

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 5th February 2024 at 7:00pm. Parishioners were welcome to attend in person OR via Zoom.

Attendees: Richard Higgins (Acting Chair), Cllr Adrian Cooke, Cllr Andrew Wright, 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, Cllr David Albert, and Cllr David Nottingham.
- 2. Declarations of Interest or Requests for Dispensation:** Cllr Beaumont highlighted that she is a member of the Wymeswold Church Fund Appeal (WCFA). This will be a standing declaration of interest while she is a Councillor.
- 3. Public Participation (limited to 15 minutes):** A representative from Wymeswold Cricket Club attended the meeting and outlined to the Council how successful the club has become; with 70-80 young members attending training sessions, as well as the adult teams. They also mentioned the possibility of a women's team commencing this year. They sought clarification on the licence fee for the upcoming season. The Chair explained the licence cost was reflective of increased running and capital costs associated with the Sports Pavilion. The Cricket Club also reiterated future liaison with the Council regarding the use of Section 106 funds that have been received by Charnwood Borough Council (CBC). Also, a representative from Wymeswold Football Club attended the meeting via Zoom and informed the Council of their upcoming proposal to extend their use of the Sports Pavilion to include children's coaching and possible summer holiday football coaching provision.
- 4. Approval of previous minutes:** The meeting approved minutes from the WPC meeting held on Monday 8th January 2024.
- 5. Leicestershire County Council Report:** County Cllr Richard Shepherd attended the meeting via Zoom and reported to the Council that the Agenda for the Council's Cabinet Meeting on 9th February has been published on the Council's website. Item 4 on the Agenda is the Council's Provisional Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024/2025 – 2027/28. The item includes a proposed Council Tax increase of three per cent for core services and a two per cent increase in the adult social care precept. Following discussion at the Cabinet Meeting the proposals will be considered at a County Council Meeting on 21st February 2024. County Cllr Richard 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 that she had sent the Cllrs information regarding a CBC Flooding Briefing that took place in January. She also mentioned the flooding section that she had published in the Christian Link to update parishioners. Borough Cllr Bokor also stated that she will be further informing parishioners about flood resilience in the next Christian Link publication.

County Cllr Richard Shepherd and Borough Cllr Jenny Bokor left the meeting via Zoom at 7.35pm.

7. **Police Report:** No report was received. North Charnwood PCSO team have been contacted to ask whether these reports are still being made available.

8. **Accounts/Finances:**

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

February 2024	07/02/2024	Clare Higgins Salary - January 2024	n/a	
	07/02/2024	HMRC NI Contributions - Clare Salary - Decemember 2023 to January 2024	n/a	£105.80
	07/02/2024	Richard Higgins Expenses - Zoom - January Invoice 2024	£2.40	£14.39
	07/02/2024	Richard Higgins Expenses - Parish Council Mobile Phone - January Invoice 2024	n/a	£8.58
	07/02/2024	Richard Higgins Expenses - Microsoft 365 Annual Renewal - January Invoice 2024	n/a	£59.99
	07/02/2024	Total Energies - January Invoice 2024	£4.90	£102.73
	07/02/2024	WaterPlus Ltd - Sports Pavilion - January Invoice 2024	n/a	£16.39
	07/02/2024	WaterPlus Ltd - Cemetery - January Invoice 2024	n/a	£7.81
	07/02/2024	SSE - VAS Unmetered Electricity Supply (Rempstone and East Road) - January Invoice 2024	£0.86	£18.09
	07/02/2024	LRALC Internal Audit Service 2023-2024 - January Invoice 2024	n/a	£290.00
			£8.16	£1,474.28

Signed and dated by: *Richard Higgins* 05/02/2024

b) Bank Reconciliation and position

February - Bank	
Bank Opening Balance	£18,559.22
Spend (January Invoices paid in February)	£1,474.28
Income (for January) – Cemetery Fees	£1,350.00
Anticipated Closing Balance for February (correct at time of the meeting)	£17,084.94

- c) The Council approved the quote from Roma Landscapes Limited of £220 (ex VAT) for the removal of a conifer in the Washdyke. They also approved the quote from Roma Landscapes Limited of £450 (ex VAT) for the trimming of the hedges on the North and East sides of the Washdyke.
- d) The Council discussed the Churchyard Floodlighting electricity costs that are paid for by the Parish Council. It was decided to discuss this further at the next Parish Council meeting in March.
- e) Cllr Beaumont informed the Council that she had met with representatives of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting as a representative of the WCFA. She had discussed the possible options for the use of the Coronation donation. No decision has yet been made and it was decided to discuss this further at the next Parish Council meeting. Cllr Beaumont also informed the Council that she had liaised with the PCC to inform them about the King Charles III Charitable Fund.

9. **Approval of the Internal Auditor for the Council for the financial year 2023 – 2024:**

The Council approved that the LRALC are confirmed as the Internal Auditor for the Council for the financial year 2023-2024.

10. Approval of Health and Safety Policy: The Council approved the Health and Safety Policy which will be published on the village website.

11. Approval of Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy: The Council approved the Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy which will be published on the village website.

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

13. Risk Assessments:

- a) The Monthly Washdyke and Sports Field Risk Assessment for January 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.

14. Planning Applications and Appeals: No planning applications or appeals were received this month.

15. Landscaping, Environment and Biodiversity:

- a) Cllr Cooke informed the Council that he has planted more than 200 snowdrops in the designated wildflower area on the corner of Brook Street and Hoton Road, and that Leicestershire County Council (LCC) will be installing marker stakes in this area and along Burton Lane. LCC will also be offering the Council some wildflower seeds for the wildflower verge on Burton Lane. Cllr Cooke is also liaising with LCC regarding trees that they had promised to plant along Burton Lane.

16. Cemetery:

- a) There was one burial in the Cemetery in January, but no upcoming interments/burials planned for February so far.

17. Section 106 and Village Projects:

- a) Cllr Wright updated the Council that he had met with contractors regarding possible drainage works to the Sports Field. Cllr Beaumont also informed the Council that she had discussed with representatives of the PCC the potential for them to apply to CBC for S106 funds to set up a cinema capability for the village, and to link them with Cllr Nottingham who has offered to arrange a survey to ensure the cinema is in keeping with the environment of the Church.

18. Sports Pavilion, Playing Field and Washdyke:

- a) No updates required from Councillors this month.
- b) The Council discussed the installation of a rubbish bin on the Washdyke, and the annual cost associated with that. It was decided to discuss this further at the next Council meeting.
- c) The Council discussed access to the Sports Field via the top gate (off Burton Lane). It was resolved that a new padlock will be placed on the gate and the key shared with relevant parties so that the Council has permanent access.

19. 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 Wymeswold Farmers Market has been booked for Sunday 7th July 2024.
- A concern was raised by a parishioner regarding some sections of roadside wall on Far Street. It was noted that over a number of years the incline of the wall has significantly increased, and a section of the coping has broken away, resulting in the wall touching the streetlight in a couple of places. The parishioner had concerns over the integrity of the wall and the streetlight for pedestrians and traffic. The matter was referred to LCC's Street Lighting Team on 11/01/2024 and LCC's Highways Department on 16/01/2024. The Council is awaiting responses.
- The second of the biannual Fire Alarm services at the Sports Pavilion has been completed by Morgan Fire Protection Limited on 31/01/2024.
- 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. 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 on **5th February 2024 for 1 day, 09:00 till 15:00**.
 - c. East Road, Wymeswold – to allow M&J Evans, on behalf of Dandara Developments, to undertake S278 works to form a new junction, carriageway widening, right turn filter lane, street lighting and carriageway resurfacing. This will incorporate temporary overnight road closures. The duration of the restriction is not anticipated to exceed a period of **5 nights** commencing on the **04th March 2024**. **Closures are proposed to be in place between 20:00 and 06:00. Outside of these times there will be temporary traffic signals in place.**

20. Church Wall:

- a) Cllr Higgins informed the Council that he had spoken to the LRALC regarding the application process for the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB). As a result of this, the Council was advised to again formally resolve the approval of the loan application (detailed in c below). This was previously resolved at the Council meeting on Monday 3rd July 2023.
- b) The Council discussed the parishioner responses that had been received regarding the funding application process. All the responses were in favour of the Council proceeding with the repairs of St Mary's Churchyard Wall.
- c) The Council re-approved the funding process for the Churchyard Wall. The report to Council was updated and issued on the village website and noticeboard <https://www.wymeswold.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Wymeswold-Parish-Council-St-Marys-Churchyard-Wall-Repairs.pdf>

As a result of point (c), the Council resolved the following: At the Wymeswold Parish Council meeting of 5th February 2024, it was RESOLVED to seek the approval of the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to apply for a PWLB loan of £60,000 over the borrowing term of 40 years for the repairs required to St. Mary's Churchyard wall. The annual loan repayment will come to around £4,700. It is not intended to increase the Council tax precept for the purpose of the loan repayment.

21. Parishioner Queries:

- a) A parishioner had enquired about whether further family trees could be planted

in the Washdyke Community Orchard. The Council discussed this and resolved that requests to plant trees in this area should be sent to the Council for individual review and approval, and that liaison with the biodiversity team would be required as part of this process.

22. Items for further consideration: None.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

The next Wymeswold Parish Council Meeting will take place on Monday 4th March 2024 at 7pm unless advised otherwise.