

BEYTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Councillor Graham Jones

Clerk: Tina Newell

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07767 163706

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 5 September 2023 In The Vestry meeting room, Beyton

Councillors Present: Graham Jones (Chairman) (GJ), John Clark (JC), Helena Harris (HH), Peggy Orsler (PO) and Jonathan Wilson (JW).

Others in attendance: David Bradbury (DB), Penny Otton (County Councillor) (PON), Tina Newell (Clerk) and three members of the public.

Apologies for absence:

050923/01 Councillor Ann Alderton (AA) offered apologies for absence prior to the meeting.

050923/02 All Councillors accepted apologies for absence from AA.

050923/03 Austin Davies (AD) (District Councillor) tendered apologies via David Bradbury.

050923/04 **Declarations of Interest:** No declarations of interest were declared.

050923/05 **Dispensation:** Councillors noted no requests for dispensations had been received and none were requested at the meeting.

050923/06 **Minutes of previous meeting:** All Councillors resolved to accept the minutes of the extra ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 19 July 2023 and as a true reflection of the decisions made and authorised GJ to sign the minutes (reference 190723/01-09 inclusive).

Public Forum:

050923/07 County Councillor Penny Otton's (PON) report was received prior to the meeting; at the recent full Council meeting PON proposed to lower speed limits on rural roads where the safe speed is lower than the National Speed limit however this was voted down without debate; SCC's contract with Suffolk libraries has been extended by 10 months to allow for an extensive public consultation from October 2023 to January 2024. The full report is appended to these minutes.

Signed: Graham Jones

Date: 10 10 20231

- 050923/08 A member of the public asked if the directional signs painted on the slip road off the A14 could be made permanent.
- 050923/09 All Councillors confirmed receipt of a joint report from both District Councillor's, the full report is appended to these minutes.
- 050923/10 A member of the public expressed an interest in the Coronation Wood Grant and asked DB for confirmation of the grant could be applied for on a piece of ground that is not publicly accessible.
- 050923/11 Another member of the public suggested the soil on The Green is levelled before the end of September and the cost would be around £1,000.00. It was noted the £200.00 received from Pride in Your Place could be allocated to this work and Councillors resolved to apply for £400.00 each from the District Councillors locality budgets. TN will seek advice from SALC if an extra ordinary meeting is required to instruct the commencement of the work.
- Planning:** Councillors considered the following application made to the Local Planning Authority (MSDC) relating to Beyton:
- 050923/12 DC/23/03040 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 (amended scheme to that approved DC/23/01021)
- 2 Orchard Close, Beyton
- After discussion Councillors resolved to SUPPORT the application being considered noting there is no loss of amenity to neighbouring properties and agreed two dormers is more aesthetically pleasing than one dormer and one velux window.
- 050923/13 DC/23/03366 Full planning application erection of 1 single storey dwelling and garage (resubmission of withdrawn application DC/22/05319)
- Land adjacent to York House, The Green, Beyton IP30 9AD
- After consideration all Councillors resolved to offer SUPPORT to this application.
- Councillors noted the following determinations made by the District Planning Authority since the last meeting:

- 050923/14 DC/23/02803 Crossfield, Church Road, Beyton
MSDC: NO OBJECTION. BPC: supported.
- 050923/15 DC/23/02035 Marl Cottage, Church Road, Beyton
MSDC: GRANTED. BPC: supported with conditions
Councillors were informed of three planning applications relating to works to trees that the Clerk had not been advised of.
- Finance:**
- 050923/16 All Councillors confirmed receipt of the finance report for the period ended 30 August 2023 prior to the meeting.
- 050923/17 Bank Reconciliation: AA, as a non-bank signatory confirmed the bank reconciliation as presented agrees to the bank statements with cash available of £61,417.95; £61,316.95 in the Community account and £101.00 in the Premium account.
- 050923/18 It was suggested for TN to look into a bank account that offers a greater return on investment and after discussion all Councillors resolved to move some funds to the Premium account if it offers a higher return noting both accounts can be accessed easily.
- 050923/19 Budget to Actual: All Councillors reviewed this report noting the Parish Council have received £8,327.44 more than budgeted and accepted it with no questions.
- 050923/20 Reserves: AA confirmed prior to the meeting the reserves account reconciles to the bank statement and all Councillors accepted the general reserve remains at 55% of the precept and in line with the Parish Councils reserve policy.
- 050923/21 Assets: All Councillors noted there had been no additions or deletions to the asset register since July.
- 050923/22 Receipts: Councillors noted there has been one receipt since the last meeting of £200 from MSDC's 'Pride in your Place' initiative.
Payments: All Councillors ratified the following payments made outside of a meeting, in accordance with schedule 4.5 of the Financial Regulations:

	Payee	Details	£
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050923/23	Community Heartbeat Trust	Defibrillator pads	115.20
050923/24	Information Commissioners Office (ICO)	Annual Data Protection fee	35.00

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	£
050923/25	Tina Newell	Salary, re-imbursments	1,315.20
050923/26	HMRC	PAYE	8.40
050923/27	PKF Little John	External Audit	252.00

050923/28 TN has chased the solicitor regarding search fees as detailed on the invoice presented at the last meeting; the solicitor had just come back with a detailed explanation however TN had not had time to review it. All Councillors therefore agreed to defer this payment to the next meeting to allow TN time to agree the information.

050923/29 All Councillors noted the external audit has been completed and on the basis of the review of Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR and the opinion of the external auditor these have been completed in accordance with proper practices. The external auditors did note however that the boxes 9 and 11a in respect of trust funds were not answered; in future these boxes must be answered. TN offered apologies for this and confirmed at no time had the external auditor made contact regarding this. All Councillors noted the external audit has been completed with no further action.

050923/30 TN has prepared and published a 'Notice of conclusion of audit' along with sections 1-3 of the concluded audit.

To receive updates/reports from officers and village groups and consider action required:

Road Safety including Community Speedwatch:

050923/31 TN and PON met with a Community Liaison Engineer from Suffolk Highways and is awaiting a full report on options available i.e white gates, rumble strips; the suggested reduction in speed limit on Thurston Road sadly will not happen

due to the road not meeting the relevant criteria i.e. number of roads and driveways leading off this road; as there have only been two injury accidents at the ditch opposite the A14 slip road no bollards or crash barriers can be installed as it is not considered an accident cluster site however a strong case to replace a previous directional sign has been put forward to the asset team. It was agreed for TN to highlight the five incidents as highlighted on the Parish Council website to the Engineer.

050923/32 Councillors agreed for TN to request the correct protocol in order to get a STOP sign at the end of the slip road off the A14 towards Beyton and Thurston.

050923/33 The senior stake holder manager confirmed the satellite navigation companies have confirmed they will only advise customers not to use a route if there is a road closure in place.

050923/34 Information from the Community Speed Watch team confirm traffic through the parish is still double it was prior to the road works starting with the highest volume being between 3-6pm. All Councillors agreed the issue is volume more so than speed.

Tree Warden/Trees:

050923/35 TN has been in contact with a resident who is keen to take on the more formal role of Parish Tree Warden and is awaiting further details on the role from the Suffolk Tree Wardens.

050923/36 Three quotes have been sought to carry out a survey of the trees around the Green and range from £770 to £1080. All Councillors agreed to defer this item until confirmation of the future ownership is known.

050923/37 Councillors considered J S Wright & Sons offer of £2,100 to fell 6 bat willow trees to ground level, remove the wood and replanting and leaving the site clear. However as The Green is not owned by the Parish Council they cannot agree to this work taking place at the current time and agreed to bring it back to the next meeting.

050923/38 J S Wright also advised the PC to take advice on a large tree that is adjacent to the play area. Again, as the Parish Council are not the owners of the land they

cannot agree to undertake any work; it was agreed to forward this concern to the owners of The Green and for them to take appropriate action.

050923/39 **Bus service:** It is hoped any deficit in the funding of the bus will be covered by PON locality grant; TN is awaiting more information before putting in a formal request for funding.

050923/40 **Beyton Sixth Form:** Councillors noted the working party are meeting with the head of the Sixth form later this month to discuss the promises made to the residents and the future of the site.

The Village Green:

050923/41 As KM was not in attendance there was no update however TN confirmed the annual play inspection has been booked through Mid Suffolk District Council at a cost of £53.15 plus 10% admin fee plus VAT.

050923/42 TN has forwarded photographs of the roundabout and safety surfacing to Wickstead and is now awaiting quotations for it's refurbishment and replacement. TN has applied for a capital grant from MSDC in principle.

050923/43 All present noted the abandoned car on The Green has been reported to the Police and Mid Suffolk District Council. All Councillors agreed for TN to contact the owner advising it is a criminal offence to park on The Green as it is a registered village green.

Geese:

050923/44 Long term care: It was noted that the lame goose has been wormed and treated for mites and is under the care of a local resident who will release it back into the flock once fully recovered.

050923/45 All Councillors agreed to defer making any decision on the long term care of the geese until at least the next meeting,

050923/46 All Councillors noted a resident had expressed concerns over the geese accessing their garden and making a nuisance. After discussion all Councillors agreed the goose that has been accessing the garden is now under the care of a resident away from The Green and therefore should not cause further harm.

Flooding:

050923/47 Suffolk Highways Asset Manager confirmed on 8 August they have all the information they require to proceed with compiling a document formalising

the agreement to maintain ditches; as of 05 09 23 the manager confirmed “it is with legal and everything is now progressing”.

- 050923/48 It was noted there are a large number of blocked drains in the village and the roads have not been swept for a considerable length of time thus resulting in a build up of vegetation on the road; all Councillors resolved for TN to report these issues as urgent with the hope these issues can be addressed before the winter.
- 050923/49 **Pride in your Place (formerly Clean up Beyton):** All Councillors agreed to hold a bi-annual litter pick on 14 October 2023 and to allocate £150.00 for refreshments to all those that help; it was agreed to ask Beyton White Horse to provide the refreshments.
- 050923/50 **Any other Council business for information to be noted or to be included in a future agenda:** none
- 050923/51 **Councillors are asked to resolve that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the public and press be excluded from the meeting due to the commercially sensitive nature of the business to be discussed regarding the purchase of The Village Green:** Councillors resolved not to exclude the Press and Public to discuss the purchase of The Green as new information had been forthcoming since the agenda was issued.
- 050923/52 TN confirmed the Parish Councils solicitor has had contact with new solicitors acting on behalf of owners of The Green who confirmed the owners are keen to pursue the sale on the previously agreed terms with an additional comment to the effect that there are no manorial rights known to the Parish Council which they would like to retain with the purchase. This was news to all Councillors who expressed delight with the exception of PO who had previously disagreed with the decision to buy The Green.
- 050923/53 Councillors agreed to hold the annual staff appraisal on Tuesday 10 October at 6.30pm.
- 050923/54 All present agreed to change the date of the next meeting to 10 October 2023.
- 050923/55 The Chairman closed the meeting at 20.48 pm.

After the meeting closed GJ handed the Clerk a file, received from Ashtons, relating to

Signed: *Graham Jones*

Date: *10 10 2023*7

The Green; Clerk will deliver this to The Hold for formal archiving.

Signed: *Graham Jones*

Date: 10 10 2023