

# BEYTON PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting of Beyton Parish held on

Tuesday 7 May 2024 in Thurston Sixth Form, Beyton Campus, Beyton.

**Present:** Graham Jones (GJ) (Chairman), Tina Newell (TN) (Parish Clerk) and twelve members of the public.

7524/01 Graham Jones as Chairman of the Parish Council welcomed everyone to the meeting.

7524/02 **Apologies:** Beyton and Hessett Village Hall committee offered apologies prior to the meeting and submitted a report that is appended in full to these minutes.

7524/03 **Minutes of the last meeting:** The minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 9 May 2023 were approved by all present and GJ, as Chairman of the meeting was authorised to sign these as an accurate record of the business conducted (minute reference 9523/01 to 14 inclusive)

**Reports from various village organisations were heard and where available will be appended to these minutes:**

7524/04 **Beyton Village Association (BV):** Anselm Gurney as Chairman of the group spoke about the many successful events which were held including a street party and firework evening to mark The King's Coronation; the annual summer fayre concluding with the ever popular egg throwing event; Carols on the Green in December concluded with mulled wine and mince pies kindly provided by a local hostelry and the recent quiz night saw a record entry of 21 teams.

7524/05 **Beyton Environment Group (BEG):** All present were reminded of the areas in the village the group manage namely Oak Tree Pond, the Churchyard and the Orchard. The poor weather this year had a significant impact on the group's activities however Oak Tree Pond regained its status with much work carried

out to clear it and its surrounding area. Whilst current projects include monitoring wildlife and managing sites the group are encouraging residents to leave areas for wildlife. A future challenge identified is to protect and develop the Orchard; this was used formerly to teach students horticulture and with the future of the sixth form site unknown all present agreed this is a project that must be supported.

7524/06 **Thurston Community College:** The College celebrated it's Golden Jubilee this year and invited some original former students back. The Sixth form has been on the site for 10 years and whilst its future has sparked many rumours the principal is keen to continue developing links with local groups and the community. The full report is appended to these minutes.

7524/07 **Austin Davies District Councillor:** In May the District Council invested £2m in 'Cosy Homes' a grant to help residents reduce heating costs; Gateway 14 in Stowmarket has created over 1600 jobs- with two more companies setting up on this site soon will result in the District Council covering all initial costs; the 2% increase in the District Councils portion of Council tax means residents pay an increase of £3.50 per year for all the services they offer; the District Councils commercial real estate company CIFCO Capital Ltd is generating income in excess of £1m a year and finally David Bradbury, District Councillor has set up a rail partnership.

7524/08 **All Saints Church, Beyton:** The Rev'd Canon Julia Lall introduced herself as the new Rector to Beyton and confirmed her desire to work with the already dedicated team to keep the church sustainable and secure for the future; to strengthen links with the parish and community and form a strategic development plan.

7524/09 **Penny Otton County Councillor:** Suffolk's total rainfall during October 2023 was 117.9mm (4.5in) which the Met Office reported as being 90% more than the average expected rainfall for the month; the drainage systems in the county were unable to cope with the volume of water and Suffolk County Council have committed an extra £1m for flood investigations. It is likely devolution will happen in 2025, this is when the government agrees a deal which gives the local Council more freedom to make local decisions in areas

such as transport and adult education. There is a consultation being held about the deal right now, and you can find out more about it and fill out the survey here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/devolution>.

The full report is appended to these minutes.

- 7524/10 **Parish Council Chairman's report:** Graham Jones highlighted the Parish Council's key achievements in the year were the purchase of The Green, the adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan (after six years of hard work), the revitalisation of the village pond and listing The Bear Public House as an Asset of Community Value. Future plans include mitigating the risk of flooding in the Parish, addressing repairs to the local roads following the ongoing works on the A14 and taking a proactive approach to the future of Thurston Community College Sixth form site Beyton.
- 7524/11 **Hessett and Beyton Village Hall:** A report received prior to the meeting is appended to these minutes.
- 7524/12 **Members of the public:** Julia Lall asked to whom the Millennium notice board in the churchyard belonged to.
- 7524/13 **Date of the next meeting:** It was agreed to hold the next Annual Parish on Tuesday 6 May 2025.
- 7524/14 The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.