

# Escrick Parish Council

Minutes of Escrick Annual Parish meeting to be held in The Wenlock Room at The Parsonage Hotel at 7pm on MONDAY 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

- APM2401: **Welcome:** Chair welcomed Councillors and members of public to the meeting.
- APM2402: **Minutes:** It was resolved to accept the minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023.
- APM2403: **Chairmans report:** Chair gave a report of Parish Council activities since last APM (full report below).
- APM2404: **No comments received from Electors' present about the report.**
- APM2405: **Reports from other organisations presented:**  
a. Village Green Association (see below)  
b. Playing Fields Association (see below)
- APM2406: No further comments from electors present at the meeting.

*Signed:*

*Chairman, Escrick Parish Council*

*Date: 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025*

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## **Escrick Parish Council - Chairman's annual report 2023-24**

Parish Councillor numbers have been very stable this year, Ifet Karbani stepped down at the beginning of this period under review, but 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 dedication, 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.

### **Fibre Optic upgrade in the village**

This issue has caused much feedback, in particular from residents of Wenlock Drive who did not want the overhead cabling from new poles as offered. We encouraged them to form an action group to fight against the method of service provision that FACTCO intended and the group formed are to be congratulated on the successful removal of the poles that were initially installed. Cabling is now being installed by the latest provider to premises underground, as was originally requested by Wenlock residents.

### **North Yorkshire Council PC interaction and area Councillor John Cattanach**

Unfortunately, our local NYC Councillor has not attended a single PC meeting in the last twelve months, which is a great shame. We have tried to get a resolution to this issue via the NYC Monitoring Officer, requesting attendance four times per year, but we were informed there is no obligation for an NYC Councillor to attend a PC meeting. We do not accept the offer of individual meetings through the day as a solution because we feel the Parish Council as a group should debate key issues with our elected representative. We also pointed this out in feedback to NYC Chief Executive Richard Flinton with regard to his 'Parish Charter' launched last year, but we did not receive a response. This situation hinders our interaction with NYC as a Parish Council, and is completely at odds with the stated aims of their CEO's charter document.

### **Black Bull Conversion to three dwellings**

The PC opposed this development as the first real test of the Neighbourhood Development Plan. This was unfortunately passed one year ago and work is far from complete one year on. We continue to oppose the latest application on this site for further conversion work to the garage behind the Black Bull to additional living space.

### **School path maintenance and the Playing Field Association**

I met with school academy representatives last year and we discussed forming a team with parents to keep the school path tidy. Sadly, no volunteers from the pool of school parents could be found for this task; however village resident Paul Britton stepped forward to take over as PFA Chair, with assistance from previous Chair Simon Hunt, plus fresh volunteers to assist existing members. This new arrangement looks to be giving great new impetus to future maintenance of the playing field area and path, Councillor Fairbairn has joined this group as our representative.

### **Odour from the Acumen site, Escrick Business Park**

This problem arose early last summer and continued until November. The PC liaised with the Environment Agency who were very helpful in enforcing a resolution, keeping in touch and attending our PC meeting in October, giving us a full explanation of the problem and the solutions put in place to prevent it happening again.

### **Village Shop**

It was very unfortunate that for a variety of reasons the shop concept that opened in summer of last year did not remain operational and closed its doors in December. We hope at some point in the near future that the upgrade work at the club, that we partially funded, will be put to good use with a replacement amenity for the village. Thank you to Councillor Hawes and Eric Hardy for their extensive contribution to this project.

### **Defibrillator training**

Training for this life saving equipment installed in two places in the parish took place in the village last October for interested residents, thank you to Richard Rowson for not just setting this up but also overseeing routine maintenance of the device installed at the Club. Richard also continued his support maintaining our website and the War memorial / Jubilee fountain areas, which is much appreciated.

### **Traves Abattoir site conversion to new homes**

The planning application was made and supported by the PC for eight new dwellings on this site, a decision is still to be made by the local planning team. Should this proceed the PC hope to benefit from £7928 of S106 public open space funding via the local planning authority from the developer. Any funding received will be utilized in two areas, replacement sustainable fencing around the Jubilee fountain and part funding of a new piece of equipment for the playground. We await a decision from NYC.

### **Maintenance of land between the Carr Lane War memorial and the school vehicle entrance**

The PC handed back responsibility for maintenance of this stretch of land to the landowner, Escrick Park Estate.

### **Escrick Parish Council Precept**

At our budget meeting we agreed to reduce our percentage increase charge to the community for 2024-25, paid as part of the Council Tax, to 3.4% which equates to a charge of £71.31 per annum per household. This was possible because electricity unit costs for street lighting have reduced and we have also removed the proposed village gateways for Skipwith Road that had been in the budget. The 2023-24 increase had been 10.6% to £68.94 for the year just ended.

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

We were pleased that Heronby was removed for the second SDC consultation just completed. We again expressed our opposition to Heronby in our response to consultation number two because it was suggested the development will again be considered in the NYC Local Plan that is being worked on now for 2028 to replace the SDC Local Plan. Along with all adjacent Parish Councils and the Halt Heronby Action Group 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.**

#### **Christmas Tree**

During late 2023 we enhanced the Christmas Tree with additional lights and a star topper. This was enjoyed by all throughout the festive season.

#### **Tree works**

One leaning tree on the west side of the green will be removed (PP is being sought by Lewis Tree Surgeons) as this is deemed dangerous. This will be replaced with a similar specimen in the future.

#### **Pond Levels**

We are working with Highways to provide a permanent pipe under Carr Lane to enable pumping from the beck, using a small water plump, when water levels are low. This will avoid having to lay a temporary pipe across Carr

Lane and man for a full day. The IDB drawing has been approved by planning and section 50 licence lodged. Some further detail has been requested by NYCC and this additional information will be sent. Site works will start when ground conditions improve.

### **Spring Tidy**

Old rotten wooden picnic benches have been broken up and carted away and placed on the waste pile at Tiledshed Estate Yard with permission of the Estate

### **Hedge tidy and pond edge maintenance.**

Our contract gardener will return regularly to undertake these tasks during the summer months.

### **Cycle Rack**

We will be installing a cycle rack alongside the four benches on the junction to Carrs Meadow and Carr Lane.

### **Events for the year ahead are:**

- D Day 80 celebration – lighting of the Beacon. VGA will be providing refreshments – 6<sup>th</sup> June.
- Summer Event on the Green – 20<sup>th</sup> July.
- Christmas Tree Lighting 6<sup>th</sup> December
- The Countrywomen's Association will also be using the Village Green and our small gazebos for the Scarecrow Competition in September.
- **Next 10k 17<sup>th</sup> August 2025.** Many volunteers will be required.

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### **Escrick Playing Fields Association – Annual Report 23-24:**

In summer 2023 it was agreed that Paul Britton would take on the role of Chair with Simon Hunt continuing to play a leadership role as Vice Chair.

We have now met four times as a group. We have confirmed the membership status of the previous members and recruited two new members to the Association.

Our annual inspection reported highlighted some areas that required remedial action. These have now been completed.

The Association organised a Big Clean event, the first since the pandemic, on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April. Around 30 people attended including members, parents from school, other volunteers and a good number of children. Everyone worked very hard and did a super job of clearing five years of growth from the pathways along with other cleaning and sorting. The coffee and cake was well deserved!

We have submitted an application for funding for a new piece of equipment, a snake swing, as part of the Parish Council's application for Public Spaces funding linked to the housing developments in the village. We have also made a proposal for match funding from North Yorkshire Council for some additional seating to be installed. We await the outcome of both requests.

Finances remain positive with around £16k in the bank. However, future funding remains an area that needs a solution with the Escrick 10k future uncertain.

We plan to hold a summer event to further prompt engagement and hopefully raise funds. Provisional dates are Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> or Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July.