

Bergh Apton Parish Council Minutes for Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 17th January 2024 7:00pm in Village Hall

Present: Cllr. Steven Whitby (Chair), Cllr. Ian Ratcliffe, Cllr. Steven Mitchell. Cllr. Janet Skedge

In attendance: Parish Clerk, Amy Gallant, 0 members of the public

1. To receive apologies for absence & declarations of interest

Apologies received and accepted for Cllr. Guy Warde-Aldam, Cllr. Sue Price and Cllr. Hugh Porter. The Council approved Cllr. Mitchell's non-attendance at meetings of the authority due to temporary work commitments for a 10-month period up to 27th November 2024 pursuant to Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972.

2. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6th December 2023

The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

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

(1) Under item 3(3) parking leaflets had been distributed to residents of Church Road.

(2) Under item 3(4) the Saffron Maintenance Manager confirmed that all the outstanding works to the trees on Church Road had been forwarded to the contractor and would be scheduled in soon.

(3) Under item 3(5) a representative from Saffron Housing Trust confirmed a builder had attended the site on 28th November 2023 to inspect the pavement and had made the Scheduling Team aware of the work and the materials required.

(4) Under item 3(6) residents of Thimble Cottage confirmed they did not wish to reduce the dimensions of their hedge any further than they already had. Cllr. Price reported the response back to Alington with Yelverton Parish Council for information.

(5) Under item 3(7) Cllr. Skedge confirmed the land at Scop Hill was owned by Norfolk County Council. It was noted that to install the bench, a street scene furniture request would be required. In the interest of efficiency, it was agreed to submit the bench request alongside a request for the lectern once approved by Council.

(6) Under item 3(9) regarding a D-Day event, the PCC agreed that while having a beacon in the village would be an asset, the churchyard was not an appropriate location.

(7) Under item 11 The amended Biodiversity Statement was now available on the Parish Council website.

(8) Under item 13.3 The Winter Pressures Grant was forwarded to the Village Hall Management Committee for consideration.

4. Presentation of County Councillor's Report: Kay Mason-Billig

Council noted the report. Council **AGREED** to share the update in the local newsletter that households would be eligible for free DIY waste for small projects from 31st December 2023.

ACTION: Cllr. Whitby to forward copy to Jenny Lovatt for inclusion in the next newsletter.

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5. Presentation of District Councillor's Report: John Fuller

None.

6. To consider response to consultation on Alternative Sites and Focused Changes for the Draft Village Clusters Housing Allocations Plan (VCHAP)

Council considered the consultation and noted there was no housing allocated in Bergh Apton. Council **AGREED** to submit no comment.

7. To receive update from meeting at Thurton Village Hall on speeding concerns on A146

That an online petition to Norfolk County Council was being finalised to enable people to offer support for traffic calming measures. A draft copy would be circulated to Councillors for feedback prior to going live. A letter would also be sent to Norfolk County Council requesting that an action plan is in place for future closures of the 146 between Hellington and Thurton.

8. To receive update from Speedwatch

It was reported that it was likely the scheme would not continue for the foreseeable future due to limited volunteers available and it was believed that if it was not operated for a continuing amount of time the police would no longer run the scheme in the area. It was noted that the Speedwatch Scheme had been running for approximately 2 years and had seen a significant reduction in speeding in the area.

9. Planning Applications:

9.1. To note the status of all planning applications in the Parish from 1st April 2023

Planning Application 2024/0100: Council **AGREED** to submit the following comments:

"Bergh Apton Parish Council objects to the proposed plans on the grounds the application does not justify the purpose for new field gate access given that existing access to the site is available and has been in use for many years.

The plan shows a new boundary being created (edged in red); it is not clear what purpose this new boundary, subdividing an existing field, has, nor whether the proposed new access serves only the red segment or the whole of the applicant's land.

Concerns were raised regarding the safety of the altered vehicular access from the public highway due to the narrow road.

The installation of a new entrance would require removal of a large section of ancient hedge providing an important part of the local landscape character and an important wildlife corridor."

10. Finance:

10.1. To note Financial Report

The Clerk reported there was a total of £14,211.27 in the bank account, of which £10,834.85 was General Reserve and £3,376.42 was CIL reserve. An outstanding CIL balance of £323.09 required earmarking as soon as possible. Council **AGREED** to earmark the remaining £323.09 as a contribution in

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additional road signage at Prospect Place pending the outcome of the A146 request and NCC approval.

10.2. To approve the 2024/25 Budget and Precept

Council **AGREED** to approve the 2024/25 budget as presented and approved a Precept of £4233.98.

10.3. To consider quotes for lectern artwork and printing

An update was received from Cllr. Mitchell who confirmed that the layout and sizing of the lectern was being prepared and would be presented at an upcoming meeting of the Council for approval.

10.4. To note regular payment of £289.03 to A Gallant for December Salary

The payment was noted by Council.

10.5. To note regular payment of £177.96 to A Gallant for January Salary

The payment was noted by Council.

10.6. To note regular payment of £126.00 to Bergh Apton Village Hall for 2023 hall hire

The payment was noted by Council.

10.7. To note regular payment of £57.98 to Autela Payroll Services for Q3

The payment was noted by Council.

10.8. To note regular payments by Direct Debit of £3.60 and £15.02 to IONOS For cloud storage and web provision and consider contract renewal offer.

The payment was noted by Council. Council **AGREED** to enter a new contract to secure a lower payment plan.

11. To agree items for next meeting

None.

12. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 27th March 2024

Meeting adjourned: 8:29pm