes Road – Clerk reported the appeal was still undecided.

3.4 Item 3.6 – Chet Valley B Line – Clerk had written to NCC Highways requesting permission to use highway land to sow wildflower areas, had still not had a response. Clerk to chase.

Clerk had forwarded a letter of support to the Conservation Trust for their bid for monies towards the Chet Valley B Line.

3.5 Item 7 – Planning application – 2019/0971 – Land off Cookes Road - Clerk had noted on the planning authority website various emails between planning officer and agent which indicated that the concerns of the Parish Council were being considered in terms of issues with the planning application. Clerk to keep a watching brief on the application in case there is any further need to comment.

Hedgerows – Hugh Porter confirmed that the Conservation Trust were, in principal, happy to prepare a survey of hedgerows.

4 Open forum for Public Participation: an opportunity to hear from members of the public

One member of the public present for item 7 only.

5 County Councillor's Report – Barry Stone

None

6 District Councillor's Report – John Fuller

None

7 To consider candidate for co-option

A candidate for co-option was present at the meeting and Councillors voted unanimously to elect Ian Ratcliffe as a Councillor. Ian duly signed the Declaration of Office and was given the Register of Interest papers to complete within 28 days of being elected, to be returned to the Clerk for photocopying prior to forwarding to South Norfolk Council.

8 Planning

- 8.1 2019/0874 Land east of Wyke House, Mill Road, Bergh Apton – variation of condition of planning permission – plan, fenestration and siting of dwelling – Councillors approved the application with no comments or objections.
- 8.2 2019/1141 16 Church Road, Bergh Apton – erection of shed with integrated PV panels and compost bays – Councillors approved the application with no comments or objections.
- 8.3 2019/1153 – Land east of Millers Cottage, Mill Road, Bergh Apton – erection of new detached 2 storey dwelling. Councillors discussed the application and were in agreement to object to the proposal on the following grounds:
 - The siting of the dwelling on the plot gives some concern. The distance from the road to the building is only 12m and considered that it should be moved back to about 25m so it would be consistent with other dwellings constructed along Mill Road more recently and in line with 'Bilcar' adjacent. As it is the proposal would be detrimental to the character and appearance of the street scene.
 - The size of the dwelling is inappropriately large, particularly in terms of it's width, in relation to the plot size coming quite hard up to the boundaries and having a severely detrimental impact on the neighbouring properties.

Clerk to prepare draft comments for Councillor's consideration and agreement before forwarding to South Norfolk Council.

9 Finance

- 9.1 Cheque raised and approved for Clerk's salary for June - £174.72. Councillors also approved salary payment for July - £174.72, cheque to be raised in due course when payroll issue payslips.
- 9.2 Cheque had been raised prior to meeting in order to comply with insurance renewal deadline – approved - £495.53.
- 9.3 Cheque raised and approved to Autela Payroll Services Q1 - £39.23
- 9.4 Cheque raised and approved to CPRE for Rural Housing Conference - £35.00.

- 9.5 Cheque raised and approved to John Ling as Editor of the Bergh Apton Newsletter for half yearly donation - £50.00
- 9.6 Cheque raised and approved for payment to internal auditor - £48.00
- 9.7 Clerk reported that the audit was complete and the internal auditor's report circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. Clerk to address issues raised (only 2). Chair and Clerk signed and dated the Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statement. Clerk to upload all required accounts documentation to the website in accordance with the Transparency Code.

John Ling queried the possibility of making the accounts clearer as the budget was being exceeded by expenditure on the grounds that CIL income was being used. He suggested perhaps that a separate set of accounts be used for CIL income/expenditure. Clerk to make enquiries to see how other Parish Councils were addressing this. Steve Whitby was to attend a Councillor Induction meeting in July and would also to try to glean any further information from this.

10 To consider playground refurbishment progress and further actions to be taken

The location of the area for the table tennis had been discussed with the Village Hall Committee members. The Village Hall Committee meeting was to be held on 26th June when the matter would be discussed. Clerk to order table tennis table when confirmation received that Village Hall Committee had approved.

11 To consider update on phone box re-location proposals

Clerk reported that she had written again to the owners of the site requesting an update for the meeting as she had not received anything further in terms of costings for relocation (in order to consider a contribution to a defibrillator) or any draft legal agreement.

12 To consider issues arising from Mill Road junctions

Councillors discussed the issues arising from signage at the Mill Road/Threadneedle Street junction. They considered that whatever is done to alleviate the problems on Mill Road when traffic is diverted when an accident occurs on the A146 it would have knock on effect on other roads in the village. It was considered that the larger problem lie with the Hellington Corner junction and the speed limit on the A146, some suggestions were made in terms of signing such as a staggered junction sign, concealed entrance, or slow down on the road. When further historical background had been further ascertained Councillors would discuss further.

13 To consider situation with maintenance of village footpaths

Councillors considered the maintenance of village footpaths. In the past some footpaths were maintained by Norfolk County Council but this no longer seemed to be undertaken. Clerk to ascertain what footpaths are maintained and how often looked at. Steve Whitby also to pose question at upcoming training course. Councillors considered the possibility of using 'Ranger' service if appropriate.

14 To consider donation to Norfolk Accident Rescue Service and Gym at Jubilee Hall, Loddon

Clerk had contacted NARS to ascertain the relevance of the service to the village, no response had been received yet. Clerk to chase and come back to next meeting.

Clerk reported that CIL could not be used for a donation to the Gym.

15 To agree items for the next meeting

None

Future Dates for meetings: Tuesday 20th August, Tuesday 22nd October