

Minutes of a Virtual AGM and Meeting of Bergh Apton Parish council Tuesday 4th May 2021 at 7pm via Zoom

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

In Attendance: Clerk Angela Tregear, Cllr John Fuller (up to item 9)

1. To elect the Chair for 2021-22

David was nominated by Hugh, seconded by Sheri and agreed by all.

2. To elect the Vice-Chair for 2021-22

Hugh was nominated by Janet, seconded by Ian and agreed by all.

3. To receive apologies for absence & declarations of interest

Apologies from Steve Whitby - No declarations of interest

**4. To approve the minutes of Virtual Parish Council meeting held on
2nd March 2021**

Minutes approved by all

**5. To report progress on items not on the Agenda arising from last
meeting**

The dog bin is with K Parfitt, ready to install. The new noticeboard will be delivered at the end of May and will also be installed by Kevin in place of the old one. J Horton will obtain a quote from Plaswood for two new benches and benching around the Burghers on Church Road once he has the specifications. Hugh has spoken to a local landowner regarding siting of the new benches.

6. Presentation of County Councillor's Report – Barry Stone

David reported on a phone conversation that he had had with Barry after last month's meeting. Barry said that work on George Lane roundabout should start shortly. Re. 50 mph limit at Hellington, NCC are ready to implement, but are waiting on SNC. (However, John Fuller is not aware of anything that SNC should be doing...) Re. second bridge for BACT - he thought this could be funded 50% by the Norfolk Parish Partnership scheme and 50% from the County Councillor's own discretionary fund. We would need to apply to both.

7. Presentation of District Councillor's Report – John Fuller

The mark of a Council is not what it does when times are good and the sun is shining. The mark of a Council is how it responds to unexpected events and how it steps up when the chips are down.

When Covid arrived in in March 2020 the District Council were best prepared, to provide the help and support tens of thousands of residents and businesses desperately needed. Over £80m has been expended locally in the last 12 months on help to the most vulnerable with hardship and isolation payments, council tax support and other help for the homeless and destitute together with targeted grants to businesses to protect livelihoods and save jobs. And that's in addition to the national Government's furlough schemes, business rate rebates and increases in Universal Credit.

It isn't just the work South Norfolk has done with central Government that's made a difference. Our Help Hub staff have extended working hours and operated 7 days a week working with local community groups and Parish Councils to ensure every fridge has been

filed whilst we have collected every bin. Tens of thousands of residents who would not normally reach out to their Council have been helped in one way or another.

We were delighted to recognise the tireless work of volunteers who helped with food shopping, prescription collection and vaccination centre work.

It hasn't all been Covid in the last 12 months, there has been a lot of business-as-usual including developing the 'village clusters' local plan, which will see Bergh Apton teamed with Alington & Yelverton for development purposes sharing about 40 new homes between them over the next 20 years. The consultation on this will begin around the second week in June. Also on planning, I have taken forward the issue of the clearance of the site on Cookes Rd near the village hall and the Council has served a Hedgerow Replacement Notice on the landowners.

Turning to the economy, over £1m per week has been channelled to businesses in direct grants during lockdown to help them survive until they can start fully trading again in the spring. This money has been a lifeline for employers including shops, pubs and other businesses who have been forced to close. I am proud of a dedicated staff that dropped everything to distribute funds quickly and without delay with the fastest and most generous schemes in Norfolk.

Whilst our leisure centres have been closed a quarter of our staff have been redeployed to coordinate vaccination, street marshalling and test & trace. In addition, 25 staff also volunteered to work on our Hospital wards and supporting the NHS in other ways when the pressure was greatest.

You may not have seen any of this work as you and family members have been forced to stay at home. But be assured that your Council staff have never worked as hard or as flexibly to keep essential services going in the most difficult of circumstances to keep you safe and secure and nurture an economy that can bounce back when lockdown is over. Some of our greatest challenges are ahead but be assured that everyone associated with Our Council will keep our promise to create better lives and a stronger economy to benefit every resident and business in our district

8. Open forum for Public Participation: an opportunity to hear from members of the public – none present

9. To receive an update regarding the removal of ancient hedge on Cooke's Road

David has spoken to Andy Baines of SNC who have served a Hedgerow Replacement Notice on the owners requiring the hedgerow to be replanted. This should be done in the autumn using native species.

10. To discuss funding for the second bridge across the Chet in the BACT nature reserve

Clerk will ask BACT for an update on the price of funding one bridge. BACT are happy in theory for us to apply to the Parish Partnership scheme on their behalf, when it opens in June, for funding for 50% of the other bridge. We hope that the NCC discretionary fund would cover the cost of the remaining 50% of the second bridge.

11. To discuss the issue of overflowing bins near the playpark.

The pencil-shaped bins next to the playpark are overflowing with rubbish and it is difficult to get a vehicle near enough to empty them. It was decided to remove them and ask people to put their rubbish in the bins in front of the village hall instead, as these are emptied regularly by SNC.

12. To discuss the possibility of an outdoor gym at the village hall.

This has been discussed with members of the village hall committee who are agreeable to the idea. The Play Area Working Party (Janet, Hugh and Ian) will continue looking into this by visiting other outdoor gyms, such as the one in Kessingland, and obtaining quotes from various suppliers for around four pieces of equipment.

13. To discuss the idea of a post-lockdown Village Celebration

A parishioner has put forward the idea of some sort of post-lockdown village celebration at the village hall, open to all, perhaps involving a hog roast... While the Councillors think that this is a wonderful idea, they feel that it is just too soon to be thinking about large gatherings at the moment, with the future still uncertain and the threat of new variants.

14. An update on a request for a police speed check in Mill Road

The Alington Parish clerk recently requested a police speed check in Mill Road after several Alington parishioners raised concerns. We were able to support this request by providing access to the data from our SAM2 speed awareness monitor, which was then analysed using special software and sent to the police at Poringland. A police officer swiftly replied that they would conduct some speed patrol in the area shortly.

15. To discuss the possibility of extending the 30mph limit further along Mill Road in light of the new engineering business

All agreed that it would be a good idea to explore this further, in light of the new engineering business in Mill Road and also the large volume of traffic coming in and out of Green Pastures. We will enlist the help of our new Norfolk County Councillor after the May elections.

16. To discuss progress on the 50mph speed limit at Hellington on the A146

We will make enquiries to our new Norfolk County Councillor to find out what exactly is holding this up. See also item 6 above.

17. To decide whether to go ahead with the Community Speedwatch application and training

The Councillors agreed that the Clerk should proceed with the application and check when the training will restart. We are still in need of more volunteers to help with this.

18. To discuss the purchase of more wheelie bin stickers

We didn't quite have enough stickers for every household, but not everyone has used their stickers, so we will see if we can reclaim and redistribute some of the unused ones before purchasing any more.

19. To discuss the possible application for the upgrading of the Longlands footpath to a bridleway

The Clerk has spoken to NCC asking for advice on how to go about this. Apparently we need evidence from 12 or more riders who use or have used this footpath. We have already had quite a few emails from riders who would like it reclassified as a bridleway and we've also heard from a couple of people who do not support the idea. If we decide to go ahead with the application, we will need to notify the landowner/s and NCC will then take 2-3 years to consult all interested parties and make their decision. We would like more feedback from parishioners before deciding whether or not to apply, so the clerk will ask again in the next village newsletter.

20. Finance – clerk's report on preparation for the internal audit

The Councillors have been sent the income/expenditure sheet, the bank reconciliation for 2020-21 and the CIL expenditure sheet (updated to end of March). These show a total expenditure of £13,450.65 inc. VAT, of which £9,531.45 was from the CIL reserve and

£3,919.20 inc. VAT from the general reserve. I have calculated that we are due a VAT refund of £607.65 for the year 2020-21 and I have completed and sent off the claim to HMRC. The refund should arrive in our bank account sometime in June.

Income for the year 2020-21 was £5503.39 which was made up of the precept payments and the VAT refund from the previous year, 2019-20.

On 31st March 2021, we had a total of £24,301.05 in the bank account of which £14,598.53 is CIL reserve and £9,702.52 general reserve.

20.1 Cheques raised and approved for Clerk's salary for March and April - £179.23 pcm

20.2 Cheque raised and approved to NPTS for 2021-22 subscription - £42

20.3 Cheque raised and approved to Zurich for insurance for the coming year - £523.19

20.4 Cheque raised and approved to ICO for Annual Data Protection fee - £40

20.5 Cheque raised and approved to Autela Payroll services Q4 - £57.84

21. To agree items for next meeting

Update on funding for second bridge over the Chet, 50mph speed limit Hellington Corner, extension of 30mph speed limit on Mill Rd, Community Speedwatch update, Wheelie bin stickers, outdoor gym equipment at the village hall, DMMO update, possibility of new conservation area in BA, approval of the AGAR.

22. To agree dates for future meetings

Tuesday 22nd June 2021 (brought forward from 6th July) in the Village Hall

Tuesday 7th September 2021