

# Escrick Parish Council

**Minutes of Escrick Annual Parish meeting to be held in The Wenlock Room at The Parsonage Hotel at 7pm on MONDAY 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025.**

- APM2501: **Welcome:** Chair welcomed Councillors and members of public to the meeting.
- APM2502: **Minutes:** It was resolved to accept the minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024.
- APM2503: **Chairmans report:** Chair gave a report of Parish Council activities since last APM (full report below).
- APM2504: **No comments received from Electors' present about the report.**
- APM2505: **Reports from other organisations presented:**  
a. Village Green Association (see below)  
b. Playing Fields Association (see below)
- APM2506: No further comments from electors present at the meeting.

*Signed:*

*Chairman, Escrick Parish Council*

*Date: 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026*

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## **Escrick Parish Council - Chairman's annual report 2024-25**

Parish Councillor numbers have been very stable this year, with only one arrival and departure in this period under review, other than that Councillors remain from the previous year and I thank them for their time and dedication to the Parish Council. I'd also like to thank our Clerk/RFO Sally Look for her continued enthusiasm, professionalism and support during the past year.

There now follows the Chairman's annual summary, in chronological order, of the non-standard topics the PC has been involved in during the past twelve months.

### **Overview comment for the record: North Yorkshire Council (NYC) area Councillor John Cattanach**

Unfortunately our local NYC Councillor has not attended a single PC meeting in the last twelve months, for the second year running, and only one meeting the previous year - this is a great shame. I note the NYC plan from 2027 is to move Escrick from the Cawood district into the new division of 'Cliffe & Escrick' which will potentially give us fresh hope for a more involved approach from a different NYC area Councillor in future.

### **Difficulties for pedestrians crossing the A19 in Escrick**

The Parish Council period of 2024-25 opened with a discussion and request for a barrier to be installed on the A19 traffic island in the village. This request was turned down by NYC, however we did eventually get new high-vis. signs and a higher permanently illuminated globe light on the traffic island as a safety improvement.

### Street light for the north bound bus shelter area on the A19, opposite Chelsea Cottage

During the year the recurring issue of lighting at this location was discussed several times and it remains a key concern for residents, for various reasons. We initially considered roof mounted solar panels on the bus shelter and later pole mounted wrap around solar panels around a pole. Due to orientation and the surrounding overhanging trees these options were discarded and we hope to move along our discussions shortly on a mains powered light having had a site meeting with City of York engineers and obtained the prices requested.

### Road safety and parking issues at school pick up and drop off times

The ongoing issues relating to this subject have improved this financial year by initiatives such as the production of an updated parking map for parents, renewal of some white/yellow lines (April 2025) that had become an excuse to overlook regulations and the assistance of the police in monitoring and advising parents at busy times. I feel these steps when added together have provided an improvement in safety in the area in question.

### Black Bull Conversion

The PC opposed this development as the first real test of the Neighbourhood Development Plan. However, this application was unfortunately passed two years ago and work has eventually been completed on the three dwellings. We continued to oppose the additional application on this site for further conversion work to the garage behind the Black Bull into additional living space for two people. It was satisfying to see the owners of the adjacent property were successful in blocking this conversion.

### Traves Abattoir site conversion to new homes, S106 funding and the Carrs Meadow proposal

The Traves planning application was made and supported by the PC for eight new dwellings on the former abattoir site, a decision to approve this development was made by the local NYC planning team. The land should be cleared of existing factory structures soon and the developers hope to offer the land for sale with planning permission granted in the near future. Should this proceed the PC hope to benefit from £7928 of S106 public open space funding via the local planning authority from the developer as previously stated. Our request for any funding received to be utilized in two areas, replacement sustainable fencing around the dolphin fountain and part funding of a new piece of equipment for the playground, was unfortunately blocked with regard to the fencing aspect. However, this should mean more funds are available for an upgrade of the playing field equipment.

I have requested feedback from the community via the Parish Magazine concerning removal or replacement of the dolphin fountain fencing, this topic is due to be discussed again at the May PC meeting.

As for the former abattoir site, we have put in a request to the planning department that there are no contractor deliveries permitted between 08:15 – 08:45 and 15:30 to 16:00. I hope we can now make a follow up request if the proposed Carrs Meadow development is approved, that given we may have two large building sites near a school, progressing at the same time, that the time slots requested for no deliveries should be extended to 08:00 - 09:00 and 14:45 to 15:45.

A suggestion to create a new car park during this construction period was investigated with Escrick Park Estate when I had a meeting with them, but due to space and location limitations this option was subsequently discounted by Councillors.

### Grove House gas tank removal

After much protesting to NYC the removal of the unsightly gas tank that was installed without planning permission at this location was eventually achieved with a replacement underground tank now installed, as should have been the case originally.

### Request to reduce the speed limit on Skipwith road between Mill Hill and the Escrick village sign

It looks like this request stands a very good chance of being accepted in the near future. Though Councillors wanted a 30mph limit, a compromise of 40mph offered will we hope will get the nod and make this area near the Queen Margaret's School entry/exit road and Wheldrake lane junction much safer.

### Hedgerows and grass verges

Various improvements were made to pedestrian walkways around the village with regard to overhanging trees, with follow up resident enforcement requests by NYC following a tour of the village to log problem points. NYC and EPE acted on the requests made at site meetings I had with both parties to improve hedgerows and grass verges. These were adjacent to the cycle path alongside the A19 both north and south of Escrick, plus repair of the surface of the cut through pathway in the heart of the village.

### Proposed solar panel farm off Wheldrake lane

It was resolved not to object to the initial consultation on this proposed project. We have however submitted reservations and requested more information concerning the true size of the scheme before the next stage of consultation.

### Dangerous high damaged hanging branches on the fir tree adjacent to the school pedestrian gate

Despite appeals to NYC to consider sanctioning the work requested by the landowner, NYC have refused permission to touch the tree and placed a TPO on that and adjacent trees to prevent any future work. This is dangerous and short sighted given the impact the overgrown trees are having at this location, the owner and the PC continue to protest to NYC and I have offered to meet any representative to show them the dangers involved in not allowing the damaged high branches above the path to be removed. As a PC we have also resolved to escalate our safety appeal to the H&S executive at NYC and Keir Mather MP.

### Escrick Parish Council Precept for 2025-26

At our budget meeting we agreed to no increase in our precept charge to the community for 2025-26, paid as part of the NYC Council Tax bill. Our charge to residents was actually -1% or £70.62 per annum per household, down from £71.31.

### Selby District Council (SDC) & NYC Local Plan and proposed Heronby development

I'm were pleased that Heronby was removed from the second SDC consultation document. However, I expect the replacement NYC Local Plan will once again include this proposed development and I expect the following year to be a busy one in promoting our opposition to Heronby if that is the case. Along with all adjacent Parish Councils and

the Halt Heronby Action Group I expect we will continue to oppose this new town on our doorstep, for all the fact based reasons we have previously highlighted to all involved parties.

Terry Chambers

Chairman, Escrick Parish Council

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#### **Village Green Association report 2023-24:**

**The Village Green Committee holds regular committee meetings as well as meeting on the village green to undertake general maintenance work.**

Escrick Village Green AGM Minutes      27<sup>th</sup> January 2025

#### **Attending**

N Barber (NB), K Brown (KB), M Luscombe (ML), M Thomas (MT) J Lancaster (JL), H Pentith (HP).

#### **Apologies**

S Smowton (SS)

**Minutes of the previous meeting:** Agreed as a true and correct record and approved by ML and seconded by JL  
Present Chairman, Mr Steve Smowton, has stepped down. The whole of the VGA thanked Steve for his hard work and excellent chairmanship over the last few years.

**Financial Report:** Balance at Bank on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025 is £2000.

#### **Election of Officers**

All to remain as follows;

Chairman:	Michael Luscombe	Proposed: MT Seconded: JL
Secretary:	Helen Pentith	Proposed: NB Seconded: JL
Treasurer:	Keith Brown	Proposed: MT Seconded: HP
Safety Officer:	Milton Thomas	Proposed: HP Seconded: ML
Maintenance Officer:	John Lancaster	Proposed by KB Seconded by ML
Entertainment Officer:	N Barber	Proposed ML Seconded MT

Report was provided by the safety office at this meeting.

Meeting Ends

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**Escrick Playing Fields Association – Annual Report 24-25**

We have now had over a full year with the new Executive Committee of the Escrick Playing Fields Association in place. We have successfully recruited two new members, both with young children who will be using the park for the foreseeable future.

Current members

- Paul Britton (Chair)
- Simon Hunt (Vice Chair)
- Karen Janssen (Treasurer)
- Jim Dwyer
- Mark Fairburn
- Leon Sorrell
- Tim Wheeler

In September 2024, we agreed our annual plan for the year. As part of this process we confirmed our Terms of reference and constitution.

Key priorities for the year:

1. Meet statutory responsibilities
2. Understanding of, and engagement, with the park
3. Deliver new equipment
4. Develop long term plan including funding model

We are meeting roughly once per half term with a standard agenda, the notes are circulated following the meetings.

We agreed to aim for three events:

- The Winter Sweep – Sunday 1st December 10am
- The Big Clean – Sunday 6th April 10am-12pm
- The Summer Social – Saturday 28th June 4-8pm

The first two of these have been successful with around 15 volunteers for the Winter Sweep and 25 for the Big Clean. As a result, the playing fields and access path are in a good state. We are planning to complete more cleaning and painting during the summer months.

We are involved in planning for the Escrick 10k on Sunday 17th August. Thanks to all who have been giving us support in this first year to bring us up to speed.

We still await the outcome of the Public Spaces Fund or any other funding from Cllr. Cattnach so have not been able to progress with the purchase of new equipment or benches.

We are on top of our health and safety requirements with the annual inspection complete and weekly visual safety inspections taking place.

We have developed our communication with partners through the year. There is strong communication with Escrick Parish Council with matters such as the work to the trees and some concerns about behaviours in the parking being responded to swiftly. We have established a relationship with those responsible for estates management at the South York Multi Academy Trust and confirmed who is responsible for the access path. We have also met with Escrick Park Estate (Beilby Forbes Adams) and received verbal reassurances around the continuation of the lease of the grounds. Our aim is to include monthly updates in the Parish Magazine where possible.

Finances remain positive with around £16k in the bank.