

Beswick Parish Council

Meeting of the Council held at 7 pm on Wednesday, 12 March 2025

MINUTES

1 Apologies for Absence:

Cllr Tony Corscadden.

Cllrs Sarah Beachell (Chair), Sarah Duncan (Vice Chair), Ben Jeffrey, Chris Hill, Ward Cllr Jeremy Wilcock and Julia Bugg (Clerk).

2 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests:

Cllr Sarah Beachell – Agenda Item 5.

3 Minutes:

The minutes of the meetings held on 8 January 2025 and 4 February 2025 were agreed to be an accurate record and were approved.

4 Matters Arising from the Minutes:

4.1 Continued Disruption to Electricity Supply:

A meeting with NPG (Northern PowerGrid) representatives resulted in those present having a much better understanding of the power network and why the issues were occurring. Changes in the route of the power feed to Beswick should result in fewer cuts (this had indeed been the case).

Clarification was also received as to when compensation is payable and the resources available to vulnerable parishioners. All who are classified as vulnerable should register as such with NPG.

Following a period of stability, recent power cuts have now moved to Kilnwick. Clerk has reported them as per the instructions received at the NPG meeting and had confirmation that an intermittent fault is being traced, which will be repaired as soon as it is found. It was further noted that NPG engineers are working with Tony Beddows to identify the issues, including transformers being unable to cope with demand and that this should result in works being undertaken to rectify this in conjunction with The Park who have agreed to facilitate cables being moved underground. No date for the works is known as yet.

4.2 Flooding at Beswick Heads:

Dalton Estate has now responded to requests for work to be undertaken following the direct contact with the Estate's Maintenance Manager, Lee. The Estate will carry out the work but at a cost of £100 as they consider the dyke to be ERYC's responsibility. On making an enquiry to see when ERYC would undertake the promised works, the Clerk was informed that the finances set aside have now been spent elsewhere and there is no known date for the works to be undertaken. It is also not confirmed that they will carry out the additional work.

4.3 Tuesday Club Bank Account:

The Clerk confirmed that following the receipt of all of the completed documentation, she has returned it to the TSB. An up-to-date statement has yet to be received so confirmation of the previously issued cheque having been cashed successfully has not been received. The TSB has indicated that all signatories will have to attend the Beverley branch.

5 Kingfisher Solar Update:

It was noted that following the last meeting of BPC, a joint meeting of the parish councils of Leconfield, Lockington and Watton was held to discuss the joint actions of the parishes, which it was thought would be affected by the proposed solar installation. It was agreed that a letter be sent to the Chair of Orsted requesting information. This was actioned by the Clerk but within a short time, Kingfisher Solar contacts provided outline plans of the proposed site and a meeting of the joint parishes as above plus Bishop Burton and Hutton Cranswick, Ward Councillors and representatives of Orsted and Kingfisher was organised. This meeting was well attended and gave councillors the opportunity to ask questions and understand the timescale and process of installation should the necessary permissions be granted. Additionally, Kingfisher organised a Non-statutory Consultation from 3 February to 9 March 2025 with four open events; Lockington, Hutton Cranswick, Cottingham and Beverley for the public to attend. The Chair and Clerk attended the Lockington event, met with additional Kingfisher representatives as well as concerned parishioners and those

losing farmland as a result of land owners ending tenancies to benefit from leasing the land to Kingfisher. The meeting and additional notes were published on 2 February 2025 and added to the PC's website.

It was reported that over 300 electronic feedback forms had been completed as part of the Non-statutory Consultation. The Clerk updated Cllrs on the form she had completed on behalf of the PC and the inclusion of all of the issues identified as a result of the Extraordinary Meeting and the Kingfisher/Orsted meeting. Cllr Corscadden has previously shared electronically the Kingfisher Solar team's response to some questions raised by Cllrs and parishioners.

Following the completion of the Non-statutory Consultation, a period of Statutory Consultation will be commenced, when the updated proposal as well as all associated reports will be placed in the public domain.

The PC will action Extraordinary Meetings as necessary to address the issues posed by this.

Ward Cllr Wilcock reported that he had joined the ERASE group in demonstrating against solar farms being installed on productive agricultural land. ERYC currently has a Nature Recovery Strategy which states that it will sustain agriculture, so the installation of the many solar farms in the East Riding covering many thousands of acres of high-grade agricultural land is directly opposed to this. Additionally, the low level of efficiency and capacity usage of the installations makes them untenable.

6 Review of The Clerk's Performance and Salary:

The Clerk left the meeting temporarily whilst Cllrs discussed her performance and returned at the behest of the Cllrs to assist in the discussion. It was noted that the 4 hours per week currently undertaken by the Clerk result in a per hour payment below the National Minimum Wage. Following discussion, it was agreed to reduce the paid hours to 3 per week and to make payment at the minimum wage amount from 1 April 2025. The Clerk noted that she would continue to undertake as many hours as is necessary to fulfil the needs of the PC but that any additional hours would be undertaken without payment.

7 Budget 2025-26:

The Clerk presented a draft Budget for consideration and following discussion a number of changes were suggested for consideration. The Clerk will implement these changes and present them to be agreed at the Annual Meeting on 14 May 2025. The Clerk noted that the Village Hall Committee was planning to charge the PC for all of its bookings (currently 6 scheduled meetings are not charged for). Following discussion, it was noted that the PC's sharing of WIFI charges for the village hall may have to cease if this was the case. Cllr Beachell to make enquiries in relation to the possibility of using other venues in Beswick. The Clerk to instigate discussion with the Village Hall Committee.

8 Finance:

8.1 Finance Update:

The Clerk presented the March 2025 Monitoring Report.

8.2 Payments:

Confirmation and agreement to make payment of:

BPC

Hall hire for additional BPC meetings to Village Hall Committee – **£40.00**

Reimburse Clerk cost of printer ink - **£44.64**

Reimburse Clerk cost of postage - **£3.35**

Clerk's Salary - **£1500** (HMRC - £300 & JB - £1200)

Tuesday (Now Thursday) Club

Hall hire for meetings to end of March 2025 to Village Hall Committee - **£80.00**

9 Parish Council Meetings 2025-26:

The Council considered the date of the July meeting and agreed to not change it in order to avoid issues of a meeting location. The Clerk reported that the Kilnwick Village Hall Committee has decided to charge the PC for its scheduled meetings without consultation; she has asked that they reconsider this. The Clerk to book where it wishes to meet during 2025-26 once it has been agreed (see Agenda Item 7).

The Council approved the following meeting dates:

7 May 2025
9 July 2025
10 September 2025
12 November 2025
14 January 2026
11 March 2026

10 Planning Applications:

To discuss all planning applications received by the BPC since the last meeting including any received following the issue of this Agenda.

10.1 Planning Consultation for 24/03516/PLF:

Land north of Top Street, Kilnwick, East Riding of Yorkshire, YO25 9JR

Change of use of agricultural land for private equestrian use including construction of an aggregate path and siting of two storage containers for use in connection with the keeping of horses (Retrospective application).

Extensive discussion took place in relation to this application as it was unclear why the description had been changed as shown below:

Original - Change of use of agricultural land for private equestrian use including construction of an aggregate path and siting of two storage containers for use in connection with the keeping of horses (Retrospective application)

Amended - Change of use of agricultural land to part mixed use comprising private equestrian use and agricultural use and part private equestrian use including construction of an aggregate path and siting of two storage containers for use in connection with the keeping of horses (Retrospective application) (AMENDED DESCRIPTION)

The PC does not object to the land being used as a pony paddock but is worried that the permission being granted to locate containers as permanent buildings on the site as well as a permanent road way will, in time, lead to the applicant seeking to build housing on the site. The PC would object to anything which resulted in building of this nature. It is understood that a number of residents with properties adjacent to the containers and roadway are unhappy with their installation and that the use of motorised vehicles for recreational use on the land is also disturbing. The Clerk to seek clarification from ERYC Planning Department as to the reason for the change of description and to complete the consultation online prior to the deadline date of 26 March 2025.

10.2 Planning Consultation for 25/00008/REFUSE:

Townend Farm, Top Street, Kilnwick, East Riding of Yorkshire, YO25 9JR

Installation of 5 replacement windows to front, previously refused permission. The PC had no objections to the original application and were unsure why it was refused. It agreed that it would support the application once again. Clerk to complete the response on the Planning Appeals portal.

10.3 Any Other Applications Received:

None.

11 Newsletter 2024-25:

The Clerk presented the draft copy, which has previously been distributed electronically, to Cllrs for authorisation. This was authorised and The Clerk asked to arrange printing; Cllr Corscadden to undertake the distribution in Beswick and properties to the east. The Clerk volunteered to distribute in Kilnwick and western properties.

12 AOB: *Items arising under AOB cannot be resolved if they involve expenditure or commit the Council to a course of action but will appear on the next Agenda.*

12.1 Clearing of Footpath C59 Corner to Beswick & Watton Primary:

It was noted that the footpath has finally been cleared following the cutting back of the overhanging trees, shrubs and weeds. The PC expresses its thanks to the persons/organisation responsible.

12.2 Broadband Improvement:

Cllr Hill noted that residents have received notification that a broadband extension is planned to be underway by 2027, which will result in an improved service.

12.3 Kilnwick Pothole:

Ward Cllr Wilcock reported that the repair has been completed by ERYC.

12.4 ERYC Budget:

Ward Cllr Wilcock noted that ERYC has set a 5% increase in its budget for 2025/26.

Meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

Date of Next Meeting: 14 May 2025