

# BEYTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Councillor Graham Jones

Clerk: Claire Usher

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## Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025

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

**Councillors Present:** Graham Jones (GJ) (Chairman), Ann Alderton (AA), John Clark (JC) and Helen Preston (HP)

**Others in attendance:** Claire Usher (Clerk), County Councillor Penny Otton (PO), District Councillor Harry Richardson (HR) and two members of the public.

041125/01     **Apologies for absence:** Helena Harris (HH) and Jonathan Wilson (JW)

041125/02     All Councillors resolved to accept the apology.

041125/03     **Declarations of Interest (DoI):** No interests were declared.

041125/04     **Dispensation:** Councillors noted no requests had been received and none were requested at the meeting.

041125/05     **Minutes of previous meeting:** All Councillors resolved to accept the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2025 as a true reflection of the decisions made and authorised GJ to sign the minutes.

#### **Public Forum:**

041125/06     County Councillor Report – PO provided the Parish Council with information regarding the situation with works being carried out by Citifibre from Suffolk Highways.

GJ informed PO and Councillors that following a number of emails to Citifibre, both by JW and the Clerk, a meeting had been arranged with a representative from Citifibre. This took place on Monday with GJ and JW on The Green. It is very clear that Citifibre have dug on The Green and installed a green cabinet on our privately owned land, without the consent of the Parish Council. Citifibre have taken responsibility for this and they have proposed to move their green cabinet 50 feet to be placed on Suffolk County Council Highways land or they are happy to plant bulbs and flowers to rectify their oversight. It was agreed that to move the cabinet would make it more unsightly and that Councillors should consider what measures the Parish Council could insist on to rectify this.

During the discussions regarding The Green, there are two older green cabinets on The Green which were there when the land was purchased by the Council. The Clerk to ascertain what information the Parish Council received regarding the cabinets at that time.

PO also informed the Council that a meeting had been arranged with the Department of Education at the Sixth Form College tomorrow evening if anyone wished to attend. Unfortunately, PO only learnt of this meeting today. It was agreed that the GP and HP attend the meeting.

District Councillor Report - HR reported on the Call for Sites. The station access at Thurston station was at the assessment stage of a long process, to either reopen the tunnel or to install a small footbridge. The Government may fund some of this project and MSDC were waiting for confirmation of this so that the exploratory work could commence.

A member of the public expressed his unhappiness that some travel reports on the radio referred to Beyton Green as a separate village from Beyton. It was felt that this may be the responsibility of Ordnance Survey.

041125/07

### **Neighbourhood Plan**

GJ reported that following Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan Call for Sites 2025 and the draft Five-Year Housing Land Supply Position Statements the Parish Council's concerns that the existing Neighbourhood Plan was not being used to highlight parcels of land for development by planners, GJ had therefore contacted Ian Poole who had assisted the Parish Council on the original Neighbourhood Plan to ask his opinion whether the Plan needs to be revised. It was felt that the plan needs to be revised. GJ had asked Ian Poole to provide a quotation for assisting the Parish Council with producing a revised Neighbourhood Plan. The quote was for a total of £8040.00 but these costs would be split over 2 / 3 years, as a revision could take some time.

HR believed this was the correct decision to make. Neighbourhood Plan's do have a shelf life and it was recommended to revise these documents every 5 – 7 years. Some other villages were looking to produce revised Neighbourhood Plans. He reported that MSDC were looking to make available a fund to support the review of plans by Parish Councils following the government's withdrawal of funds to support Neighbourhood Plans.

041125/08

### **Planning:**

- a. DC/25/04693 Works to Trees in the Conservation Area– Eucalyptus tree – pollard leaving tree approximately 7 metres above ground level – The Old Mill, The Green – Councillors supported this application.
- b. Councillors noted the decisions made by MSDC.
- c. Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan Call for Sites 2025 and Babergh and Mid Suffolk Draft Five-Year Housing Land Supply Position Statements – This was discussed as part of the item, Neighbourhood Plan.

### **Finance:**

041125/09

All Councillors confirmed receipt of the finance report for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025 prior to the meeting.

041125/10 **Bank Reconciliation:** Councillors agreed that the reconciliation for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025 as presented agrees to the bank statements with cash available of £73,367.99; £42,462.31 in the Community account and £30,905.68 in the Premium account. It was agreed to move £10,000 from the Community Account to the Premium Account.

041125/11 **Budget to Actual:** All Councillors noted the actual spend to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025 is £15,138.47 against a budget of £23,842.54.

041125/12 **Receipts:** Councillors noted that there were no receipts this month.

041125/13 **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	£
041125/14	Claire Usher	Clerks Wages	607.24
041125/15	HMRC	PAYE	151.80
041125/16	Precision Marketing	BVN	232.00
041125/17	Graham Jones	Expenses	237.48

041125/18 **1<sup>st</sup> Draft Budget 2026/27** – Councillors had received the 1<sup>st</sup> draft budget and felt it looked promising but would like to see some of the budget headings joined together so there were fewer lines on the ledger. The Clerk would make the amendments and produce a final budget to the January meeting including the Precept request for 2026/27.

041125/19 It was agreed to accept the quotation received from Ian Poole, Places4People, in connection with the Neighbourhood Plan. The Clerk to obtain funds from MSDC if and when they became available, otherwise the monies would come from the Council's reserves, rather than increase the precept to meet these costs, especially as these costs may be spread over two financial years.

041125/20 **Outstanding Actions:** Councillors noted the report. White Lines, The Green – Councillors noted that Suffolk County Council Highways had agreed to install new road markings at this junction.

Playdale – The Clerk had received a quote and Playdale are happy to replace the wooden pole free of charge. The fixing kit, delivery and installation would be £468.58. All Councillors were happy to accept this quote.

Community Engagement Plan – GJ reported that he was still working on this document.

- 041125/21 **The Village Green:** The Clerk reported that Defra’s latest situation was that flocks of birds of over 50 now needed to be housed. GJ had approached the owners of land that was used last time and they were happy for this arrangement to continue for this winter in anticipation of all birds needing to be housed. HH was also happy to assist with feeding of the geese.
- 041125/22 **Safeguarding Policy:** The policy had been written by HH and circulated to Councillors earlier this evening and it was felt this was not sufficient time to read the document. This will be included on the January agenda.
- 041125/23 **Highways:** The Clerk confirmed that two issues had been reported to Suffolk County Highways, firstly, the direction sign close to the White Horse public house was missing an arm and one arm had moved 90 degrees so pointing in the wrong direction and secondly, the One-Way sign was missing along the edge of The Green. GJ reported that a resident had asked if a raised plinth could be installed at the T junction where the proposed new white lines were due to be installed. This would enable vehicles to slow down at the junction but for larger vehicles to mount the plinth if needed. The Clerk to report to Suffolk Highways.
- 041125/24 **Correspondence:** The Clerk had received correspondence from the Community Policing Team who would like to hold a pop-up event in Beyton on the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2026, to be able to talk to residents and answer questions. To be held on The Green. Councillors had no problems with them being on The Green. The Clerk to offer other suitable venues.
- 041125/25 **Any other Council business for information to be noted or for inclusion in a future agenda:** None
- 041125/26 All Councillors noted that the next meeting will be on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026 to be held at The Vestry.
- 041125/27 The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30pm.