

Escrick Parish Council

Minutes of Escrick Parish Council monthly meeting held in The Wenlock Room at The Parsonage Hotel at 7pm on Monday 8th September 2025.

Part 1

25159: Welcome: Chair welcomed councillors and members of the public to the meeting.

25160: Apologies/Attendance:

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

25161: Declarations of Interests: No declarations received.

25162: Co-option of new councillor: No new councillors have applied to join the Parish Council.

25163: Public correspondence received:

- a. Report that the patch of grass on Wenlock Drive has been missed on the contractors last two visits. In addition, report received that the hedge needs cutting back on Carr Lane. Clerk has reported both issues to the contractor.
- b. Query received regarding permissions for Yoga classes being held on the village green. VGA have confirmed relevant permission has been granted and insurance details provided.
- c. Light Valley Solar proposal objections. Noted. Parish Council sent additional comments stating it is unclear within the PEIR whether actual recent site surveys have been undertaken in relation to Site 1 or if they are relying on the Provisional ALC mapping that was carried out between October 1988 and late 1999. The PC also requested clarification of the basis of the identification of Subgrade 3b on this Site as there is evidence that good quality crops are being grown on areas that have been marked as Subgrade 3b. Consultation now closed.
- d. Concerns raised about dangerous driving through the village, particularly by motorcyclists and the noise generated. Residents have reported this directly to the police. Clerk to raise with the PCSO and request random checks are done during the summer season.
- e. Complaint received about the condition of Escrick Play Area. Reported to PFA. Reported overflowing bins to NYC. Springing duck has now been replaced and remedial works in the toddler area are complete.
- f. Follow up email on incident in play area near to the goal posts. Clerk has replied to the member of the public and confirmed goal posts have been moved and secured.
- g. Further objection by resident regarding planning application ZG2025/0338/FUL - 8 Dwellings Carrs Meadow, Escrick. Noted.

25164: Public session:

- a. No comments.

25165: Updates from other authorities:

- a. Divisional Councillor Cattanach not present but reported that he has committed £3,300 of his £5,000 locality budget to date. Funding available for Escrick but applications need to be processed soon.
- b. Community Police Support Officer reported that there have been urban explorer incidents within the grounds of QM. Security is now in place.

25166: Minutes:

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 7th July 2025.

25167: Digital and data compliance:

- a. Noted the new assertion 10 in the annual governance and accountability return for year ended 31 March 2026 – digital and data compliance. The guidance explains that all councils should use an authority owned e-mail account, which will include the council giving councillors an e-mail account to use for council business, which is owned by the council. The key reason given for this is that sensitive information is handled in a controlled environment with appropriate security measures (as set by the council). This aligns with GDPR principles. Use of personal e-mail addresses by the clerk and councillors does not provide control and security for the council. In addition to this, the Practitioner's Guide says that all councils should have an IT policy. Noted by councillors but concerns raised about councillors having to use a separate account/application. Clerks email address is compliant and all Parish Council emails from that account are secure.
- b. Councillors resolved not to adopt the Escrick Parish Council IT Policy as recommended by YLCA. Resolved to defer until the next meeting.
- c. Councillors considered options for a new website and councillor email accounts. Resolved to defer until the next meeting.

25168: Annual Governance Statement:

- a. Notice of conclusion of audit received. Noted the Annual Governance Statement 2024/25 external audit report and completion certificate.

25169: Insurance:

- a. Confirmed the Annual Parish Council insurance renewal. EPC are still within the 3-year deal. The broker has moved insurers this year. A higher premium is connected to the legal expenses cover. They have applied a discount and revised the renewal at a total premium from £1509 to £1,393.15. A long-term deal does not fix the premium, any claims, major changes, and index linking will all impact the premium each year.

25170: Community governance review:

- a. Noted that the Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services has agreed to include Escrick within the terms of reference of the Community Governance Review in relation to reducing the number of Parish Council seats from 11 to 9. Review starts from 15th September for 12 weeks.

25171: Finance report:

- a. Noted the Local Government pay claim 2025/26 has been accepted. Clerks' salary to be back dated to April 2025 in line with the National Pay Agreement award as per employee contract.
- b. Account balances and reconciliation:

Account balances and reconciliation:

		Community account	BMM account
i.	Account balances as at 2nd July 2025:	£3727.72	£42,864.78
ii.	Payments made since last meeting:		
	Nil		
iii.	Payments made since last meeting under clerks delegated powers:		
	S Look – Clerks July salary	As agreed	
	HMRC – July payment	-£10.07	
	Unity – July monthly service charge	-£6.00	
	PKF Littlejohn; external audit 2024-25	-£252.00	
	Unity – August monthly service charge	-£6.00	
iv.	Internal Transfer	£2000.00	-£2000.00
v.	Receipts:		
		Nil	

	Account balances as at 3rd September 2025:	£4969.53	£40864.78
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c. Routine payments to be made:

viii.	Npower – festive Lighting Oct 2024-March 2025	-£17.39
	Autela – payroll service Apr – July 2025	-£84.00
	Escrick Park Home Farm – village green annual rent	-£10.00
	HMRC – August payment	-£10.07
	S Look – Clerks August salary	As agreed
	S Look – July and August expenses	-£36.00
	Clear Councils – Annual insurance 2025-26	-£1393.15

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

ix.		Nil
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It was resolved to accept the payments as stated above.

Maintenance

25172: Maintenance issues:

- No new maintenance issues raised.
- No progress on getting the bus shelters cleaned on the A19 near Sang Thai. Further report has been sent to CYC.
- The hedge/tree maintenance required on the A19 near the York bound bus stop (near Sang Thai) has been done.
- The hedge encroaching and reducing path width on the public footpath between Main Street and the A19 has now been cut back.
- The village maintenance contractor has agreed to add the grass verge outside 1 Wenlock Drive to the maintenance contract at no extra cost.
- It was noted that the maintenance contractors have been cutting the Ash saplings/shoots on the village green (cordon sanitaire side) when doing their regular mowing. Clerk to request that they are left to grow.

Playing Field / Play Area

25173: Playing field update:

- Inspections done. New springing dog has been fitted and remedial works done on the play area. Play equipment has been cleaned. Annual general meeting to be held on Tuesday 16th September 2025. Councillors formally thanked Cllr Hopkinson for taking the lead on Escrick 10k. Concerns raised about the potential route for the next 10K due to the closure of QM.

Village Green

25174: Village Green update:

- Nothing to report.

Planning

25175: Planning, new applications:

- Proposed Extinguishment of Vehicular Rights on roads through Skipwith Common National Nature Reserve – Consultation under Section 249 Town and Country Planning Act 1990. No comments.
- ZG2025/0719/TPO. Oak Tree House, 19 Dower Park, Escrick. Application for consent to reduce the overall spread by 20% to 1No Oak tree covered by TPO 5/1984. No comments registered.

25176: Planning ongoing:

- ZG2024/1279/TCA. The Holt, 9 Carr Lane, Escrick. Tree work and proposed TPO's. The work has now been done.
- ZG2025/0338/FUL - Land Off, Carrs Meadow, Escrick. Erection of No. 8 dwellings and associated garages and landscape. No further update.

25177: Planning determinations:

- a. No decisions received.

25178: Other planning matters:

- a. North Yorkshire Council Local Plan. No further update.
- b. The Light Valley Solar consultation has now closed. Light Valley will review all the feedback received alongside the findings from their ongoing environmental and technical assessments, to help finalise their detailed proposal to submit for development consent to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS).
- c. Councillors considered involvement with Monk Fryston Parish Council to jointly employ a specialist Consultant to submit a case to the Secretary of State for consideration when the eventual Development Consent Order application is lodged. It was resolved not to get involved due to potential financial implications.

Highways items

25179: Speeding:

- a. Traffic Regulation Order to introduce a 40mph speed limit on Skipwith Road and Mill Hill is on hold due to the closure of QM. Parish Council can reapply if and when a new venue has been confirmed.

25180: Streetlighting:

- a. Councillors discussed the options for lighting at the northbound bus stop of the A19 near Sangthai. CYC suggested installing a solar light as this will lower the energy and Northern power grid costs. They suggested a lower 6meter height column near the bus stop which would not be classed as contributing to illumination of the adopted highway but it would give some illumination over and above the area of the bus stop. Councillors raised concerns about the trees affecting the functionality of it and decided this is not a viable option. Cllr King to raise with Cllr Cattnach.

Other items

25181: Correspondence received:

- a. YLCA; White Rose updates and training information noted.
- b. Parish Liaison update July 2025 noted.
- c. Parish Precept 2026-27 arrangements noted.
- d. ZG2023/1110/FUL: Post Office Row 7 Main Street Escrick. Planning enforcement issue raised by member of the public regarding the development of Post Office Row in relation to the unauthorised felling of a mature cherry tree within the Escrick Conservation Area. This tree was explicitly required to be retained on the approved plans for planning permission. It was also reported that development of the site commenced prior to the planning application being decided. Resolved to report to planning enforcement at NYC.

25182: Comments from public present on agenda items:

- a. No further comments.

25183: Items for the next meeting:

- a. The next monthly Parish Council meeting is to be held on **Monday 6th October 2025**.
- b. Cllr King will be attending the Escrick Quarry Community Liaison Group annual meeting organised by Plasmoor later this month on behalf of the Parish Council.

Meeting closed at 20.30hrs.

Signed: T Chambers

Chair, Escrick Parish Council

Date: 6th October 2025