

Minutes of a Meeting of Bergh Apton Parish Council

Wednesday 3rd November 2021 at 7pm in the Village Hall

Members Present: David Skedge (chair), Hugh Porter (vice-chair), Janet Skedge, Sheridan Winn, Steve Whitby, Steven Mitchell (new Councillor co-opted – item 3)

In Attendance: Clerk Angela Tregear, Cllr Kay Mason Billig (until 7.30pm)

1. To receive apologies for absence & declarations of interest

Apologies received from Member Ian Ratcliffe and Cllr John Fuller (SNC)

2. To approve the minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 7th September 2021

Minutes approved by all and signed by the Chair

3. To consider candidate for co-option onto the Parish Council

All voted to co-opt Steve Mitchell onto the Parish Council. Clerk to inform SNC.

4. To report progress on items not on the Agenda arising from last meeting – none (all items on agenda)

5. Presentation of County Councillor's Report – Kay Mason Billig

KMB reported that the recycling centre in Bergh Apton will not be closing.

She requested that the Clerk send details of the bridge over the Chet requiring funding and then she will make sure she puts funding aside to contribute towards it.

There has been some confusion regarding speed limits on the A146 – the PC were under the impression that there should be a new 50mph speed limit at Hellington Corner (part funded by Green Pastures as a condition of receiving planning permission for the restaurant), however, it is unclear whether this is the case. KMB will investigate the situation and report back to us. A 50mph speed limit extension has recently been approved near Slade Lane to comply with legislation – the Clerk had requested that this be extended to Prospect Place but NCC have no plans to do this at present.

The highways engineer is visiting Alington on 16th November to look at speed limits and will also be able to meet the Councillors in Bergh Apton to explore the possibility of speed limit introduction/extension in Mill Road, The Street and Cookes Road, in light of recent building developments.

KMB also reported that there is a fibre optic upgrade planned to the Loddon/Thurton exchange in 2023 which should improve internet speed for some areas of the village.

6. Presentation of District Councillor's Report – John Fuller – none

7. An update on the A146 50mph speed limit extension

(See item 5 above)

8. An update on the Community Speedwatch training

Sheri reported that the 7 volunteers watched the training video and will do their road training of one and a half hours on 9th November. They have to commit to carrying out the speed checks for at least an hour a week during daylight hours. One person will use the speed gun and the other will note down car numbers. The figures need to be sent to the police within 48 hours and the police will then contact anyone who has been speeding.

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

10. To discuss the quote for provision of an outdoor gym at the Village Hall and the success of the Awards for All application

The Clerk reported that an application for a grant of £6,725 to purchase and install outdoor gym equipment at the village hall, has been successful and that the money is already in the PC bank account. We will just have to pay the VAT on the order, but will be able to claim that back next April. Hugh will double check that the village hall committee are happy with the location before we place the order. We will also need to await the outcome of the VH committee meeting on 17th November regarding tree surgery on the conifers at the back of the village hall. Clerk to update Action Plan on the situation.

11. An update on the Playpark safety report

The shelter/playhouse has been repaired and strengthened so that it is no longer wobbly and David has redistributed the bark more evenly around the play area so that the amount of bark is sufficient.

12. To discuss the possible need for tree surgery at the village hall

See also item 10 above. Hugh reported that the VH committee are considering tree surgery on the conifers at the back of the village hall, so we will need to await the outcome before placing the order for the outdoor gym.

13. An update on the replanting of ancient hedge to the north of Cooke's Road

The Clerk emailed SNC on 13.9.21 to check that the whole hedge is being replanted by the landowner, not just a section of it. We have not yet had a reply apart from the monthly planning enforcement update, which shows that there haven't been any developments since 31.3.21. David will contact Andy Baines, the enforcement officer at SNC to check the current situation.

14. An update on the condition of village footpaths and bridleways

The Clerk reported FP13 to NCC and checked RB8 (Wrong Lane). RB8 is passable by walking on the edge of the field – however the original footpath is totally blocked. We will investigate to see if anything can be done about this and also speak to KMB about footpaths at our next meeting.

15. An update on the quotes for new benches

Still no news from Plaswood about a quote for a bench around the Burghers. We will approach a local carpenter to see if they are able to build a bench using recycled plastic.

16. To adopt the updated Parish Council Standing Orders

The Standing Orders were updated by the Clerk, checked by Steve W and circulated to Councillors. Steve proposed that we adopt them, Sheri seconded and all were in favour.

17. Finance – clerk's report

The Clerk reported that we currently have £11,883 in the General Reserve and £8,250 in the CIL reserve plus the grant for £6,725 for the outdoor gym. This makes a total of £26,858 in the bank account.

17.1 Cheque approved to Edd Reynolds for play shelter repairs - £256

17.2 Cheque raised and approved for Clerk's salary for September - £249.08 (includes remainder of backdated payrise) and October - £184.60

17.3 Cheque raised and approved to Autela Payroll Services - £52.20

18.To agree items for next meeting

To approve the budget and precept request, update on 50mph speed limit at Hellington Corner, speed watch update, tree surgery and outdoor gym update, ancient hedge replanting update, village footpaths, new benches

Dates for future meetings:

Wednesday 19th January

Wednesday 2nd March

Wednesday 27th April (Annual Parish Meeting)

Wednesday 4th May (AGM)