

Minutes of a Virtual Meeting of Bergh Apton Parish council Tuesday 12th January 2021 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, Cllr John Fuller

1. To receive apologies for absence & declarations of interest
No apologies or declarations of interest
2. To approve the minutes of Virtual Parish Council meeting held on 24th November 2020
Clerk pointed out a couple of inaccurate footpath numbers and then minutes approved by all
3. To report progress on items not on the Agenda arising from last meeting
Clerk contacted Saffron Housing regarding the possibility of a bench near the Burgers on Church Road, but has received no response as yet. Steve suggested that it might be a better idea to reinstate the seat around the Burgers instead. Hugh suggested purchasing additional seating for various locations around the village. We will add these ideas to the agenda for discussion at our next meeting.
The funding for a village PA system (£295) is no longer required as the Remembrance event was postponed and the PA system not purchased after all.
4. Presentation of County Councillor's Report – Barry Stone - None
5. Presentation of District Councillor's Report – John Fuller
John Fuller reported that the SNC Help Hub was not quite as busy this lockdown as it was during the lockdown last spring, as there is not so much emphasis on shielding this time round. However, they are still receiving quite a few calls for help and are also doing all they can to support local businesses to stay afloat with grants totalling £40.3 million pounds. The Covid infection rates in South Norfolk have been extremely high, but are now starting to come down a little – JF urged people to be particularly careful in supermarkets and shops.
There is now a very convenient Covid-19 vaccination centre in Poringland and JF encouraged everyone to take up the offer of a vaccine when invited, turn up at the appointed time and help neighbours to get there if necessary.
GNLP update: The sites put forward (including former brickworks in BA) will go to consultation around May/June, answers to any queries provided in July-Sept and the final proposals put forward for inspection in Nov/Dec. Each village cluster (BA is in a cluster with Alington/Yelverton) will have 20-40 new homes plus 3 individual infill homes (possibly self-build).
6. Open forum for Public Participation: an opportunity to hear from members of the public – None present
7. To discuss the location of a cycle rack at the village hall
The village hall committee have decided they cannot afford to lose car parking space for events and that the cycle rack would therefore have to go on the grass. The councillors feel that it would not get as much use there and may cause issues with

grass cutting etc.. This is therefore not the best use of funds and so the PC will not be pursuing this idea any further. Clerk to write to village hall committee to inform them of the decision.

8. To discuss the replacement of the Parish Council noticeboard

We are considering the purchase of a smart new noticeboard from Greenbarnes at a cost of just under £2000 to replace the old one on the corner of Church Road/The Street.

9. To discuss siting and order of new dog bins

The order of a new green dog bin to be sited near the Parish Noticeboard in Church Road was approved. (Proposed by Steve, seconded by Hugh) The red bin currently in Tenwinter's Pightle car park will then be moved to the village hall to a location next to the rubbish bins, as agreed with the village hall committee. We will then review the situation in due course and see if any further bins or signage are needed. It was decided not to locate a bin at the nature reserve entrance near the church following consultation with BACT members. They felt that it was not an appropriate location, as dog waste is not currently an obvious problem in the reserve, but plastic bags could be.

10. To discuss cleaning the war memorial

There was further discussion on the condition of the war memorial in the churchyard. Ian will inspect it and report back to the next meeting. If necessary, we could consider getting a quote to have it cleaned.

11. To report on the progress of measures to reduce speeding

The clerk contacted Barry Stone to ask if he would consider funding the purchase of village gateway signs for Mill Road, but has had no response as yet.

The wheelie bin stickers have been ordered and should be arriving very soon.

The clerk contacted Alington PC to ask if they would be interested in setting up a Community Speedwatch with us. Their clerk put it on the agenda for their January meeting and we are waiting to hear the outcome. We have also put a request for volunteers to help with this in the next newsletter.

12. Footpaths - To report on DMMO (Definitive Map Modification Order) application progress and condition of footpaths in the village

The clerk has been looking into the DMMO application procedure and it appears to be a long and complicated process requiring evidence and witnesses. The clerk will continue working on this.

Footpath issues – the path through the landfill site is quite boggy in places, there is a missing/broken waymarker in Lion Lane and there are a couple of broken stiles on the footpath from Mill Loke to Mill Road. The clerk will report these issues to NCC.

13. Planning

8.1 2020/2223: 8 Hall Road Bergh Apton NR14 6AG

Proposal: Two storey rear and single storey side extensions and detached workshop with alterations

The Councillors approved this application, but feel that a more traditional roof covering on the garage (i.e. pan tiles rather than aluminium sheet) would be more in keeping with the house and the rest of the neighbourhood.

14. Finance

9.1 Cheque raised and approved for Clerk's salary for December - £179.23

9.2 Cheque raised and approved to Autela Payroll Services - £48.24 inc. VAT

- 9.3 Cheque raised and approved to mywheeliebin.com for 200 wheelie bin stickers - £199.98
- 9.4 The setting up of a direct debit to pay website provider approved (proposed by Janet, seconded by Sheri)
- 9.5 To discuss and approve budget for 2021/22
Clerk shared the proposed budget with the Councillors and explained that given a precept of £4200, there would be a deficit of just under £400 which could easily be covered by the very healthy general reserve, which currently stands at just over £10000 although approximately £1500 of this is earmarked to be spent by the end of the current tax year.
- 9.6 Precept for 2021/22 approved by all (proposed by Sheri, seconded by Steve) **Councillors agreed to freeze the Council Tax at £21 again, giving a precept of £4200 for the year.**
- 9.7 Internal auditor for 2020/21 accounts approved (proposed by Janet, seconded by Joe)
10. To agree items for next meeting on 2nd March 2021
To discuss possible locations of additional benches in the village.
11. To agree dates for future meetings
We agreed to wait and see what the advice is on holding face to face PC meetings after Easter, before setting any more dates.