

Escrick Parish Council

Minutes of Escrick Parish Council monthly meeting held in The Wenlock Room at The Parsonage Hotel at 7pm on Monday 4th November 2024.

Part 1

24193: **Welcome:** Chair welcomed councillors and members of the public to the meeting.

24194: **Apologies/Attendance:**

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

24195: **Declarations of Interests:** No declarations of interested registered.

24196: **Public correspondence received:**

- a. Report of streetlight 8 on Skipwith Road is not working (Parish owned light). Resident has reported it to NYC.

24197: **Public session:**

- a. Items raised by member of the public present to be covered in the meeting; the village pond, A19 footpath, the solar development and school parking.

24198: **Updates from other authorities:**

- a. Divisional Councillor Cattanach not present.

24199: **Minutes:**

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 7th October 2024.

Finance and Governance

24200: **Finance report:**

- a. Councillors noted the Local Government pay claim 2024/25 has been accepted. Clerks salary to be back dated to April 2024 in line with the National Pay Agreement award as per employee contract.
- b. Account balances and reconciliation:

| | | Community account | BMM account |
|------|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| i. | Account balances as at 30 September 2024: | £5004.99 | £46,388.06 |
| ii. | Payments made since last meeting: | | |
| | S Look – September expenses | -£35.99 | |
| | Escrick Developments Ltd – Pond pump renovation | -£3846.27 | |
| | Clear Councils – annual insurance | -£1362.27 | |
| iii. | Payments made since last meeting under clerks delegated powers: | | |
| | Unity quarterly service charge | -£18.00 | |
| iv. | Internal Transfer | £2000.00 | -£2000.00 |
| v. | Receipts: | | |
| | Escrick Village Green Association; Village pond | £3205.22 | |

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| | Unity credit interest | | £264.55 |
| | Account balances as at 29 October 2024: | £4947.68 | £44652.61 |

c. Routine payments to be made:

| | | |
|-------|----------------------------------|-----------|
| viii. | S Look – October expenses | -£18.00 |
| | S Look – Clerks October salary | As agreed |
| | NYC – streetlight energy 2023-24 | -£1782.50 |

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

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

Maintenance

24201: Maintenance issues:

- a. Cllr Chambers gave an update on various maintenance issues previously reported including overgrown hedges and vegetation reported to the PC by Cllr Croasdale.
Clerk to ask the Parish Council contractors to cut back the small section of hedge and vegetation by the bridge on Skipwith Road as it is restricting access on the footpath.
Report of a streetlight obstruction by tree at the corner of Skipwith Road and the A19. Councillors to check if the light is creating a shadow over the pathway in the dark and report back at the next meeting.
Cllr Croasdale to provide the occupiers address for who the tree belongs to if a cut back is required.
Sang Thai have cut their bushes back but the ivy growing out of the church boundary is still causing a trip hazard. Cllr Croasdale reported that the path has narrowed to little more than a foot. The ivy needs cutting back as many elderly people use this path to reach the bus stop. Chair has agreed to cut this back.
Chair reported that the condition of the tarmac path on the footpath between Alleyway House and no.17 has a crack/ hump that is a potential trip hazard. EPE have agreed to have a look to organise for removal of the root and repair the pathway.
- b. The Hawthorn hedge between the playing fields and the A19 has now been cut along with the three other sections of hedge along this stretch of the A19. The first section of the hedge from the end of Carr Lane belongs to the school. The second section is part of the playing fields so is part of the PC lease from Escrick Park Estate. The third section belongs Queen Margarets School and the fourth section belongs to Escrick Park Estate. Clerk to add the key ownership information to the village responsibilities map.
- c. Chairman updated councillors on the footpath on the A19 outside of the Escrick parish towards York that is overgrown. Clerk has reported this to CYC. Their contractors have mistakenly missed it in the past due to it being after the City of York sign assuming it was out of the CYC boundary. They have now logged this as a priority and agreed to get it cut back. Cllr King agreed to remove the oil drum that has been discarded in the vicinity.
- d. Chairman has put up anti-litter signage throughout the village.
- e. Chair gave an update on the playing field trees which he has clipped back. Cllr King to dispose of branches.
- f. Gary Lumb from NYC Highways met the chair and walked around the village to address issues raised. The maintenance manager is looking into funding opportunities to side off both sides of the footway on the A19. This is between the path and the hedge/fence adjacent to the A19 southbound from the Carr Lane/A19 junction to where the verge ends at the beginning of the slope section. That would also include the verge located between the path & the A19 southbound from opposite the Escrick village sign to the slope.
NYC to write to No.32 Wenlock Drive to ask them to cut their hedge in a vertical line from their property boundary line at the junction of Wenlock and Skipwith Road.
NYC to write to No. 1 Wenlock Drive to ask them to cut their hedge in a vertical line from their property boundary line at the junction of Wenlock and Skipwith Road.
NYC to write to No. 4 Skipwith Road to ask them to trim the hedge overhang to above head height over the footpath.

NYC have confirmed that the path between the railings adjacent to the A19 opposite The Parsonage and Skipwith Road is not highway or a public right of way. Escrick Park Estate have confirmed they are responsible for maintenance of the surface of this path.

Clerk has attended a meeting with NYC Highways about processes and ways of working with Parish Councils. Information to be circulated to councillors when received from NYC later this month.

Playing Field / Play Area

24202: **Playing field update:**

- a. Inspections done. Nothing to report. Next PFA meeting to be held on 11th November. Cllr Fairbairn to feedback at the December PC meeting.

Village Green

24203: **Village Green update:**

- a. Update on the pond and wildlife plans: The VGA hope is that ducks, moorhen and other aquatic species will adopt the pond as their home if the water levels are high enough. It was noted that a duck and moorhen has already been recently spotted on the pond. Member of the public offered to source some ducks for the pond at £15 per duck but they would need feeding. Cllrs agreed to leave this to the VGA to make a decision on it.

Planning

24204: **Planning, new applications:**

- a. No new applications received.

24205: **Planning ongoing:**

- a. 2022/0357/TCA. Hellings House, 73 Main Street, Escrick - the tree work and 2021/1375/HPA. The TPO at Hellings House was confirmed on 15th June 2023. The TPO reference for this is TPO 26/2022.
- b. ZG2023/0691/HPA. Grove House Skipwith Road. No progress to relocate the gas tank in the front garden as requested by planning enforcement. Enforcement ref 2024/0186/LWORK. The owner was contacted in September to establish when the existing gas tank will be removed and the new one installed. The owner advised NYC that they were in discussions with the provider – Calor on when the new gas tank can be installed. The owner of the property has advised that the removal of the existing tank and installation of the new one is anticipated to take place the 2nd week of December. The owner is reliant on the provider being able to remove and install the gas tanks. In relation to the issue of the house being for sale, at present there is no enforcement notice on the property so if the house is sold there is nothing that would flag up on any searches. NYC to contact the owners and make them aware that if the property is sold the requirement to remove the existing gas tank and install the new one, remains.
- c. 2023/0110/FUL - Traves A, Abattoir, Main Street, Escrick, YO19 6JP. Jac Cruickshank, Senior Planning Officer at NYC has confirmed that the S106 funding can be used for the play area equipment but not the fountain fencing as it does not meet the open space criteria. The expected sum is £7928 but this may include the sum for waste and recycling provision. Request made by councillor Croasdale to use funding for traffic calming measures such as a 40mph buffer after the 30mph limit going out of Skipwith Road past Queen Margarets school. It was explained that the majority of the S106 funding has already been agreed to be spent on the play equipment.
- d. ZG2024/0120/S73. Black Bull, 91 Main Street, Escrick. No further update from planning enforcement. Jac Cruickshank from NYC planning department is following this up.

24206: **Planning determinations:**

2023/0110/FUL. Traves A, Abattoir, Main Street. Residential conversion of existing buildings into 4 No 2 bedroom dwellings, erection of 1 No 3 bedroom and 3 No 4 bedroom dwellings together with associated garages and alterations to an existing building to form a store/garage for Langrigg, together with associated works including an improved access to Main Street. Permission granted. Noted.

24207: Other planning matters:

- a. Selby Local Plan. No further update.
- b. North Yorkshire Council Local Plan. No further update.
- c. Details of the Light Valley Solar proposals have been sent to the Parish Council. Light Valley Solar will be holding a consultation event on **Monday 18th November, 11.30am – 3.30pm** in Escrick Village Hall and also an online webinar (zoom) on **Wednesday 20th November 2024 – 18:00 – 19:30**. Details on how to join can be found at www.lightvalleysolar.co.uk. Concerns were raised regarding the size and scale of the proposals and the location as it is reported by Cllr King to be on good agricultural land despite being reported as clay by the developers/EPE. Members of the public present agreed to attend the public meeting and report back to councillors at the next PC meeting. Skipwith PC are also seeking views of EPC. To consider formal response at the next PC meeting.

Highways items

24208: Streetlighting:

- a. Damaged post on the junction of Skipwith Road / A19 has now been reported as fixed.
- b. A quote of £360 excluding VAT received to replace light 8 on Skipwith Road to LED with partial operation in key hours. It is not working (Parish Council light). Councillors resolved to accept the quote and get this replaced. To consider replacing the other remaining two 40W lights (streetlight 2 outside 3 Skipwith Road (opposite Dower Chase) and column number 3 outside 6 The Glade) at a later day as they are still in good working order.

24209: School Parking:

- a. Escrick Park Estate sent options to alleviate the parking problems outside the school at pick up and drop off times. Councillors agreed that the 4 options proposed were not viable due to highways, funding and logistical reasons. Resolved to continue to request a police presence when problems are arising particularly when building work is ongoing at the various developments in the village.

Other items

24210: Website and PC email addresses:

- a. Parish Council website and email addresses have now been updated to a gov.uk domain. www.escrickparishcouncil.gov.uk

24211: Ways of working:

- a. Maintenance working group are looking at ways to improve both the aesthetic and safety of the village by identifying areas for improvement. Group met up on 24 October to discuss how to approach next steps. The group resolved to send ideas to Cllr Croasdale to collate. Cllr Croasdale to present areas identified that require further attention to the PC at the next meeting and councillors to decide how to take it forward.
Cllr Croasdale's proposal is that the PC include **all** grass verges in the contract tender briefing document and map. His rationale behind this is: If it is not residents responsibility, it is the local authorities/PC's. It is inconsistent and unfair to cut public grass outside some peoples houses and not others. Difficult for us to justify if asked by a parishioner; All the public representation at the last PC meeting expressed support for and a desire for the PC to get on top of the vegetation/hedges/grass issues.; It probably shouldn't cost more than 10-30 mins extra to do these additional verges when they are already here and so it is not cost prohibitive. Sally also indicated that the finances are in good health and have some

capacity; Councillors have agreed at the PC meeting to support the vision statement developed by the PC working group *“To create a safe, accessible and attractive village for the benefit of Escrick residents of all ages.”* The cutting of the verges was debated later (see 24216a below) and it was resolved to make no changes to the present arrangement.

24212: Correspondence received:

- a. YLCA; White Rose updates and training information noted.
- b. YLCA Royal Garden Party councillor nomination details noted.
- c. Councillors considered entering a Parish Council tree into the Christmas tree festival at Escrick church. Unfortunately, no councillors volunteered to take this forward so the PC will not be entering a tree.

24213: Comments from public present on agenda items:

- a. To add the request to extend the speed limit on Skipwith Road to the next agenda to add a 40mph buffer after the 30mph.

24214: Items for the next meeting:

- a. It was confirmed that the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Monday 2nd December 2024, 7pm** in The Wenlock Room at The Parsonage Hotel.

Members of the public left the meeting.

Part 2

24215: Confidential business: It was resolved to exclude Public and Press on the grounds that matters for discussion affect individual staff members/ procedures/ legal/ finance issues.

24216: Village Maintenance contract 2025-26:

- a. It was confirmed that the hedge beside the beck on Carr Lane from the old police houses to the crossroads at Main Street is the responsibility of the private landowners (residents) who have been maintaining it. Residents have also confirmed they own it. Residents on Wenlock and Southlands have been surveyed and only 20% want the Parish Council contractors to take over grass cutting outside their homes. The current contractors have confirmed they will not collect the grass on the village green as it would not be cost effective for the Parish Council due to disposal costs and labour. They have suggested doing 14 cuts up to the end of October then depending on the weather cut ad hoc (roughly 1/month) as the season is getting longer and this will allow the grass to look short and tidy as they currently do for other areas. Councillors resolved to default to the 11 cuts unless otherwise recommended by the Parish Council for any additional cuts. It was noted that the current contractors have done 13 cuts this year. It was resolved to use the existing wording in the contracts ‘Cut all verges denoted on the attached map in green (nb: In some instances residents cut the verges outside their premises themselves, in which case there is no need to cut these where they are adequately maintained by others)’ and make no changes to the hedge cutting arrangements on Carr Lane.

24217: Budget 2025-26:

- a. Confirmed precept setting arrangements to be deferred to the December Parish Council meeting. Proposed budget to be circulated to councillors.

Meeting closed at 21.45.

Signed: Cllr T Chambers

Chair, Escrick Parish Council

Date: 2nd December 2024