

BEYTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Councillor Graham Jones
Clerk: Tina Newell
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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 5 December 2023 In The Vestry meeting room, Beyton

Councillors Present: Graham Jones (Chairman) (GJ), Ann Alderton (Vice Chairman) (AA), John Clark (JC) and Helena Harris (HH).

Others in attendance: Austin Davies (District Councillor) (AD), David Bradbury (District Councillor) (AD), Tina Newell (Clerk) and four members of the public.

Apologies for absence:

051223/01 Councillors Jonathan Wilson (JW) and Kerry Mason tendered apologies for absence prior to the meeting due to illness.

051223/02 All Councillors accepted apologies for absence from JW and KM.

051223/03 County Councillor Penny Otton offered apologies for absence prior to the meeting.

051223/04 **Declarations of Interest:** GJ declared an interest in agenda item 7h as a member of BEG and agreed to take no part in the discussion or vote.

051223/05 **Dispensation:** Councillors noted no requests for dispensations had been received prior to or at the meeting.

051223/06 **Minutes of previous meeting:** All Councillors resolved to accept the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7 November 2023 and as a true reflection of the decisions made and authorised GJ to sign the minutes (reference 071123/01-39 inclusive).

Public Forum:

051223/07 County Councillor Penny Otton's (PON) report was received prior to the meeting and is appended in full. The report focused on the recent flooding confirming anyone effected can claim £500 to help with the cost of clearing up; following the County Councils announcement of an additional £10m investment in resurfacing urban and residential roads a meeting with the new

Signed: *Graham Jones*

Date: *9 January 2024*

contractor 'Milestone Infrastructure' was had to discuss how future works would be undertaken.

- 051223/08 All Councillors confirmed receipt of a joint report from both District Councillor's confirming a meeting with BMSDC Joint Local Development Scheme and the Joint Local Plan part one was passed (this sets out the planning policy for the District) part two which includes settlement boundaries is being prepared; the District Council has launched a new initiative 'cozy homes' offering insulation to appropriate households leaflets will be on the noticeboards and links on the Parish Councils website and facebook pages; the District Council has supported a new telecommunications mast for Tostock; the fitness suite at Thurston Community College is now available for use by the general public; DB attended a '20's plenty' seminar and suggested Parishes who want to lower speed limits would be more successful if applying together.
- 051223/09 A resident asked for an explanation what 'dispensation' meant and suggested the Council consider moveable football goals to even out the wear to the ground.
- 051223/10 AD and DB left the meeting.
- 051223/11 A resident was concerned over the welfare of the geese and asked if a fence could be erected to contain the geese. Councillors all agreed this is not possible as The Green is protected under section 29 of the Commons Act 1876, together with section 12 of the Inclosure Act 1857; it was noted the recent death of one goose was due to an abrupt force from a vehicle.
- 051223/12 A resident suggested allowing the geese to breed naturally and proposed to 'build' an area to afford protection from the geese whilst nesting.
- Planning:** Councillors considered the following application made to the Local Planning Authority (MSDC) relating to Beyton:
- 051223/13 DC/23/05410 Notification to works to trees in a conservation area - No 1 Thorn (T1) remove to ground level no 1 Maple (T2) remove to ground level.
- Briar House, 1 Bear Meadow, Beyton IP30 9HS
- After a brief discussion all Councilors resolved to **SUPPORT** to this application.

- 051223/14 DC/23/05227 Application for works to trees in a Conservation area – Prune 2 x Ash trees and 1 Oak tree by 2-3m to reduce overhanging branches tp both mine and neighbouring properties.
Crossfield, Church Road, Beyton.
After consultation all Councilors agreed to **SUPPORT** this application.
All Councillors noted the following determinations made by the District Council relating to Beyton since the last meeting:
- 051223/15 Well Cottage, The Green, Beyton
MSDC: **No objections** BPC: no objections
- 051223/16 DC/23/004319 Land to the East of The Grange, Tostock Road, Beyton
MSDC: **GRANTED** BPC: no objections
- 051223/17 DC/23/04269 Marl Cottage, Church Road, Beyton
MSDC:**REFUSED** BPC: objected
- Finance:**
- 051223/18 All Councillors confirmed receipt of the finance report for the period ended 30 November 2023 prior to the meeting.
- 051223/19 **Bank Reconciliation:** AA, as a non-bank signatory, confirmed the bank reconciliation as presented agrees to the bank statements with cash available of £50,631.68; £20,530.41 in the Community account and £30,101.27 in the Premium account.
- 051223/20 **Budget to Actual:** All Councillors reviewed this report noting £21,202.72 was paid from reserves; with no questions accepted this report.
- 051223/21 **Reserves:** AA confirmed at the meeting the reserves account reconciles to the bank statements. All Councillors accepted the general reserve is 91% of the precept and in line with the Parish Councils reserve policy.

Receipts: Councillors noted there had been one receipt since the last meeting:

051223/22	Mid Suffolk District Council	Locality award for the work to the pond.	800.00
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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	£
051223/23	Tina Newell	Salary and re-imbursements	866.60
051223/24	HMRC	Tax	115.20
051223/25	Precision Marketing	BVN	232.00
051223/26	T C Forrestry	Groundworks	1,070.00

051223/27 All Councilors noted the National Joint Council for Government has announced the annual pay award for 2023/24 and noted this has resulted in back dated pay of £316.20 (included in the above salary and re-imbursements payment).

051223/28 After much discussion and after reviewing each expense line in turn all Councillors agreed to set the budget for 2024/25 at £23,357.40.

051223/29 All Councillors noted the tax base from which the precept is calculated has increased by 0.6% to 314.91. Noting there were no questions or comments from members of the public AA proposed to request £23,357.40 as the Parish Councils precept from the District authority. This proposal was seconded by HH with all Councillors in agreement GJ and TN signed the 'Precept Upon Charging Authority' form.

051223/30 Councilors received a quotation from 'Pettitt Sports' of £80.50 to replace the football nets (and clips). After discussion and taking note of the earlier comment from a resident all Councillors agreed to purchase the nets and rings from Pettott Sports whilst TN investigates the purchase and security of moveable goals.

051223/31 A member of the public left the meeting.

051223/32 After consideration HH proposed to support the request from Beyton Environmental Group (BEG) for £150 agreeing the valuable contribution this group makes to the Parish. JC seconded the proposal with AA in favour it was agreed to make this donation. GJ took no part in the discussion or vote.

The Village Green:

- 051223/33 Monthly Visual Inspection: Cllrs there was no monthly inspection report as KM was absent.
- 051223/34 The manufacturer of the wooden play equipment has provided assurance the equipment requires no maintenance plan further to the monthly and annual play inspections. The timber is pre-treated and a guarantee specification has been received.
- 051223/35 All Councillors noted the tree survey will be carried out on 19 December 2023.
- 051223/36 Councillors noted 'J S Wright & Sons Ltd' are awaiting the Forestry Commission to approve the application to remove Bat Willows from The Green prior to the removal. It is hoped this will be very early in 2024. A notice informing residents of the removal of these trees will be placed on line and in the play area.
- 051223/37 After a brief discussion all Councillors agreed to defer the decision as to how to mark the purchase of The Green to another meeting.
- To receive updates/reports from officers and village groups and consider action required:**
- Road Safety including Community Speedwatch:**
- 051223/38 After much discussion all Councillors agreed the current road works on the A14 and the frequent visit of the 'SafeCam' has resulted in less speeding as previously and agreed to defer discussion to a future next meeting.
- 051223/39 GJ and PON attended a meeting on site with an engineer from National Highways who agreed a STOP sign is needed at the end of the slip road off the A14 to Beyton/Thurston and he will put forward his recommendation.
- 051223/40 **Tree Warden:** The role has been advertised at the Sixth form, on social media and on the Parish website; with no applications to date all Councillors agreed to continue advertising.
- 051223/41 **Bus service:** Councillors noted there is currently a deficit of £169.24 (average of £33.85 per month) based on 33 trips from Beyton. All Councillors noted the service is mainly used by one or two residents but noted the service is open to all residents. It was therefore agreed to continue with the scheme at least until the figures to the end of December 2023 are known with a view to cut the service at the end of March 2024 if the service is not self funded.

- 051223/42 **Beyton Sixth Form:** Councillors noted a letter confirming the Parish Councils formal interest in the site and buildings has yet to be sent to Suffolk County Council; TN apologised for not having sent this yet and confirmed a letter will be sent before the next meeting.
- 051223/43 It was agreed to arrange an introductory meeting with the new Principle.
- Flooding:**
- 051223/44 TN has been unable to contact all suggested participants to agree a long term solution and will continue to arrange a meeting with Anglian Water, The Environment Agency and Suffolk County Council. In the short term TN will speak with Thurston and Hesselton Parish Councils to see if they can prevent so much water coming into the village from Hesselton and to allow the water to run freely through to Thurston. GJ will speak with an independent civil engineer to consider an holistic approach to the issue of flooding.
- 051223/45 **Geese:** TN will arrange to meet with a resident who has agreed to house the birds should restrictions be enforced.
- 051223/46 **Defibrillator:** All Councillors noted the recent application for funding was unsuccessful and TN confirmed the locations of defibrillators as on The Green and at The Sixth Form noting this is available only during school time. It was agreed to publicise a process of using the defibrillator to the community noting each resident should have a plan of their own should the need arise to use one.
- 051223/47 **Asset of Community Value (ACV):** All Councillors learnt Hesselton Parish Council were unsuccessful in their bid to list their only remaining pub as an ACV. After much discussion it was agreed for Beyton Parish Council to apply to have both The Bear and The White Horse public houses listed as ACV; TN and JW will complete the application asking all Councillors for assistance when required.
- Any other Council business for information to be noted or to be included in a future agenda:**
- 051223/48 All Councillors learnt of the recent death of one goose due to an impact from a school bus and expressed disappointment at the lack of interest from the School, SCC and the bus operator. The police have been informed and are

requesting further details from the bus operator and the local newspaper will run a story on this and the purchase of The Green.

051223/49 The appointment of the internal auditor, drains and ditches, capital grants for new play equipment.

051223/50 Councillors noted the date of the next meeting is Tuesday 9 January 2024.

051223/51 The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.09pm .