

Escrick Parish Council

Minutes of Escrick Parish Council monthly meeting held in The Wenlock Room at The Parsonage Hotel at 7pm on Monday 5th January 2026.

Part 1

26001: Welcome: Chair welcomed councillors and members of the public to the meeting.

26002: Apologies/Attendance:

- a. Present: Cllr S Allen, Cllr Barber, Cllr Chambers (Chair), Cllr Cunningham, Cllr Fairbairn, Cllr Hawes, Cllr Hopwood, Cllr King. Clerk; S Look. Members of the public.
- b. Apologies: Cllr Hopkinson.

26003: Declarations of Interests: No declarations received.

Village Green

26004: Village Green update:

- a. Update given from a Village Green Association (VGA) representative.
- b. Update received on the decayed Corkscrew Willow on the village green. Tree surgeon has recommended its removal. Application for the removal was refused by planning however NYC did state that deadwood can be removed without reference back to them. VGA are awaiting a response from NYC as to why the tree officer considers the first branch snapped off the tree when it was not rotten. They accept that the branch he saw on site when he visited was rotten however photographic evidence has been provided and sent in with the planning application and clearly shows the snapped branch with leaves on. It was resolved that the VGA will contact two independent contractors to ask their opinion together with a request to quote for the works. It was also resolved that the Parish Council will pay for the necessary works to be carried out. The VGA will also relocate the bench near to the Corkscrew Willow to a more suitable location.
- c. Update received on the report of three overgrown Walnut trees on the village green. It was resolved that the VGA will apply to NYC to crown lift them to a height of 5m above existing ground level. If successful, three quotations will be sought to carry out the works and the PC will nominate the companies to approach. If the application is refused, then it will be referred back to the Parish Council who will consider contacting the MP.
- d. Councillors resolved to fund the cost of appointing further professional consultants to give advice/reports on the trees on the Village Green and pay for the two retrospective surveys that have been carried out.
- e. Councillors resolved to fund work required as a result of any planning application that is granted on the trees on the Green as stated in the terms of reference with the Village Green Association.
- f. It was confirmed that the Parish Council insurance does cover volunteers from the VGA working on the village green providing conditions are met such as risk assessments are carried out and only non-hazardous work is carried out such as grass cutting, path clearance, litter collection. On the current policy, any volunteers must be between the age of 16-80 years old.

General updates

26005: Public correspondence received:

- a. Further correspondence regarding Parish Council Planning Assessment Methods considered at the December meeting. Noted.

26006: Public session:

- a. Concern raised by member of the public present regarding consideration given to major planning applications in the parish and it was recommended that a reassessment of processes followed should be carried out by the parish council. Noted.
- b. Member of the public requested an update on the overgrown hedge believed to be belonging to Lyngarth House. (Deferred to item 25261c).
- c. Concern raised regarding the alleged conversion of a property on Main Street into a 5 bedroom Air BnB without necessary change of use planning permission (Deferred to item 25265d).

26007: Updates from other authorities:

- a. Divisional Councillor Cattnach sent apologies and sent an update on the potential bus stop lighting options for the A19/Sang Thai stop. NYC are liaising with CYC officers this week to work out costings.
- b. Community Police Support Officer sent apologies. With regards to the speed and noise from motorbikes passing through Escrick, this has been raised with the NYP traffic department and they have suggested that as soon as the weather warms up and bike meets start back up the PCSO can ask for their joint partnership in attending this location and carrying out the necessary checks.

26008: Minutes:

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 1st December 2025.

Finance and Governance

26009: Finance report:

Account balances and reconciliation:

		Community account	BMM account
i	Account balances as at 24th November 2025:	£5991.10	£46,379.7
ii	Payments made since last meeting:		
	Unity – November monthly service charge	-£6.00	
	Ark – Village Maintenance / Grass cutting 2025	-£4618.15	
	HMRC – November payment	-£16.02	
	S Look – Clerks November salary	As agreed	
	S Look – November expenses	-£18.00	
	Autela Payroll Services – Aug to Nov 2025	-£102.00	
	Payments made since last meeting under clerks delegated powers:		
	S Look – Printer ink for Cllr Chambers	-£45.49	
	HMRC – December payment	-£16.02	
	S Look – Clerks December salary	As agreed	
	Npower - electricity	-£10.14	
iii	Internal Transfer:	£3000.00	-£3000.00
iv	Receipts:	Nil	
v	Account balances as at 29th December 2025:	£3163.74	£43,379.74
vi	Routine payments to be made:		
	Unity – December monthly service charge	-£6.00	
	S Look – December expenses	-£18.00	
	Escrick Park Estate – Playing Field annual rent	-£10.00	
vii	Purchases / exceptional payments to be approved and made:		
		Nil	

It was resolved to accept the payments as stated above.

Maintenance

26010: **Maintenance issues:**

- a. Cllr Chambers has tidied up the village notice board and asked for out of date laminated notices in the village to be taken down.
- b. No progress on getting the bus shelters cleaned on the A19 near Sang Thai. This has been escalated to Cllr Cattnach.
- c. Overgrown hedges adjacent to two properties on the east side of the A19. Clerk has contacted one of the properties (Lyngarth House) that the hedge could belong to in order to ascertain who is responsible. No response to date. Resolved to pass this on to NYC to take action as it is a safety issue due to residents being unable to use the public footpath adjacent to the A19 without stepping onto the highway in places. It was confirmed that the overgrown hedge / ivy is encroaching onto the footpath on the section between the end of Main Street and the end of Carr Lane (east side of the A19). A resident present has also reported that the grass verge is overgrown and encroaching onto the footpath.

Playing Field / Play Area

26011: **Playing field update:**

- a. Nothing to report.

Planning

26012: **Planning, new applications:**

- a. No new planning applications received.

26013: **Planning determinations:**

- a. ZG2025/1088/TCA. Land off Carr Lane, Escrick. Fell No. 1 Corkscrew Willow Tree (77) in conservation area. REFUSED.

26014: **Other planning matters:**

- a. North Yorkshire Council Local Plan. No further update.
- b. Targeted consultation now closed for Light Valley Solar. The Project Update Newsletter provides an overview of the comments submitted during Phase Two and Targeted Consultations, and how they are using this feedback to continue to shape a strong set of proposals that are sensitive to the concerns of local communities and key stakeholders, ahead of submission of DCO Application to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). Light Valley Solar plan to submit an application in early 2026. PINS then has 28 days to decide whether to accept it to proceed to the Examination stage. For full details regarding the Examination stage, the wider DCO process, and how you will be able to have your say, the PINS website: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/decision-making-process-guide>. To be part of the Examination process, residents can register for updates on the Planning Inspectorate's Light Valley Solar webpage.
- c. ZG2023/1110/FUL. Post Office Row 7 Main Street Escrick. Planning enforcement issue raised regarding the unauthorised felling of a mature Cherry tree. Enforcement ref; 2025/0167/HTREE. No update. Clerk to follow up.
- d. No further update received on the complaint received regarding permissions required for Wendlo House being used as an Air BnB. Resident has contacted NYC planning and Keir Mather MP. It was confirmed that an application has not been submitted to NYC for change of use. Resolved for the PC to now formally raise the issue with planning enforcement to investigate.

Highways and lighting items

26015: **Streetlighting:**

- a. Proposed lighting at the northbound bus stop of the A19 near Sangthai. Cllr Cattnach is still investigating options with NYC and City of York Council Officers.

26016: Highways:

- a. Concerns raised at the December meeting regarding the safety of the Pocklington School minibus collection / drop off point in the A19 layby and suggestion made to the school to relocate the drop off / pick up point to Main Street in Escrick. The Pocklington School Transport Manager has confirmed that they will not change the location of the stops as they feel it is perfectly safe for the children to use and it has been independently approved (as all stops have to be) by the TCO. Resolved to escalate the concerns raised to Pocklington School Board of Governors.
- b. Ponding of water on Wheldrake Lane. Photographs submitted to Cllr Cattnach to escalate with NYC. No response to date. Clerk to raise concerns with the PCSO to ascertain the number of accidents on this stretch of the road.

Other items

26017: Correspondence received:

- a. YLCA; White Rose updates and training information noted.
- b. Parish Liaison update December 2025 noted.

26018: Comments from councillors and public present on agenda items:

- a. No further comments raised.

26019: Items for the next meeting:

- a. The next monthly Parish Council meeting is to be held on **Monday 2nd February 2026**.

Meeting closed at 20.50.

Signed: T Chambers

Chair, Escrick Parish Council

Date: 2nd February 2026