

Minutes of a Virtual Meeting of Bergh Apton Parish council

Tuesday 24th November 2020 at 7pm via Zoom

Members Present: David Skedge (chair), Hugh Porter (vice-chair), Janet Skedge, Steve Whitby, Sheridan Winn, Ian Ratcliffe, Joe Horton

In Attendance: Clerk Angela Tregear

1. To receive apologies for absence and declarations of interest
No apologies or declarations of interest.
2. To approve the minutes of the virtual Parish Council Meeting held on 13th October 2020
Minutes approved by all and will be signed by chair when convenient.
3. To report progress on items not on the Agenda arising from last meeting
A bus shelter in Church Road – the clerk contacted the bus company to find out how well used this bus stop is. The bus company reported that there are currently four regular customers using the stop 3-4 times a week between them. Given the small number of people using the stop and the lack of response to the suggestion of a bus shelter, the councillors suggested that a bench might be a possible alternative. The clerk will contact Saffron Housing regarding this and investigate planning permission if this idea is viable.
A cycle rack at the village hall – the village hall committee are in favour of this and Hugh will liaise with them on the best location and possible designs.
A new Parish Noticeboard in Church Road – we are waiting to hear back from a local tradesperson.
Cleaning of War Memorial in churchyard – Steve inspected this and concluded that although there is some cracked mortar, some disturbed kerbstones around the base and one small piece of spalled stone in the lower plinth, the overall structure is sound. However, it would benefit from a good clean (perhaps by volunteers?) to remove the moss and so on. The situation can then be reviewed in 5 years' time and a professional appointed then to do some maintenance, as necessary.
4. Presentation of County Councillor's Report – Barry Stone – None
5. Presentation of District Councillor's Report – John Fuller – None
6. Open forum for Public Participation: an opportunity to hear from members of the public – none present
7. Speeding – To report on costing of measures to reduce speeding in the village and discuss introduction of Community Speedwatch scheme.
Village gateway signs (e.g. 'Please drive carefully through our village') would cost approximately £2000. The clerk will contact Cllr Barry Stone and ask if he could fund the purchase of a couple of these signs for Mill Road, one on the Bergh Apton side and one on the Alington side, if the Alington PC were in agreement.
The councillors agreed to purchase 200 wheelie bin stickers in two different designs for distribution around the village at a cost of £199.98. Proposed by Steve, seconded by Sheri.
The clerk contacted the police regarding setting up a Community Speedwatch. We are able to start the application process but the training will not be available until Covid-19 restrictions are lifted. Sheri is happy to be the co-ordinator - she will need a deputy and at least 4 other volunteers, each willing to commit to a minimum of one hour per week. The clerk will contact Alington Parish Council to see if

they are interested in joining us in this project and we will also ask for volunteers in the next newsletter.

8. To finalise location of new dog waste bins.
The councillors decided that it would be a good idea to move the red dog bin from the Tenwinter's Pightle carpark to the village hall (exact position to be agreed with VH committee) and then purchase a new green bin to be located near the Parish Council noticeboard in Church Road. We will wait to hear back from BACT regarding their views on the positioning of a new green dog bin at the entrance to the nature reserve near the church.
9. To discuss further possible use of CIL money for:
A village PA system – This has already been purchased by John Ling for use at the (subsequently postponed) remembrance service and is therefore new. It would be available for use by all village groups along with the village projector. The councillors agreed to reimburse John £295 for this purchase. Proposed by Janet, seconded by Hugh.
Funding for BACT for bridges across the Chet – These are needed to provide public access to the newly acquired 'Welbeck Marsh'. The councillors agreed in principle to the funding of one bridge at a cost of £2799 and the clerk will approach South Norfolk Council to see if they would match this funding to pay for the other bridge.
Village allotments – a parishioner has asked if it would be possible to provide village allotments. The clerk will gauge support for this idea in the next newsletter. Hugh will look into the garden waste recycling scheme at Hales which could provide compost for the allotments.
10. To discuss possible uses for the telephone box on Threadneedle Street.
A parishioner has suggested making use of the old phone box in Threadneedle St- perhaps for a defibrillator. As there is already a defibrillator nearby at the village hall, the councillors felt that this wasn't necessary, but would be interested to hear of any other ideas for its use. Clerk will also mention this in the village newsletter.
11. An update on the condition of footpaths in the village.
There is a stile missing on FP12 – this has already been reported to NCC and should be dealt with in the next few months.
There is a broken stile gate on FP12 – clerk will report this to NCC
A parishioner has suggested that it would be a good idea to apply for a Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) to get FP3 and FP4 (footpaths from White Heath Road to Dodger's Lane) upgraded to bridleways to allow horse riders to use them rather than riding on the road. There is also another footpath from Whiteheath Road to Church Rd (FP11) that might be suitable for an upgrade to bridleway. The councillors support this idea (proposed by Steve and seconded by Hugh) and suggested that the footpath from Whiteheath Road to Church Rd (FP11) might also be suitable for an upgrade to bridleway to complete the circuit. The clerk will contact NCC to ask how to go about this.
12. Planning
12.1 2020/2078 2 Verandah Cottages, Threadneedle St, Bergh Apton, NR15 1BL
Two storey side and single storey front extension – This was approved by all.
13. Financial Report and consideration of draft budget – Clerk
The clerk reported that there is currently £10,685 in the general reserve and £14,861 CIL reserve. Last year spending was broadly in line with the budget. Next year we will need to allocate a little more to cover the cost of emptying the proposed new dog waste bins, but should still be able to freeze the precept at £21 per household as there is enough money in the general reserve to cover this.
13.1 Cheque raised and approved to SNC for dog bin emptying - £88.32 inc. VAT
13.2 Cheque raised and approved for clerk's salary for November - £179.

Dates for Future Meetings: Tuesday 12th January 2021, Tuesday 2nd March 2021