

## Annual Parish Meeting May 2026 Chairs Report Bergh Apton Parish Council

Over the last year Bergh Apton Parish Council has seen a number of changes. Steve Whitby resigned from the parish council and I became the chairperson. I would like to thank Steve for all his contributions to the parish council and his continuing support of the parish website. Martin Graystone joined us as a councillor but due to him moving away from Bergh Apton he has resigned as a councillor. We would like to thank him for his time whilst a member and wish him well in pastures anew. His place has been filled by Rui Vieira, a local resident, who was accepted as a councillor at our last meeting 2 weeks ago.

During the last financial year we have seen a necessary increase in the Parish Precept. This years precept compares favourably with similar size parishes in South Norfolk.

We have taken an active role with regards to local planning applications. Although we do not make the final decision we hopefully have reflected the views of the majority of parishioners to South Norfolk Planning Department. We have recently reviewed our biodiversity statement to include items that we will use when responding to planning applications, for example requiring swift boxes to be included in new builds.

The parish council formed a working party to lobby Norfolk County Council regarding expanding the local road network that is covered by a 30mph speed limit. A questionnaire was delivered to parishioners asking for their support for the speed limit to be reduced in the village. We received a positive response. We had discussions with the Highways Department of Norfolk County Council, who responded saying that the village did not fit the criteria for a speed limit reduction. However at our last Parish Council meeting Kay Mason Billig the then leader of Norfolk County Council agreed that our road network should be re-assessed and has contacted Highways to arrange a meeting in the village to walk the roads and re-assess the situation.

We have overseen and funded various repairs and maintenance of the village playground. We would like to thank Kevin Parfitt for his assistance.

Thanks go to Mike Rimmer and Richard Phillips for managing the SAM 2 sign and presenting the results on a monthly basis.

With a grant from Norfolk County Council and our funds a solar powered lighting system has been installed at the bus stop at Hellington Corner. Over the last year we have had to repair the bus shelter at Hellington Corner due to vandalism.

The information lecterns which are to go besides the village sign, explaining more about the history of the village and its depiction on the sign will shortly be erected. We would like to thank John Ling for all his assistance with this project.

We funded and donated a flag pole to the village hall which was used on VJ Day last year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Renata Thornber, our clerk, for her support to the parish council since taking on the role. She is a great asset. And finally I would like to thank Janet Skedge for arranging the refreshments for this evening.