

## BEYTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Councillor Graham Jones  
Clerk: Tina Newell  
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### Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 6 February 2024 In The Vestry meeting room, Beyton

**Councillors Present:** Graham Jones (Chairman) (GJ), Ann Alderton (AA) (Vice Chairman), John Clark (JC), Helena Harris (HH), Kerry Mason (KM), Peggy Orsler (PO) and Jonathan Wilson (JW).

**Others in attendance:** Penny Otton County Councillor (CC), David Bradbury (District Councillor) (DB), Tina Newell (TN) (Clerk) and five members of the public.

#### **Apologies for absence:**

- 060224/01 All Councillors were present therefore no apologies required.
- 060224/02 Austin Davies (District Councillor) (AD) offered apologies for absence prior to the meeting.
- 060224/03 **Declarations of Interest:** HH declared an interest in planning application DC/24/00420 as the applicant and agreed to leave the meeting when this item is discussed.
- 060224/04 **Dispensation:** Councillors noted no requests for dispensations had been received prior to or at the meeting.
- 060224/05 All Councillors confirmed they had not received any gifts of hospitality.
- 060224/06 **Minutes of previous meeting:** All Councillors resolved to accept the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9 January 2024 as a true reflection of the decisions made and authorised GJ to sign the minutes (reference 090124/01-49 inclusive).

#### **Public Forum:**

- 060224/07 County Councillor Penny Otton's (PON) report was received prior to the meeting and is appended in full; SCC has projected an increase in council tax of 4.99% which includes 2% for areas such as social care and special educational needs (SEND) which are statutory services meaning the Council is required to spend this money by law; there is a proposed 100% cut to funding for museums and arts organisations from April 2025 for which PO's group is opposing; there is a

proposal to relocate Bury St Edmunds records office to Ipswich; the Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board discussed a first draft of a Suffolk autism strategy which will increase awareness and support for autistic people; Suffolk Safer Stronger Communities Board has announced a fund of £150k to support Suffolk's Serious Violence Strategy – applications are invited for grants between £4k-£15k from April 2024; Suffolk Growth Partnership and Suffolk County Council have teamed up with a national organisation promoting car-free days out in Suffolk; 0345 6 066 077 is the new dedicated telephone number for questions relating to the 'Blue Badge'.

060224/08 GJ thanked PO on behalf of the Parish for sending a letter to Jo Churchill asking for support from National Highways to repair local roads; PO informed all Councillors of a meeting being held at Drinkstone with Jo Churchill and resolved to request Beyton is represented.

060224/09 PO left the meeting.

060224/10 All Councillors confirmed receipt of a joint report from both District Councillors prior to the meeting; approximately 300 homes and 40 businesses were flooded within Mid Suffolk as a direct result of Storm Babet; the District Council have agreed to invest £18.7m in building a skills and innovation centre on Gateway 14 in Stowmarket; a Community Rail Partnership with Anglia Rail has been created and suggested names for the line from Thurston to Stowmarket are being sought; since the District Council's Local Validation List (LVL) was amended last year the new Joint Local Plan (JLP) has been adopted and the LVL has undergone further revisions – these revisions are open to a six week formal consultation from 22 January to 4 March 2024. The full report is appended.

060224/12 DB left the meeting.

**Planning:** Councillors considered the following applications made to the Local Planning Authority (MSDC) relating to Beyton:

060224/13 DC/24/00357 Discharge of Conditions Application DC/23/04319 Condition 8 Biodiversity Enhancement Layout

Land to the East of The Grange, Tostock Road, Beyton.

After a brief discussion all Councillors agreed to submit NO COMMENT but to ask why CIL is not applicable on this development.

- 060224/14 DC/24/00079 Application for works to tree subject to Tree Preservation Order (TPO MS88/A1) – Undertake crown thinning on Atlas Cedar Tree (T1) of all lower limb areas of dense end weight growth and clear mats of needles, not exceeding 30% of current crown density.  
The Old Rectory, Church Road, Beyton IP30 9AL.  
After consideration all Councillors agreed a comment of SUPPORT.
- 060224/15 HH left the meeting room.
- 060224/16 DC/24/00420 Notification of Works to Tree in Conservation Area - Reduce No1 Plum (T1) by 1m leaving the tree 5m tall. Fell No.1 Apple tree (T2) to ground level.  
Location: Vulcans Cottage, Quaker Lane, Beyton, IP30 9AN  
After a brief discussion all Councillors resolved to SUPPORT this application.
- 060224/17 HH re-entered the meeting.  
All Councillors noted the following determinations made by the District Council relating to Beyton since the last meeting:
- 060224/18 DC/23/05787 Field House, Church Road, Beyton  
MSDC: NO OBJECTION BPC: No objection.
- 060224/19 DC/21/04987 Land on the South side of Bury Road, Beyton  
MSDC: Granted on 18 08 2023 BPC: Supported.  
All Councillors noted this decision had not been brought to the Parish Councils attention previously. It was requested TN express disappointment at not having been notified using the official channel considering the importance this site has in the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 060224/20 Councillors noted there is £635.71 of outstanding CIL due on the development adjacent to Guerdon Cottage; £600 has been received by the District Council and will be paid to the Parish Council in April 2024.
- 060224/21 There remains outstanding neighbourhood CIL of £27,091.92 on the Nursery House site; this is now accruing late payment interest and MSDC are actively pursuing this. TN to confirm when the CIL liability order was issued.
- 060224/22 Joint Local Validation List: All Councillors agreed they have insufficient knowledge to make any comment.

**Finance:**

- 060224/23 All Councillors confirmed receipt of the finance report for the period ended 31 January 2024 prior to the meeting.
- 060224/24 **Bank Reconciliation:** AA, as a non-bank signatory, confirmed the bank reconciliation as presented agrees to the bank statements with cash available of £47,184.70; £17,044.86 in the Community account and £30,139.84 in the Premium account.
- 060224/25 **Budget to Actual:** All Councillors reviewed this report and with no questions accepted the report represents accurately the position of the budget against income and receipts up to 31 January 2024.
- 060224/26 **Reserves:** AA confirmed at the meeting the reserves account reconciles to the bank statements. All Councillors accepted the general reserve is 77% of the precept and in line with recommended practises.
- 060224/27 **Receipts:** Councillors noted there had not been any receipts since the last meeting.
- Payments:**
- 060224/28 All Councillors ratified a payment to Pettitt Sports made outside of a meeting noting the expense of £80.50 plus carriage and VAT had been approved on 051223/30.
- All Councillors resolved to approve the following gross payment by internet banking

	Payee	Details	£
060224/29	Tina Newell	Salary and re-imbursements	633.29
060224/30	HMRC	Statutory deductions	59.60
060224/31	Haydens	Tree Survey	1,523.40
060224/32	Viking	Stationery inc files, paper, ink cartridges and dividers	72.56

- 060224/33 Councillors received one quote to carry out grass cutting for the 2024 season from T C Forestry & Fencing and agreed to seek two further quotes noting this is best practise and resolved to compare quotes at the March meeting.
- 060224/34 All Councillors agreed to authorise expenditure of up to £100 to replace the notice in the play area noting the location and contact details are incorrect on the current notice.
- Governance:**

060224/35 All Councillors noted Trevor Brown has accepted the appointment as Internal Auditor for Beyton Parish Council; Monday 22 April 2024 is the date scheduled for the audit to be carried out.

060224/36 All Councillors agreed to update the Financial Regulations as recommended by NALC for procurement thresholds increasing goods and services from £213,477 to £214,904 and £5,336,937 to £5,372,609 for public works (construction).

**The Village Green:**

060224/37 All Councillors noted TN has chased the District Council for the annual play inspection report to be told not all inspections had taken place and when reports are available they will be sent.

060224/38 J S Wright & Sons Ltd have confirmed works to remove the Bat Willows will commence on 4 March 2024; notices will be displayed on line and on notice boards advising residents of the work.

060224/39 After a lengthy discussion all Councillors fully support the vision BEG have to enhance the appearance and wildlife in the Parish; it was agreed TN would work with BEG to apply for grants where applicable and to publicise the work with local schools to encourage Duke of Edinburgh students to assist with the various projects.

060224/40 TN confirmed it is an offence to park or drive on The Village Green, being a registered green. Noting the increase of parking on The Green and that the Parish Council is now custodian of it, it was agreed to respectfully remind residents of this both on the website, noticeboards and in local newsletters and to address the concern if the issue continues at the annual meeting.

060224/41 All Councillors resolved to remind users of The Green to use the space with respect to others at all times and considered this is a proportionate response to a recently reported issue.

060224/42 It was agreed for TN to source an appropriate sized commemorative plaque and for JW to compose the wording noting it is to be erected in thanks to the former owners of The Green; it is hoped to unveil the plaque at a forthcoming Beyton Village Association event.

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

**Road Safety:**

- 060224/43 Councillors noted National Highways are collating data of incidents to support the request for a 'STOP' sign at the junction off the A14 with Thurston.
- 060224/44 **Tree Warden:** TN confirmed a quote for the work as suggested in the Tree Survey has been requested from Haydens, who carried out the survey. All Councillors agreed the recommendation is for the work to be carried out before June 2024 and therefore agreed to request two further quotes for consideration at the next meeting.
- 060224/45 **Bus service:** It was agreed to defer this item to the March meeting; TN is attending a meeting later in the month with the other Councils involved in the initiative to receive an update of costs and available funding if any.
- 060224/46 **Beyton Village News (BVN):** Councillors agreed to defer this item.  
**Thurston Sixth Form, Beyton site:**
- 060224/47 An email has been received from SCC's Head of Schools Infrastructure confirming If the sixth form site does return to SCC ownership they would explore other educational uses; once SCC have any confirmed plans for the site they will share the plans.
- 060224/48 A meeting with the new Principal, GJ, JW and TN will take place on 29 February 2024; all Councillors agreed to request Beyton Parish Council are included in all discussions surrounding the Beyton site.  
**Flooding:**
- 060224/49 Noting no meeting has yet been arranged with PO and after discussion it was agreed for TN to invite representatives from Thurston, Drinkstone and Hissett Parish Councils to a meeting with an engineer from Suffolk County Council and PO to understand and address the flooding issues in Beyton.
- 060224/50 **Neighbourhood Plan:** After much hard work this is now almost complete; the final stage is for the public to vote on its adoption which will happen hopefully in Spring 2024.
- 060224/51 **Parish Warden:** Councillors noted there have been no applications for this paid position and agreed to re-advertise.
- 060224/52 **Geese:** A platform and cover has been made and is in position to allow the geese to nest and self-perpetuate.

- 060224/53     **Defibrillator:** Councillors noted information on the locations of defibrilators and advice on what to do should you be with someone in cardiac arrest is to be advertised in the Beyton Village News.
- 060224/54     **Asset of Community Value (ACV):** TN confirmed the nomination form for The Bear has been submitted to the District Council and asked for further testimonies and/or supporting information to be forwarded by email before 1 March 2024. Work will now start on the nomination for The White Horse.
- 060224/55     **Correspondence:** None to note.
- 060224/56     **Any other Council business for information to be noted or to be included in a future agenda:** Review of: Internal Control Statement, Risk assessments and Policies and Procedures.
- 060224/57     Councillors noted the date of the next meeting is Tuesday 5 March 2024.
- 060224/58     The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.15pm.