



# *Beswick Parish Council*

*Serving Beswick, Kilnwick, Lund Moor, Glebe Farm, Kilnwick Lodges, Wilholme and outlying homes and businesses of the Civil Parish*

## **2020-21 Newsletter**



Beswick Parish Council at the start of 2020-21. From l to r: standing - Cllr Rob Lee, Cllr Mary Scaife, Cllr Ian Reid; sitting - Cllr Kenny Quinn, Clerk Julia Bugg, Cllr Tony Beddows.

### **Beswick Parish Council March 2021**

#### **Beswick Parish Councillors**

Sarah Beachell	Tel: 01377 270230
Tony Beddows	Tel: 01377 270844
Tony Corscadden	Tel: 01377 270912
Kenny Quinn (Vice Chair)	Tel: 01377 270159
Ian Reid (Chair)	Tel: 01377 271426

#### **Clerk to the Parish Council**

Julia Bugg	Tel: 01964 551720
	Email: <a href="mailto:beswickpc@hotmail.com">beswickpc@hotmail.com</a>

#### **Community Police Support Officer**

Sarah Freer	Tel: 101
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#### **Footpath Warden**

West End	
Gerard Hodgson	Tel: 01377 270940
East End	
Victoria Scaife	Tel: 01377 270208

#### **East Riding of Yorkshire, Beverley Rural Ward Councillors**

Kevin Beaumont
Bernard Gateshill
Pauline Greenwood

### **Beswick Parish Council Meetings, Agenda, Minutes...**

Meetings of The Parish Council are normally held at 7.00 pm on the second Wednesday of alternate months between May and March, usually in Kilnwick Village Hall, School Lane, Kilnwick. Should matters demanding urgent attention arise during intervening months, Extraordinary Meetings will be held. Venues of these Extraordinary Meetings may vary and will appear on the Agenda.

So much for ordinary times! Covid-19 has brought change and uncertainty. At the time of writing, it is unclear whether meetings will be held in person, or as in 2020-21, remotely via the Internet.

#### **Scheduled Meetings in 2021-22:**

Wednesday 5 May 2021 (including Annual Meeting)  
Wednesday 14 July 2021  
Wednesday 8 September 2021  
Wednesday 10 November 2021  
Wednesday 12 January 2022  
Wednesday 9 March 2022

Parishioners are advised to find out about how and where meetings are to be held by looking at the Council's Website or joining the email circulation list. Details will also be posted on the Notice Boards in Kilnwick and Beswick.

Meetings' Agenda and unconfirmed Minutes are posted on the Council's Notice Boards in Beswick and Kilnwick villages and may be found on the Council's Website, <http://beswickparishcouncil.org.uk>. These are also distributed as email attachments. Parishioners wishing to receive Agenda and Minutes by email are invited to provide The Clerk with their email addresses. Providing contact information will signify that the provider gives permission for the Clerk to retain the information securely as per the General Data Protection Regulations.

Parishioners wishing to raise issues for consideration as part of Council Meetings' Agenda should contact The Clerk in the first instance and at least three weeks before a scheduled meeting.

### ***Beswick Parish Council 2020-21***

No-one needs to be told that 2020-21 has been arguably the most peculiar and, for some, the most challenging year of the last half century. Beswick Parish Council has been affected like all others.

The year started with a degree of uncertainty. Face-to-face meetings were abandoned, so, the Annual Meeting did not take place. There was initial uncertainty whether Internet meetings were legal, issues such as the rights of parishioners to observe business being argued back and forth by officers of the County Council in the context of developing software technology and its ability to accommodate those wishing to participate.

Left and right hands were having difficulty communicating. So, submission of the Annual Audit was mandatory, but local approval of the submission had not occurred because the AGM had been postponed due to the fact that face-to-face meetings were outlawed. Eventually, during the summer, notice was received that councillors not attending meetings for six months would be disqualified from office, prompting advice from the County Council that Internet 'meetings' could now be held.

So began a series of 'meetings' by wire, the first in July, followed by an extraordinary meeting in August to approve the Annual Audit submission.

The year 2020-21 saw two resignations from the Parish Council. Councillor Rob Lee had served for two years and, during this time, had contributed significantly to local planning issues, drawing on his former experience as a Planning Officer in the County Council. Councillor Mary Scaife had served for nearly 20 years and had provided a wealth of knowledge about local issues and residents. Indeed, Mary's knowledge of people county-wide is impressive and invaluable, as is her ability to draw on recent history as a backcloth to present-day issues. The Council thanks both for their service and will miss their contributions.

The Council is very pleased to welcome two new members: Councillor Tony Corscadden is a retired secondary school teacher - a geographer and a keen ornithologist; Councillor Sarah Beachell has lived in various parts of the parish all her life and is a

shepherd and farmer. Both will be well-known to many. Both live in Beswick village.



Councillor Tony Corscadden - Photo: Tony Corscadden  
Councillor Sarah Beachell - Photo: Sarah Beachell

With restrictions on activities, Council business has been limited. Thankfully, there have been no emergencies and no major incidents. Council is indebted to The Clerk - Julia Bugg - for ensuring that obligations have been fulfilled, meetings have been arranged and bills paid.

Minutes of the Meeting may be downloaded from the BPC website or from the Clerk.

### ***In Memoriam***

The Parish Council offers condolences to relatives and friends of parishioners who have passed away in the past year. All had lived in the Parish for many, many years, some all of their lives, and had been cherished members of our community. We will miss them.

*Sam Berriman*  
*Les Burtenshaw*  
*Ian Calvert*  
*Peter Casey*  
*Albert Grant*  
*Peter Harrison*  
*John Nettleship*  
*Michael Raines*  
*Alan Scaife*  
*Keith Thomas*  
*Bill Walsh*  
*Joan Wright*

### ***Footpaths - Good News***

The year 2020-21 will go down as that of the pedestrian! Restrictions on travel, 'lockdown', and the need to get exercise both for physical and mental health have caused a big and welcome increase in parishioners out and about on both local footpaths and our single-track roads.

The Parish, especially in the vicinity of Kilnwick, has one of the highest densities of public rights of way in The Riding, offering a rich variety of landscape from beck-side meadows, to woodland glades and open fields. These are supplemented by a convenient network of single-track roads with wide verges. Compared with our town cousins, we're truly fortunate to be able to stride out directly into our glorious countryside. Indeed, some of us are entirely surrounded by it! Ordinarily, we might think that we are disadvantaged being seven miles from town facilities, shops etc. But, the pandemic has served to bring home the fact that doorstep countryside access is a blessing indeed. No wonder estate agents report great interest from the town-bound in going rural!

It's particularly rewarding to see so much use of the newly re-aligned Bridleway No. 4 and Footpaths 15 and 6 which, together, skirt the '40-acre' field immediately southwest of Kilnwick. These public rights of way were much less used when they ran diagonally across the cropped field. Now, they link up to provide a popular short circular walk straight out of the village.

We are also grateful to the ERYC Countryside Access Team for replacing the footbridge over Horse Carrs Dike on Footpath No. 9, just north of Kilnwick. No longer will you be in danger of emulating one of our Councillors who, a few years back, inadvertently took a dip in the dike from the previous canted bridge!



New footbridge over Horse Carrs Dike. Photo: Ian Reid

But news for pedestrians desperate for outdoor exercise is not all rosy! The conflict of often fast-moving opposing traffic on the C59 Wilfholme Lane just east of Tibby Lane means that the tarmac footway is now covered with a thick deposit of displaced verge soil. To avoid sinking into mud, pedestrians are forced onto the road on what is a blind bend for traffic approaching from the west. The

County Council has been alerted and a request submitted to clear the foot way. In the meantime, be very cautious!



Obliterated foot way along C59 Wilfholme Lane – pedestrian nightmare. Photo: Ian Reid

### *Lockdown, Birdwatching and Wellbeing*

**Tony Corscadden writes:** One of the benefits of lockdown has been our increased appreciation of the great outdoors and with it, environmental awareness. East Yorkshire and especially our local area is blessed with lots of bridleways, public footpaths and green lanes. Enjoying them during our daily exercise has helped us preserve and even enhance our mental and physical wellbeing. Conversations with fellow walkers has increased our local knowledge and led to new friendships forming.

It has also led to more volunteering for such as Bampton RSPB and the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and increased participation in citizen science. Last summer I completed the British Trust for Ornithology's house martin survey via Beswick's WhatsApp group and public participation in bat, butterfly, moth and pond surveys grew.

Some of the ornithological highlights of 2020 were: increased sightings of cuckoos, red kite flyovers from South Dalton Park, autumn skeins of Icelandic pink-footed geese overhead, and the return of much-missed nesting swifts to Beswick. The lowlight was the

(hopefully temporary) decline of swallow numbers due to severe storms over the Mediterranean during spring migration.

An observant walker can see and hear grey partridge, lapwing, linnet, tree sparrow and yellowhammer - all UK government bio-indicators - which are testament to our local farmers' efforts to manage the countryside sensitively. Even the now rare corn bunting is trying to return.

Soon our wellbeing will be further enhanced by the imminent return of spring and with it more daylight hours and all our African songbirds. Visit the British Trust for Ornithology's website or [www.xeno-canto.org](http://www.xeno-canto.org) to learn how to recognise their songs.

Should any local landowner want a bird survey conducting please contact me at [tonyyorkhouse@gmail.com](mailto:tonyyorkhouse@gmail.com).

What ornithological surprises will 2021 bring? Keep watching the skies. . . and hedgerows and fields! Above all, stay safe and support our NHS.



Above: swift, a long-absent returning nester; Right: swallow, reduced numbers due to Mediterranean storms. Photos: Steve Mills, Natural History Photographer of the Year

### ***Rejoice - Spring Did Arrive!***

As gloom intensified because of the restrictions brought by pandemic, we had a reminder that this is a problem for humans, not Nature in general. Although a wet winter and the 'Beast from the East 2' produced trying conditions, February saw the annual emergence of our woodland ground flora as aconites and snowdrops pushed into sight. Bluebell and daffodil shoots are also up. Perhaps this annual display of beauty can be taken as a portent that life will return to 'normal', even for humans!?

Aconites and snowdrops emerged in February, and survived 'Beast from the East 2'. Photo: Ian Reid

### ***Beswick WhatsApp***

During 2020, a village WhatsApp group was formed. It has proved to be very popular and useful. If anyone did not receive an invitation to join and would like to become a member, they should contact Sue Corcadden on 07815 164710.

### ***Bus Shelters Cleaned***

Following a request from parishioners for a cleaning of the Beswick bus shelters, Cllr Corcadden leapt into action and on a couple of lovely days in March 2021 gave them their annual clean. Special thanks to Cllr Corcadden for his work.

### ***Where Is This?***

This year, we're on the theme of winter water. Where in the Parish are these? Answers near the end of the Newsletter.



Photos: Ian Reid

### ***Street Parking in Kilwick***

Late in spring and early summer, good weather, restricted schooling, and the end of the first 'lockdown' brought many visitors daily to Kilwick in search of a safe and convenient place to entertain their young children and get together for a natter. The Park became a Mecca for some living as far away as Bridlington. And, the fact that Kilwick is off the beaten track meant easy parking, making it very attractive.

Main Street and Church Lane are usually devoid of street parking, but sunny days would now see 20 to 30 cars. Notwithstanding signage, some were parked such that residents were virtually trapped in their driveways and this led to disquiet.



Main Street, Kilwick, Parking for The Park, July 2020.  
Photo: Ian Reid

The Trustees of The Park, having had the issue drawn to their attention, took swift action and reminded visitors that the facilities had always been intended to be eco- and environmentally 'friendly'. Flyers were distributed asking that visitors arrive only on foot or pedal cycle and not by car. Assisted by fresh national travel restrictions and less clement weather, the problem dissipated.

### ***Long-distance Litter***

This year last, we have had only one case of large-scale dumping - a pile of timber doors, gate posts etc. left on the southern approach to Beswick village. Thankfully, the County Council was quickly on the scene and removed it. Sadly, there continue to be those who think our 'quiet' backwater roads are a place to throw a bag of rubbish or dispose of a vehicle tyre.

There are, however, some individuals who toss their fast-food containers out of their moving vehicles several times a week, usually in similar places. Looking at the branding on the packaging, the location of the dumping, and speculating on the rate of food consumption, the offenders are arriving variously from Pocklington, Shiptonthorpe and Beverley and heading, perhaps, for the A164. We would hope they are not Beswick or Kilwick residents, though, from the location of the discarded rubbish, we can't rule out the possibility.



Happy for someone far away, but not for Beswick Parish!  
Photo: Ian Reid

Other long-distance littering comes not infrequently and is delivered on the wind. When helium-filled balloons are released or escape, do those who buy them worry about where they will come down? Or who will have to bin them in order to keep the environment litter-free?

We pay tribute to those of us who, often daily, de-litter our verges and hedges. Special mention must be made of **Pat Hodgson, Jessie Cooper, John and Elspeth Bryers** and **Tony Corscadden**. Without their efforts, we'd have a much messier environment. And, if we've missed mention of anyone, our apologies. Do let us know; we'd want to acknowledge such dedicated community spirit.

### ***Not for the Faint Hearted***

This is not Beswick Parish news, but it happened close enough, and it could have been seen from within our boundary if you had trained your binoculars towards the southwest, so no apologies...

'Steeplejack' is probably infrequently advertised at Jobcentre Plus and it's almost certain that applicants would be thin on the ground. Last summer, the steeple of St Mary's, South Dalton was being renovated and visitors could be justified in feeling queasy as they watched the two or three steeplejacks dangling down the side.



Steeplejacks, St Mary's, S Dalton, July 2020.  
Photo: Ian Reid

If you've not visited, St Mary's is well worth dropping in on one of the frequent open days. The tomb of Sir John Hotham is particularly intriguing and unforgettable.

### ***Defibrillator Training***

Mainly for parishioners of Beswick, Kilnwick Lodges, and Wilfolme but open to everyone if they are interested. Our local paramedic, **Sam Jones**, has kindly offered (once again) to give training in the use of the defibrillator in Beswick. Location and dates will be set when we know if sufficient people are interested and when lockdown rules allow such things to take place. If you wish to put your name down, contact either Cllr Corscadden or The Clerk (see contact details at the beginning of this newsletter) and give your own contact details.

### ***Always Disgusting and Unhealthy!***

Following a campaign a couple of years ago, the problem of 'dog fouling' improved. But, those who care (and we'd hope this is most) report that the problem is back.

And the problem isn't just along the village footpaths. Those who walk our single-track roads say that venturing onto the road verges can be distressing because members of our dog-walking community think (maybe even believe) that these are convenient repositories for their animals' faeces.

Some blame might be laid at the feet of our visitors. However, we know that some of our own parishioners are casual about 'picking up', though we suspect they're likely to be assiduous about cleaning up on their own property. It is an offence if a dog defecates at any time on any land in the open air within the East Riding of Yorkshire to which the public have access (with or without payment) and the person who is in charge of the dog at that time fails to remove the faeces forthwith. Therefore, can we make a renewed plea to stop this antisocial behaviour? Our volunteer litter-pickers will then be able to continue their good work on behalf of the community. And, you will be rewarded with not having to look at litter accumulating along our roadsides.

### ***Notice Board Refurbishment***

Following a refurbishment which saw the old Perspex replaced in the Beswick Notice Board, parishioners may now see clearly both the Parish Council and local community notices. Special thanks to Cllr Corscadden and Beswick parishioner Sam Jones for their endeavours. A similar refurbishment will be carried

out on the Kilnwick Notice Board within the coming weeks.



Perspex replacement partially completed, March 2021.  
Photo: Tony Corscadden

### ***Where Is This? - Answers***

- A: Kilnwick Beck, Crabtree Lane Bridge
- B: Watton Beck, Beswick Footpath No. 10, Tall Trees
- C: River Hull, Wilfolme Landing

### ***The Parish goes under again!***

You may not often get down to the eastern end of our parish, or may not have been at all, but you should be aware that an extensive part has, again, suffered from flooding.

The winter of 2020-21 has been very wet, as anyone venturing out knows. And, although our patch has not had as much rainfall as some other parts of the eastern counties of England and Scotland, we've had dumped on us between 130 and 150% of the expected average rainfall in the three months of December through February. Besides rain, there has also been snow as 'Beast from the East 2' brought weather across the North Sea.

With groundwater levels at record levels, giving vigorous spring flows, with runoff from compacted soils, and with snowmelt, a lot of water has been pushed into the drainage system resulting in it overflowing its banks, flooding the low-lying areas flanking the River Hull to the west, from Watton Carrs to Arram, and including Wilfolme in our parish.

Although a dry spell in March, together with almost continuous pumping at Wilfolme and elsewhere, has reduced water levels, the fields have largely emerged, and homes and farm buildings are presently safe, the threat of flooding continues. Climate change makes for great uncertainty as to what the weather will

bring and the drainage system has little spare capacity. No-one should relax!

Some of you will know that we have inherited a very complex drainage system, much of which, in our neck of the woods, dates from the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Although massive improvements to flood defences were made in the 1970s and 1980s, at enormous cost, those that were not strengthened are not in good shape.



Wilfholme Landing February 2021. The Beverley-Barmston Drain (foreground) has overflowed across Aike Carrs which remained inundated for a month. Photo: Ian Reid

So, for example, a breach in the river banks

near Foston on the Wolds occurred early in 2018

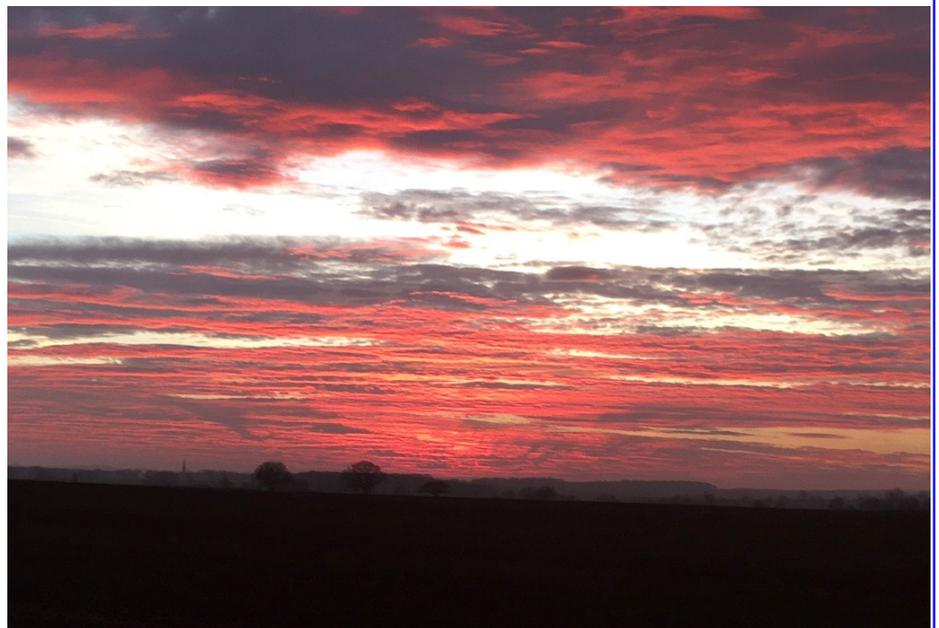
and may never be repaired. This lets water escape from the 'high-level' system into the 'low-level' system. It means that some of the water flooding our parish has come all the way from Dunnington and Beeford, towards Skipsea on the coast. And, closer to home, emergency repairs have had to be made in 2020 to the banks of the River Hull just upstream from Tophill Low. Were there to have been a breach here, the flood water might have affected villages as far downstream as Dunswell, and maybe even Orchard Park in north Hull. Had this happened, it would have made the national news!

Without major re-investment, we are living on 'borrowed time'. The eastern end of our parish could revert to the marshland, ing and carr that it was before the waterways were 'tamed' in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This will be good for wild-fowling, but not so good for arable farming!

### ***Big-Sky Country***

Living where we do, some of you may hanker after the wonders of dramatic scenery - high mountains, deep valleys, rocky coasts. Here, betwixt The Wolds and Holderness, we are denied these, of course. But what Nature has bestowed on us and which we can and should celebrate daily is our 'Big Sky'. Our horizons are truly distant in all directions and, this year last, the display of colour has been really magnificent, with sunrise and sunset both parading their ever-changing palette of colours to east and west.

If you're not looking to the distant horizon, you're missing out!



December 2020: Winter sunset over the Wolds reflected by alto stratus clouds. The spire of St Mary's, South Dalton, pokes above the horizon to the left. Photo: Ian Reid