

**ESCRICK PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
held on **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2012**  
at Escrick & Deighton Club

**PRESENT:** Mr Steve Snowton (*Chair*); Mr Brian Forster; Mr Mike Russell;  
Mr Peter Skilbeck; Mr Bill Reader; Mr John Reader; Mrs Amy Lamont ;  
Mrs Sara Cunningham; Mrs Lilian Coulson ;  
Mr Ian Reynolds *Selby District Councillor*

**APOLOGIES:** Mr Charles Forbes Adam  
Mrs Liz Casling *North Yorkshire County Councillor and Selby District Councillor*

**MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

Confirmed as a true record

Under correspondence to state that Mr Forbes Adam left the meeting.

**SUBJECT: CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

*The Chair stood down and Mr Forster took the meeting.*

Mr Forbes Adam sent an email as he felt he had been treated unfairly at the last meeting when he was asked to leave the meeting when the Designated Service Village status for Escrick was to be discussed. As minuted Mr Forbes Adam has an interest in the Designated Service Village issue and he declared a prejudicial interest.

*Having considered recent events carefully, I'm quite clear that the only issue which may need to be debated is whether the Chair acted correctly in requiring me to leave the PC meeting of 14 May 2012 when the potential DSV status/Escrick by-pass were discussed. It is for individual Councillors to decide on any particular matter whether to declare a conflict of interest: it is not for the Chair of a Council or Committee to make that decision for them.*

*As I am sure the Minutes will confirm, I have only ever spoken at Parish Council meetings about the DSV status of Escrick or the by-pass scheme either to answer questions or correct inaccurate information not to pressure the Parish Council to take any particular view or to promote my or Escrick Park Estate's interests.*

*The Chair now apparently disputes that he required me to leave the meeting so I should say that since then I have received (unsolicited) confirmation from other Parish Councillors that this was in fact the case.*

Mr Snowton referred to the Code of Conduct's advice on councillors who have a Prejudicial interest in any issue being discussed by the Parish Council. Prejudicial refers to any financial involvement. They have to declare this and should leave the room unless members of the public are allowed to stay. As soon as parish councillors are going to debate the issue the councillor cannot remain in the public gallery and must leave and must not attempt to influence any members of the parish council. If the

councillor does not leave the matter cannot be discussed. The meeting was unanimous that Mr Snowton had not acted wrongly and the clerk to write to Mr Forbes Adam apologising for being asked to leave and it was said with good intentions. It was proposed by Mr John Reader and seconded by Mr Russell. This letter to give reference to a previous meeting when Ms Hubbard attended and Mr Forbes Adam left the meeting voluntarily stating he had a prejudicial interest.

Mr Forbes Adam in an email has disagreed with paragraphs four and five of the survey which is being sent to all householders. He stated that these paragraphs are misleading and consequently object to them. He pointed out the same errors in his e-mail to the chair of 23<sup>rd</sup> May commenting on the draft of the Parish Council's last letter to Selby on the subject (unfortunately the letter had already been sent to Selby by the time he had received his e-mail). Unless the two paragraphs are changed to give a more balanced picture, he will have no option but to circulate his e-mail of 23<sup>rd</sup> May to local residents. It was proposed to wait until Mr Forbes Adam's letter is sent out to the village as he has stated in his email of 19<sup>th</sup> June before any further discussions on this issue.

*Mr Forster stepped down as chair and Mr Snowton resumed as chair.*

## **POLICE REPORT**

<http://maps.police.uk/view/north-yorkshire/selby>

The latest Police Report can be found on the web.

The next meeting of the Eastern Area Community Forum is being held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2012 in Ryther Village Hall at 6pm. Meeting theme is about *Recycling*

## **YORKSHIRE WATER**

Clerk has thanked Yorkshire Water and they replied to contact them if further flooding problems arise.

## **NORTH SELBY MINE**

Peel Environmental had been invited to tonight's meeting and could not attend and suggested a meeting tomorrow night at 6pm in the Parsonage Hotel. As there were only two councillors available to attend this meeting it was decided to cancel. *Action SS*

## **ESCRICK PLAYING FIELDS**

Huw Edwards is the present chairman of the Escrick Playing Fields Association. A discussion about whether the Grass path is to be part of the mowing contract and the question of who is to fund this ended with no conclusive decision reached. There are many issues needing resolving and despite being invited to the meeting there has been no representation. Monies have been raised and there is no evidence of any improvements having been made in the playing field.

Chair to ask them to attend the next meeting and for an update. *Action SS*

The paddock area is in need of attention. This issue has been unresolved for a couple of years and Mr John Reader would like the Parish Council to take control of this area.

Clerk to get a quote for the paddock area to be cut and cleared and the Playing Field Committee requested to fund this work. *Action VC*

When the quote is obtained they are to be given a deadline date to clear the area.

*Action SS*

Clerk to request representation for the next meeting. *Action VC*

## **PATH OUTSIDE NO 33 SKIPWITH ROAD FLOODS**

Mrs Casling was not available to give an update.

## **DESIGNATED SERVICE VILLAGE STATUS**

Mrs Lamont, Mrs Coulson and Mr Smowton are responsible for setting the survey. Surveys to be handed to every householder. Any forms not needed to be returned to the Clerk. A thank you to be sent to the Post Office for helping to collect the completed surveys. All surveys to be returned to the Clerk by the 13<sup>th</sup> July. The committee to meet on the 14<sup>th</sup> July and send the reply to councillors on the 15<sup>th</sup> and any comments to be sent back immediately to that a reply can be sent to Selby District Council by 19<sup>th</sup> July. Mr Reynolds reported that focus should be on the green belt which still exists around Escrick.

Mr Reynolds and Mrs Casling are making their own representations to the Council.

## **FOOTPATH A19 FROM THE FOUNTAIN TO CARR LANE JUNCTION**

The clerk has requested the Highways to attend to this area.

## **LAMP POST CARR LANE**

Mr John Reader has not been able to verify if this lamp is working.

## **PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY**

A casual vacancy has arisen in the Office of Councillor for the Parish Council. A notice has been placed in the Parish magazine giving the closing date of 21<sup>st</sup> July and the Returning Officer at Selby has given the closing date of 11<sup>th</sup> July. The clerk to inform Selby of this closing date of 21<sup>st</sup> July. If there is more than one person applying an election may be required and the Returning Officer will inform the clerk. Election to be before 14<sup>th</sup> September 2012. There is a cost involved which can be included in next year's precept.

*Action VC*

## **GRASS CUTTING**

A quote from Tru Green for the grass cutting in Escrick for £110 + VAT per occasion including hedge cutting. Clerk to enquire how many times they anticipate coming in a year and a quote for three years. *Action VC*

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

Two sets of Code of Conduct, one from Selby District Council and one from NALC have been received. Mr Reynolds reported that Selby District Council's version is going to council for approval tomorrow night and suggested we adopt this version which comes into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2012.

## **WAR MEMORIAL CHURCHYARD**

Mr Bill Reader reported that the War Memorial needs attention. This is a public memorial and not the responsibility of the Church. Mr Russell proposed quotes be obtained for this work and then a letter be sent to all residents of the village asking for donations to repair this memorial. This work should not be funded by the Parish Council. Mrs Cunningham to get quotes. *Action SC*

## **ACCOUNTS**

The accounts are in credit

A/c No 1	£3000.79
A/c No 2	£2696.90
It was agreed to pay:	
Broadband May 2012	£17.88
Escrick & Deighton Social Club	£10.00
Greenvale	£180.00

## **ACCOUNTS 2011 – 2012**

The accounts for the previous financial year were approved and signed off.

## **BUDGET 2012 - 2013**

The budget attached.

Lighting columns seem to need replacing and clerk to request lighting contractors to check all columns

## **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**8/10/260/PA two storey rear end single storey front extension 20 The Glade Escrick – no objections**

**8/10/259/PA erection of a single storey extension to the rear and a front entrance canopy 2 School Drive Escrick – no objections**

**8/10/40AY/CA** conservation area consent for the demolition of garage, lobby and boiler room external store and walls to enable the erection of extensions and external/internal alterations to form hotel café bar Rectory Cottage 6 Main Street Escrick

**8/10/40AZ/LB** listed building consent for the demolition of garage, lobby and boiler room external store and walls to enable the erection of extensions and external/internal alterations to form hotel café bar Rectory Cottage 6 Main Street Escrick.

**8/10/24CJ/PA** change of use of land agricultural to 4No grassed sports pitches each measuring 110m x 60m enclosed within a post and rail fence Queen Margaret's School Main Street Escrick. – *no objections*

**8/10/24CK/PA** to reinstate grade 2 listed gats into their original location and to carry out of minor restoration Queen Margaret's School Main Street Escrick. – *no objections subject to discussion about access by village residents.*

Clerk to write to Headmaster requesting access via this entrance for village residents remains. *Action VC*

**8/10/404Y/CA, 8/10/40AZ/CA, 8/10/40AY/CA and 8/10/40AY/PA**

**Applications for Listed building consent, Conservation Area consent and demolition consent for Rectory Cottage 6 Main Street Escrick to form a hotel café bar at The Parsonage Hotel, Escrick.**

*Escrick Parish Council considers the Parsonage Hotel an important part of the village as a prestige venue and employer. It is therefore sympathetic to its need to invest in its facilities and encourage new business to the hotel but is concerned that this should be taken in a sensitive and appropriate way.*

*In particular we note the business case and planning design and access statements submitted to support the various applications, but feel that important practical issues have been overlooked and need addressing before the application can be determined.*

*When the application for the Spa development was previously submitted, we requested that highways and parking issues should be properly addressed, including pedestrian safety issues with regard to the lane to the surgery. Whilst some proposals were drawn up and the works offered to Escrick Parish Council, they were never formally submitted as part of the planning application at this time and therefore the agreed works were not secured. The addition of the proposed café with additional vehicular and pedestrian traffic will exacerbate the situation even more.*

*Our main objections to the café applications as currently proposed are as follows:*

1. **TRAFFIC - A19**

*It increases our worries with regard to access and safety issues with regard to the A19 exit and entrance to the hotel given we already have major problems with Skipwith Road junction/bus stops on the A19 junction with hotel exit and bad sight lines. Due to the potential increase in traffic numbers to the hotel because of the café application, we would like to see a traffic impact assessment undertaken to address this issue of the additional traffic and appropriate highways / junctions/ pedestrian access / crossing improvements agreed with the highway authority and planning officer.*

2. **TRAFFIC - CHURCH LANE AND PEDESTRIANS**

*We consider that the planning application should incorporate all of the proposed improvements to the lane previously discussed with Escrick Parish Council with regard to increasing the width of the lane to create a two lane road from the A19 entrance to the surgery car park and a pedestrian path the full length of the lane. This would enhance safety for cars trying to enter the lane from the A19 (where they block the road if cars are trying to exit the lane, which will increase with the consequential increase in traffic from cars using the spa and café) and also pedestrians walking to the church, surgery, spa and now the proposed café, whether from the village or bus stops which are all now north of the entrance. As above, also all signage to increase the safety of all road users ie. including 'give way' signs for hotel guests when entering the lane from the hotel grounds and proper markings at the A19 / lane exit.*

3. **PARKING**

*We are already aware that the 109 car parking spaces available are not always able to cope when certain functions (eg. weddings and other large events) take place. Given the additional visitors to the spa and now the proposed café, we feel the plans*

*should show a suitable location for any additional parking needed. If not, the nearby car parks at the surgery and church will be used which will restrict availability for users of the surgery and church and will cause problems for users of these facilities when there is no parking available for them. If there is a shortage of parking spaces at the hotel, cars may also park on the lane and restrict access to the surgery and church and also for the existing farm vehicles and residents who use the lane for access to their properties.*

#### 4. DRAINAGE ISSUES

*We also have major concerns about the capacity of the drainage system at the Parsonage site to take the additional effluent, as there are already problems with drainage in the village which Yorkshire Water is aware of. The surgery has brought to our attention blockages that have occurred in the past because their drainage is linked to the Parsonage which raises the question what impact will the additional new cafe development have on the system to deal with the extra capacity required? Also there are longstanding problems that affect the main sewer on the A19 in the vicinity of the Parsonage and the road surface there that are regularly brought to the Parish Council's attention. We therefore ask that Yorkshire Water should fully examine the impact of the additional workings of the proposed cafe on the system to ensure it is capable of taking the additional workings from it (and the new spa). The business plan suggests that 80-100 covers per day could be generated by the café and yet no improvements to the existing drainage system are proposed. We also note on the application forms that there is no provision to be made for recycling facilities, despite the increase in demand and there is clear planning policy for provision from new developments.*

#### 5. LANSCAPING

*There are also no proposals in the application for any replacement landscaping to the lane to soften the impact of the developments of the spa and the proposed café in regard to the hedges that were and are now to be removed to make room for the development. The extensive areas of walling proposed need softening and a landscaping scheme should accompany the application.*

*Given our comments above, we would like to see the listed items to be addressed by both the Planning and Highways officers and also Yorkshire Water before we are able to support the application in its present form. We look forward to hearing from you further in due course in response to our concerns and hope to receive additional information in due course for re-consultation before the application is determined. I would also be obliged if you would advise us of your decision in due course.*

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

**Letter from 95 Alive** – A reply to speed complaint on the A19 Escrick showed speed data indicated a mean average speed of 35/33 mph and 85% of 39/38. The speed of vehicles on the A19 Selby Road Escrick are well within the 40mph speed limit.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Mrs Coulson would like the garage to have IN and OUT signs painted to alleviate drivers causing congestion on the A19. Deighton Parish Council to be contacted. *Action VC*

Mr Forster asked if the chain link around the fountain could be removed. Mr John Reader suggested we obtain a quote for stronger chain links. *Action VC*

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2012 at 7.30pm in Escrick & Deighton Club**