

# WYMESWOLD PARISH COUNCIL

## Annual Parish Meeting Minutes

The Annual Parish Meeting was held both virtually via Zoom and in person at the Sports Pavilion on Burton Lane, Wymeswold on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 7:00pm. Parishioners were welcome to attend in person OR via Zoom.

**Attendees:** Cllr Laura Mills (Chair), Cllr Richard Higgins (Vice Chair), Cllr Tom Simpson and Cllr David Albert.

- 1. Apologies:** Cllr Adrian Cooke.
- 2. Chair of Wymeswold Parish Council to approve and sign the minutes from the last Annual Parish Meeting:** Minutes from the last Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022 were approved and signed by the Chair of the Parish Council, Cllr Laura Mills.
- 3. Chair of Wymeswold Parish Council's Report:**

Firstly, I would like to thank all the councillors for their support over the last year to the village and myself, which together, have made many improvements. Sadly, we had to say goodbye to two of our Councillors, Kevin Sayce and Sarah Garvey and I personally wish to thank both for all their dedication to the role and the parishioners. Following the two recent new housing planning applications, both on East Road, and one that has broken ground and in the process of being built, further monies will be available through the 'Open Spaces' grant. Once further details have been finalised, we will be asking residents again to come forward with ideas on what to spend the money on for the benefit of the village.

Washdyke and the Pavilion: MUGA (Multi use Games Arena) This is now complete with side panels and being enjoyed by many residents of the village. Following our annual inspection of the play equipment we have repaired the zip wire and replaced the seat. If we receive further monies from the new developments, we are hoping to increase the play equipment on the Washdyke, potentially with swings, a slide and additional seating, again all ideas of what to purchase would be greatly appreciated. The Pavilion has had a general re-paint and tidy up and has been used more this year with the Cricket Club and return, for part of the year by the Football Club. We have also been approached by another football club who wish to use the site and hopefully we will see children of the village enrolling in the new club. And a new boundary fence has been installed across the Cricket pitch to replace the existing broken and dangerous one in place. Many parties and events have taken place including the Farmers Market, Wymeswold Summer and Christmas Fair that were a huge success for residents and neighbouring villages. And the Wymeswold Pharmacy have again used the pavilion for the flu vaccination clinic.

Landscaping, Environment and Biodiversity: The Parish Council have been busier than ever this year continuing with the planting of bulbs across the village with the help of the parishioners and we thank them all for their hard work. Alongside Cllr Cooke, Cllr Garvey, and Richard Ellison our village tree inspector, they managed to source and plant many new bulbs and tree saplings on the Washdyke, and the fruit trees got a good pruning so hopefully we will see more fruit available in the Autumn. After reviewing our mowing contracts last year, you will notice that the number of cuts across the village will be decreased. This is to protect and increase our wildlife population. This will not mean that areas will be left unsightly or dangerous but will be maintained and that the money saved will be made available to spend elsewhere around the village. Please can we ask all parishioners and visitors to the village not to park on the grass verges, so we are able to maintain them and

not become unsightly and churned up.

Cemetery News: The cemetery has now been fully digitised, and a full account of all graves is now available. We would like to thank the Parish Clerk, Clare Higgins for painstakingly pulling this together.

We have also appointed a new contractor for the Cemetery and Church, who is going to increase the biodiversity. New bird boxes have been fitted, honeysuckle hedging has been planted and a new wildflower area is being started.

St. Mary's Church: After several attempts to fix our church clock we are happy to say that all repairs have been made and the clock is fully functional again.

The PC have made some progress with the repairs to the perimeter wall that collapsed some years ago and we are now in the position at reviewing the quotes for the repairs alongside the structural engineer report. More news will be available in the following months.

Highways News: White lining throughout the village was completed and a further new replacement Speed Indicator Device (SID) has been approved for the replacement of the device coming into the village from East Road. The new device will show the speed of vehicles instead of the existing "Flashing 30" limit. We hope this this will reduce the speed of vehicles coming into the village. The Community Speed Watch committee conducted a speed check throughout the village with some disturbing results of the speed of cars and lorries entering and leaving. The results were passed onto to the Police for review and investigation. We would like to thank this committee for its continued efforts.

#### **4. To thank community volunteers and groups in the village:**

The Parish Council would like to thank the following groups and committees:

The Scouts, Cubs and Beaver groups, 1<sup>st</sup> Responders, Cricket Club, Football club, Pre-School, Memorial Hall, Farmers Market & Duck Race committees, Garden Walkabout, Wymeswold Primary School, St. Mary's Church, everyone on the council, it's volunteers and parishioners who play a vital role in the upkeep and improvement of the village and we thank all of them. The Parish Council would like to acknowledge and record its thanks to our County Councillor, Cllr Richard Shepherd, for his help and advice over numerous matters with the County Council, and to our Borough Councillor, Cllr Jenny Bokor, who also liaises with us and keeps us informed over many issues with Charnwood BC and the help given by Dan Norcott and particularly Janet Thomas who run and maintain the website.

This summary gives you an overview of some of the many issues we cover as a Parish Council. Parishioners are welcome to attend the regular monthly meetings, usually held on the first Monday of the month at 7.00pm at the Sports Pavilion.

And finally, I wish to thank our new Parish Clerk, Clare Higgins, who started last May and has made an exemplary contribution to the PC so far. We thank her for all her work and support to the Council over the past year.

- 5. Questions or points raised by residents or members of the public:** One of the parishioners present at the meeting raised an issue regarding potential pollution of the River Mantle in Wymeswold. The parishioner had previously contacted the Environment Agency requesting assistance for an investigation into this but had received no response yet. The Parish Council agreed to assist the parishioner in contacting the Environment Agency.

The meeting closed at 7.24pm.

The next Wymeswold Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Tuesday 7th May 2024 at 7pm unless advised otherwise.