

BEYTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Councillor Graham Jones

Clerk: Claire Usher

5 Sand Martin Way

Needham Market IP6 8FH

parishclerk@beyton.suffolk.gov.uk

07881 724924

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 4 November 2024

In The Vestry of All Saints Church, Beyton

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

Others in attendance: Claire Usher (Clerk), Penny Otton (PO) and three members of the public.

041124/01 **Apologies for absence:** Ann Alderton (AA), Kerry Mason (KM) and District Councillors David Bradbury (DB) and Harry Richardson (HR)

041124/02 All Councilors resolved to accept apologies from AA, KM, DB and HR.

041124/03 **Declarations of Interest (DoI):** JW declared a pecuniary interest in the planning application DC/24/04546.

041124/04 **Dispensation:** Councillors noted no requests had been received and none were requested at the meeting.

041124/05 **Minutes of previous meeting:** All Councillors resolved to accept the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1 October 2024 and as a true reflection of the decisions made and authorised GJ to sign the minutes (011024/01 – 40).

Public Forum:

041124/06 PO advised that SCC had published a flooding report that included a list of villages that will be supported financially but Beyton had not been included in this list; there is currently a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) survey. This is a statutory review that happens every three years to assess current services and identify any areas where improvements may be needed and she would circulate this to Councillors; a meeting with the head of Thurston Community College would take place in the new year, a CIL bid had been received for extension works to the school but it was unclear if these improvements would commence before the new build was considered; the contract for the provision of library services was due to be

announced. GJ reported that the pot holes in the village had been repaired by SCC and that the work had been done to a high standard. GJ advised that the work to the Field of Dreams had started and would finish at the end of the week. Clerk to check the current position with the Deed of Covenant. A member of the public asked PO if there was any funding available for tree planting in the village. PO to investigate.

- 041124/07 PO left the meeting.
- 041124/08 DB report had been circulated prior to the meeting.
- 041124/09 HR report had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Clerk would ask for an update on the outstanding CIL liability.
- 041124/10 A member of the public expressed concerns as to how untidy the village green appeared, advertising signs on the green, rubbish being left for collection that had not been collected from the village litter pick, the wildflower area was untidy and the ditch appeared overgrown. It was agreed that JW would approach the two businesses whose signs were on the green to request that these be removed. All future signs needed approval from the Parish Council. It was agreed that the wildflower area and the ditch were being managed in the correct way. The member of public also raised concern that the Difib had been missing from the telephone box. GJ explained that it had been removed for maintenance and a new battery. This had now been placed back in the phone box. The correct procedure had been followed, but if in the future this needed to be removed again then this will be notified on social media so that villagers were aware that it had gone for maintenance.
- 041124/11 **Planning:** Councillor's considered the following application made to the local District Authority relating to Beyton since the last Parish Council meeting:
- 041124/12 DC/24/04546 – Application for Works to a Tree in the Conservation Area (T1) Horse Chestnut – Prune back al foliage overhanging fence line – Manor House, The Green, IP30 9AF – As there was no discussion JW did not leave the meeting. Councillors SUPPORTED the application.
- 041124/13 Councillors noted there were no planning decisions relating to Beyton since the last Parish Council meeting.

Finance:

- 041124/14 All Councillors confirmed receipt of the finance report for the period ended 30 September prior to the meeting.
- 041124/21 **Bank Reconciliation:** Councillors agreed that the reconciliation for the period ended 30 September 2024 as presented agrees to the bank statements with cash available of £62,509.75; £32,030.49 in the Community account and £30,479.26 in the Premium account.
- 041124/22 **Budget to Actual:** All Councillors noted the actual spend to August 2024 is £5,895.77 against a budget of £23,357.40. During the transition of Parish Clerks some data still needed to be added to the Actual Spend for September and October. The updated accounts will be forwarded to Councillors.
- 041124/23 **Reserves:** Councillors noted the reserves report.
- 041124/24 **Receipts:** Councillors noted there have been no receipts since the last meeting.
- 041124/25 **Payments:** All Councillors noted that a payment had been made to Thurston College for room hire for £45.00 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	£
041124/26	Amazi Consulting	Site Visit and Advice	448.03
041124/27	Thurston CC	Room Hire	45.00
041124/28	Precision	Beyton News x 2	464.00
041124/29	Graham Jones	Expenses Oct 24	228.34
041124/30	Graham Jones	Reimbursement for Defib and Pads to Community Heartbeat	396.10
041124/31	Claire Usher	Reimbursement for Laptop	538.98
041124/32	Claire Usher	Clerks Wages	442.68
041124/33	Tina Newell	Back Pay Following Pay Increase by NALC	141.12

041124/34	Gadd Brothers	Removal of Pine Tree	1680.00
041124/35	A C Rollett	Ditch Clearance	180.00
041124/36	HMRC	PAYE	110.60
041124/37	T Crighton	Grass Cutting	TBC
041124/38	CSW	Speed Indicator Device	TBC

041124/39 GJ advised Councillors that the bank mandate was still to be agreed with Barclays, in the meantime it was agreed to forward all payments to be made to the former Clerk, Tina Newell to set up the payments via internet banking with GJ approving them.

041124/40 **1st Draft Budget 2025/26**

CU had prepared the 1st draft budget for Councillors to consider. With a slight increase to each budget heading and to follow inflation the figures currently showed that an increase in the Precept may not be required. With CU needing to clarify the figures in the actual and variance headings, Councillors agreed the budget for 2025/26 in principle. Updated budget figures to be circulated to Councillors with the final approval at the January meeting.

041124/41 Councillors noted that the insurance claim for the laptop had been successful and the new laptop purchased.

041124/42 Councillors noted the increase in the Clerks salary agreed by NALC and back dated to April 2024.

Governance:

041124/43 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. CU to chase with Solicitor.

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

041124/44 **Road Safety:** Councillors noted that there was no update at this meeting.

041124/45 **The Village Green:**

KM had undertaken a visual check of the play equipment and all seemed satisfactory but reported that the football net still required pegging down. GJ had purchased some pegs but these had not been strong enough and would try to source some more. The installation of the memorial plaque would take place when an event was

planned for the village green in the spring/summer 2025, having already agreed the wording. GJ and CU would investigate the pool of water which had been mentioned in play inspection report. CU to see at what stage the former Clerk had got with the wood play manufacturer.

- 041124/46 **Geese:** It was agreed that a decision on the purchase of further geese must be made after the threat of bird flu had passed. CU will seek advice on when and how to introduce new geese, price and availability in the Spring.
- 041124/47 **Flooding:** GJ reported that a quotation had been received from Amazi Consulting to carry out a flood survey for the village at a cost of £450.00 + VAT. It was agreed to accept the quotation. CU to contact Amazi Consulting.
- 041124/48 **Tree Survey:** GJ confirmed that the Pine tree had been removed. GJ had also been contacted by UK Power Networks who were going to carry out tree reduction in the village.
- 041124/49 **Correspondence:** No correspondence received that hadn't been included in the meeting.
- 041124/50 **Any other Council business for information to be noted or for inclusion in a future agenda:** Deed of Covenant, tree work, CIL Liability and Budget 2025/26.
- 041124/51 All Councillors noted the date of the next meeting as 7th January 2025
- 041124/52 The Chairman closed the meeting at 20.45hrs.