

BEYTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Councillor Graham Jones

Clerk: Claire Usher

5 Sand Martin Way

Needham Market IP6 8FH

parishclerk@beyton-pc.gov.uk

07881 724924

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 7th April 2026

In The Vestry of All Saints Church, Beyton

Councillors Present: Graham Jones (GJ) (Chairman), Ann Alderton (AA), John Clark (JC), Helena Harris (HH), Helen Preston (HP) and Jonathan Wilson (JW)

Others in attendance: Claire Usher (Clerk) and 7 members of the public.

070426/01 **Apologies for absence:** None

070426/02 **Declarations of Interest (DoI):** No interests were declared.

070426/03 **Dispensation:** Councillors noted no requests had been received and none were requested at the meeting.

070426/04 **Minutes of previous meeting:** All Councillors resolved to accept the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3rd February 2026 as a true reflection of the decisions made and authorised GJ to sign the minutes.

Public Forum:

070426/05 County Councillor Report – The Chairman reported that Penny’s report had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Chairman reported that Penny is retiring as a County Councillor, and thanked her on behalf of the Parish Council for all her support and advice and she will be missed. He presented Penny with flowers from all the members of the Parish Council and the Clerk.

District Councillor Report – Harry Richardson (HR) reported that following the decision of the Government that in 2028 there will be 3 Councils across Suffolk. Beyton Parish will fall under the new West Suffolk Council as will other villages that are currently under Babergh/Mid Suffolk Council. Work has already commenced with Officers and Councillors to harmonise areas between Babergh/Mid Suffolk Council and the current West Suffolk Council especially concerning Council Tax, CIL monies and refuse collections. CIL monies will change as the existing West Suffolk Council does not operate CIL monies and the Council tax rates are different. The current Babergh/Mid Suffolk Council Local Plan Update has been paused, so the only plans in place are the Neighbourhood Plans when it comes to planning applications.

HR also informed the Parish Council that he had received his annual locality budget and if the Parish Council needed any assistance to let him know.

A member of public was concerned about the speeding in the village especially along Tostock Road and the safety of the geese from speeding vehicles and the number of potholes in Tostock Road. It was asked if the Parish Council could install warning signs about the geese. The Chairman reported that this exercise had already been

considered in the past, but when signs were erected Suffolk County Highways enforced removal of the signs. The Clerk will report the potholes in Tostock Road on the Highways portal. The Clerk will also enquire from the Speedwatch Group if they had retrieved any data from the new VAS machines with regard to speed through the village.

A member of the public also asked if the Parish Council had any news on the flooding that occurred earlier in the year in Quaker Lane. The Clerk reported that she had received a notification from Suffolk Highways that the problem, after careful assessment, was not currently considered to meet their safety intervention criteria for immediate action. The Chairman asked HR if he could look into this matter especially as a few of the properties concerned were Mid Suffolk Housing.

Planning:

070426/06 a. DC/26/01037- Redevelopment of Thurston Community College to include demolition of the existing school buildings and construction of a new school building, including sports hall, provision of new playing fields and multi-use games area and associated car and cycle parking, access and landscaping – Thurston Community College, Norton Road, Thurston - Councillors supported this application.

DC/26/00966 – Detached 3 Bay Cart Lodge – Little Paddocks, The Green – Councillors supported this application.

DC/26/01213 – Internal and external alterations including replacement conservatory and associated works and DC/26/01214 Application for Listed Building Consent – Well Cottage, The Green – Councillors supported this application.

Councillors noted that the decisions had been made by MSDC since the last meeting.

Finance:

070426/07 It was confirmed that Councillors will receive the end of your accounts 2025/26 in the next week in preparation for Internal and External Audit.

070426/08 **Bank Reconciliation:** Councillors agreed that the reconciliation for the period ended 31st March 2026 as presented agrees to the bank statements with cash available of £58,791.75; £27,717.42 in the Community account and £31,074.33 in the Premium account.

070426/09 **Receipts:** Councillors noted that there had been no receipts.

070426/10 **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	£
070426/11	Claire Usher	Clerks Wages	495.20
070426/12	HMRC	PAYE	123.60
070426/13	Claire Usher	Expenses	35.00

070426/14	Graham Jones	Expenses	362.05
070426/15	A C Rollett	Works on Green	150.00
070426/16	Pear Space	Website Hosting	120.00

070426/17 **Village Grass Cutting-** The Clerk had received a quote from T C Forestry & Fencing for grass cutting and strimming on and around The Green. All Councillors had received a copy of the quote and agreed to accept the quotation for 2026/27.

070426/18 **Outstanding Actions:** Councillors noted the updated report.

Item 020925/07 – Installation of white lines – The Clerk reported that these had not yet been installed. The request to install these lines was agreed in September 2025. All Councillors agreed that this had taken far too long to install. The Clerk to contact Highways to ask why these works have not happened, and to advise them that the Parish Council will install these themselves and report their lack of response from Suffolk County Highways to the press.

070426/19 **The Village Green – Citifibre and Openreach:** JW reported to Councillors on the current situation regarding Citifibre and Openreach and would report back when the compensation from Citifibre had been discussed further.

070426/20 **The Village Green Parking:** The Parish Council had received a quote to install wooden bollards along the edge of The Green on the one-way side of The Green. These figures will be forwarded to Citifibre to see if they will meet these costs. The Parish Council had also received a request from a member of the public to consider the stretch of The Green along the Thurston Road side as this was also being damaged. It was agreed to wait for a response from Citifibre regarding the edge of The Green before any further areas were considered.

070426/21 **The Neighbourhood Plan –** The Chairman reported that he had attended a meeting with Jonathan, Alan Lewis, and Ian Poole to discuss the review of the Neighbourhood Plan. He noted that the only plan currently in existence is Beyton’s Neighbourhood Plan, and the group felt it would be beneficial to identify and establish additional green spaces within the village. To progress this, the Parish Council will need to engage with the community.

Ian Poole will prepare a consultation document asking residents whether they would like more green spaces, how they might be used, and where future development should be located. At present, the District Council’s Call for Sites document identifies all potential development areas in Beyton as being either on agricultural land or outside the settlement boundary.

Ian will also produce a questionnaire for residents to complete. The Parish Council has already accepted a quotation from Places 4 People to carry out this work.

079426/22 **Footpath Behind All Saints Churchyard:**

GJ declared a non pecuniary interest in this item and members agreed that GJ could remain in the meeting.

GJ reported that with the Clerk they had met with Suffolk County Council's Footpaths Officer to discuss the alignment of Footpath 1. A resident whose boundary ran along a section of this footpath wished to install a new hedge. The Footpath Officer inspected this alignment and the plans provided and agreed it was difficult to establish where the footpath should run and that it was possible over time that the footpath had moved to avoid obstacles, such as larger trees.

GJ had approached a surveyor to see if it was possible to measure this footpath against the Title Deed plan to establish the correct boundary of the footpath and he had received a quote for £1225 plus VAT from Survey Solutions. Councillors felt that as this was information for the Parish Council and the resident concerned that this cost should be split equally between the two parties. It was agreed that the Clerk write to the resident to ask if he would be happy to meet half of the costs involved before progressing with the quotation.

- 070426/23 **Community Emergency Plan** – All Councillors had received a copy of the updated Community Emergency Plan.
- 070426/24 **Correspondence:** The Clerk had received no additional correspondence. JC asked if the Parish Council could consider applying to Suffolk Highways to create Cangles Lane as a Quiet Lane. The Clerk to look into this proposal.
- 070426/25 **Any other Council business for information to be noted or for inclusion in a future agenda:** None
- 070426/26 All Councillors noted that the next meeting will be on Tuesday 5th May at 7.30pm following the Annual Parish Meeting to be held at 7pm in the Vestry.
- 070426/27 The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.20pm.