

BEYTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Councillor Graham Jones

Clerk: Claire Usher

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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 7 January 2025

In The Vestry of All Saints Church, Beyton

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

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

070125/01 **Apologies for absence:** District Councillor Harry Richardson (HR)

070125/02 All Councillors resolved to accept apologies from HR.

070125/03 **Declarations of Interest (DoI):** No interests were declared.

070125/04 **Dispensation:** Councillors noted no requests had been received and none were requested at the meeting.

070125/05 **Minutes of previous meeting:** All Councillors resolved to accept the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4 November and 18th November 2024 and as a true reflection of the decisions made and authorised GJ to sign the minutes.

Public Forum:

070125/06 PO advised that the Government had published a white paper outlining the approach they wish to see in reforming local government, including the abolition of district councils. Elected mayors and large (500,000) unitary authorities are the goal for the largest local government reform since 1972, when the two (three including parish councils) tier local governance structure was introduced. A special meeting of the full council is to be held on 9th January specifically to discuss the Devolution proposals. Although a vote will be taken the decision will be made at the Cabinet meeting following this meeting. A decision whether to postpone the SCC elections will be made by the government minister.

070125/07 DB report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

070125/08 HR report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

070125/09 Councillors welcomed Sam Stonehouse, of Evolution Town Planning Ltd who was attending the meeting as a representative for David Miller regarding Marl Cottage

and the installation of a cart lodge on his land. He circulated some plans for Councillors to consider. JW explained to the meeting that the Parish Council had received a number of planning applications regarding this site, of which a previous application had been approved by Mid Suffolk District Council. The new proposal would place the building outside of the settlement boundary and following a huge amount of work to define this line through the neighbourhood plan process this new proposal would be outside of the planning boundary. GJ felt that if Councillors looked upon this favourably it may set a precedent that further buildings in the village could also be built outside of the settlement boundary. Mr Stonehouse would pass the Councillors comments back to Mr Miller.

A member of the public questioned the response to two emails he had sent to the Parish Clerk and that the password to the village website needed to be updated for the new Parish Clerk, to maintain security.

070125/10 **Planning:** Councillor's considered the following application made to the local District Authority relating to Beyton since the last Parish Council meeting:

070125/11 DC/24/05456– Application for approval of Reserved Matters following approval of Outline Planning Permission DC/21/04987 dated 18/08/2023 Town and Country Planning (Development Planning Procedure) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) details for the Appearance, landscaping, layout and scale of the proposed development of 14no. dwellings (including 5No. affordable) – Land on the South Side of Bury Road - Councillors supported the application but still had concerns regarding the discharge of surface water from the site and the capability of the ditch system to cope with this increase in water.

070125/12 Councillors noted the planning decisions relating to Beyton since the last Parish Council meeting.

Finance:

070125/13 All Councillors confirmed receipt of the finance report for the period ended 30 November 2024 prior to the meeting.

070125/14 **Bank Reconciliation:** Councillors agreed that the reconciliation for the period ended 30 November 2024 as presented agrees to the bank statements with cash available of

£53,302.90; £22,823.64 in the Community account and £30,479.26 in the Premium account.

070125/15 **Budget to Actual:** All Councillors noted the actual spend to December 2024 is £19,297.36 against a budget of £23,357.40.

070125/16 **Reserves:** Councillors noted the reserves report.

070125/17 **Receipts:** Councillors noted there have been no receipts since the last meeting.

070125/18 **Payments:** 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	£
090125/19	T C Forestry	Grass Cutting	1615.00
090125/20	Beyton PCC	Vestry Hire	180.00
090125/21	Precision	Beyton News	232.00
090125/22	Claire Usher	Haras Fencing	584.62
090125/23	MSDC	Play Inspections	127.56
090125/24	MSDC	Dog Bin Emptying	866.50
090125/25	A C Rollett	Ground Clearance	789.37
090125/26	Claire Usher	Clerks Wages	442.68
090125/27	HMRC	PAYE	110.60
090125/28	Claire Usher	Clerks Expenses	39.99

070125/29 The Clerk advised Councillors that the following payments had been during December 2024 following authorisation, PKF Littlejohn LLP £252.00, Gudgeons Prentice £620.00, DJ Davison & Sons £3660.00, HMRC £110.60 and Claire Usher £442.68.

070125/30 **Budget 2025/26** After some discussion and after reviewing each expense line in turn all Councillors agreed to set the budget for 2025/26 at £23,824.55 All Councillors noted the tax base from which the precept is calculated will increase by 1.4% to 319.26. Noting there were no questions or comments from members of the public AA proposed to request £23,824.55, a 2% increase as the Parish Councils precept from

the District authority. This proposal was seconded by HH with all Councillors in agreement GJ and CU signed the 'Precept Upon Charging Authority' form.

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

- 070125/31 **Road Safety:** Councillors noted that there was no update at this meeting.
- 070125/32 **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 to investigate what products are available.
- 070125/33 **Geese:** Following the Government's notification that all birds must be housed during December, the geese on the Green had been successful housed on a piece of land close to the Green. Fencing had been hired and a poly tunnel had been secured, these birds were now in their temporary home. A rota had been put in place with Councillors to feed and water the geese regularly. The Chairman thanked HH and JC for their assistance. CU confirmed that the temporary fencing had been hired for 8 weeks, but felt this would be needed for a much longer period. Councillors would consider other ways to fence the geese to help with the costs of hire.
- 070125/34 **Flooding:** GJ reported that the field north of the A14, the ditches had been cleared and this work had been carried out to a high standard, but there was still a section of about 150m that needed clearing. This small area was believed to be the responsibility of Highways England. Councillors felt that consideration should be given to this section being cleared by a local contractor. This item to be referred to the next meeting for discussion. GJ reported that Amazi would be happy to map the areas of water flow through the village as agreed at the November meeting.
- 070125/35 **Correspondence:** Correspondence received that hadn't been included in the meeting.
- a. March House, The Green – the resident was looking to infill a large pond in the garden which will involve a small drain at the base of the pond, to ensure water does not accumulate in the area, but a pipe would need to be installed that would cross parish council land and therefore he was seeking permission from the Parish Council. Councillors could see no problem with this proposal.
 - b. Marl Cottage- Cart Lodge – this item was discussed at the beginning of the meeting.

- c. The installation of a 20 mph speed limit in the village – CU reported that she had received an email from a resident asking for a 20 mph speed limit to be installed in the village, which had been in place when the A14 road improvements were being carried out. Councillors agreed that this should be investigated and asked CU to contact SCC Highways and the village speedwatch team.

070125/36 **Any other Council business for information to be noted or for inclusion in a future agenda:** Geese fencing and Flooding

070125/37 All Councillors noted the date of the next meeting as 4th February 2025

070125/38 The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15pm.

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