

BEYTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Councillor Graham Jones
Clerk: Tina Newell
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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 14 March 2023

In The Vestry of All Saints Church, Beyton

Councillors Present: Graham Jones (Chairman) (GJ), John Clark (JC), Kerry Mason (KM), Peggy Orsler (PO) and Helena Harris (HH).

Others in attendance: Tina Newell (Clerk) and five members of the public.

- 140323/01 **Apologies for absence:** Apologies for absence were received prior to the meeting from Ann Alderton and Jonathon Wilson.
- 140323/02 All Councillors accepted Ann Alderton (AA) and Jonathan Wilson (JW) apologies.
- 140323/03 District Councillor's Harry Richardson and Austin Davies (AD) offered apologies for absence prior to the meeting as did County Councillor Penny Otton.
- 140323/04 **Declarations of Interest (DoI):** No declarations of interest to consider.
- 140323/05 **Dispensation:** Councillors noted no requests had been received and none were requested at the meeting.
- 140323/06 **Minutes of previous meeting:** All Councillors resolved to accept the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7 February 2023 and as a true reflection of the decisions made and authorised GJ to sign the minutes (reference 070223/01 – 66).
- Public Forum:**
- 140323/07 All Councillors confirmed receipt of District Councillor Harry Richardson's report prior to the meeting. The report confirmed a freeze in Council tax plus £2m for energy saving measures for those most in need, despite rising costs and increased demands on services; with over a thousand homes across Babergh and Mid Suffolk districts currently classified as empty, a new service entitled 'Houses4Homes' encourages owners of vacant residential properties to come forward for advice and support in turning their property into a home

for another family; there are still positions that need filling to ensure the elections run smoothly, if you are interested please email the elections team at MSDC. The full report is appended to these minutes.

- 140323/08 All Councillors confirmed receipt of District Councillor Austin Davies report prior to the meeting with no questions; There will be a zero increase in our District Council Tax element however, rents on our council houses will be increased by 7%; Councillors argued that since benefits were being increased by approximately 10% our tenants would be able to manage; It was decided to increase the budget of our Communities and Wellness section. So from April grants would be made available for local organisations and communities to develop, improve and expand their building and activities. These grants can also be used for appropriate feasibility studies.
- 140323/09 County Councillor Penny Otton's report was received prior to the meeting. The report in full is appended to these minutes and highlights Suffolk continues to do its part through the Homes for Ukraine programme - if anyone wishes to help please visit www.suffolk.gov.uk/Ukraine; the Council Tax will increase by 3.99% broken down into a 2% rise in the Social Care Precept and a 1.99% increase in general tax; Milestone Infrastructure, part of M Group Services, has been awarded SCC's new highways services contract. The contract, worth between £800m-£1bn, will begin 1st October 2023 and will last up to 20 years. The service will provide maintenance of roads, pavement, Rights of Way, drainage, hedges, construction of new roads, and snow clearing – this is not an exhaustive list.
- 140323/10 A member of the public asked for clarification of the date of Penny Otton's report noting it was headed February 2022.
- 140323/11 Members of the public spoke reference the planning application to be considered later in the meeting.
- 140323/12 The Chairman re-ordered the meeting in accordance with Standing Order 1a and brought the finance section of the agenda forward.
- Finance:**
- 140323/13 All Councillors confirmed receipt of the finance report for the period ended 28 February 2023 prior to the meeting.

140323/14 **Bank Reconciliation:** In the absence of AA, KM as a non-bank signatory confirmed the bank reconciliation as presented agree to the bank statements with cash available of £51,224.01; £51,123.35 in the Community account and £100.66 in the Premium account.

140323/15 **Budget to Actual:** All Councillors confirmed receipt of the budget to actual report prior to the meeting and with an underspend of £3,471.20 and unplanned grant income of £17,540.23 confirmed the Parish Councils accounts look very healthy. All Councillors resolved to accept the report with the following virements:

140323/16 Training -£500.00

140323/17 Hire of Vestry -£10.90

140323/18 BVN £431.00

140323/19 Office £78.12

140323/20 Mileage £1.78

140323/21 **Reserves:** KM confirmed the reserves account reconciles to the bank statement. All Councillors agreed with the reserves reconciliation noting the general reserve represents 50% of the annual precept in accordance with guidelines.

140323/22 **Receipts:** Councillors noted there have been no receipts since the last meeting.

Payments: All Councillors resolved to approve the following gross payments by internet banking confirming a full schedule, supported by invoices and receipts, had been received prior to the meeting:

	Payee	Details	£
140323/23	Tina Newell	Salary, re-imbursements	841.75
140323/24	HMRC	PAYE	39.20
140323/25	MSDC	Annual Play inspection	62.47
140323/26	MSDC	Return of Winter Warmth grant	250.00
140323/27	Parish On-Line	Digital mapping	81.00
140323/28	K. Mason	Reimbursement of courier charge	16.80

- 140323/29 Councillors noted a payment to A New Creation had been made since the last meeting for work carried out at the Pond (approved 130922/42) for £797.10.
- 140323/30 All Councillors received a reconciliation of income from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and noted a payment of at least £6,861.11 would be received in April. The District Councils legal team are involved in pursuing the outstanding CIL liability relating to planning application DC/19/01991 1 Orsler Close, formerly known as land adjacent Guerdon Cottage as the liability owner, in this case a business, has not followed the agreed plan for payment.
- 140323/31 Councillors noted a quote has been received for grass cutting at Beyton for the forthcoming season.
- 140323/32 Councillors were in receipt of a breakdown of costs and funding for the purchase of the Green and confirmed this reflects decisions made previously. TN read the accounts aloud to all present:
- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Purchase price of the Green | £15,310.00 |
| Contribution to vendors legal fees | £ 630.00 |
| Contribution to vendors agents fees | £ 3,060.00 |
| Total purchase price | £19,000.00 |
| Funded by: | |
| S106 money | £14,590.23 |
| CIL money | £719.77 |
| Reserves c/f | £5,690.00 |
- This is represented in the accounts as £25,310.00 in the Village Green reserve account.
- 140323/33 A resident expressed thanks to the Chairman for talking through these figures in detail prior to the meeting.
- 140323/34 The Parish Council has purchased 75 mugs @ £2.55 each plus £20 delivery charge totalling £211.25; the BVA have secured funding of £1,000 from the County and District Councillors therefore this expense may be reimbursed at a later date.
- Planning:** Councillors considered the following applications made to the Local Planning Authority (MSDC) relating to Beyton:

- 140323/35 DC/23/01021 Householder Application - Erection of front extension, construction of second floor dormers to create bedroom suite, erection of rear extension to create gym, pool and games room.
2 Orchard Close, Beyton, IP30 9AR.
After much discussion with involvement from members of the public all Councillors resolved to SUPPORT this application.
All Councillors noted the following determinations made by MSDC relating to Beyton:
- 140323/36 DC/22/06269 Marl Cottage
MSDC: **GRANTED** BPC: Objected
- 140323/37 DC/23/00194 Beyton Cottage
MSDC: **GRANTED** BPC: Noted.
- 140323/38 Councillors received confirmation that the owners of the Green are no longer wishing to sell it neither are they willing to enter into a lease, their solicitors have been withdrawn from negotiations and it has been advised the Council correspond directly with the land owners. All Councillors noted the Parish Council cannot insure the Green and the owners have been made aware of this. Suffolk County Council legal department have been contacted however to date no response has been received. After a lengthy debate including members of the public Councillors resolved to send a letter from the Parish Council directly to the owners making them aware of the position re insurance, of the recent road traffic accident and confirming the Parish Council still wish to pursue a purchase.
- 140323/39 KM has agreed to take over the play equipment inspections and has a check list to complete monthly.
- 140323/40 The annual play inspection report has been received and all Councillors agreed to replace the sign informing visitors of the rules of the play equipment and agreed a cost of upto £100.
- 140323/41 A police crime number has been received following a road traffic accident on The Green however as the Parish Council are not insured there is no further action that can be taken.

- 140323/42 All Councillors noted a list of maintenance jobs required on the green had been received and resolved to forward this to the owners of The Green
- 140323/43 The long term welfare of the geese was considered. Councillors tasked with looking after the geese confirmed the geese are all eating and behaving as usual and have no concerns regarding their health more their living conditions. All Councillors agreed with the National Avian Flu restrictions many birds are living in the same conditions and agreed to speak with the breeder from where these geese came along with asking the Rural Crimes team to visit the site and request a cost for a vet to visit, upto £250.
- 143023/44 Four members of the public left the meeting.
- Governance:**
- 140323/45 All Councillors resolved to increase standing orders 18a v and 18c from £25k to £30k to increase the procurement threshold
- 140323/46 All Councillors agreed to increase Financial Regulation 11.1b from £25k to £30k to increase the procurement threshold.
- 140323/47 In accordance with Financial Regulation 6.11 the Chairman received a copy of an Emergency Continuity Plan in a sealed and dated envelope.
All Councillors received policies that TN recommended adoption by Beyton Parish Council. After reviewing all Councillors resolved to adopt the following policies:
- 140323/48 Data breach
- 140323/49 Electronic Communications policy
- 140323/50 Vexatious policy
- 140323/51 Equality policy
- 140323/52 Sickness Absence policy
- 140323/53 Grievance policy
- 140323/54 Meeting attendance
- 140323/55 Disciplinary policy
- 140323/56 Reserves policy
- 140323/57 Councillors noted Trevor Brown has agreed to carry out the Internal Audit for Beyton Parish Council for year ended 31 03 2023.

- 140323/58 **BEG:** Since the last report hedge planting has been completed and another batch of plants, kindly donated, planted along Bury Road from Field Close onwards; trees donated by the District Authority have been planted at the pond and on Bury Road.
- 140323/59 **BVN:** No update.
- 140323/60 **Community Speedwatch:** It was agreed by all Councillors to defer the consideration of traffic calming measures to the Annual meeting in May.
- 140323/61 **Beyton Sixth Form:** TN reported it is looking positive for a room to be available for hire from May 2023 and resolved for TN, GJ and JW to attend training at the campus on how to access the facilities.
- 140323/62 **Ditches:** There has been no update from SCC or National Highways
- 140323/63 **Training:** TN has been in contact with a resident from Hasset in the hope to hold joint CPR training although no response has been received from the trainer.
- 140323/64 **Any other matters for information, to be noted or to be included on a future agenda:** All present were informed of the Parish Council elections taking place on Thursday 4 May 2023.
- 140323/65 **Correspondence:** None to note.
- 140323/66 All present noted the date of the next Parish Council is 11 April 2023 at 7.30pm.
- 140323/67 The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.58hrs.