

# Beswick Parish Council

Meeting of the Council held at 7 pm on Monday, 2 December 2024 at Kilnwick Village Hall

## MINUTES

### 1 Apologies for Absence:

Cllr Ben Jeffrey.

### Present:

Cllrs Sarah Beachell (Chair), Sarah Duncan (Vice Chair), Tony Corscadden, Chris Hill, Ward Cllr Jeremy Wilcock, 2 parishioners and Julia Bugg (Clerk).

### 2 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests:

Cllr Sarah Beachell – Agenda item 12.

It was agreed that Ward Councillor Wilcock report on his actions related to item 12 prior to leaving to attend his scheduled meeting at another parish but that further discussion would be deferred until the appropriate point on the agenda.

### 12 Proposed Dalton Estate Solar Farm and effects on Parishioners:

Ward Councillor Wilcock reported that following discussions with parishioners and meetings with the parish councils affected by the proposal, he had made a press release to the BBC, local newspapers etc objecting to the possible creation of a 3000 acre solar farm, which included 1500 acres on land owned by the Dalton Estate stretching from Watton in the north to Scarborough in the south, east of the A164 and the effects it would have on tenant farmers, parishioners, the land and natural environment. It was noted the item had been widely reported locally and nationally on both TV news and radio. The response from the Dalton Estate, that this was only a proposal, was also noted. Ward Cllr Wilcock to contact Orsted directly to make them aware of the negative public feeling to this proposal and to keep parishes informed of any developments.

### 3 Minutes:

The minutes of the meetings held on 11 September 2024, 13 November 2024 and 20 November 2024 were approved as an accurate record.

### 4 Matters Arising from the Minutes:

#### 4.1 Tuesday Club – now Thursday Club:

The Clerk reported that the club met successfully on 24 October 2024 following assistance from Tony Beddows to publicise the event in Kilnwick. Following discussion at the event, it was agreed that the club would meet on the last Thursday of every month with the exception of December, due to it being Boxing Day, so 28 November 2024, 30 January 2025, 27 February 2025 and 27 March 2025. Clerk to book the village hall for the events. It was agreed by those present that speakers were not necessary at this juncture but could be considered at a later date. Subsequently, the club also met on 28 November successfully. Thanks to Tony Beddows for his assistance in advertising and running the club.

#### 4.2 Bus Shelter Lighting:

Cllr Hill reported that investigations to date have resulted in his conclusion that the cost makes this an unlikely purchase.

#### 4.3 Flooding at Beswick Heads:

Cllr Beachell reported that the meeting with ERYC's Mike Brown as well as Cllrs and parishioners had resulted in immediate work being carried out on the grips but that other promised works had not yet been carried out. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact ERYC to seek a date for the completion of the work and Dalton Estate to have them clear the land drain a parishioner is reticent to attend too.

#### 4.4 Fibreoptic Broadband:

Cllr Hill noted that there was no way to address this issue.

#### 4.5 Parking of HGV Tractor Unit and Trailer in Beswick:

Cllr Beachell reported that at a meeting with the owner, it was agreed that the tractor unit and trailer would not generally be parked in Beswick anymore. It was agreed to only pursue this issue if this was not the case.

**4.6 Beswick – hedge blocking footpath:**

The Clerk confirmed that following further communication with Dalton Estate this has now been cut.

**4.7 Continued Disruption to Electricity Supply:**

CLlr Corscadden reported on continued disruption to Beswick and outlying areas. The Clerk reported that she had finally had a response from PowerGrid who have passed her email request to have a representative attend a meeting, on to an appropriate person but that no date has yet been set.

**4.8 Footpath A164 from C59 to Beswick School:**

The Clerk reported that she has had extended contact with ERYC and, after some difficulty has convinced them that they have responsibility, which resulted in actions by them to clear the footpath on 25/10/2024. Following discussion, it was agreed that the footpath was in need of some cleaning and the area around the post box is still suffering from foliage ingress but that CLlrs would address this in the spring if it is still an issue.

**4.9 Planning Query:**

The Clerk noted the response from ERYC that planning was required for the roadway and containers installed on land at the east of the village adjacent to the C59 and that officers have been in contact with the parishioner concerned to arrange for retrospective permission. The parishioner has previously attended two of the PC meetings which failed to be quorate and explained that he had not realised permission was required. He was advised to always contact the ERYC Planning Department and seek clarification prior to starting any works. This is simply done via the ERYC website.

**4.10 Any other matters arising:**

None.

**5 Planning Applications:**

None.

**6 Salt Bin Maintenance:**

The Clerk notified CLlrs via email of the need to check our own salt bins. CLlr Corscadden and the Clerk reported that all of the salt bins appeared to be fit for purpose and contain salt.

**7 Annual Rough Sleepers Audit:**

The Clerk noted that the audit on the night of 21/22 November 2024 had resulted in no notifications on 22 November of any person(s) sleeping rough seen in the parish, so she had made a null return.

**8 Snails in Beswick Post Box:**

CLlr Corscadden noted that he had asked the postman to check the box and that there were no snails in residence.

**9 Finance:**

**9.1 Budget Monitoring Report:**

Clerk presented the November 2024 report.

**9.2 Payments - BPC:**

SLA Level 1 Council Street Lights 2024 - £1676.42  
Zurich Insurance Renewal 1 January 2025 - £363.59

**9.3 Tuesday Club Bank Account:**

The Clerk reported that the TSB had notified her that the account would be archived if it was not used within two months but that despite visiting the local branch and contacting their Business Banking Team to notify them that the account was still in use, this may still happen. Previous CLlrs Mary Scaife and Ian Reid are signatories on the account and she has requested the documents necessary to change this to current CLlrs. The payment below to be made by MS and IS prior to this change being made.

**9.4 Payments - Tuesday Club:**

Tony Beddows – tea and biscuits – £12.30

**10 Open Consultation - Enabling remote attendance and proxy voting at local authority meetings:**

Discussion took place regarding the details of the consultation previously distributed via email. The Clerk was instructed to make a response on behalf of BPC that enabling remote access would help the PC be quorate as CLlrs working away from home may still be able to attend, as may those not well enough to attend in person,

but that meetings must still be held in person with at least two Cllrs and the Clerk present and able to welcome parishioners or others wishing to attend meetings. Additionally, individual Cllrs must be in attendance for at least 50% of meetings each year. This should be true of meetings at all levels, be it Parish, Town or County Council meetings. The Clerk noted that individuals are also invited to respond to this consultation and so parishioners may submit their own views.

**11 Safer Communities Data – Antisocial Behaviour Report:**

Reviewed and noted ERYC's report previously distributed via email, that there had been no issues in the Parish.

**12 Proposed Dalton Estate Solar Farm and effects on Parishioners:**

It was reported that the Dalton Estate had notified tenant farmers of the acreage they would lose to the solar farm and the recompense that they would receive in terms of the land being lost for the 40-year term of it; also, that they had been presented with a contract to sign agreeing to giving access to their land to a third party for searches to be completed. Three tenant farmers in Beswick village would lose approximately 50% of their acreage but that others in adjacent parishes would lose up to 86% of their land. It was noted that it was thought that a single tenant farmer had signed this document. The effect that this would have on their ability to remain in business and the fact that they could lose their homes as well as livelihoods was discussed as well as the mental health and wellbeing of not only these parishioners but also those with properties which would be surrounded by the solar farm. Property prices and the effect on the natural environment, the effect of the land and its ability to be ever used for farming again were also discussed. Cllrs were eager to hear comments from parishioners who were present at the meeting, comments submitted electronically and the views of neighbouring parish councils, some of which had been received by the Clerk prior to the meeting. It was agreed that the press release made by Ward Cllr Wilcock had been instrumental in bringing the proposal in to public view both locally and within the wider area. Cllrs were keen to formulate a plan of action that facilitated an organised and focussed response which is unique and grounded in research, included a joint response from all local PCs and provided alternatives to the use of Grade II and III agricultural land which would be lost to agriculture forever. The knock-on effects of the loss of business for associated trades and suppliers was also noted. As a result of these discussions, it was agreed that the Clerk contact Orsted to record the PC's objections to the proposal; contact Watton, Lockington and Leconfield Parish Councils to suggest a joint meeting to discuss a collective response and suggest a date as early in 2025 as possible.

Discussion took place regarding the reason for the proposed solar farm and it was noted that Orsted's decision to reduce the number of turbines in its current North Sea development resulted in a reduction in the electricity being generated, so needing to create alternative sources to utilise the capacity available in the infrastructure being put in place across the East Riding, including specifically at its Lockington site. Cllr Corscadden noted that wind farms would be a better option as they facilitated the continued farming of the land around the individual wind turbines and would replace those not being installed in the North Sea by Orsted.

It was noted that the local MP, Graham Stuart had been contacted by a tenant farmer but as of yet, had had no response.

It was accepted that those farmers owning the acreage required for the solar farm will have very mixed feelings regarding the proposal as the financial recompense to the land owner is generous, will reduce expenditure and amounts of work needed to create an income. Their decision will have to be made to either take the financial reward or continue the farming tradition and save the land for future generations. Other farmers in the area have already taken the solar route.

**13 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.*

**13.1 Parking on blind bend in Beswick:**

Parishioners noted that the continued parking on the blind bend at the north of the village, outside housing is a problem as it forces vehicles coming into the village to be on the wrong side of the road and heading in to oncoming traffic. A number of near-misses have been reported and it was requested that vehicle owners park on their drives. Cllr Beachell to ask parishioners to be aware of the issue and park responsibly.

**Date of Next Meeting: 8 January 2025**