

BEYTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Councillor Graham Jones

Clerk: Tina Newell

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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 1 October 2024

In The Vestry of All Saints Church, Beyton

Councillors Present: Graham Jones (GJ) (Chairman), Helena Harris (HH), Kerry Mason (KM), and Jonathan Wilson (JW).

Others in attendance: Tina Newell (Clerk), Penny Otton (PO) County Councillor, David Bradbury (DB) District Councillor, Harry Richardson (HR) District Councillor and seven members of the public.

Before the meeting GJ invited those in attendance to introduce themselves.

011024/01 **Apologies for absence:** Ann Alderton (AA), Peggy Orsler (PO) and John Clark (JC).

011024/02 All Councilors resolved to accept apologies from AA, PO and JC.

011024/03 **Declarations of Interest (DoI):** No declarations of interest to consider.

011024/04 **Dispensation:** Councillors noted no requests had been received and none were requested at the meeting.

011024/05 **Minutes of previous meeting:** All Councillors resolved to accept the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 2 September 2024 and as a true reflection of the decisions made and authorised GJ to sign the minutes (020924/01 – 53).

Public Forum:

011024/06 PO offered congratulations to all Councilors for their hard work in researching and finding solutions to the flooding along Thurston Road, Beyton and offered a contribution from the highways locality budget to assist in undertaking mitigation measures; a meeting with the head of Thurston Community College confirmed talks are ongoing with the Head of Education noting Stowmarket and Stowupland may lose their sixth forms as they are struggling to attract enough students; PO encouraged the sharing of the 'Solar Together Suffolk' a scheme helping residents to invest in renewable energy sources through a group-buying scheme for solar panels and battery storage (free to register at www.solartogether.co.uk/suffolk, and there is no obligation to proceed further.

- 011024/07 PO left the meeting.
- 011024/08 GJ welcome HR back to the District Council. DB apologised for the late arrival of the joint report and confirmed the new format; the proposed new waste collections are an act of legislation and not changeable – there will be an expense in new waste lorries and the additional weekly collection. The full report is attached
- 011024/09 HR confirmed two of the proposed changes were a requirement of the Environment Act 2021: increasing recycling in glass and the increase in food refuse collection from fortnightly to weekly but there is a little ‘wiggle’ room in the options available.
- 011024/10 A member of the public expressed concerns over the increase in number of bins on the streets noting the collections are unpredictable suggesting the only tangible benefit from paying Council Tax is the bin collections which are getting worse and costing a fortune.
- 011024/11 HR is meeting with the Strategic Planning Manager at the District Council to consider the site allocations due in stage 2 of the JLP noting the slight mis-alignment in a previous version.
- 011024/12 GJ re-ordered the agenda to take the CIL item next whilst HR is in attendance; Councillors received the following response from the Senior Infrastructure Officer at the District Council following receipt of the invoice sent from the Parish Council (030924/15): *‘Thank you for your email attaching an invoice which represents a demand from the Parish for payment of £32,127.32 (including late payment interest and compensation) of uncollected CIL monies for Beyton Parish Council to be paid by 1st October 2024. This matter relates to a development at Nursery House, Tostock Road, Beyton which the Council has been seeking to resolve with the CIL liable party for some time. As you have been made aware previously this case has been referred to our Shared Legal Services for formal debt recovery action to enable a Liability Order to be obtained in accordance with the CIL Regulations 2010 (as amended). The process for recovering under CIL from the relevant party is laid down in the CIL Regulations and this is the process that is being followed. The witness statement, with the supporting evidence, has been prepared and are with the Councils Shared Legal Services for reviewing prior to requesting a hearing date from the Court. A further update will be sent once the hearing date has been confirmed. As you may know, the CIL Regulations 2010 (as amended) provide no legal foundation for*

Parishes to demand their Neighbourhood CIL on uncollected CIL amounts, as payment of Neighbourhood CIL can only occur (through the legislation) where those CIL monies are collected and received. Payments to Parishes occurs twice a year by the 28th April and by the 28th October each year. As these outstanding CIL monies have not yet been collected, we are not able to pay these monies to Beyton Parish Council at this time and before the debt is collected. Your demand through your invoice is unsupported by legislation and established processes and will not be settled at this time. However, if monies are received against this debt from the debtor, we will advise you and your Neighbourhood portion would be paid in the next set of payments to Parishes (either April or October) dependant on when any debt is paid. You mention in your email that the delay in receiving the payment of Neighbourhood CIL in relation to this development is having an impact on the amenities in the Parish as they are considering using the funds to enhance the play equipment on the Green. I would like to bring your attention to the CIL Expenditure Framework which allows interested parties to bid to obtain District CIL funds to assist with projects that meet the criteria laid down in the Framework. As enhancements to play areas can be considered for District CIL (subject to the 75% of eligible project costs up to a maximum of £100,000), the Parish may wish to consider submitting a CIL Enquiry Form to discuss the project further. The next CIL Bid window opens from 1-31 October, but a CIL Enquiry Project Form can be submitted at any time to allow a conversation to start. I realise that this is not the response that you wished for, however as explained above, the Council is unable to settle the invoice that you have provided. However, we will continue to rigorously pursue the outstanding CIL via the formal debt recovery process including presentation of the case at Court should that become necessary'.

01102413 TN confirmed Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) must be spent within 5 years of receipt; if this looks to be unlikely the Parish Council should liaise with the CIL team at the District Council.

011024/14 HR noted the Parish Councils dissatisfaction at the CIL response and the time and effort being put in by both the Parish and District Council and agreed to out pressure on.

- 011024/15 A member of BEG confirmed the tree along Oak Tree Pond will be cleared as soon as weather allows.
- 011024/16 HR and DB left the meeting.
Planning: Councillor's considered the following applications made to the local District Authority relating to Beyton since the last Parish Council meeting:
- 011024/17 DC/24/04257 Conversion of outbuilding to form 1 bed holiday let including alterations as per schedule of works
 Brook Farm, Drinkstone Road, Beyton IP30 9AQ
- 011024/18 DC/24/04258 Listed building consent work to facilitate conversion of outbuilding to form 1 bed holiday let including alterations as per schedule of works
 Brook Farm, Drinkstone Road, Beyton IP30 9AQ
 After consideration, and taking into account both applications involve one property all Councilors agreed to SUPPORT both applications noting the building is not visible from the highway, there is no alteration to the exterior or form of the building and it not does impact any neighbouring properties.
- 011024/19 Councillors noted the following determination made by the District Council relating to Beyton since the last Parish Council meeting
 DC/24/03794 Glebe House, Church Road, Beyton IP30 9AL
 MSDC: NO OBJECTIONS
Finance:
- 011024/20 All Councillors noted due to the failure of the laptop, again, there was no finance report for consideration. All Councilors agreed the finances are reported on monthly and will consider these again in November.
- 011024/21 Councillors noted Barclays have not recorded receipt of the original mandate change and agreed to complete a new mandate change form adding JW removing JC; TN confirmed HH is already on internet banking and needs to telephone 0345 605 2345 to request a card and reader to access internet banking.
Governance:
- 011024/22 All Councillors received a review of the risk assessments; PAT testing whilst has not been undertaken is required, TN confirmed the Clerks continuity plan is held with GJ, all Councilors resolved to remove risks relating to COVID noting the

regulations have now changed and a link to members Register of Interests on line and frequency. With these amendments all Councilors resolved to adopt the risk assessments.

011024/23 The Deed of Covenant (DoC) relating to the Tomlin Order has been signed but not yet received back from the third party solicitor; as soon as the signed document has been received and the invoice paid the solicitor will register the restriction.

To receive updates and reports from officers and take appropriate action:

011024/24 **Road Safety:** Councilors noted there has been one new recruit following the recent advertising campaigns.

011024/25 TN has reported one damaged SID pole.

The Village Green:

011024/26 A list of non-urgent work to the play equipment has been pulled together and is waiting for quotes; RISS have been contacted regarding the pool of water mentioned in the inspection report and TN will email all Councilors draft wording for a replacement play area notice.

011024/27 It was resolved for TN to contact the manufacturer of the wooden play equipment with concern over the splitting and rotting noting it is still within the 25 year guarantee.

011024/28 There was no monthly visual inspection check and it was agreed to consider a report at the next meeting.

011024/29 GJ has sought advice on where to place the memorial plaque and it was agreed to consider this in detail at the next meeting.

011024/30 **Geese:** GJ confirmed there are three geese and after much discussion, noting the geese were mentioned as an asset in the Neighbourhood Plan, it was agreed that a decision on the future must be made after the threat of bird flu has passed. TN will seek advice on when and how to introduce new geese, price and availability.

011024/31 **Flooding:** HH spoke very positively about a recent meeting held with the land owner and contractor on a field along Thurston road resulting in the land owner offering a contribution of £1,000 towards the £3,050 cost of maintaining the ditch. If PO is not able to contribute the remaining difference (£2,050) and neither

the District Councilors can make a contribution all Councilors agreed to underwrite the £2,050 to insure the contractor D J Davidson starts work as soon as possible (early November).

- 011024/32 **Tree Survery:** Councilors confirmed receipt of a tree survey given after the last meeting from the tree warden. TN has reported trees as necessary to UK Power Networks who have logged tree trimming where needed and quotes to remove dead trees and excess ivy growth are being sourced for consideration at the next meeting.
- 011024/33 **Correspondence:** NO correspondence received that hadn't been included in the meeting.
- 011024/34 **Any other Council business for information to be noted or for inclusion in a future agenda:** Deed of Covenant, tree work, meeting with National Highways and Peter Prinsley (MP) regarding the condition of the roads (further to the A14 concrete road works), laptop claim and purchase.
- 011024/35 All Councilors noted the date of the next meeting as 5 November 2024.
- 011024/36 Councillors resolved to ask members of the public to leave for the next item.
- 011024/37 Councilors resolved to offer the position of Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to Claire an experienced Clerk working 8 hours a week on salary scale point 23 (£16.67 per hour); TN will send the offer letter and contract with a proposed start date of 7 November 2024.
- 011024/38 Councilors agreed for TN to remain employed until a successful handover is complete; TN will invoice for minimum hours worked on her current rate.
- 011024/39 A member of public re-entered the room.
- 011024/40 The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.15hrs.