

MINUTES BERGH APTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WEDNESDAY 4TH  
MARCH 2025 AT THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.00 PM

**Parish Councillors Present: Sue Price (Chair), Guy Warde-Aldam, Janet Skedge, Steve Mitchell, Angela Whiskerd Clerk: Renata Thornber and 1 member of the Public**

1. To receive apologies for absence and Declarations of Interest. **Apologies received from: Lord Fuller, Martin Graystone, Hugh Porter**
2. To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th January 2026.

**Proposed: Steve Mitchell**

**Seconded: Angela Whiskerd**

**Minutes accepted and signed by Sue Price.**

3. Presentation of County Councillor Kay Mason-Billig and/or District Councillor John Fuller: Parish Report of Kay Mason Billig received on 13th January 2026 and circulated to Parish Council. Not specific to Bergh Apton. **Noted: General Report received from Lord Fuller regarding planning, Council re-organisation and other matters circulated to the Parish Councillors. This report contained a link with comprehensive discussions taking place in the House of Lords. Lord fuller advising the Consultation on Village Clusters finalised. He suggests that if the Village has any important matters needing recognition that the time to propose those would be when planning applications are made. (eg speed limits in the Village). It is clear that Lord Fuller is working hard to represent the interests of small rural communities in difficult circumstances. ACTION: Clerk to write and thank John Fuller for his advices and his representations made for us as a rural community.**

4. To receive any questions or comments from members of the Public on matters on the agenda **See Item 7 on Agenda.**

5. To report progress on items on the agenda arising from the last meeting (Clerk's Report):

- (i) Progress on bus shelter lighting works following request of installers to adjust the sensors. Damage to Bus Shelter and proposals for vandalism avoidance following damage. Police advised of damage. **Sue Price has contacted Redhill concerning the sensors being adjusted and Redhill will inspect. As to the**

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vandalism to the front panels of the bus shelter the Parish Council feel there is no merit in replacing these as damage can be repeated. The Council feel the main purpose of the shelter is to keep people dry which the roof does. **ACTION:** Guy Warde-Aldam will inspect and report back.

- (ii) Progress on Signage for Play Area and revised invoice. **Sue Price presented the sign for the play area which the Council are very happy with. ACTION: Sue Price to establish who will assist with the installation.**

6. Progress on repairs to the rocks on the play equipment by Martin Graystone. **The position of the replacement rocks will need moving as the “wall” to which they are to be attached is not sufficiently robust for the addition of new rocks. ACTION: Sue Price to discuss with Martin Graystone**

7. Lectern Works: Consideration of the finishing painting as per John Ling’s email to the Parish Council of the 23rd February 2026 and circulated to the Council on 24th February concerning options and costings. **John Ling attended the meeting to ensure that the Parish Council are happy with the price increases for the lectern work for matters such as powder coating. The Parish Council feel that this work should be undertaken to the best standard as it will be more economic in the long run. John Ling presented costings to the Council and the increase in cost is £59.00 John Ling suggesting a ceremony in May time to celebrate the installation of the Lecterns. Both additional costings and installation ceremony agreed by the Parish Council.**

**Proposed: Steve Mitchell**

**Seconded: Janet Skedge.**

**The Parish Council collectively thanked John Ling for his time and efforts in bringing this matter to a conclusion.**

8. Grants/Charitable donations: S137 Local Government Act 1972. Request for Charitable Donation by Byrus and Shirley Rimmer for Parish Church Maintenance. **ACTION: Janet Skedge to establish with Byrus how many members from Bergh Apton attend before determining their request for a donation.**

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**The Parish Council agreed to contribute to the Church £100.00 for their maintenance.**

**Proposed: Angela Whiskerd**

**Seconded: Sue Price**

**ACTION: Clerk to revert to Shirley Rimmer on the decision and obtain payment information.**

9. Consideration for group Training for Parish Council regarding Assertion 10.

**Having seen further information on Assertion 10 the Parish Council feel that additional training for Councillors was not necessary.**

10. Planning Applications:

10.1. To note the status of all current and recently closed planning applications in the Parish:

(a) J Hemmant Application Change of Use 2024/0499 For events up to 50 at The Winery, Loddon Road, Bergh Apton and Change of use. No further information from South Norfolk Council. **No changes to the planning application since 1<sup>st</sup> October 2025. The sale of the Winery is still in progress.**

(b) R Forman's application Lane East of Village Hall Cookes Road. Revised Consultation Date awaited. **Ellie Yarham is now the case planning officer dealing with this application. ACTION: Clerk to contact Ellie Yarham requesting an indication on when this application is going to come to committee with it being on-going for 9 months.**

(c) Ms Emily Hewkin. 2025/2623 Planning for Change of use of land at Mill Road, Bergh Apton for educational purposes. **Comments submitted by Parish Council.**

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(d) T Farrow Construction, 2025/2026. Approval for new Steel framed storage building at Depot, Welbeck Road. Approved with conditions 23rd January 2026

(e) 2025/2823 Hillside Farm Welbeck Road Application for static residential home on concrete hardstanding withdrawn 23rd January 2026 **Noted.**

10.2 Any planning applications which are pending the Council making comments? **None.**

10.3 Consider any Planning Applications submitted after Agenda posted. **Noted.**

11. Targeting introduction of 30 MPH on the Street – Update on Steering committee and next steps. Steps taken regarding the suggestion of seeking assistance from Kevin Allen Safety Officer for Highways at Norfolk County Council. **Kevin Allen contacted regarding advice re: additional safety measures that would aid all road users within Bergh Apton. Sue Price has been informed that this request will be dealt with by both Kevin Allen and Gary Overland. She is awaiting a reply.**

12. Biodiversity Report: To agree this document following addition of wording by Steve Whitby and 5 year review. Document uploaded to website 3rd February following inability to secure further information. Confirmation of this upload from Steve Whitby confirmed by email, which email was circulated to Parish Councillors 4th February 2026. **Sue Price signed the hard copy.**

13. South Norfolk Village Clusters Plan. Parish Council receiving confirmation that comments previously made would be taken into consideration. **Noted. See item 3 above.**

14. Ranger service – Works done yet to footpath signs? **Works not yet undertaken. ACTION: Clerk to remind the Ranger Service**

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15. Thurton Parish Council discussions regarding Bus Shelters at Prospect Place update. **Both Thurton and Bergh Apton Parish Councils decided not to progress this as it is not considered not a good use of public money.**

16. Concerns in the Village regarding speeding tractors with trailers and other farm equipment and mud/other debris on the roads. **Sue Price has spoken with the person farming land in the village who has contacted the contractors driving the tractors and machinery through the village to ask drivers to slow down and be respectful of speed in the village and exercise care. Mud on Dodgers Lane was cleared by the farmer. Rain washed mud away on the other less affected roads. Duck manure debris on the roads was pointed out and it was confirmed that the contractor would be notified of this and asked to not excessively load the trailers in the future. The footpath from Dodgers Lane across the field where the vehicles exercised entry on the fields with the duck manure is severely damaged and there are deep ruts causing concern to people using that right of way who could fall/lose their footings and injure themselves. The farmer confirmed the right of way would be made good once the land has dried out, likely to be April/May time. The moving of duck manure is time sensitive and happens only once a year. It is usually in the Autumn not winter as this year. We would like to thank the farmer for taking the time, consideration and action regarding these matters.**

17. Repairs to SAM 2 equipment and costings. **Mike Rimmer is attending Westcote to deal with any repairs and invoices awaited.**

18. Odour from ditch at corner of Dodgers Lane and the fields. **ACTION: Clerk to email an owner of one of the properties using the Klargestor discharging onto this land to see if they are aware of the problem and if the matter can be rectified.**

19. SNDC Litter Pick Scheme. **The Parish Council feel the litter is being collected on a regular basis throughout the year.**

20. Finance: Accounts Reconciled and Reconciliation Statements circulated to Parish Councillors. Payments:

- (i) Monthly payments to Ionos for website and cloud storage £6.50 and £15.99. **Parish Council notified that there is to be a slight increase to these monthly charges. £15.99 to £17.99**

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- (ii) SCS Payroll fee of £15.00 and further £15.00 payroll invoice for July 2025 which SCS omitted to send.
- (iii) Payment to HMRC Tax on R Thornber Salary for month of January.
- (iv) Payment for play area signage £108.00
- (v) Village Hall Hire May to November, 5 meetings including APM £90.00.

21. Progress following request for Police attendance at a Parish Council meeting and/or a Report for the Annual Parish Meeting. **Leaflet for Parishioners offered by the Police which the Parish Council have informed the Police they feel would be helpful to parishioners particularly the elderly. The Police have indicated they hope to attend a meeting this year and the Parish Council meeting dates have been provided to them. The Parish Council have also requested either attendance/a Police report for the Annual Parish Meeting. ACTION: Clerk to remind the Police about these and suggest a note for the newsletter or alternatively their APM Report could be put into the newsletter.**

22. CORVUE enforcement reports. **As Circulated. Nothing new added.**

23. Items of Confidential Nature:

24. To agree items for the Agenda for the Annual Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday 6th May 2026 at 7.00 pm:

- (i) Appointment of Chair for the Parish Council **Sue Price has confirmed she is willing to continue as Chair for which the Parish Councillors are very grateful.**
- (ii) To invite various committees in the Village to the Annual Parish Meeting on the 20th May 2026 at 7.00 pm at the Village Hall
- (iii) To consider sourcing insurance quotes for renewal on 31st May 2026

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- (iv) Preparation of year end accounts, AGAR in readiness for signing off at next meeting.
- (v) Planning for the future, put something in the newsletter anyone potentially interested in joining Parish Council in the future please come along to the AGM/PCM or other Parish Council Meetings over the next few months to see what is involved and invite any interested parties to contact Clerk to lodge their interest

**25. Additional Items for Agenda following receipt of Letter from Ben Goldsborough MP after the posting of the Agenda for today's meeting.**

This concerns the ability to apply for a Grant to celebrate Armed Forces Day, celebrations commencing the week of the 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2026. Grants to be applied for by the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2026. **ACTION:** John Ling was provided with details and he is willing to look into this with the assistance of Steve Mitchell. This additional item was discussed at this meeting in due of the shortness of time for Grant applications and the Parish Council next meeting not taking place until May 2026.

26. Next Meeting Wednesday 6th May 2026 (AGM) at Bergh Apton Village Hall at 7.00 pm

Meeting Closed 8.30 pm