

ESCRICK PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held on **Monday 17th December 2012**
at Escrick & Deighton Club

PRESENT: Mr Steve Smowton; Mr Brian Forster; Mr Mike Russell;
Mrs Amy Lamont; Mr John Reader; Mr Bill Reader; Mrs Liz Casling;
Mrs Lilian Coulson; Mrs Sara Cunningham; Mr John Gaskin; Mrs Avril Bowman;
Mr Ian Reynolds *Selby District Councillor*

QUEEN MARGARET'S SCHOOL – ACCESS FOR PUBLIC

As a large number of residents attended tonight, the Chair opened the meeting with the issue of whether there is a Public Right of Way (PROW) through the grounds of Queen Margaret's School.

Chair declared the meeting open

A notice was sent around the village by a local resident which informed the public that a North Yorkshire representative was to attend the Parish Council Meeting tonight to discuss Rights of Way. This was inaccurate and this notice had no connection with the Parish Council.

This issue was last raised by the Parish Council at the meeting held on 6th September 2004.

The main concern expressed by residents was that the access through the gates on Main Street was now locked. The school has said it has taken this action for the safety of the girls, as stated in their letter to the Council of 12th July which is included in Correspondence. The school has other access points which are not secure. The report of the inspection in October 2012 carried out when the public were walking through the school raised no concerns about security.

The majority of the public present at the meeting requested that the Parish Council investigate if there was a Public Right of Way through the main gates of the School. It was agreed to gather evidence of usage over a long period of time from villagers. The decision about whether or not a Public Right of Way (PROW) exists would be taken by North Yorkshire County Council.

A number of opinions were expressed about whether or not a PROW through the school exists. The process for establishing whether or not there is PROW was discussed and that this could only be determined by North Yorkshire County Council.

It was agreed that the Parish Council will produce a questionnaire to be sent to all residents to gather evidence regarding the PROW. To avoid duplication, this evidence gathering will use the WCA Form D Public Rights of Way Evidence Form.

Mrs Casling proposed this and was seconded by Mrs Bowman. Agreed by majority.
Mr Gaskin offered to co-ordinate the distribution and collation of the Evidence Forms.

The meeting was declared closed

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Mrs Cunningham had sent her apologies for the last meeting, so her absence should be noted under 'Apologies' rather than 'Absent'.

Mr Russell wants the item under War Memorial to show that he stated at the meeting that the minutes of 21st May 1919 read that the Parish Council agreed to erect the memorial within the grounds of the Parish Church and place the names of the parishioners who gave their lives in the first world war and then on 13th March 1947 the Parish Council agreed to add the names of those who gave their lives in the second world war.

A19 the work has not been started, the finances have been approved.

The date of the meeting of EPC was incorrect and should state 12th November 2012.

Confirmed as a true record

POLICE REPORT

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

The Police caught some local village boys in the playing fields causing damage to equipment, smoking and being a nuisance and reprimanded them and took them to their parents. They told the police they were there to meet girls from Queen Margaret's School who had managed to flee before the Police could catch them.

NORTH SELBY MINE

Letter received from Peel Environmental informing that planning application has been submitted.

A reply has been sent from the Parish Council:

Representation on the Planning Application Reference 12/03385/FULM, North Selby Mine, New Road, Deighton, York.

"Demolition of existing buildings and re-profiling of bunds and areas of the former mine, construction of an anaerobic digestion combined heat and power facility and horticultural greenhouse and associated infrastructure and works."

Notification of the Decision of the Parish Council

*The Parish Council **OBJECTS** to the proposal which is located within the civil Parish of Wheldrake on the planning grounds set out below:*

Introduction

The Parish of Escrick lies immediately adjacent to the Parish of Wheldrake. Whilst the North Selby Mine is located in Wheldrake Parish, it should be noted that the main access road to the site is located immediately north of the village of Escrick, off the A19, and the village is a significant settlement within close proximity of the site. Any development here would therefore have a significant affect on the residents of our village.

The Parish Council acknowledges that there are National and Local requirements to deal with waste materials in a way which are sustainable and minimise the impact on the environment, and understands that such requirements are already being planned for

elsewhere by the Council. The Parish Council also recognises the need to reduce carbon emissions resulting from the production of electricity and heat. However, we are concerned about the impact the proposed development would have on the Green Belt where exceptional circumstances have to be demonstrated for any development to be permitted; we do not believe that these have been shown in any way that would override the presumption against major developments in the Green Belt. . We also believe there would be various significant amenity implications for our residents including those of visual amenity, noise, smells, light and, most importantly, traffic.

Grounds of Objection

1. The Parish Council considers that the proposal would be inappropriate development within the Green Belt and that the "special circumstances" required to permit the development have not been demonstrated. The proposed structures would be on an industrial scale which includes tall structures (tanks and stacks), massing (A.D. plant and greenhouse building) and the associated lighting and noise emission. There are no special circumstances as to why this development is needed within the Green Belt and not within a more suitable location, apart from the fact that the owners do not wish to reinstate the site to agricultural use as they previously promised to do when originally granted planning consent. . This scale of development is not appropriate in a rural area and especially within the York Green Belt.

2. There is no certainty about the sources of suitable waste materials needed to power the operation, a large proportion of which is likely to originate from outside the local area. We do not believe that it is appropriate to import feedstock and other waste materials predominantly from outside the York and Selby area, with the impact that will have on the transport infrastructure, and particularly on the A19 through Escrick. It is also not sustainable for these materials to be transported long distances when it would be far more appropriate and sustainable to locate the plant close to the source of these materials, which is also more compatible with Government advice.

3. The proposal indicated that a large proportion of the waste feedstock would originate via the M62 corridor. We understand that a site search indicated that the best site was Kellingley Colliery. Peel Environmental has recently started the consultation process for a large 'energy from waste' facility to be developed at Kellingley which is well located to receive feedstock via the M62 corridor.

The Parish Council considers that the AD facility would be better located at the large Kellingley site or an alternative site near the M62 corridor which has road, rail and/or canal direct links. These are not Green Belt locations, close to the strategic road network and therefore far more appropriate locations for such a development.

4. The proposed facility would require significant movement of vehicles to import waste feedstock, remove residual products and transport employees. Whilst the submitted traffic surveys indicate that the vehicle movements generated by the development would not have a significant effect on the overall traffic movements on the A19, the Parish Council believes that the A19 corridor is already highly congested and experience significant delays both at peak times and at weekends. You will no doubt be aware that there were never previously any significant levels of traffic associated with North Selby Mine as employees operated a shift system and all coal was transported underground. The proposed net increase of traffic will exacerbate the already congested highway network and will make travel for local residents even more difficult.

In addition the Parish Council is concerned about the routing of "merchants" vehicles which will be uncontrolled until they enter the site access road. This could result in a high proportion approaching via the Escrick Parish. We believe that a large proportion of

traffic will travel through Escrick, coming from the M62 corridor. In any event, the A19 is already congested going both north to York and the A64 and south towards Selby and the M62, with significant delays experienced which the proposed additional traffic will severely add to.

5. There is also no information proposed regarding the eventual decommissioning of the plant and equipment, any measures for decontamination of the site and its following use or status. Please advise how these measures will be dealt with in an enforceable way.

Concluding comments

The Parish Council recognises that a semi-derelict site exists at the former North Selby Coal mine and that action needs to be taken. We have strongly urged City of York Council to enforce the planning conditions attached to the original consent for the mine which require the site to be restored to agricultural use, as was originally agreed by the vendor in exchange for the original planning consent, which is an appropriate Green Belt function. There have been a number of public exhibitions and consultations within our village undertaken by the applicant where the overwhelming majority of attendees strongly objected to the proposals.

The view of Escrick residents is that the site must be restored to agricultural use in accordance with the previous consent. The York Green Belt has historically performed an important function in preserving the setting of the City of York and there have been no exceptional circumstances demonstrated in this application to overturn this principal. We strongly **object** to the application and request that it be refused.

I look forward to hearing from you further in due course in response to the above. I would also be obliged if you would advise us of City of York Council's decision on the application in due course.

CLEAR THE PATHS OF LEAVES AND DOG FAECES

Notice has been placed in the Parish Magazine

The meeting declared open

Leaves on the path along the A19 outside the church needs clearing and a lady was seen recently to slip on these leaves. Mrs Casling to bring this matter to the attention of Highways. *Action LizC*

There is no dog warden at Selby District Council. Mrs Casling will get a quote for a dog litter bin. *Action LC*

The meeting was declared closed

PARKING OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL

Clerk has emailed the school and told them that the Police are being informed. Replies were received from Mrs Brooks (Headteacher):

“The school takes this issue very seriously and the problem of parking was raised at our last governors meeting. We regularly remind parents to park both legally and with consideration in our newsletters. I will inform parents of your complaint on our next newsletter, and will let them know about police involvement.”

And also PSC Adam Wood:

“Spookily we were just looking at stepping up school patrols so yes this wont be a problem (obviously I have 9 schools on my areas) so my time there might be limited but we will pay some attention to Escrick when we can.”

Clerk to get an update from the Police.

Action VC

Mrs Cunningham stated that the school request the drivers to park correctly and the drivers report that they do not to understand where they are allowed to park. An article to be put in the Parish Magazine reminding drivers of the rules of parking especially outside the school.

Action SS

ESCRICK PLAYING FIELDS ASSOCIATION

Two Parish Councillors are now on the committee. Mrs Lamont or Mr John Reader will report to the Parish Council.

Mr John Reader reported that the hedge has been cut on the side of A19. This was carried out by Mr David Tomlinson free of charge and a letter of thanks and gift to be sent. Tom Handley and Mr Reader discussed the paddock area and a quote has been received from Mr Handley to improve the area. A letter has been sent to Mr Forbes Adam thanking the Estate for allowing the 10K run through his land.

PATH OUTSIDE NO 33 SKIPWITH ROAD FLOODS

Mrs Casling to update. *Action LC*

DESIGNATED SERVICE VILLAGE STATUS

Mrs Casling reported Escrick is proposed as a Designated Service Village Status with a number of caveats with regard to the Green Belt review. Mr Forster and Mrs Coulson to respond to these amendments and co-ordinate the response with our District Councillors.

Action: BF/LC

WAR MEMORIAL CHURCHYARD

A local resident has offered to clean the memorial. It was last cleaned by the Yorkshire Cemetery Company in 1947. We will review whether further work is necessary after that has been completed.

GARAGE SIGNS

There are already in place “Entry” and “No Entry” signs.

NEW LIGHT COLUMN AT THE GLADE

The Clerk has had no response from Ringway and will continue to try to obtain a reply. Mrs Casling offered to contact Ringway. *Action LC*

CHAIN LINK AROUND THE FOUNTAIN

Mr John Reader volunteered to purchase the links and replace them as necessary.

THYME AT HOLLICARRS CLOSE, ESCRICK, YO19 6EF

The house does not appear to have been vandalised and there is no action the District Council can take and as there is no equity left in the property the bank are reluctant to renovate the property. Mr Reynolds received this report verbally, he will try to get a written summary that we can forward to the resident who made the complaint.

GRASS OUTSIDE THE PARSONAGE TO THE ESCRICK BOUNDARY SIGN.

A proposal to have this area cut by our contractor was not approved.

NO 18 THE GLADE

Letter has been sent from the residents of No 18 The Glade to Mr & Mrs Warnes informing them that they have had quotes for this work which is due to be completed in February 2013.

Action VC to check in February

PRECEPT FOR 2013/2014

It was decided to raise the Precept by £1000 to £11000 to cover the cost of a new lighting column that is likely to require replacement. This was proposed by Mrs Casling, seconded by Mr Forster and carried by majority.

Mr John Reader proposed a £250 donation to the church to help with the maintenance of the Churchyard. This was seconded by Mr Forster and the motion was carried with six in favour, three against and one abstention.

RESURFACING ALONG THE A19

The work is expected to be undertaken early next year.

HEDGE ON CARR LANE

Mr John Reader has cut this hedge. The chair thanked Mr John Reader for undertaking this task.

MINUTES ON NOTICE BOARD

These are on notice board.

LITTER AT BUS SHELTER AND VILLAGE GREEN TABLES

A letter to be sent to Queen Margaret's School and a notice placed in the Parish Magazine regarding littering in these locations

Action: SS

COMPUTER NEEDS UPDATING

The Parish Council computer has Windows Vista and this needs replacing with Windows Seven. Cost £80.00 for the license. Approval to proceed with this was proposed by Mrs Casling seconded Mrs Lamont majority agreed.

Action: SS

FESTIVE LIGHTS – 2012/2013

The annual Festive lights usage has been requested by C E Electric. The clerk to return with the same details as last year.

Action VC

ACCOUNTS

The accounts are in credit

A/c No 1	£3639.04
A/c No 2	£2936.25
To pay:	
Postage	£1.10
Broadband – November 2012	£21.97
Escrick & Deighton Club	£10.00
Tru Green	£924.00

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

8/10/102C/PA erection of a new dwelling on land adjacent to Wild Acres 19 Wenlock Drive Escrick –SDC permission granted

8/10/44C/PA proposed erection of a detached dwelling 32 Wenlock Drive Escrick –SDC permission granted

CORRESPONDENCE

INCIDENT REPORTED IN THE EVENING PRESS – Friday 14th December 2012:

A woman was subjected to a terrifying car-jacking attempt after two masked men staged a fake accident. She saw a man lying beside a bike at the side of the road and slowed down, but as she did so another man tried to open her door, then the boot then a passenger door. The man on the ground then jumped up and also tried to get into the car, smacking the door. The woman sped off with one of the men clinging to her car. Police say the offence, which happened at 9.45pm on Wednesday between Escrick and Stillingfleet, was “very unusual” but say it was frightening for the woman and they have urged motorists in the area to keep their doors locked while driving. Inspector Richard Abbott, of Selby Police, said: “Clearly this was a frightening incident for the woman involved who thought she was doing the right thing by

stopping to help someone who was potentially injured. "It is imperative that anyone who witnessed this incident or can help the police to identify the men responsible, comes forward with information as soon as possible. "This is a very unusual incident for the area and I am appealing to any motorists who saw any suspicious behaviour along that stretch of road either before or after the incident to get in touch. "He said extensive enquiries were ongoing to trace the suspects, but urged people to be vigilant. "At this stage we don't know the motives behind this incident and I am urging motorists to be on their guard," he said. "Make sure all your doors are locked while you are driving and if you do see something unusual at the side of the road, contact the emergency services rather than trying to deal with it yourself. "Police say the woman had been driving south on the A19 and had turned off just south of Escrick, on to a road leading to the B1222 at Stillingfleet. She noticed something at the side of the road, seemingly a bike half on the grass verge and half on the road, with a man lying down beside it. The two suspects are described as white and aged 17 to 20. One had a medium build; the other was slim. They both wore hooded tops and other dark clothing, with hats and scarves over their faces. Police ask anyone who can help their investigation to phone Selby CID on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111, quoting reference 12120209430.

Letter from Queen Margate's School is attached to these minutes.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs Casling has spoken with Mr Gary Lumb of North Yorkshire Highways and there are problems with cars parking on Skipwith Road from Dower Chase to the junction of A19. He informed her that double yellow lines will be installed along this section.

A resident was knocked over at the crossing outside the church last Friday night where the lighting is poor. Mrs Casling is having a meeting with Mr Richard Marr from North Yorkshire Highways to discuss the traffic issues around the A19/Skipwith Road junction

Construction workers have damaged the footpath outside a house on Skipwith Road and they have agreed when work is completed to make good the damage they have caused.

Mr Bill Reader has recently caught seven moles. His bounty is £10 per mole as previously agreed by the Council, but it should be noted that he is donating this income the Church. The proposal to pay £70 to Mr Reader was unanimously agreed.

Mr John Gaskin reported positive feedback about the posting of the minutes of the EPC meeting being posted on the notice board and suggested that the Agenda also be posted there and put on the EPC website. These suggestions were agreed.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 28 January 2013 at 7.30pm in Escrick & Deighton Club

12 July 2012

Queen Margaret's

Escrick Park • York

Mrs V Cumberland,
Clerk to Escrick Parish Council
8 The Glade
Escrick
York
YO19 6JH

Dear Mrs Cumberland,

Thank you for your letter of 4 July, which arrived here just after the end of term. The improvements to the Park Gates and security in and around Queen Margaret's is a topic that I had intended should be put on the agenda for the next meeting of the Escrick Liaison Committee (ELC) in September. This I will still do, but I set out below answers to your queries in the context of our plans.

I would like to start by saying how important I believe the relationship between the school and village to be. With this firmly in mind, I have asked my wife, Rebecca Silverwood to continue the work started by Stuart Nettleship, who retires this summer, and host meetings of the ELC each term in school, at which matters of mutual concern and benefit may be discussed.

The planning application in relation to Park Gates is for work that extends beyond the re-siting of the gates to their original position. The years have not been kind to the gates and they are now rather battered and affected by rust, so it is our plan that, before being replaced in their original position, they will be completely restored by a local craftsman. That is something about which I hope everyone will approve.

However, the plans also provide that the gates will be made capable of being locked (as they originally were). It is our intention, once that work has been done, that it will no longer be possible for members of the general public to obtain access to the School grounds via these gates. I must explain the reasons behind this. In September 2011 HM Government brought into force revised National Minimum Standards to safeguard and promote the welfare of children for whom accommodation is provided by boarding schools. Those standards are stated to be minimum standards below which no school is expected to fall. We anticipate that, following our recent very successful whole school inspection, which was overseen by Ofsted, we will shortly face a detailed intermediate inspection by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (to whom this task has been delegated) during which the School will be tested on its compliance with the new standards and legislation. Failure to meet those standards would have grave consequences for the school concerned.

Standard 5.5 of the national Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools states that:

"Boarding accommodation is reserved for the use of those children designated to use it, and is protected from access by unauthorised persons. Any use of school facilities by individuals or groups does not allow members of the public (including members of organised groups using school facilities) substantial and unsupervised access to children or to boarding accommodation while occupied by children"

We are also required to ensure that any use of surveillance equipment (e.g. CCTV cameras) or patrolling of school buildings or grounds for security purposes does not intrude unreasonably on children's privacy.

Headmaster: Dr Paul Silverwood
MA(Cantab), MSc, PhD, QTS, CChem, MRSC

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As things stand we would, self-evidently, be deemed not to have met standard 5.5 as we have no effective means of regulating who comes onto the School through Park Gates.

Our concerns have been reinforced by a number of incidents in the recent past. On one occasion a group of youths came into the School through Park Gates late one evening and threw eggs at boarding house windows; on another occasion, very recently, youths came onto School premises via Park Gates in the early hours of the morning and were abusive to our security guard before some of them urinated against the wall of a boarding house, underneath a window. Unhappily the CCTV footage has not helped to identify the culprits. Earlier this term, I had to turn back a group of young men who were using the School grounds as a short cut to get from Main Street to the other side of the School grounds late at night. Even disregarding these incidents, the Governors have been advised that they are unable to permit the present, comparatively unrestricted, access to the school premises to continue given the standards that we must meet and we have been tasked with improving security arrangements at school.

In case it helps, I attach an account of the experience of a Cumbrian Primary School during its inspection; we can only imagine how much more seriously the Inspectors will view the situation when teenage girls have their home here.

I know that this will cause some unhappiness among our neighbours, whose friendship and support we value. Those wishing to get to land on the other side of the school for recreation or dog walking will, I am afraid, in the future have to use the permissive footpath created by Escrick Park Estate through Gashouse Wood for that purpose.

We do however wish to continue our partnerships with the local community, including the Parish Church, Primary School, swimming club and members of the riding stables and will discuss how residents using our facilities may obtain access through Park Gates, which will almost certainly have to be supervised.

The School's Clerk designate and Director of Administration and Compliance, Tom King, is dealing with this matter on behalf of the school and the Governors. He is also in communication with Escrick Park Estate. If it would help for him to meet with local residents or if you require any further information, please contact him here at school. I would also be very happy to meet with members of the Parish Council to discuss this matter further, if that is appropriate.

I hope that we can work together to maintain our continued partnerships within the framework we are required to operate as a boarding school.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Paul Silverwood
Headmaster

Enc

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