

# BEYTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Councillor Graham Jones

Clerk: Tina Newell

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## Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 3 September 2024

### In The Vestry of All Saints Church, Beyton

**Councillors Present:** Graham Jones (GJ) (Chairman), Ann Alderton (AA) (Vice Chairman), John Clark (JC), 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 and four members of the public.

Prior to the meeting all present noted the resignation of Austin Davies from Mid Suffolk District Council. Graham Jones thanked Austin for his time and help to Beyton Parish Council whilst in post particularly with the recent flooding issues.

030924/01 **Apologies for absence:** None received.

030924/02 **Declarations of Interest (DoI):** No declarations of interest to consider.

030924/03 **Dispensation:** Councillors noted no requests had been received and none were requested at the meeting.

030924/04 **Minutes of previous meeting:** All Councillors resolved to accept the minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 9 April and 2 July 2024 and as a true reflection of the decisions made and authorised GJ to sign the minutes.

#### **Public Forum:**

030924/05 PO highlighted details from her report, the full copy of which is appended to these minutes; a recent inspection report for Suffolk County Council's social care services for children was published and concluded the service 'requires improvement to be good' when previously the service was rated as 'outstanding' - the remarks that leaders do not have 'sufficient grip' on all the services provided are especially worrying; PO confirmed there will be some money available to assist with mitigating future flooding but a formal quote is required before any application for funding can be applied for; regular meetings with the new head of education are taking place therefore PO will be informed of the current situation and any updates at Thurston Sixth form; residents of Suffolk can come together to invest in renewable energy sources through a group-buying scheme for solar

Signed: *Graham Jones*

Dated: *01 October 2024*

panels and battery storage which is aimed at helping homeowners feel confident that they are paying the right price for a high-quality installation from qualified installers and it is free to register at [www.solartogether.co.uk/suffolk](http://www.solartogether.co.uk/suffolk). PO also highlighted there may be changes to the recycling waste collections and to look out for more information next week.

030924/06 DB confirmed he has much paperwork relating to the recent work undertaken by the former District Councillor and agreed to pass this to the new District Councillor once appointed.

030924/07 A member of the public expressed concerns over the conditions of road in the village suggesting these should be repaired before the winter; the same resident also highlighted the poor way in which the District Council deal with the repair of pot holes.

030924/08 PO agreed to arrange a meeting with Suffolk Highways to discuss the condition of the roads and repairs that are required subsequent to the additional traffic due to the A14 concrete road works. TN agreed to make contact with National Highways and the local Member of Parliament asking them to attend the meeting noting National Highways had agreed to consider funding these repairs.

030924/09 In accordance with Standing Order 1a the Chairman changed the order of the agenda to allow for DB's involvement in the issue to be discussed.

030924/10 **Flooding:** GJ confirmed the issue is Beyton has too much water entering the village which is not being cleared quickly enough further down stream. On walking the route recently with an independent civil engineer confirmation the culverts under The Green, the A14, the Planche road and Pepper lane are all clear was noted. Suffolk Highways have agreed to maintain the ditch from the end of the Green to the A14 in the Autumn, the land on the other side of the A14 is owned privately and the land owner has agreed to maintain his ditches; the next field along and the last of concern to Beyton Parish Council, currently known as 'the field of dreams', is privately owned and the owner has given consent to extending the holding ponds if required and to contribute towards the cost of £3,050 to maintain the ditches along this field. The Flood and WaterLead at Suffolk County Council (SCC) has confirmed the work as proposed does not require any formal consent from SCC (the lead local flood authority) as what has been proposed is reinstating the water courses to there optimal condition.

Councillors noted their disappointment with the lack of support from Thurston Parish Council (TPC) since being included in discussions since March 2024. It was agreed to consider asking for grants from the District and County Councillors locality fund and a contribution from TPC once the land owner has confirmed his contribution. It was agreed to carry out this remedial work prior to continuing additional work with the independent civil engineer.

- 030924/11 TN has asked for a schedule of when gulleys and culverts are being maintained and dependant on the response a review of the frequency may be requested.
- 030924/12 A member of the public voiced concern regarding the number of commercial advertising boards in the village.
- 030924/13 **Planning:** Councillor's noted there are no planning applications relating to Beyton to consider since the last Parish Council meeting.
- 030924/14 Councillors noted the following determination made by the District Council relating to Beyton since the last Parish Council meeting  
DC/24/02667 Pinellas, The Green, Beyton IP30 9AD  
MSDC: GRANTED BPC: Supported
- 030924/15 Councillors noted the response from a Debt Recovery & Monitoring Support Officer at the District Council when chased for an update on the outstanding CIL liability: "at this time, the documents to obtain a Liability Order remain with our legal department for review. Although I do recognise you had wished for further information for this evening's parish meeting, I can assure this matter has not been forgotten about. I am unfortunately unable to provide anything further, please rest assured as soon as there is an update I will be in contact". After consideration it was agreed TN will raise an invoice for the full amount outstanding plus any late interest charges and send this to the CIL team copying in the Director for planning in the hope this will prompt them into quicker action noting the importance this money will have on the recreational facilities in the village that cannot be considered further until the money is available.
- 030924/16 All Councillors agreed there was no requirement to make comment on the Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils Joint Local Plan Part 2 Development Plan Document Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report and the Proposed Approach to the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment noting the

adopted Neighbourhood Plan should offer the village some safety from prospective allocations.

**Finance:**

030924/17 All Councillors confirmed receipt of the finance report for the period ended 26 August 2024 prior to the meeting.

030924/18 **Bank Reconciliation:** AA as a non-bank signatory confirmed the bank reconciliation for the period ended 26 August 2024 as presented agrees to the bank statements with cash available of £53,254.18; £22,888.48 in the Community account and £30,365.70 in the Premium account.

030924/19 **Budget to Actual:** All Councillors noted the actual spend to date is £5,924.93 against a budget of £23,357.40 and agreed the large portion of payment are yet to be made (clerks salary, green maintenance).

030924/20 **Reserves:** All Councillors agreed with the reserves allocation and accepted the general reserves are 83% of the precept and where they are expected to be at this time in the year. Councillors noted £13k of reserves is from CIL receipts and only allowed to be spent on specific infrastructure projects.

030924/21 **Receipts:** Councillors noted there have been no receipts since the last meeting but TN confirmed the remaining 50% of the precept (£11,678.70) is due within the next few days.

030924/22 **Payments:** All Councillors noted no payments had been made since the last meeting.

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	£
030924/23	Tina Newell	Salary, re-imburements and tax refund	1,567.98
030924/24	Elmswell Parish Council	Bus service	451.20
030924/25	Westcotec	Replacement battery for SID	Tbc
030924/26	Community Heartbeat Trust	Replacement pads for defibrillator	329.40

030924/27 Changes to the bank mandate to add JW and HH are still on going.

030924/28 All Councillors resolved to accept the valuation of all land including the recent purchase of land known as The Green at a nominal value of £1.00.

- 030924/29 After discussion all Councillors agreed to donate £150.00 to 'Anglia Wildfowl & Poultry' in recognition of the recent work and commitment shown to one of the geese whom sadly passed away.
- 030924/30 All Councillors noted the attendance of a volunteer who undertook training on CPR and use of the defibrillator at the recent village show and resolved to donate £100 to the WiSH charity at West Suffolk Hospital as a thank you (noting the trainer did not wish to accept any form of payment).

**Governance:**

- 030924/31 All Councillors agreed to re-adopt the Code of Conduct.
- 030924/32 All Councillors resolved to re-adopt the Standing Orders noting there had been no amendments.
- 030924/33 Councillors agreed to defer the review of the risk assessments to the October meeting noting they were last reviewed
- 030924/34 Councillors noted a Deed of Covenant was issued by solicitors further to the discovery of a Tomlin Order on land and resolved to allow the Chairman and Clerk make further decisions as necessary outside of a meeting in accordance with Financial Regulation 4.5.
- 030924/35 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. All Councillors noted the external audit has been completed with no further action.
- 030924/36 TN has prepared and published a 'Notice of conclusion of audit' along with sections 1-3 of the concluded audit.

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

- 030924/37 **Bus service:** All Councillors agreed to continue with the twice weekly bus service from Beyton, Thurston, Elmswell and Woolpit noting there would be no cost to the Parish Council from 1 June 2024 due to a £6k grant which will cover all of the running costs from 1st June this year and again for 12 months next year.
- 030924/38 **Road Safety:** A resident expressed concerns over the lack of volunteers on the Community Speed Watch team and the jeopardy this places on its future. It was agreed to advertise the scheme and a call for volunteers in the local Parish and Church magazines.

- 030924/39 **Beyton Sixth Form:** Due to the summer holiday there has been no meeting and no update.
- The Village Green:**
- 030924/40 TN apologised that a schedule is still being pulled together for works further and a contractor being sought.
- 030924/41 TN confirmed she has been unable to source pegs for the goal nets to date but will continue to search for a supplier.
- 030924/42 Councillors agreed to defer the decision on how to protect The Green from further erosion noting careful consideration must be taken to ensure The Green can still be enjoyed by all.
- 030924/43 **Geese:** After much discussion it was agreed that a decision on the future of geese in the village must be made by the residents and agreed to further consider how this is approached at the next meeting.
- 030924/44 **Community engagement:** All Councillors agreed the wet weather impacted the attendance at the fayre and despite best efforts very few people attended the Parish Council stand.
- 030924/45 **Litter Pick:** All Councillor agreed for the Autumn village litter pick to take place on Saturday 19 October 2024; GJ will contact The Bear for refreshments after.
- 030924/46 **Asset of Community Value:** Councillors noted the application to list The White Horse as an Asset of Community Value has been submitted and now to wait for the outcome.
- 030924/47 **Correspondence:** none to note that hadn't been included in the meeting.
- 030924/48 **Any other Council business for information to be noted or for inclusion in a future agenda:** commemorative plaque, informal tree survey.
- 030924/49 Councillors resolved to allow members of the public to stay for the next item.
- 030924/50 Councillors noted the Clerks reluctant resignation and agreed to advertise the position at 8 hours a week on salary scale point 18-23 dependant on experience. It was agreed to advertise with a closing date of 30 September 2024 after which time interviews will take place.
- 030924/51 TN agreed to be a temporary Clerk until a new Clerk is appointed (allowing for a reasonable time for the new appointment) and agreed to monitor emails and produce financial reports for meetings charging only for hours worked.

030924/52 All Councillors noted the date of the next scheduled meeting as Tuesday 1 October 2024.

030924/53 The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.35hrs.