

## **Bergh Apton Parish Council Annual Report**

### **Parish Councillors and Officers:**

Steve Whitby took over from David Skedge as Chair following many years of unstinting service to the Parish by David.

Steve Mitchell has taken on vice-chair role, Steve Mitchell is also now the appointed rep to the Bergh Apton Charities Committee.

Sue Price and Guy Warde-Aldem joined the Parish Council as Councillors.

Parish Clerk Amy Gallant has had to resign for family reasons - applications are now open for a new Clerk - closing date Friday 17th May 2024. Please contact Steve Whitby or [clerk@berghapton.org.uk](mailto:clerk@berghapton.org.uk) if you feel you may be a good fit for the role.

### **Village Infrastructure:**

The Parish Council has installed benches on Wrong Lane, Lion Lane and are close to installing one on Scop Hill.

The installation of the proposed dog bin on Church Meadow Lane has been postponed while we consider alternatives and how best to get more input from local residents.

Work is in hand to add information lecterns beside the village sign which explain more about the history of the village and its depiction on the sign following the sign being fully refurbished in 2023.

The PC purchased a new marquee for use in Village Hall events and also made minor refurbishments to the VH playthings.

The PC has continued to provide financial support to the PCC to assist with the maintenance of the village cemetery and Church car park.

### **Road Safety:**

BA has been engaged with Thurton and Ashby Parish Councils looking at ways to improve road Safety along the A146. The petition to NCC has been responded to and work is ongoing. The 50mph speed limit at Hellington Corner is in the consultation phase so will hopefully be implemented this summer.

Sadly the village Speedwatch has been suspended until the end of the year after key volunteers were unable to continue to support. If you feel you could help then contact Sue Price directly or via [clerk@berghapton.org.uk](mailto:clerk@berghapton.org.uk)

It has been agreed to lobby NCC again to consider a 30mph limit through the heart of Bergh Apton and we continue to work with residents of Church Lane to try to improve safety and convenience near the junction with The Street.

A number of situations have arisen where the maintenance of trees and hedge lines has been a concern for road and resident safety, several of these cases are currently with external bodies (including NCC highways) to pursue. Residents are asked keep on top of hedge cutting (at appropriate times of the year) to maintain hedge lines back off the verge.

### **Planning and development:**

The South Norfolk Village Clusters process has been all but concluded, the former block works on Church Rd being the only Bergh Apton site that is proposed for future development (Ca25 homes).

A number of new dwellings and changes to planning consent have been considered through the year with the PC meetings giving a forum for discussion on several key applications.

### **Bergh Apton Parish Council Precept:**

After several years of reduced precept - during which time the council has been reducing its capital reserves - the precept was increased coming into 2024. This reflects the fact that reserves are now reducing (Ca £10k coming into 2024); the increase still leaves the Parish element of Council Tax significantly smaller, in real terms than five years ago.

### **Parish Council Meetings:**

Meetings are held every two months in the Village Hall, the Agenda (and minutes) will be on the website. Members of the public are always welcome and we aim to deal with items of wider public interest early in the meeting so that people do not have to stay through some of the housekeeping/administration items if they don't want to.