WYMESWOLD PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Due to the Coronavirus outbreak, a meeting of Wymeswold Parish Council will be held VIRTUALLY via Zoom on Tuesday 4th May at 7:15pm.

Meeting ID: 884 9798 0145 Password: 524136

The Annual parish meeting is intended to provide the opportunity for a two-way exchange of views between the Parish Council and parishioners. All Parish and Town Councils throughout England are required by law to hold an Annual Parish Meeting at this time each year. The purpose of the meeting is to provide an opportunity for the Council to explain what has happened over the last year and enable the electors to have their say on anything which they consider important to the people of the parish of Wymeswold. Any registered elector may ask questions of the Council, make suggestions or comment on anything pertinent.

- 1. Apologies
 - None
- 2. Welcome
 - From Chair of Councillors Jo Ling.
- 3. Minutes of the meeting of Monday 4th May 2020
 - Approved
- 4. Chair of the Parish Council's report
 - Cllr Jo Ling read the following Chairs report:

Firstly I would like to announce that after 10 years as a Parish Councillor and 6 years as Chair, I have decided to step down from the position. I have thoroughly enjoyed the challenges presented by the voluntary role, however I've decided it is time for 'hand over the reins', and concentrate on my family.

It's been an interesting year, the Pandemic has created its own challenges even for the Parish Council, and we have needed to adapt in many ways, we haven't met 'in person' in over a year, all meetings have been conducted via 'zoom'. A benefit that has been forced upon us as a direct result of social distancing measures has been the move to on line banking, that has proved difficult in the past!

I'm pleased to tell you that over the last year the Parish Council have managed to complete a number of long standing items, these include:

Utilising S106 monies

After a number of years negotiation with Charnwood Borough Council, we have at last reached an agreement in how the Parish would like to see the monies allocated for youth recreation from the Storkit Meadows development. The replacement artificial cricket playing surface has been installed for the start of the cricket season and the installation of the all weather playing surface and multi- use goal ends will start in June.

Lease for Washdyke and sports field

The Parish Council are delighted that after nearly 5 years we have at last managed to extend the lease of both public areas with the Parochial Charities, up to February 2045.

Cllr J Ling Chair Wymeswold PC 4th May 2021

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Sports Pavilion

All being well this much valued facility will be open to the public again, and the Wymeswold Cricket Club may enjoy something closer to a proper season in 2021! The pavilion was used by Roger Kirkbride at Wymeswold Pharmacy to roll out a phenomenally successful flu vaccination programme last Autumn. Other than that, it is really only the contractor who undertakes the regular legionella testing that has crossed the threshold, and the carpet fitters.

Consultation

The Parish Council would like to thank residents for completing the recent consultation. There was an amazing response; 223 responses out of a possible 615 houses. As you will aware the village is experiencing an unprecedented number of large-scale planning applications, and there are a potential of 11 sites put forward for development by land owners. The Parish Council undertook the survey to prove that Wymeswold is not sustainable, which the results clearly demonstrate. However, despite our best efforts to prove this, Charnwood Borough Council are currently in a situation where delays on their emerging local plan have left them with a temporary housing land supply shortfall and developers are seeking to use the window of opportunity to push ahead with applications that might not ordinarily be supported. Sadly, a site north of the A6006 which has been declined planning application on two occasions was granted recently, due to this opportunity afforded to them. The Primary School numbers are down considerably, which also makes the Parish vulnerable to developer interest.

Precept

We have implemented a 3.5% increase to the precept which is in line with inflation, to cover increases in staff costs and other running expenses. This would equate to an increase of approximately £2 per year, per band D property.

Parish Council communication

Apart from regular updates in the 'Christian Link', the Loughborough Echo and on the notice board, news from the Parish Council is updated on the village website www.wymeswold.com.

The Parish Council would like to acknowledge the help given by Dan Norcott and Janet Thomas to run and maintain the website.

I hope this summary gives you an outline of some of the many issues we cover as a Parish Council. There are also many other matters regularly dealt with every year including street cleaning, highway maintenance, potholes and rubbish removal.

Parishioners are welcome to attend the regular monthly meetings, usually held on the first Monday of the month at 7.00pm and hopefully returning to the Sports Pavilion from June 2021. All contact details are advertised on the Parish Council notice board in the Stockwell, as are the agenda and minutes of the most recent meeting, together with any other relevant information.

I would like to thank my fellow members of the Parish Council – Adrian Cooke, Kevin Sayce, Laura Mills, Lesley Blount, Maria McKean for all their support and hard work over the past year. And in particular Richard Higgins who as Vice Chair has kept the Parish's finances on track for another year.

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I would also like to record our thanks to our County Councillor, Cllr Richard Shepherd, for his help and advice over a numerous matter with the County Council, and similarly to our Borough Councillor, Cllr Jenny Bokor, who also liaises with us over issues with Charnwood BC.

Finally, I wish to thank the Parish Clerk, Louise Turner for all her excellent work in support of the Council.

- 5. Parishioners' questions and comments
 - No parishioners attended this evening's meeting.

This meeting came to a close at 7:30pm