

## BEYTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Councillor Graham Jones  
Clerk: Tina Newell  
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### Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 9 January 2024 In The Vestry meeting room, Beyton

**Councillors Present:** Graham Jones (Chairman) (GJ), Ann Alderton (Vice Chairman) (AA), John Clark (JC) and Kerry Mason (KM).

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

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

090124/01 Councillors Helena Harris (HH), Peggy Orsler (PO) and Jonathan Wilson tendered apologies for absence prior to the meeting.

090124/02 All Councillors accepted apologies for absence from HH, PO and JW.

090124/03 Austin Davies (District Councillor) (AD) offered apologies for absence prior to the meeting.

090124/04 **Declarations of Interest:** None received.

090124/05 **Dispensation:** Councillors noted no requests for dispensations had been received prior to or at the meeting.

090124/06 **Minutes of previous meeting:** All Councillors resolved to accept the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5 December 2023 as a true reflection of the decisions made and authorised GJ to sign the minutes (reference 051223/01-51 inclusive).

#### **Public Forum:**

090124/07 County Councillor Penny Otton's (PON) report was received prior to the meeting and is appended in full; at Council on 7 December a motion was passed for the County Council to review the frequency of drain and gully clearance in areas at risk of flooding and to work closely with District and Borough Councils, Anglian Water and the Environment Agency to help prevent future flooding. This motion was preceded by an announcement confirming an extra £1m in funding to investigate flooding incidents in the County; details of a government funded

Signed: Graham Jones

Date: 06 February 2024

scheme from DEFRA where Suffolk residents can apply for up to £5,000 to help protect their property from future flooding can be found at <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/about/flood-recovery-information-for-suffolk> with applications welcomed from January 2024; the County Council is not on target to be carbon neutral by 2030 and faces a huge budget deficit and is proposing cuts to children's services, arts and museums and Councillors locality fund by £2k; SCC are looking to increase council tax by the maximum allowed.

090124/08 PO agreed to liaise with neighbouring Parish Councils to form a Flood Resilience working group to look at the current and long-term issues with flooding in the Parish and surrounding villages.

090124/09 PO has arranged to regularly meet with the Assistant Director for Education and Learning at SCC to ensure any future development at the Thurston Sixth Form site in Beyton is known and discussed.

090124/10 All Councillors confirmed receipt of a joint report from both District Councillor's; there are more than 680 empty houses in Mid Suffolk which the District Council is keen to bring back into use - the Council already imposes a Council Tax premium on the owners of properties that are empty and unfurnished for two years or longer but under new legislation the Council would be able to target empty properties after just one year from April 2024 and impose a levy on second homeowners from April 2025. The report in full is appended to these minutes.

090124/11 There were no questions or comments from members of the public.

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

090124/12 DC/23/05839 Application for planning permission without compliance of condition(s): Application under Section 73 of The Town and Country Planning Act - Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans and Documents) of Planning Permission DC/23/03366 dated: 24/10/2023 - Erection of 1no single storey dwelling and garage.

Land At York House, The Green, Beyton, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP30 9AD

After consideration all Councillors agreed to offer **NO OBJECTION** to this application noting it is only 50 sq ft larger than the application granted.

- 090124/13 DC/23/05787 Application for works to tree(s) in a conservation area Notification of Works to Trees in a Conservation Order - Remove 2 or 3 trunks from 1 No. Willow (T1) and Fell 1No. Alder (T2)  
Field House Church Road Beyton Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP30 9AL  
After a brief discussion all Councillors resolved to offer **NO OBJECTION** to this application.  
All Councillors noted the following determinations made by the District Council relating to Beyton since the last meeting:
- 090124/14 DC/23/05410 Briar House, 1 Bear Meadow, Beyton IP30 9HS  
MSDC: No objections BPC: Support.
- 090124/15 DC/23/05277 Crossfield, Church Road, Beyton IP30 9AL  
MSDC: No objections BPC: Support
- 090124/16 Councillors noted there is £232.06 outstanding CIL, including late payment interest, for the planning application on land adjacent Guerdon Cottage.
- 090124/17 There is neighbourhood CIL of £27,091.92 outstanding on the Nursery House site; this is now accruing late payment interest and MSDC are actively pursuing this.
- Finance:**
- 090124/18 All Councillors confirmed receipt of the finance report for the period ended 31 December 2023 prior to the meeting.
- 090124/19 **Bank Reconciliation:** AA, as a non-bank signatory, confirmed the bank reconciliation as presented agrees to the bank statements with cash available of £48,349.50.; £18,209.66 in the Community account and £30,139.84 in the Premium account.
- 090124/20 **Budget to Actual:** All Councillors reviewed this report and with no questions accepted the report.
- 090124/21 **Reserves:** AA confirmed at the meeting the reserves account reconciles to the bank statements. All Councillors accepted the general reserve is 81% of the precept and in line with recommended practises.
- 090421/22 **Receipts:** Councillors noted there had not been any receipts since the last meeting.
- Payments:**

All Councillors resolved to approve the following gross payment by internet banking

	Payee	Details	£
090124/23	Tina Newell	Salary and re-imbursements inc tax refund	947.20

090124/24 Councillors considered a financial request from 'Headway Suffolk' and agreed this charity supports local people with brain injuries including strokes and neurological conditions and is very worthwhile. After a brief discussion AA proposed to support this request with a donation of £100.00. This proposal was seconded by JC with all Councillors in favour it was agreed to make a donation of £100.00.

090124/25 Councillors noted the District Council has received Beyton Parish Council's 'Precept Upon the Charging Authority' with a precept for 2024/25 of £23,357.40.

**Governance:**

090124/26 All Councillors agreed the Internal Audit Plan as presented.

090124/27 All Councillors resolved to appoint Trevor Brown as the Internal Auditor for the year ending 31 March 2024 at an estimated cost of £350.00 plus expenses.

090124/28 Councillors agreed for TN to issue a letter of appointment to Trevor Brown.

090124/29 All Councillors resolved to appoint HH to the role of officer responsible for reviewing the Internal Controls.

**The Village Green:**

090124/30 KM carried out the monthly inspection report with no new concerns; previous reports were handed to TN for filing.

090124/31 Councillors noted the tree survey has been carried out and resolved to defer considering the details to the next meeting to allow Councillors and the Tree Warden time to consider the content of the report.

090124/32 Councillors noted 'J S Wright & Sons Ltd' have approval from the Forestry Commission to remove Bat Willows from The Green; TN is waiting on text from them to inform all visitors to The Green of the impending removal and re-planting and the reasons for doing so; it is thought the removal would take place late January/early February 2024.

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

**Road Safety including Community Speed watch:**

- 090124/33 KM confirmed Community Speed watch has been suspended whilst the 20mph speed restriction is in place.
- 090124/34 GJ confirmed there has been no update following a recent site visit with an engineer from National Highways when it was agreed a request for a STOP sign at the end of the slip road off the A14 to Beyton/Thurston would be raised.
- 090124/35 **Tree Warden:** The Parish Council has received one application to fill this voluntary role and all Councillors expressed their delight and welcomed the resident to the role.
- 090124/36 **Bus service:** As there was no update all Councillors agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.
- 090124/37 **Thurston Sixth Form, Beyton site:** Councillors noted a letter confirming the Parish Councils formal interest in the site and buildings has been sent to the Head of Schools Infrastructure at Suffolk County Council.
- 090124/38 A meeting is to be arranged with the new Principal but noting her appointment only commenced last week all Councillors agreed to defer this to the next meeting; there has been no change in the future of the site since the last meeting with the then Principal and if any changes should arise the Parish Council will be informed as promised by the previous Principle.
- Flooding:**
- 090124/39 The Environment Agency confirmed they have no responsibility for any main rivers in the Parish and have declined an invitation to meet and suggested contacting Suffolk County Council as the lead local flood authority. It was agreed for GJ to speak with an independent civil engineer to consider a holistic approach to the issue of flooding and as discussed earlier in the meeting PO will arrange a working group with other local Parishes.
- 090124/40 **Neighbourhood Plan:** GJ confirmed the final modifications have been agreed and it is hoped a referendum will take place in March 2024.
- 090124/41 **Parish Warden:** Councillors noted there have been no applications for this paid position.
- 090124/42 **Geese:** Further to the death of one village goose by a direct impact from a vehicle PC Cummings reviewed the CCTV/dashcam from the bus company involved and concluded there is no evidence of any careless driving from the bus driver.

- 090124/43 It was agreed there would be a platform made for the geese to nest allowing the geese to self-perpetuate.
- 090124/44 **Defibrillator:** All Councillors agreed to defer this item noting TN is still producing a poster advising how to use the defibrillator.
- 090124/45 **Asset of Community Value (ACV):** GJ confirmed the landlord at The White Horse has been informed of the Parish Councils decision to list it as an ACV. TN has tried to make contact with the owners of The Bear without success. TN and JW will complete the applications to list these as ACV's..
- 090124/46 **Correspondence:** Councillors noted correspondence previously circulated and agreed to send the details of a fully funded Electric Vehicle Charging Point to the owners of both The Bear and The White Horse; no action was required in response to draft policies from MSDC - Sexual Entertainment and Scrap Metal; TN advertise the call for nominations for 'Creating the Greenest County' Awards from Suffolk County Council.
- 090124/47 **Any other Council business for information to be noted or to be included in a future agenda:** capital grants for new play equipment.
- 090124/48 Councillors noted the date of the next meeting is Tuesday 6 February 2024.
- 090124/49 The Chairman closed the meeting at 20.55pm.