

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 Monday 8th January 2024 at 7:00pm. Parishioners were welcome to attend in person OR via Zoom.

Attendees: Cllr Richard Higgins (Acting Chair), Cllr David Albert, Cllr Adrian Cooke, Cllr David Nottingham, Cllr Janet Beaumont, and Clare Higgins (Clerk).

Attendees via Zoom: County Cllr Richard Shepherd and Borough Cllr Jenny Bokor.

1. **Apologies:** It was resolved to accept apologies from: Cllr Laura Mills and Cllr Andrew Wright.
2. **Declarations of Interest or Requests for Dispensation:** None.
3. **Public Participation (limited to 15 minutes):** None.
4. **Approval of previous minutes:** The meeting approved minutes from the WPC meeting held on Monday 4th December 2023.
5. **Leicestershire County Council Report:** County Cllr Richard Shepherd attended the meeting via Zoom and summarised to the Council the response of Leicestershire County Council (LCC) to the recent flooding in Wymeswold. The Clerk confirmed that all the correspondence from County Cllr Shepherd will be passed to the Council. County Cllr Shepherd also highlighted the work LCC had completed so far in supporting a parishioner issue with ongoing flooding on East Road. County Cllr Shepherd also referred the Council to the regular LCC news updates that he sends to the Cllrs for their information.
6. **Charnwood Borough Council Report:** Borough Cllr Jenny Bokor attended the meeting via Zoom and reported on the flooding issues in Wymeswold from the Charnwood Borough Council perspective. Borough Cllr Bokor detailed a number of flood related conversations that are ongoing cross agency, including her attendance at an Emergency Flood Review meeting. She committed to publish a more detailed report in the forthcoming edition of the Christian Link. Additionally, Borough Cllr Bokor mentioned that there were more hearings due regarding the Local Plan in late February which could lead to its possible delay.

County Cllr Richard Shepherd and Borough Cllr Jenny Bokor left the meeting via Zoom at 7.34pm.

7. **Police Report:** No report was received.

8. **Accounts/Finances:**

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

January 2024	10/01/2023	Clare Higgins Salary - December 2023	n/a	
	10/01/2023	HMRC NI Contributions - Clare Salary - November to December 2023	n/a	£5.31
	10/01/2023	Richard Higgins Expenses - Zoom - December Invoice 2023	£2.40	£14.39
	10/01/2023	Richard Higgins Expenses - Parish Council Mobile Phone - December Invoice 2023	n/a	£8.58
	10/01/2023	Total Energies -December Invoice 2023	£4.89	£102.56
	10/01/2023	WaterPlus Ltd - Sports Pavilion	n/a	£22.35
	10/01/2023	WaterPlus Ltd - Cemetery	n/a	£7.56
	10/01/2023	Roma Landscapes Limited - Extra grass cutting required - November Invoice (received late) 2023	£80.00	£480.00
	10/01/2023	Roma Landscapes Limited - Mowing - November Invoice (received late) 2023	£129.00	£774.00
	10/01/2023	LRALC Limited - November Training Course - December Invoice 2023	n/a	£35.00
	10/01/2023	DK Rumsby & Co - Payroll Services - December Invoice 2023	£10.00	£60.00
			£226.29	£2,781.71

Signed and dated by: *Richard Higgins* 08/01/2024

b) Bank Reconciliation and position

January - Bank	
Bank Opening Balance	£19,990.93
Spend (December Invoices paid in January)	£2,781.71
Income (for December) – EonNext Feed-in Tariff Payment	£30.64
Anticipated Closing Balance for January (correct at time of the meeting)	£17,209.22

- c) The Quarterly review of finances and budget position was delivered to the Council by Cllr Higgins. The projected expenditure includes the actual expenditure incurred to date and the planned remaining spend for the year. In line with the previous quarters' budget position, the planned spend for the year is in line with the Parish Council Budget; noticeably the expenditure on the Sports Pavilion/Sports Field/Washdyke is greater than the budget because spend was carried forward from last year for the boundary fence installation and the servicing of the Zip Line. The expenditure also includes the costs associated with repairs to the Sports Pavilion following the three bouts of vandalism this year. Some of this cost has been recovered by an insurance claim made by the Council. The budget breakdown is detailed in the table below:

WPC Budget Summary 2023/2024		Projected Spend
Area of expenditure	Budget 2023/2024	
Auditors - Internal/External	£700.00	£638.00
Buildings/Public Liability Insurance	£1,550.00	£1,760.46
Leases - Sports Field/Washdyke	£722.32	£722.32
Utilities	£1,920.00	£1,334.34
Mowing Costs	£12,800.00	£13,872.00
Path Maintenance/Hedging and Trees	£5,500.00	£2,563.42
Sports Pavilion/ Washdyke Running Costs	£4,350.00	£18,482.57
Salaries and Expenses	£11,880.00	£12,507.54
Church Clock Maintenance and Church Floodlighting	£380.00	£2,375.00
NALC/LRALC Membership/Training	£950.00	£490.69
Contingency Fund/Potential Village Projects	£8,000.00	£8,324.50
Election Costs	£2,000.00	£0.00
Donations - Poppy and Christian Link Annual Fee	£200.00	£439.99
Emergency Reserve of 3 Month Running Costs	£9,000.00	£9,000.00

- d) Cllr Higgins presented the proposed Budget spreadsheet for 2024/2025 (which had been circulated to all the Cllrs prior to the meeting). The Council resolved to set an overall budget of £70,482.32 for the financial year 2024-2025.
- e) The Council resolved to send a precept request to Charnwood Borough Council of £48,130.54. This will represent a charge of £75.83 per year for each Band D household (this is the Wymeswold Parish Council element of the overall Council Tax Charge); an increase of 2.13%, which is a £0.22 total increase for the year per Band D property. The Council were pleased to be able to limit the impact of the precept increase for parishioners.
- f) No quotes received from suppliers/contractors this month.
- g) The Council discussed the possible options for the use of the Coronation donation and agreed to discuss the options further with representatives from the Parochial Church Council.
- h) The Council discussed the King Charles III Charitable Fund and will also liaise with the Parochial Church Council regarding potential applications to the fund.

9. Action for Councillors: The Council reviewed and updated the actions for Councillors for this month.

10. Risk Assessments:

- a) The Monthly Washdyke and Sports Field Risk Assessment for December was performed by Cllr Mills; the circular play swing was noted to have some fraying on the edges which will be monitored going forward and will be repaired as necessary. The Quarterly Wymeswold Cemetery Risk Assessment for December was performed by Cllr David Albert; no action is required. The Quarterly Sports Pavilion Risk Assessment for December was performed by Cllr David Albert; no action is required.

11. Planning Applications and Appeals:

Application Number	Proposal / Location	Comments Deadline	Distribution Date to Cllrs
P/22/2290/2	<p>Proposal: Application for approval of Reserved Matters relating to appearance, landscaping, layout and scale of Outline Planning Permission ref: P/20/2044/2 for the erection of 45 dwellings (with associated access).</p> <p>Location: Land off East Road, Wymeswold, Leicestershire.</p> <p>Resolved: Not to comment on this application.</p>	18/12/2023	05/12/2023
P/23/1483/2	<p>Proposal: Construction of Storage Shed (retrospective).</p> <p>Location: Hammer & Pincers, 5 East Road, Wymeswold, Leicestershire, LE12 6ST.</p>	22/12/2023	05/12/2023

	Resolved: Not to comment on this application.		
P/23/2278/2	<p>Proposal: Proposed installation of illuminated and non-illuminated signage to building (Listed Building Consent).</p> <p>Location: 45 Far Street, Wymeswold, Leicestershire, LE12 6TZ.</p> <p>Resolved: Not to comment on this application.</p>	09/01/2024	19/12/2023

12. Landscaping, Environment and Biodiversity:

- a) Cllr Adrian Cooke informed the Council that in December the Biodiversity team planted the 10 apple trees that had been kindly donated to the Parish Council by LCC in the Washdyke community orchard. Huge thanks to the team for their hard work. Also, the Council would like to thank the Rotary Club who have kindly donated almost 400 crocus bulbs. These have now been planted in the Cemetery.

13. Cemetery:

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

14. Section 106 and Village Projects:

- a) Cllr Nottingham updated the Council that Charnwood Borough Council (CBC) have now confirmed receipt of the S106 funds relating to the Dandara development.
- b) The Council discussed the action plan regarding the S106 application for extra playground equipment for the Washdyke. Cllr Nottingham is investigating a number of options for use of this S106 funding.

15. Sports Pavilion, Playing Field and Washdyke:

- a) No update required.

16. 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.
- LCC were contacted following the December Parish Council meeting where a parishioner reported an issue with the bus stop located on East Road, Wymeswold (adjacent to the allotments). They highlighted that the section of pavement where the bus stop is located is extremely narrow, and with the amount of traffic going through the village on the A6006, they felt this was a valid safety concern. They asked whether the bus stop could be relocated to a safer area. This was logged for review and response with LCC's Safe & Sustainable Travel Team on 05/12/2023. Cllr Andy Wright also kindly cleared the area from overgrown vegetation that was occluding the pavement.
- A parishioner report was received in December regarding damage to their garden hedge on Church Street caused by a lorry trying to manoeuvre and reverse on the bend of Church Street. Furthermore, there were also accounts that vehicles are apparently driving around the wrong side of the traffic island when entering from the Rempstone direction. LCC were contacted about this on 12/12/2023. The Traffic and Signals Team responded that if HGV drivers are making deliveries on Church Street

and are using the wrong side of the traffic island to access, they would recommend collating any evidence and duly notifying the Police. It helps to have details of the date, time, direction of travel, vehicle registration mark or company details. The Police will in turn identify the registered keeper before making contact to ascertain why the vehicle was travelling within the zone and using the wrong side of the carriageway to enter. The following form can be used:

<https://www.leics.police.uk/ro/report/rti/rti-beta-2.1/report-a-road-traffic-incident/>

- A parishioner report was received in December of excessive surface water flowing down onto Brook Street following all the heavy rain and flooding in December, causing a large patch of hazardous black ice. This was reported to LCC on 12/12/2023. LCC as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) responded by encouraging parishioners to report all these issues directly to them so they can assess the impact of flooding on the village. Parishioners can email them using the link flooding@leics.gov.uk
- The Council were contacted by the Flood Risk Management Infrastructure Planning Team at LCC on 14/12/2023 to say that they have received a number of enquires following a number of flooding events in recent weeks. LCC has set up a multi-agency working group and identified a number of actions with a view of gaining a better understanding of flood mechanisms within the catchment. LCC is currently progressing a number of enquiries in response to recent flooding events, prioritising enquires based on risk to life and internal residential property. Further updates will be given as work with this progresses.
- Due to the recent heavy flooding on Brook Street especially on the service road, LCC Highways Flooding and Drainage Team were contacted on 08/11/2023 to enquire about drain clearance of this area to try to prevent further flooding issues. A works instruction was issued for the gully to be cleaned. Works have now been carried out.
- Charnwood Borough Council have given contact details for residents should they require help in advance of flooding. They are asking residents to call into their contact centre so that Charnwood can keep a record of who is directly affected and authorise where the sandbags are being distributed. Residents can **request sandbags**, please **call**: 01509 263151 (Monday to Friday, 9am – 4pm); 01509 634567 (out of hours).
- The **Leicestershire Half Marathon** will be returning on **Sunday 25th February 2024**. The race start time will be **9:30am** and the event will finish by **12:30pm**. A map of the route and road closure info can be found using the link <https://www.leicestershirehalf.com/leicestershire-course/> Advanced warning signs will be in place 2 weeks prior to the event, warning of disruptions between **9:00am – 12:30pm** on the day of the run. All impacted residents will be sent a letter explaining in more detail exact timings throughout the route 4 weeks prior to the event. There will also be a residents' hotline and information section on the website for impacted residents.
- Forthcoming Temporary Traffic Restriction Orders:
 - a. A46 Lifecycle Extension Work (LEW) scheme between Six Hills and Widmerpool - Work is due to start on **25th September 2023** and is scheduled for completion by the **end of March 2024**.
 - b. Brook Street, Wymeswold - to allow LCC to safely undertake works on a concrete retaining wall. This will incorporate a temporary road closure. The duration of the restriction is not anticipated to exceed a period of **6 weeks** commencing on the **15th January 2024**.
 - c. Zouch Road, Hathern - to allow LCC to undertake works to repair the Headwall adjacent to the wood yard also Gully Cleansing and ditch clearing works. This will incorporate temporary road closures. The road will be closed **1st and 2nd February 2024, 09:00 till 15:00 each day** and again on **5th February 2024 for 1 day, 09:00 till 15:00**.

17. Church Wall:

- a) Cllr Higgins informed the Council that he had spoken to the LRALC regarding the process for the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) Application to fund the repair of the Church Wall. To complete this process the Council will be publishing documentation concerning the background and repair of the Church Wall for residents to comment. This will be posted on the village website and noticeboard. He will also contact the architect regarding the need to submit paperwork associated with the road closure necessary for the works to be carried out safely.

18. Parishioner Queries: None.

19. Items for further consideration: None.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

The next Wymeswold Parish Council Meeting will take place on Monday 5th February 2024 at 7pm unless advised otherwise.