

Beswick Parish Council

Meeting of the Council held at 7 pm on Wednesday, 8 January 2025 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, 1 parishioner and Julia Bugg (Clerk).

2 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests:

Cllr Sarah Beachell – Agenda Item 5

3 Minutes:

Approved as an accurate record the minutes of the meeting held on 2 December 2024.

4 Matters Arising from the Minutes:

4.1 Continued Disruption to Electricity Supply:

The Clerk reported that a meeting with Northern PowerGrid representatives has been arranged for 14 January 2025, which will be attended by Cllrs Beachell and Corscadden, the Clerk and parishioner Mary Scaife as a representative of those most acutely affected by the power cuts.

4.2 Flooding at Beswick Heads:

The Clerk reported that following her contact with Mike Brown, she was informed that ERYC has changed the process of work allocation and that all requests must now go through Street Scene, who will allocate work. This meant that the completion of the work will now be delayed but should be completed in the current financial year. Dalton Estate has not responded to requests for work to be undertaken. It was suggested that the Estate's Maintenance Manager be contacted directly; Cllr Hill to approach him for consent for the Clerk to contact him.

4.3 Tuesday Club Bank Account:

The Clerk presented the documentation for completion by Cllrs to change the signatories to be Cllr Beachell, Corscadden, Duncan and Hill. Cllr Corscadden to collect the signed forms and return to the Clerk for presentation to the bank.

4.4 Any other items:

None.

5 Proposed Dalton Estate Solar Farm and effects on Parishioners:

An update was provided, which noted that land west of the railway line was no longer of interest to Orsted, so some tenants had been informed by Dalton Estate that their land would not be needed. The extent of the change in acreage is not known, nor exactly who this will affect, though it is believed that four tenants will still be affected. It was noted that there will be a number of private land owners who will be in favour of the proposal as it will be financially beneficial too them. The agreed cable location will need to be accessible from the solar panels. Concern was raised about how the current Beswick Bridle Ways 01 and 23 (BESWB23 becomes LOCKB09) will be affected if the panels are to be installed in these fields.

It was noted that the proposal may contravene ERYC's planning priorities and plans to rewild the Hull Valley Wildlife Corridor. Cllr Duncan reported on research she has undertaken regarding an application in Sunderland, which has been refused planning permission on 6 January 2025 and noted that we should look at the arguments used to oppose it and use relevant ones, including a main reason for refusal that a 40-year change of use is not temporary; the timescale being too long to allow the return of the land to farming with land degraded, biodiversity, wildlife etc affected. Concerns were also raised in regard to highway safety and the size and number of vehicles using a single-track road and needing to exit onto the A164 at difficult junctions along the route.

The Clerk noted that following the meeting of BPC on 2 December, she contacted Orsted to inform them of the PC's objections to their proposed solar farm. Ward Cllr Wilcock has also contacted Orsted. Additionally,

following discussions with the Chairs of PCs with tenant farmers who would be affected by the proposal, arranged a meeting to be held at the Kilnwick Village Hall at 8 pm on 8 January 2025 to discuss a joint way to proceed. An update on the current progress of the proposal was undertaken and discussion followed. It was agreed to defer making any decisions on further actions until after the joint parishes' meeting scheduled for later that evening, had been held.

6 Planning Applications:

None.

7 PRECEPT 2025/26:

The Clerk presented the information detailed below in order to make the setting of the level of the Precept for the coming financial year easier: Precept was set at £4900.00 for 2017-18, £5250.00 in 2018-19 & 2019-20, £5450 in 2020/21 & 2021/22, £5600 in 2022/23, £5950 in 2023/24 and £6100 in 2024/25.

PARISH AREA	TAXBASE		% change	PRECEPT		BAND D		% change
	2025/26	2024/25		2025/26	2024/25	2025/26	2024/25	
Beswick	164.80	164.70	0.06%	£6,350.00	6,100.00	38.53	37.04	4.02%

For determining the precept by choosing a precept figure

Council Tax Base Figure for 2025/26	164.80
Example Precept	£ 6,350.00
Band A (6/9 of band D)	£25.69
Band B (7/9 of band D)	£29.97
Band C (8/9 of band D)	£34.25
Band D charge (precept)	£38.53
Band E (11/9 of band D)	£47.09
Band F (13/9 of band D)	£55.65
Band G (15/9 of band D)	£64.22
Band H (18/9 of band D)	£77.06

Complete this with desired parish precept figure

For determining the precept by choosing a band D charge

Council Tax Base Figure for 2025/26	164.80
Example Precept	£6,349.74
Band A (6/9 of band D)	£25.69
Band B (7/9 of band D)	£29.97
Band C (8/9 of band D)	£34.25
Band D charge (precept)	£38.53
Band E (11/9 of band D)	£47.09
Band F (13/9 of band D)	£55.65
Band G (15/9 of band D)	£64.22
Band H (18/9 of band D)	£77.06

Complete this with desired band D charge

The table above shows the effect the setting of a £6350 precept would have on Council Tax payments.

Band D Properties

The table below shows the effect on Band D properties different precept amounts will have:

Precept Demand £	Amount £	2024/25 Amount	% Change to Bill	% Change to Precept
6400	38.83	38.86	-0.1	+4.8
6350	38.53	38.55	-0.1	+4.0
6300	38.23	38.25	-0.1	+3.2
6250	37.92	37.95	-0.1	+2.4
6200	37.62	37.65	-0.1	+1.8
6150	37.32	37.34	-0.1	+0.8
6104	37.04	37.04	-0.1	=0.0
6050	36.71	36.73	-0.1	-0.9
5900	35.80	35.82	-0.1	-0.6

A larger amount may be chosen without a large increase in the percentage change and may be worth considering but anything over £6405 would require authorisation from ERYC as would be over 5%.

Following discussion, it was agreed to set the precept for 2025/26 to £6300; Cllr Beachell instructed The Clerk to inform ERYC of the Council's decision.

8 Omitted in Error:

9 Finance:

9.1 Payments:

There were no payments to be made.

The Clerk confirmed that she had been successful in getting the cheque signed for Tony Beddows to receive his payment from the Tuesday Club account and had delivered it to him before Christmas. As an up-to-date statement had not been received from the bank, she was unable to confirm that this had been cashed successfully.

9.2 Finance Report:

The Clerk presented the current report and noted that her accounts and BPC's bank statement tally.

10 Electoral Register:

The Clerk distributed the new register and requested that old versions be shredded. A copy to be retained with Emergency Plan at the Kilnwick Village Hall and by Chair.

11 AOB:

11.1 Damaged Footpath Sign:

Footpath sign has rotted and broken on Beswick Heads; denotes BESWF19. Clerk to report.

11.2 Pothole Main Street Kilnwick:

Ward Cllr Wilcock has reported this to ERYC and notes that it will be addressed.

11.3 Fly Tipping A164 Layby:

Ward Cllr Wilcock noted that he had seen evidence of fly tipping again. Agreed to watch for this and report to ERYC if it is a problem again.

11.4 ERYC Opposition to Government Plans:

Ward Cllr Wilcock noted that at a meeting of ERYC earlier in the day, it had voted almost unanimously (only 5 Labour Cllrs against) to oppose the proposed changes to inheritance tax which will affect farmers.

Meeting closed at 7.50 pm and was followed by the Joint Parishes Meeting at 8.00 pm. These minutes are recorded separately.

Date of Next Meeting:

12 March 2025