

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 27th May 2014 at 7pm held at Escrick and Deighton Social Club

Present: Councillor E Casling (Chair)
Mrs L Reader (Clerk)

Approx 46 members of the public

1. Presentation from Jennifer Hubbard, Town Planning Consultant, about potential areas of development north of Escrick

Ms Hubbard introduced herself to the meeting. The plans show the development behind the York Road garage to the mine road and there would be a mixture of housing types as part of this development. The area of land is around 10 hectares for approx 200-250 houses. It is important to note that the administrative boundary is the church wall near Sangthai.

Ms Hubbard also added that following the Parish Council meeting where she had presented this potential development plan previously, she had sought advice on the junction of Skipwith Road and the A19 and included a potential plan of how that junction could be improved. She suggested that although this would come at a cost, should this development go ahead, there may be some co-operation regarding this cost.

Although the land falls within York City Council, it would still form part of the village of Escrick. Both CYC and SDC are developing their respective Local Development Frameworks. Both councils have to have a strategy to plan for future housing. This proposal would contribute towards the CYC strategy whereas SDC are planning a further approx 100 houses for Escrick. There is the "duty to cooperate between" councils which hopefully might mitigate some of the negative impact for Escrick village.

Ms Hubbard stressed that this was not yet at the planning stage and York City Council is still drafting their submissions of strategy, preferring to put them all together rather than to do them bit by bit. These would then need to be approved by the Secretary of State. The timescales for this were that by next May, York City Council hope to have their plan adopted but a 6 week consultation period would begin in June where comments would be invited from the public.

Councillor Casling proposed to take this issue to the next Parish Council meeting with a view to communicating with the village as a whole on the proposal.

2. The future of Escrick Post Office

Following a discussion on this matter, it appeared that there was some confusion as to when the current Post Office was to close and whether the owners of York Road Garage were prepared to take on the Post Office.

Following the discussions about the potential development, it appeared that there may have been a discussion between the garage owners and the Estate which might mean that should the development go ahead, the garage would take on the Post Office. Councillor Casling said that it was important to ascertain the facts on this matter before taking it any further and that this should be done as soon as possible.

The importance of the Post Office and the village shop to the residents of Escrick were stressed by many residents. Trevor and Pauline have provided a valuable service for many years and they would be sorely missed.

Various suggestions for alternative solutions to the Post Office problem were discussed including the possibility of having a Post Office in a Public House, a portacabin on the car park of the Village Hall amongst others. One resident raised the subject of a volunteer-run bus service that could take elderly residents up to Riccall to use the Post Office there. This idea had not been fully explored but may be something for the Parish Council to investigate further. One of the Parish Councillors attending the meeting offered to put together a list of the services that the Post Office/Shop provided and take this back to the Parish Council.

3. Reports

3.1 District Councillor

Approved as a correct record on 2nd June 2014

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Unfortunately, there was no report available.

3.2 County Councillor

Cllr Casling gave a brief report on how financial cutbacks are affecting service provision at NYCC.

3.3 Parish Council Chairman

Please see report in the Parish Magazine

3.4 Escrick Playing Fields Association

A report received from EPFA was read out:

The Escrick Playing Fields Association has had an active year and there are plans for the current year. Last year, we added the zip wire and roundabout with funds raised from the Escrick 10k run, York dragon boat race, and a games night in the Black Bull. We have also added nets for the football posts.

So far this year, we have undertaken significant maintenance of the woodland area which included thinning out of the trees, felling a large dead tree, and digging out the path around the area which has now been filled with wood chippings to make it easy to go round.

The fund raising events for this year are the 10k run and Dragon Boat. With this, we plan the continued maintenance of the field and woodland area and are also looking to increase the equipment with an all-weather table tennis table and a seesaw for the younger children. We actively debate what other equipment is possible in our monthly meeting and we welcome any ideas for the future.

3.5 Escrick Village Green Committee

Mr Mike Russell spoke about the Village Green's fundraising efforts over the last few years which had raise in excess of £28000 over the past 8 years. This money had been spent on picnic benches, power supply for events, turfing, flowers, trees, marquees etc for events and a place to store them. Future events included the Dinner on the Green on 26th July and Carols on the Green at Christmas. The committee were now planning to re-fence the village green area in the near future thanks to a grant which had successfully been awarded following the recent Eastern Community Engagement Forum.

On a final note, Mr Russell said that £2650 had been raised in aid of the Yorkshire Air Ambulance and thanked the whole committee for their work.

4. Matters raised by parishioners

There were none.