

WYMESWOLD PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

A meeting of Wymeswold Parish Council was held both virtually via Zoom and in person at the Sports Pavilion on Burton Lane, Wymeswold on Tuesday 9th May 2023 at 7:15pm. Parishioners were welcome to attend in person OR via Zoom.

Attendees: Cllr Laura Mills (Existing Chair), Cllr Richard Higgins (Existing Vice Chair), Cllr David Albert, Cllr Tom Simpson, County Cllr Richard Shepherd, Borough Cllr Jenny Bokor and Clare Higgins (Clerk).

Attendees via Zoom: None

- 1. To elect a Chair of the Council:** The Council resolved to elect Cllr Laura Mills as Chair of the Council for 2023-2024. All Cllrs present agreed.
- 2. To receive the Chair's Declaration of Acceptance of Office:** Cllr Laura Mills signed her Declaration of Office.
- 3. To receive Declarations of Acceptance of Office from members of the Council:** Cllr Richard Higgins, Cllr David Albert and Cllr Tom Simpson all signed their Declarations of Acceptance of Office. It was resolved that Cllr Adrian Cooke could sign his Declaration of Acceptance of Office at the next Parish Council meeting in June.
- 4. To elect a Vice Chair of the Council:** The Council resolved to elect Cllr Richard Higgins as Vice Chair of the Council for 2023-2024. All Cllrs present agreed.
- 5. To make arrangements to fill any vacancies left unfilled at the election by reason of insufficient nomination:** The Council resolved to advertise the 2 Cllr vacancies on the village website and noticeboard, noting that expressions of interest were to be given to the Clerk by 31st May for review by the Council.
- 6. Apologies:** It was resolved to accept apologies from: Cllr Adrian Cooke.
- 7. Declarations of Interest or Requests for Dispensation:** None.
- 8. Public Participation:** One of our parishioners enquired about whether the Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) coming into the village on the A6006 where Rempstone Road meets Far Street was working accurately. The Council agreed that this will be followed up by the Clerk with LCC.
- 9. Approval of previous minutes:** The meeting approved minutes from the WPC meeting held on Monday 3rd April 2023.

County Cllr Richard Shepherd joined the meeting at 7.25pm.

- 10. Leicestershire County Council Report:** County Cllr Richard Shepherd attended the meeting and referred to the email circulated to Cllrs regarding the fair funding meeting with the Chancellor in Downing Street. County council chiefs and local MPs met Jeremy Hunt to set out how an outdated system means that Leicestershire receives less than half the money of the best funded areas. Council leader, Nick Rushton, deputy leader, Deborah Taylor and cabinet member for resources, Lee Breckon also presented a pragmatic, temporary fix which would see Government put in an extra £350 million to level up 32 of the lowest funded councils. Follow up meetings with local government minister, Lee Rowley, and Government officials are already being arranged.

County Cllr Richard Shepherd left the meeting at 7.50pm.

Borough Cllr Jenny Bokor joined the meeting at 8.20pm which is when the report from Charnwood was received by the Council.

11. Charnwood Borough Council Report: Borough Cllr Jenny Bokor informed the Council that the Local Plan from the inspectorate was on schedule for June 2023. She also informed the Council that she had organised for some of the churned-up verges on Brook Street to be filled in and re-seeded by some of our local farmers. The Council expressed their appreciation to Cllr Jenny Bokor and in particular, the local farmers involved in this.

12. Police Report: During the month of March 2023, Wymeswold had 4 x Public Order and 1 x Theft reported. During the month of April 2023, Wymeswold had 7 x Criminal Damage and 2 x Attempt Burglary Business and 1 x Theft reported.

13. To discuss and approve the relevant AGAR forms for the financial year 2022-2023:

- a) Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement: this was approved by the Council and signed by Cllr Mills and the Clerk.
- b) Section 2 – Accounting Statement: this was approved by the Council and signed by Cllr Mills.
- c) Annual Internal Audit Report: this was received and read by all the Cllrs prior to the meeting. The recommendations brought forward by the internal auditor were discussed and it was agreed they would be actioned moving forward. These actions will be addressed in the next Parish Council meeting in June.

14. To approve the start date for the Exercise of Public Rights relating to the audit:

The Council resolved to commence the start of the Exercise of Public Rights on Monday 5th June 2023. This period will close on Friday 14th July 2023. This will be published on the village noticeboard and website.

15. To approve the schedule of meetings of the Parish Council for 2023-2024: The Council approved the schedule of future meetings: 2023 - 5th June, 3rd July, 4th September, 2nd October, 6th November, 4th December; 2024 - 8th January, 5th February, 4th March, 8th April and 7th May. These will be published on the village website.

16. To approve the Council's annual subscription to the LRALC and NALC: The Council approved the renewal of this subscription which will be paid this month.

17. To elect representatives for the following non-Parish Council Committees if appropriate:

- a) Memorial Hall Committee – The Council resolved that the request for a representative from the Council to become a trustee for the Memorial Hall was a conflict of interest as a result of our audit requirements, and therefore they would not send a representative from the Council.
- b) Joint Parish Council Meetings – The Council resolved to send a representative when necessary if requested.

18. To discuss the process for the Remembrance Day street poppies and fallen

soldiers: The Council discussed this and resolved that although this process is not the

formal responsibility of the Council, they will assist the village with this important village event. It will require volunteers from the village to help carry this out in November.

19. Accounts/Finances:

- a) Expenditure for May (payment of April invoices) was approved by the Council and was signed off by Cllr Richard Higgins (Vice Chair). It is detailed in the table below:

May 2023	11/05/2023	Clare Higgins Salary - April 2023	n/a	
	11/05/2023	HMRC NI Contributions - Clare Salary - March to April 2023	n/a	£3.45
	11/05/2023	Richard Higgins Expenses - Zoom - April Invoice 2023	£2.40	£14.39
	11/05/2023	Richard Higgins Expenses - Parish Council Mobile Phone - April Invoice 2023	n/a	£8.58
	11/05/2023	Richard Higgins Expenses - B&Q cable ties/fixings for the Washdyke public notices - April Invoice 2023	n/a	£9.60
	11/05/2023	Roma Landscapes Limited - Mowing - April Invoice 2023	£129.00	£774.00
	11/05/2023	WaterPlus Ltd - Cemetery - April Invoice 2023	n/a	£0.56
	11/05/2023	Mark Stewart (Church Wall) - April Invoice 2023	£84.60	£507.60
	11/05/2023	LRALC Limited - LRALC/NALC Annual Membership Fee - April Invoice 2023	n/a	£415.69
	11/05/2023	M&C Property Solutions - Emergency boarding of Sports Pavilion windows - April Invoice 2023	n/a	£50.00
	11/05/2023	M&C Property Solutions - Extra redecoration costs in the Sports Pavilion/outside remedial works - April Invoice 2023	n/a	£352.50
	11/05/2023	Mark Munro Garden Maintenance - Cemetery/Churchyard - April Invoice 2023	n/a	£800.00
	11/05/2023	Mark Munro Garden Maintenance - Bird boxes for the Cemetery - April Invoice 2023	n/a	£82.76
	11/05/2023	Mark Munro Garden Maintenance - Honeysuckle Plants for the Cemetery - April Invoice 2023	n/a	£22.00
	11/05/2023	Direct Fencing & Contracting Limited - Sports Field boundary fence replacement - April Invoice 2023	£783.75	£4,702.51
11/05/2023	Central England Co-operative Account - Cemetery Memorial - April invoice 2023	£45.77	£274.66	
			£1,045.52	£8,801.30

Signed and dated by: *Richard Higgins* 09/05/2023

- b) Bank Reconciliation and position

May - Bank	
Bank Opening Balance	£27,650.69
Spend (April Invoices paid in May)	£8,801.30
Income (for April) – Charnwood Borough Council Precept Part One, Wymeswold Farmers Market Licence Fee and HMRC VAT return	£24,821.71
Anticipated Closing Balance for May (correct at time of the meeting)	£18,849.39

- c) The Council approved the quote from M&C Property Solutions for the extra redecoration and repair works to the Sports Pavilion and village noticeboard – totalling £487.50. The Council approved the quote from The Windows and Blinds Guy for the repair of the Sports Pavilion windows - £200.
- d) The Council approved the emergency call out for repairs made following the vandalism of the Sports Pavilion in April – as set out in section 4e of the WPC Financial Regulations document. The boarding of the broken windows was completed by M&C Property Solutions and cost £50.

The meeting moved to confidential session in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 in view of the nature of the business to be transacted for the following item (20):

20. Staffing Matters: The Council approved the Clerk's annual appraisal and pay review.

The meeting moved to open session.

21. Risk Assessments: The Monthly Washdyke and Sports Field Risk Assessment for April was performed by Cllr Mills; no action is required.

22. Planning Applications and Appeals:

Application Number	Proposal / Location	Comments Deadline	Distribution Date to Cllrs
P/23/0594/2	<p>Proposal: Erection of single storey extension (following demolition of existing garage).</p> <p>Location: 79 Brook Street, Wymeswold, Leicestershire, LE12 6TT.</p> <p>Resolved: Not to comment on this application.</p>	08/05/2023	25/04/2023
P/23/0601/2	<p>Proposal: Listed Building Consent for erection of single storey extension (following demolition of existing garage).</p> <p>Location: 79 Brook Street, Wymeswold, Leicestershire, LE12 6TT.</p> <p>Resolved: Not to comment on this application.</p>	08/05/2023	25/04/2023
P/23/0572/2	<p>Proposal: Erection of single storey rear extension and front porch.</p> <p>Location: 16 Orchard Way, Wymeswold, Leicestershire, LE12 6SW.</p> <p>Resolved: Not to comment on this application.</p>	16/05/2023	27/04/2023
P/23/0619/2	<p>Proposal: Erection of 3 dwellings, alterations to existing vehicular access, refurbishment of existing outbuilding and associated works. (Revised scheme P/22/0992/2 refers).</p> <p>Location: West End Farm, 5 Far Street, Wymeswold, Leicestershire, LE12 6TZ.</p> <p>Resolved: Not to comment on this application.</p>	18/05/2023	28/04/2023

23. Landscaping, Environment and Biodiversity:

a) No update received as Cllr Cooke could not be present.

24. Cemetery:

- a) There are no upcoming burials/interments this month so far.

25. Section 106 and Village Projects:

- a) Cllr Simpson informed the Council that we had received an email from one of our parishioners asking for information on Section 106 payments from past and present housing developments and whether they could benefit areas/groups of the village such as the school. Cllr Simpson is currently liaising with Charnwood Borough Council and Leicestershire County Council to source information and will report back to the Council and parishioner regarding the outcome.
- b) The Council discussed the funding of the Children's Play Area next to the Memorial Hall and resolved that Cllr Simpson would find out whether Section 106 payments could be accessed by village groups other than the Parish Council for its funding.

26. Sports Pavilion and Playing Field:

- a) No update required.

27. Clerk's Report:

- A list of contact details for parishioners to report a problem is on the village website, village noticeboard, and Christian Link along with a flood contacts page. The Council would actively encourage parishioners to report village issues using this contacts list.
- The annual ROSPA Playsafety inspection of the Memorial Hall and Washdyke playgrounds is scheduled for sometime in May.
- LCC have now fixed the lighted bollard that was damaged on Rempstone Road outside Storkit Way.
- The damaged embankment of the brook exposing a pipe and causing the kerb to fall in (where it runs from the chicken farm to Brook Street) was reported to LCC on 29/03/2023. LCC responded that this section of road is not part of the public highway and so is not the responsibility of LCC. I have contacted the Highways Records Team to determine who is responsible for maintaining the road and am still awaiting a response.
- Village verges – Queen's Park and Brook Street. LCC Highways department were contacted and replied that the last time they were inspected they were still within the LCC tolerance of 100mm. Unfortunately, currently LCC do not have the budget to repair verges that are not out of tolerance. They have informed me that they continue to assess them during the routine inspections and will raise tickets as soon as they go out of specification.
- A parishioner has kindly agreed to volunteer for the position of Wymeswold's Public Footpath Warden. Further parishioners are welcome to assist her with this and should contact the Clerk for further information.
- The boundary fence of the Sports Field has been replaced.
- Forthcoming Temporary Traffic Restriction Orders:
 - a. A46 Six Hills to Dalby – National Highways will be carrying out essential maintenance work to the embankment and drainage. This will be completed between **13th March 2023** and **mid-May 2023**.
 - b. Zouch Road, Hathern – to allow LCC to safely undertake investigation works on the bridge deck. The TTRO will incorporate a temporary road closure. The duration of the restriction is not anticipated to exceed a period of **1 day 9am-3pm** commencing on the **10th May 2023**.

28. Church Wall and Clock:

- a) No update was required about the Church Clock from Cllr Mills.
- b) Cllr Higgins informed the Council that three quotes have been received for the repair of the Church Wall and have been assessed by the Church Architect.
- c) Cllr Higgins will continue to work with the Church Architect to move the project forward.
- d) The Council resolved to select one of these contractor quotes as the preferred supplier (subject to funding and contract) in line with recommendations from the Church Architect.

29. Parishioner Queries: None.

30. Items for further consideration: None.

The meeting closed at 21.10pm.

The next Wymeswold Parish Council Meeting will take place on Monday 5th June at 7pm unless advised otherwise.