

Beswick Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 13th January 2016

Present: Councillor Ian Reid (Chair), Councillor Jackie Plowman, Councillor Kenny Quinn, Councillor Mary Scaife, ERYC Ward Councillor Phyllis Pollard (for part of the meeting) and one parishioner.

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from David Allan. The Chairman and Councillors send David their best wishes for a speedy recovery.

2 Declaration of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests

No declarations were made.

3 Minutes

The unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2015 were approved.

4 Matters arising from the Minutes of the last meeting

Transparency code for smaller authorities. The council website is almost ready to 'go public' following considerable work by David Allan and input from Councillors Reid and Quinn. Entries for Kilnwick Village Hall and Youth Club, Beswick Church, Kilnwick Church and the Countrywomen's Association are in various states of preparation.

Bus Shelter (Northbound), Beswick North. The council authorised the payment of £3,108.50 to More Than Shelters UK (the Council has been paid this amount by Towergate, insurer of the driver whose tractor demolished the previous shelter). The council also approved the proposal to contract with Commutaports to remove the vandalised shelter and replace it with a new one (at a site nearer the road which will be prepared by ERYC) – the cost of this will be £1,846, funded by £993 from Zurich, the Council's insurers, and £853 from Council funds.

New surface water drain, Main Street, Kilnwick. Cllrs Reid and Quinn reported that the work in Main Street has been successfully completed. The new drain performed as expected during recent heavy rain. The work to repair the verge in Lockington Lane is outstanding. Cllr Reid will progress this with ERYC.

Planning application, Kilnwick Gardens Plant Nursery. The ERYC Planning Committee has approved the application. They endorsed the Parish Council's comments and incorporated them in the approval.

Beswick footpath 18, Wilfholme Bridge/Three Jolly Tars. The issue of the blocked footpath has been raised with ERYC (Simon Parker). The Joint Local Access Forum is also aware of the issue – they state that this complex issue involving multiple landowners is being considered. Nothing to report at the moment.

5 Insurance

The council noted the Clerk's report summarising renewed insurance cover and approved the payment of the premium of £258.85.

6 Parish Council Computer.

The council approved the proposal to apply for a grant to purchase a computer and a scanner. In this financial year funds are being allocated on a monthly basis. The next deadline for application is 14th February 2016. In the absence of the Clerk, Cllr Quinn will process the application.

7 Twilight Bus Service

The Council has donated £150 per year towards the cost of operating the twilight bus service to get pupils home when they have been at after-school events. For the first time this year, the school has provided data on usage by pupils from our parish. In total, only 10 pupil journeys were made by local students in the past year. The Council feels that the local benefit does not match our contribution; therefore, a reduced donation of £25 was approved. Cllr Quinn will send the cheque to the school.

8 Budget and Precept for 2016-17

The Council wish to thank the Clerk for his clear, concise and understandable summary of our financial position. The Council approved a budget of £4,600 (being the base budget of £3,500 plus a contingency sum of £1,100). The Council approved a precept of £4,600 which, in real terms, represents a reduction per household of 4.8% on 2015-16.

Suggested uses of the contingency, some of which will be brought forward in 2016-17, include:-

- Provision of benches in the villages
- Replacement of the bench on the C59 at the top of Church Lane, Kilnwick
- Improving footpaths where access is difficult due to waterlogging
- Solar powered speed sign on the C59
- A defibrillator for Beswick
- Bus shelter maintenance
- Support for Kilnwick Village Hall
- Support for the Village Fete 2016

9 Street Lighting

The Council approved payment of £1531.66 + VAT for street lighting services, April 2015 to March 2016.

10 East Riding Rural Strategy

Cllr Reid and Clerk Allan attended a general meeting at County Hall on 23.11.15. Some interesting issues were discussed including:-

- Focus on city-region – there is a need to ensure that rural communities are properly represented
- Broadband – some rural businesses are not getting the benefits of superfast broadband as their premises are distant from high speed boxes

11 Parish Council Newsletter

Councillor Reid would welcome contributions by the end of February.

12 Policing matters

The Council noted the recent letter from Inspector Coulthard concerning community policing arrangements.

13 Correspondence received

The Council noted recent correspondence:

- a. 'Connect to Support' – no action required
- b. 'Connecting Communities' – pass to Kilnwick Village Hall Association
- c. Tesco Local Community Scheme – may be of interest next year
- d. Chairman's Awards 2016 – no action required
- e. 'Making time for winter' booklet – copies circulated
- f. Flood Advisory Service Roadshow – no action required
- g. New Neighbourhood Planning Guidance – no immediate action required

14 Any Other Business

On behalf of a parishioner, Cllr Quinn asked for clarification on a footpath issue. Recent wet weather combined with damage caused by the hunt on 2nd January (and in previous years) and damage caused by vehicles supporting pheasant shoots, some of the footpaths are in a bad way. Does the landowner, ERYC or the Parish Council have the power to temporarily close footpaths to allow the grass to recover from damage? The Chairman confirmed that public rights of way may only be closed when there is a danger to the public – for example the prospective bridge collapse at Wilfholme Carrs in 2014. The Council expressed concern that parishioners' use of public rights of way for exercise and recreation was being made difficult. Council implored The Hunt and The Shoot(s) to take note of the needs of other countryside users and avoid damaging public rights of way wherever possible.

15 Next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council be on Wednesday, 9th March 2016, at 7.00pm, at Kilnwick Village Hall.