Escrick Parish Council

Minutes of Escrick Parish Council Finance & Admin Committee meeting held in The Wenlock Room at The Parsonage Hotel at 18.30hrs on MONDAY 2nd NOVEMBER 2026.

Part 1

AFC26001: **Welcome: Chair welcomed Councillors to the meeting.**

AFC26002: **Apologies/Attendance:**

a. Present: Cllrs Chambers, Cllr Cunningham, Cllr Fairbairn and Cllr King.
b. Apologies: No apologies received.

AFC26003: **Declarations of interests:** None received.

AFC26004: **Electors comments:**

a. No members of the public present.

AFC26005: **Confidential items:** Resolved to exclude Public and Press on the grounds that matters for discussion affect individual staff members/ procedures/ legal/ finance issues.

AFC26006: **Finance:**

a. Budgetary requirements for 2027-28 discussed. The clerk explained the requirements surrounding the reserves being carried over. As authorities have no legal powers to hold revenue reserves other than those for reasonable working capital needs, or for specifically earmarked purposes, whenever an authority's year-end general reserve is significantly higher than the annual precept or rates and special levies, an explanation should be provided to the auditor. Earmarked reserves, which are set aside for specific purposes should be realistic and approved by the council. It is generally accepted that general reserves usually lie within the range of three to twelve months of gross expenditure. On this basis it was agreed to ask the Playing Fields Association and the Village Green Association if they have got any potential projects that the Parish Council can support to the value of £12,500 each. It was also proposed to replace the fish fountain fencing within this financial year as this has been carried over from last 2025/26 budget. Clerk to get updated quotes in preparation for the December meeting. Clerk to also contact NYC for a quote to install small solar powered lighting to illuminate the Bus Stop area, fixed to the top of the existing bus stop signage at the Hollicarr stops. This would also be desirable at the Escrick Business Park stops if NYC fee this is operationally feasible given the overhanging foliage at these two stops.
b. Village Maintenance Contract. Agreement affective until 31st March 2029. Added the additional areas at £100 per cut. Rates will increase by 2.5%/year from 2027 onwards. The majority of the Finance and Admin committee group wish to propose to Councillors at the next meeting that the grass cutting contract from 2027 is amended to include all grass verges along the full length of Wenlock Drive. At the present time the only sections that are in the contract are the larger section of grass in Southlands Close and the larger section of grass adjacent to no.15 Wenlock Drive. Additionally, a small section of verge on Escrick Park Gardens is included in this amendment, though it was agreed recently with the resident adjacent to this section that he would continue to cut it. The quoted cost to EPC to now include all the grass verges mentioned above in the 2027 contract is £100 per cut which equates to £1400pa based on the usual fourteen cuts each year.
c. Clerks salary agreed with in line with NALC nationally agreed pay scale.
d. Other expenditure agreed for the 2027/28 budget under 'potential new discretionary items' is lighting on the northbound A19/Sang Thai bus stop. CYC have confirmed that they will fund this. However, councillors agreed to carry over the earmarked funds to the value of £20,000 in case

funding was not forthcoming. Unspent funding of £500 for the Halt Heronby campaign to be carried over from 2025/26 and 2026/27 and earmarked for local interest campaign funding.

e. Budget to be presented to councillors with recommended expenditure for 2027/28 and recommendation to reduce the precept by 5%. The new rate proposed is £21,432.

Meeting closed at 19.25

Signed: Cllr T Chambers

7th December 2026.