

Escrick Parish Council

Minutes of Escrick Parish Council monthly meeting held in The Wenlock Room at The Parsonage Hotel at 7pm on Monday 7th July 2025.

Part 1

25136: **Welcome:** Chair welcomed councillors and members of the public to the meeting.

25137: **Apologies/Attendance:**

- a. Present: Cllr S Allen, Cllr Chambers (Chair), Cllr Cunningham, Cllr Fairbairn, Cllr Hawes, Cllr Hopkinson and Cllr King. Clerk; S Look. Members of the public.
- b. Apologies: no apologies received.

25138: **Declarations of Interests:** Cllr Cunningham declared an interest in item 25153c Light Valley Solar.

25139: **Co-option of new councillor:** No new councillors have applied to join the Parish Council.

25140: **Public correspondence received:**

- a. Member of the public reported advertising signage relating to contractors working at a property on Skipwith Road. Red Barn Developments have responded directly to the complainant and explained the principal purpose of the sign was to assist their delivery drivers in identifying the site efficiently and safely.
- b. Report that CYC have missed the grass cutting at the border of the City of York boundary. Clerk reported this to CYC and explained that this is a recurring problem. Area has now been cut.
- c. Concerns regarding speeding on A19 and road traffic accidents. A request has been made to extend the speed limit further out of the village to the junction at the entrance of Escrick Park Estate. Clerk to contact Cllr Cattanach to raise concerns at the NYC next Transport Scrutiny committee meeting.
- d. Correspondence regarding the proposed Carrs Meadow development. The Application is based on the site being in Flood Zone 2 when part of it is actually in Flood Zone 3, which is the one considered to be most at risk and generally avoided for domestic development. Councillors resolved to send supplementary comments to NYC regarding this information with a request for it to be taken into consideration.
- e. Correspondence regarding Light Valley Solar phase two consultation. Councillors noted that the consultation has been advertised publicly to residents throughout the process however it was noted that the maps are vague.
- f. Community Emergency Plan. Councillors agreed that emergency contact numbers should be published on the Parish Council website. Councillors agreed that if any members of the community would like to take the project further and develop a full plan councillors would not object.

25141: **Public session:**

- a. A member of the public expressed what a great job the maintenance contractors have done recently keeping the village looking neat and tidy.
- b. It was noted that the request to extend the 40mph limit out of the village on Skipwith Road is still ongoing.

25142: **Updates from other authorities:**

- a. Divisional Councillor Cattanach not present. Cllr Cattanach responded to a previous query made by the PC and confirmed that although he is on the Planning Committee, he still represents his constituents in Escrick and is able to hear their concerns regarding planning matters. However, if he took a stance on a planning matter before the application came to the planning committee, he would then be barred from deciding on the matter at committee and that would not benefit his constituents. He re-emphasised that his constituents do have representation on a divisional level, but he may disagree with their objections as he will stick to planning rules and regulations.
- b. No community Police Support Officer report.

25143: Minutes:

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on Monday 2nd June 2025.

Finance and Governance

25144: Number of councillors:

a. Resolved to apply to NYC to reduce the number of council seats from 11 to 9 for Escrick Parish Council. The Parish Council no longer has General Power of Competence as to qualify for it the number of councillors elected at the last ordinary election, or at a subsequent by-election, must equal or exceed two thirds of its total number of councillors. Escrick needed 8 need to be elected (rather than co-opted) at the time of the last election (2022) but only 5 councillors permitted were elected (one of which has now left Escrick PC). Next full council election to take place in May 2027.

25145: Village Green lease:

a. Noted the change of landlord for the village green to Charles David Forbes Adam trading as a partner of Escrick Park Home Farm Partnership.

Finance:

25146: Finance report:

- a. Clerk gave a financial update year to date and reiterated the rules with regards expenditure and reserves. The Clerk also reiterated the procedures for parish council reserves. *It is generally accepted that general (i.e. un-earmarked) revenue reserves usually lie within the range of three to twelve months of gross expenditure. However, the amount of general reserve should be risk assessed and approved by the Council.*
- b. Account balances and reconciliation:

		Community account	BMM account
i.	Account balances as at 27 May 2025:	£2087.99	£45,257.38
ii.	Payments made since last meeting:		
	Unity monthly service charge	-£6.00	
	S Look – May expenses	-£23.94	
	S Look – Clerks May salary	As agreed	
iii.	Payments made since last meeting under clerks delegated powers:		
	S Look – June expenses	-£62.06	
	S Look – Clerks June salary	As agreed	
	Queens Staith Leisure; Parsonage room hire 24-25	-£220.00	
	HMRC – Clerks salary	-£10.07	
	A Hodgson – Fountain flowers	-£63.96	
	Unity monthly service charge	-£6.00	
iv.	Internal Transfer	£3000.00	-£3000.00
v.	Receipts:		
		Nil	
	Account balances as at 1st July 2025:	£3727.72	£42,864.78

- c. Routine payments to be made:

viii.		Nil
-------	--	-----

- d. Purchases / exceptional payments to be approved and made:

ix.		Nil
-----	--	-----

It was resolved to accept the payments as stated above.

Maintenance

25147: **Maintenance issues:**

- a. Maintenance issues. Cllr Chambers has repainted the fish fountain posts. It was noted that they are rotting in parts so will need replacing in the future. Cllr Chambers has replaced a loose block at the front of the War Memorial and also filled the rabbit holes on the playing field that the grass cutting contractors had reported.
- b. No progress on getting the bus shelters cleaned on the A19 near Sang Thai.
- c. No update on funding available for the replacement fencing around the fish fountain.
- d. The hedge outside 1 Wenlock has now been cut back by the resident as requested by the PC.
- e. Overgrown hedge / trees near the Sang Thai bus stop. The trustees are happy to follow the advice of a tree surgeon and have the trees crown lifted for the trees near the foot path and bus shelter and this work has already been instructed. (They will not be cut back to the boundary line for the full height of the tree as this goes against the advice of an experienced tree surgeon).
- f. Overgrown hedge outside Sang Thai. Clerk has contacted the restaurant to request that they cut it back. To follow up.
- g. Received a response from the residents 15 & 17 Main Street confirming that they are not responsible for cutting the hedge on the cut through footpath between Main Street and the A19. The hedge on right walking towards the A19 (adjacent to the wooden side gate) is still encroaching onto the path which councillors understand belongs to number 17. Clerk to clarify with resident at no. 17.

Playing Field / Play Area

25148: **Playing field update:**

- a. Inspections done. New springing duck has been ordered. Area needs resurfacing. The padlock on the main gate has been replaced by the PFA as it had been removed by somebody. Cllr Chambers has cut back the growth around the main gate and adjusted it as the maintenance contractors had reported difficulty in opening it. The padlock code has been updated and the clerk has informed the Yorkshire Ambulance Service.
- b. NYC planning has confirmed that there is still no update on the S106 monies from planning application 2023/0110/FUL - Traves A, Abattoir, Main Street to be used towards the play park equipment. The developers have not yet applied to discharge any of the pre-commencement conditions although the expiry date for the permission is not until 6 March 2026.

Village Green

25149: **Village Green update:**

- a. Nothing to report.
- b. Councillors considered proposing any changes to the VGA regarding rules for the village green use if the Carrs Meadow development is approved and the green area is developed on that side. Resolved to make no changes.

Planning

25150: **Planning, new applications:**

- a. ZG2025/0620/CPE. 28A Main Street, Escrick, YO19 6UQ. Lawful development certificate for existing use as an independent dwelling. No comments.

25151: **Planning ongoing:**

- a. ZG2024/1279/TCA. The Holt, 9 Carr Lane, Escrick. Tree work and proposed TPO's. Escalated to local MP Keir Mather. Cllr Chambers attended a meeting with NYC and the property owner. Five-day notice to crown reduce removing circa 2m of existing canopy to suitable pruning points 1no Cypress tree (T7) covered by TPO 5/2025 – Ref ZG2025/0573/TNO2. 5 Jun 2025.

- b. ZG2025/0338/FUL - Land Off, Carrs Meadow, Escrick. Erection of No. 8 dwellings and associated garages and landscape.

25152: Planning determinations:

- a. ZG2025/0432/HPA. 11 Dower Chase. Erection of a single storey rear extension. Permitted.

25153: Other planning matters:

- a. North Yorkshire Council Local Plan. The 'Call for Sites' map has been updated on the NYC website.
- b. Resolved to respond to the following consultation:

North Yorkshire Local Plan: our first conversation, May 2025 - NYC are asking for views on the priorities and issues the North Yorkshire Local Plan can help address. Proposed response circulated to councillors prior to the meeting and agreed.

- c. Update on the Light Valley Solar project. Drop-in events for local residents and businesses in the vicinity of the Project have been advertised to residents. Councillors have reservations regarding the current plans and would like to request that the boundary is moved further back from the road by at least a field. Within the PEIR (Preliminary Environmental Information Report June 2025), in Section 5.3 Agricultural Lands and Soils, 5.3.1 states that "The best quality agricultural land (Grades 1, 2 and 3a) is known as 'Best and Most Versatile (BMV)' and is given a greater level of protection in planning policy than lower quality (Grades 3b, 4 and 5). Section 5.3.2 states that of the agricultural land surveyed to date (Sites 1-4), 2% is confirmed as Grade 1, 18% classified as Grade 2, 34% confirmed as Subgrade 3a and 46% is confirmed as Subgrade 3b. Councillors are supportive of a development that protects the Best and Most Versatile agricultural land (land which should be protected under planning policy) and agree with development on the basis of using only the Subgrade 3b areas and above.
- d. The Rural Housing Enabler has produced posters advertising the 'Call for sites' to be displayed in the parish.

Highways items

25154: Speeding:

- a. Traffic Regulation Order to introduce a 40mph speed limit on Skipwith Road and Mill Hill ongoing.

25155: Streetlighting:

- a. Councillors discussed the options for lighting at the northbound bus stop of the A19 near Sangthai. It was explained that because the PC has not got General Power of Competence, the only power to use to install a streetlight in another parish is the Local Government Act 1972 section 137 if it brings benefit to some or all of the inhabitants of the parish. S137 annual expenditure limit is £8480 for 2025-26 and therefore the cost of the new mains powered light exceeds this.

Other items

25156: Correspondence received:

- a. YLCA; White Rose updates and training information noted.
- b. Councillors noted the closure of Queen Margaret's School.
- c. NYC Nature recovery Consultation. For further information about the consultation please visit the LNRS consultation webpage: [North Yorkshire and York Local Nature Recovery Strategy consultation | North Yorkshire Council](#). Noted.
- d. Report of car being renovated on EPE land. Resolved no further action.
- e. Noted the Local Government Explained updated version available for councillors.
- f. Parish Liaison update June 2025 noted.

25157: Comments from public present on agenda items:

- a. Objection raised to the Light Valley Solar proposals.

25158: Items for the next meeting:

- a. Resolved to amend the proposed September Parish Council meeting date from 1st September to 8th September 2025. The meeting will be held at 7pm in The Wenlock Room at The Parsonage Hotel.
- b. Resolved to amend the April 2026 meeting date from 6th April to 13th April 2026 due to the bank holiday.

Meeting closed at 21.05hrs.

Signed: T Chambers

Chair, Escrick Parish Council

Date: 8th September 2025