

Escrick Parish Council

Minutes of Escrick Parish Council monthly meeting held in The Wenlock Room at The Parsonage Hotel at 7pm on Monday 2nd December 2024.

Part 1

24218: **Welcome:** Chair welcomed councillors and members of the public to the meeting.

24219: **Apologies/Attendance:**

- a. Present: Cllr S Allen, Cllr Chambers (Chair), Cllr Fairbairn, Cllr Hopkinson and. Clerk; S Look. Member of the public.
- b. Apologies: Cllr Cunningham, Cllr Hawes and Cllr King. It was noted that Cllr Croasdale has resigned from the parish council.

24220: **Declarations of Interests:** No declarations of interested registered.

24221: **Public correspondence received:**

- a. Feedback from member of the public on the Light Valley Solar proposals noted.

24222: **Public session:**

- a. No comments.

24223: **Updates from other authorities:**

- a. Divisional Councillor Cattnach not present. Update on Plasmor and Locality Budget funding sent to councillors.

24224: **Minutes:**

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the Parish Council meeting and the Finance & Admin meeting held on Monday 4th November 2024.

Finance and Governance

24225: **Budget and precept for 2025/26:**

- a. It was resolved to accept the budget and set the precept at £22,560.98 to ensure it remains at the same level as 2024/25. It was resolved to accept the revised grass cutting contract quote from Ark and increase the annual cuts to 14 from 11 during the grass cutting season.

24226: **It was resolved to accept the payments covered by the Clerk's delegated authority under 5.6 of the Council's financial regulations (to pay routine budgeted invoices without prior approval):**

- a. Autela payroll
- b. NYC streetlighting electricity
- c. PWLB street lighting loan repayments
- d. Playing fields and village green leases
- e. Internal audit costs
- f. External audit costs
- g. YLCA membership.

24227: **Finance report:**

- a. Account balances and reconciliation:

		Community account	BMM account
i.	Account balances as at 29 October 2024:	£4947.68	£44652.61
ii.	Payments made since last meeting:		
	S Look – October expenses	-£18.00	
	S Look – Clerks October salary	As agreed	
	NYC – streetlight energy 2023-24	-£1782.50	
	PWLB- streetlight loan payment	-£1467.74	
iii.	Payments made since last meeting under clerks delegated powers:		
	Unity weekly service charge	-£5.40	
iv.	Internal Transfer	£3000.00	-£3000.00
v.	Receipts:		
	Nil		
	Account balances as at 20 November 2024:	£4207.28	£41652.61
b.	Routine payments to be made:		
viii.	S Look – November expenses	-£18.00	
	S Look – Clerks Nov. salary and backdated pay	As agreed	
	Autela payroll services – Aug to Nov 2024	-£75.05	
	HMRC – clerks salary	-£26.60	

It was resolved to accept the payments as stated above.

Maintenance

24228: Maintenance issues:

- a. Cllr Chambers gave an update on maintenance issues: The discarded oil drum on the footpath near the garage on the A19 has now been removed and the grass / verge has now been cut back. The majority of tree cuttings at the playing fields have been removed. The hedge has been cut back by NYC between Carr Lane and the Stillingfleet turning. It was reported at the November PC meeting that streetlight no1 on the corner of Skipwith Road /A19 is obscured by overgrown vegetation at the adjacent property. Councillors have inspected the light and it was resolved to take no further action. Cllr Chambers has removed the Ivy from the church wall that was reported at a previous meeting.
- b. Plasmor are investigating if they can financially support the Parish Council to replace the fencing around the fish fountain. To also request funding from Cllr Cattanachs locality budget.

Playing Field / Play Area

24229: Playing field update:

- a. Inspections done. PFA meeting held on 19th November. 'Winter Sweep' tidy up took place on Sunday 1st December including removing the leaves on the footpath. Emergency access procedures to be published on the vehicle gate.
- b. Escrick 10k is planned to take place on Sunday, 17th August 2025. Cllr Hopkinson is taking over as Race Director.

Village Green

24230: Village Green update:

- a. Update from the Village Green Association given. Quotes for bike racks for the village green are being considered by the VGA. The committee have applied a coat of wood stain to the bridge in November and pressure washed the decking. This will also be stained and a second coat of stain applied to the

bridge in December, hopefully before the Christmas Tree lighting. The hedge adjoining Carrs Meadow has been cut back. Pond and surrounding areas have been strimmed. An area of nettles has revealed a new Walnut Tree which looks healthy. Concerns raised by MOP that this was the area where the Moorhens were nesting and it is not just aesthetics, there's an ecological angle to maintaining it. The Christmas light switch on and summer events to be organised by the VGA were noted. It has been confirmed by EPE that the PC shed on the village green will be fully accessible if the proposed cordon sanitaire development is approved.

- b. Resolved to agree to the request made by member of the public to install a memorial bench on the village green in memory of Pat and Jack Harrison. Councillors also considered moving an existing bench from the green to replace one opposite the church. It was resolved that the bench under consideration is in a worse state of repair. To consider replacing the bench opposite the church for a new one at a later date.

Planning

24231: **Planning, new applications:**

- a. No new applications received.

24232: **Planning ongoing:**

- a. ZG2023/0691/HPA. Grove House Skipwith Road. Enforcement ref 2024/0186/LWORK. The owner of the property has advised that the removal of the existing tank and installation of the new one is anticipated to take place the 2nd week of December.
- b. 2023/0110/FUL - Traves A, Abattoir, Main Street, Escrick, YO19 6JP. No progress on the receipt of the S106 funding for the new play equipment yet.
- c. ZG2024/0120/S73. Black Bull, 91 Main Street, Escrick. No further update from planning enforcement. Resolved to remove from the agenda.

24233: **Planning determinations:**

- a. No planning decisions received.

24234: **Other planning matters:**

- a. Selby Local Plan. No further update.
- b. North Yorkshire Council Local Plan. No further update.
- c. Details of the Light Valley Solar proposals have been sent to the Parish Council. Light Valley Solar consultation event was held on Monday 18th November. Formal response to be submitted to the planning inspectorate stating that the PC do not object to the Solar Farm but have got reservations about the plans in relation to the size and scale proposed. To request confirmation on square meterage. Concerns raised about the increase in heavy goods vehicle traffic during the installation stage (approx. 2 years). It was also noted that some hedgerow has already been removed by the landowner and food production may be sacrificed as the development proposed is on agricultural land.

Highways items

24235: **Streetlighting:**

- a. Damaged post on the junction of Skipwith Road / A19 has now been reported as fixed.
- b. An order has been placed to replace light 8 on Skipwith Road to LED with partial operation in key hours.

24236: **Speeding:**

- a. Councillors considered contacting highways again to request an extension to the speed limit on Skipwith Road past Queen Margarets School entrance. Resolved to make a further request and ask under what circumstances they would approve it.

- b. Keir Mather MP has requested feedback from the PC on installing fixed speed cameras in the area and any other road safety measures in the Parish. It was resolved that Councillors would accept fixed speed cameras through the village on the A19 and Skipwith Road (near Mill Hill), but only if that was in conjunction with implementation of the request we have made many times, that is to reduce the speed limit to 30 mph at those locations mentioned.

Other items

24237: **Ways of working:**

- a. Maintenance working group are looking at ways to improve both the aesthetic and safety of the village by identifying areas for improvement. Resolved to defer this until the January meeting when members of the group are present.

24238: **Correspondence received:**

- a. YLCA; White Rose updates and training information noted.
- b. Request from Escrick Church for a councillor to do a reading at the carol service on 15th December. Noted. Request has been sent to all councillors but unfortunately no one is available.

24239: **Comments from public present on agenda items:**

- a. Member of the public reiterated concerns about the Solar Farm proposals.

24240: **Items for the next meeting:**

- a. It was confirmed that the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Monday 6th January 2025, 7pm** in The Wenlock Room at The Parsonage Hotel.

Members of the public left the meeting.

Part 2

24241: Confidential business: It was resolved to exclude Public and Press on the grounds that matters for discussion affect individual staff members/ procedures/ legal/ finance issues.

24242: **Village Maintenance contract 2025-26:**

- a. It was confirmed to request 14 cuts a year on the contract. Discussed at item 24225.

24243: **Councillor roles:**

- a. Cllr Chambers to continue as Chair of the Parish Council.

Meeting closed at 20.55.

Signed: T Chambers

Chair, Escrick Parish Council

Date: 6th January 2025