

WYMESWOLD PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

A meeting of Wymeswold Parish Council was held both virtually via Teams and in person at the Sports Pavilion on Burton Lane, Wymeswold on Monday 7th October 2024 at 7:00pm. Parishioners were welcome to attend in person OR via Teams.

Attendees: Cllr Richard Higgins (Acting Chair), Cllr Adrian Cooke, Cllr Andrew Wright, Cllr Janet Beaumont, Borough Cllr Jenny Bokor and Clare Higgins (Clerk).

Attendees via Teams: County Cllr Richard Shepherd.

1. **Apologies:** It was resolved to approve apologies from: Cllr Laura Mills and Cllr David Nottingham.
2. **Declarations of Interest or Requests for Dispensation:** None.
3. **Public Participation (limited to 15 minutes):** A parishioner attended the meeting to inform the Council of issues concerning some of the householders on London Lane and Far Street. Following the recent flooding issues at the Storkit Lane housing development, the Environment Agency has reclassified some of the houses on London Lane and Far Street as an area of increased flood risk. As a result, their house insurance has been negatively impacted. The parishioner also raised the concern that, in their opinion, the drain attached to the attenuation pond at this development was not large enough to accommodate the flow of water during heavy rainfall, which they believe is also exacerbating the flooding issues, and at times has led to offensive smells inside their properties. The parishioner also explained that they were keen to meet with residents of the Storkit Lane development who have had similar concerns to consolidate their arguments to be put forward to the developer of the site. County Cllr Richard Shepherd and Borough Cllr Jenny Bokor had attended a virtual meeting with a number of parties including the developer that day and gave their comments to the parishioner and the Council (please see their reports below (6 and 7)).
4. **Approval of previous minutes:** The meeting approved minutes from the WPC meeting held on Monday 2nd September 2024.
5. **Councillor Resignation:** The Council discussed the recent resignation of Cllr David Albert who has been such an asset to the Council and wish to express their thanks for all his knowledge, expertise and efforts. A Notice of Vacancy has already been published on the village website and noticeboard, and Charnwood Borough Council (CBC) have been notified. A Notice of Casual Vacancy advertising application for the unfilled Cllr position will be published after the 17/10/2024 on the village website and noticeboard.
6. **Leicestershire County Council Report (LCC):** County Cllr Richard Shepherd attended the meeting via Teams and reported to the Council that during the day he had participated in a virtual meeting with several parties to discuss the flooding issues on the Storkit Lane development. He clarified that LCC are the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) and that their role is to investigate the causes of flooding but without the power to compel a body which may be responsible for taking action to deal with the problem to actually take that action. County Cllr Shepherd explained that as a result of the meeting, the landowner Cora Homes (previously Barwood) is responsible for resolving the situation on the Storkit Lane development. This was relayed to the parishioner at the meeting.

7. **Charnwood Borough Council Report (CBC):** Borough Cllr Jenny Bokor had also attended the virtual meeting that County Cllr Richard Shepherd commented on in his report, and further reiterated the points that he had made. She highlighted that Cora Homes had already supplied emergency pumping equipment to Storkit Lane residents. Cllr Bokor also provided the parishioner with details of the lead for the Storkit Lane development residents' group so that they could discuss their concerns and amalgamate their responses as a whole.

County Cllr Richard Shepherd left the meeting via Teams and Borough Cllr Jenny Bokor left the meeting at 7.40pm.

8. Accounts/Finances:

- a) Expenditure for October (payment of September invoices) was approved by the Council and was signed off by the Acting Chair (as per the updated Financial Regulations 2024 section 6.10). This is detailed in the table below:

October 2024	October	NEST Employer and Employee Pension Contribution Direct Debit payment	n/a	£23.14
	09/10/2024	Clare Higgins Salary - September 2024	n/a	
	09/10/2024	Richard Higgins Expenses - Parish Council Mobile Phone - September Invoice 2024	n/a	£9.25
	09/10/2024	Wymeswold Parochial Charities - Annual Lease Fee for the Washdyke and Sports Field - September Invoice 2024	n/a	£722.32
	09/10/2024	WaterPlus Ltd - Cemetery - September Invoice 2024	n/a	£9.92
	09/10/2024	WaterPlus Ltd - Sports Pavilion - September Invoice 2024	n/a	£14.39
	09/10/2024	Total Energies G&P Collections - September Invoice 2024	£6.43	£135.28
	09/10/2024	SSE - VAS Unmetered Electricity Supply (Rempstone and East Road) -	£4.61	£27.65
	09/10/2024	Mark Munro Garden Maintenance - Cemetery/Churchyard - September Invoice 2024	n/a	£800.00
	09/10/2024	Roma Landscapes Limited - Mowing - September Invoice 2024	£143.00	£858.00
	09/10/2024	DK Rumsby & Co - Professional Services Quarterly Fee - September Invoice 2024	£10.00	£60.00
	09/10/2024	GES (Leicester) Limited - Annual fee for monthly Legionella services - Sports Pavilion - September Invoice 2024	£192.00	£1,152.00
	09/10/2024	R Emmerson - Donation to WW2 Memorial Plaque for the village - 2024	n/a	£329.40
	09/10/2024	AS Blackburn - Washdyke Playground Equipment Repairs - September Invoice 2024	n/a	£280.00
	09/10/2024	AS Blackburn - Washdyke MUGA Repairs - September Invoice 2024	n/a	£120.00
	09/10/2024	Morgan Fire Protection Limited - Sports Pavilion Fire Alarm Service - September Invoice 2024	£40.78	£244.72
	09/10/2024	Morgan Fire Protection Limited - Sports Pavilion Emergency Lighting Service - September Invoice 2024	£23.79	£142.74
			£420.61	£5,766.09

Signed and dated by: *Richard Higgins* 07/10/2024

- b) Bank Reconciliation and position: The spend in the table above (a) is combined across the 2 bank accounts detailed below:

October – Bank (Current Account)	
Opening Balance	£49,088.59
Spend (September Invoices/Direct Debits paid in October)	£5,766.09
Income (for September) – Charnwood Borough Council Precept Part Two, Eon Next Feed-in Tariff Payment, Wymeswold FC Licence Fee and East Midlands Stargazers Observing Group Licence Fee	£24,489.16
Anticipated Closing Balance for October (correct at time of the meeting)	£43,322.50

October – Bank (Project Account)	
Opening Balance	£8,436.10
Spend	£0
Income (for September)	£0

Anticipated Closing Balance for October (correct at time of the meeting)

£8,436.10

- c) The Quarterly review of finances and budget position was delivered to the Council by Cllr Higgins. The expenditure includes all the actual spend incurred for the first 6 months of this financial year. The actual spend for the 6 month period is in line with the Parish Council Budget. Overall, the expenditure also includes the costs associated with the repairs to St Mary's Churchyard Wall for which the Council received a Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) loan. The budget breakdown is detailed in the table below:

WPC Budget Summary 2024/2025		
Area of expenditure	Budget 2024/2025	Actual Spend at 30/9
Auditors - Internal/External	£725.00	£378.00
Buildings/Public Liability Insurance	£2,000.00	£1,411.30
Leases - Sports Field/Washdyke	£722.32	£0.00
Utilities	£1,900.00	£1,671.51
Mowing Costs	£14,300.00	£9,090.00
Path Maintenance/Hedging and Trees	£6,000.00	£168.00
Sports Pavilion/ Washdyke Running Costs	£5,790.00	£777.39
Salaries and Expenses	£13,720.00	£5,799.35
Church Clock Maintenance and Church Floodlighting	£750.00	£415.00
NALC/LRALC Membership/Training	£950.00	£718.61
Contingency Fund/Potential Village Projects	£8,000.00	£0.00
Election Costs	£1,000.00	£0.00
Donations - Poppy and Christian Link Annual Fee	£925.00	£350.58
Emergency Reserve of 3 Month Running Costs	£9,000.00	£0.00
PWLB	£4,700.00	£0.00
Total Expenditure	£70,482.32	£20,779.74
Church Wall Repairs (PWLB Loan £60,000)	£60,000.00	£51,538.90

- d) Following the resignation of Cllr Albert who was one of the NatWest bank signatories, the Council resolved to amend the NatWest Bankline mandate to remove Cllr David Albert as a NatWest Bank signatory, and to add Cllr Janet Beaumont as a NatWest Bank signatory. According to NatWest Bankline instructions, this is as follows:

We resolve that:

- if we add or remove Authorised Signatories in the "Add or Remove Authorised Signatories" section on the "About your request" page of this form, the Bank will update our mandate accordingly for the accounts we specify in this form's "About your business" section
- and the current mandate will continue as amended.

- e) The Council approved the quote of £355 (inclusive of VAT and delivery) for 4,000 bulbs (daffodils, crocus, English bluebells and snowdrops) for the village as per the Open Spaces Act 1906 s.10 and Highways Act 1980 s96(5).

9. Risk Assessments:

- a) The Monthly Washdyke and Sports Field Risk Assessment for September was performed by Cllr Mills; no action is required. The Quarterly Wymeswold Cemetery Risk Assessment for September was performed by Cllr David Albert; no action is required. The Quarterly Sports Pavilion Risk Assessment for September was performed by Cllr David Albert; no action is required. The Council is still investigating the requirements for a lock on the disabled toilet door.

10. Planning Applications and Appeals:

Application Number	Proposal / Location	Comments Deadline	Distribution Date to Cllrs
P/24/1143/2	<p>Proposal: Discharge of Condition 3 (Materials) of Planning Application ref: P/24/21/2590/2 (Alterations and part demolition of dwelling, demolition of garden wall to front, single storey extension to side/rear and insertion of roof lights in rear roof plane of detached dwelling. Demolition of roof and raising of walls and roof of detached garage to provide first floor home office.</p> <p>Location: 57 London Lane, Wymeswold, Leicestershire, LE12 6UB.</p> <p>Resolved: Not to comment on this application.</p>	10/10/2024	24/09/2024
P/24/1444/2	<p>Proposal: Discharge of Condition 3 (Materials) of Planning Application ref: P/24/0717/2 (Extensions and alterations – minor amendments to approved LBC P/21/2624/2).</p> <p>Location: 57 London Lane, Wymeswold, Leicestershire, LE12 6UB.</p> <p>Resolved: Not to comment on this application.</p>	10/10/2024	24/09/2024

11. Landscaping, Environment and Biodiversity:

- a) Cllr Cooke informed the Council that the Biodiversity Team were planning on planting 4,000 bulbs (daffodils, crocus, English bluebells and snowdrops) around the village in the next few months; some on the Burton Lane verges, some on the verges near the Dandara housing development and around the village as a whole. There will also be some hedge trimming of the Washdyke and Sports Field happening in the next few months too.

12. Cemetery:

- a) There were no interments in the Cemetery in September, and there are no upcoming burials/interments planned for October so far.

13. Section 106 and Village Projects:

- a) Cllr Wright reported to the Council that Cllr Nottingham and himself had met with a number of individuals relating to the drainage of the Sports Field. Following the meeting Cllr Nottingham will be drawing up a plan to take forward to contractors to receive quotes for the work required. Cllr Beaumont notified the Council that there was a site meeting scheduled for the 9th October at St Mary's Church to look at the feasibility of the installation of a cinema. Advice and a quotation will follow the meeting. She reported that she had consulted the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and Wymeswold Church Fund Appeal (WCFA) regarding the potential for this facility and would feed the views into the meeting with the supplier.
- b) In line with the Council's Financial Regulations 2024 section 5.15, the Council approved the quote of £2,694 (including installation and disposal of existing noticeboard) from the Parish Noticeboard Company for a new Parish Council noticeboard as per the Local Government Act 1972 s.111, and s.142. The Council were made aware that the quote contains a charge for the removal of the existing noticeboard, which may not be possible and as a result would slightly reduce the cost.

14. Sports Pavilion, Playing Field and Washdyke:

- a) No updates from Cllrs this month.

15. Church Clock: The Clerk updated the Council that Clockwise Restorations had attended in September and performed the annual service/oiling of the Church Clock as well as an assessment of its current incorrect functioning. The problem was with a switch on the other motor that had not been dealt with the last time they had inspected. The switch contacts were cleaned, and everything reset, and this appears to have fixed the fault. The switch could not be replaced as it is now an obsolete model which cannot be procured. The Council is hopeful that the Church Clock will now continue to function correctly.

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.
- All the nuts and bolts on the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) have been tightened/replaced as per the RoSPA Play Safety annual report recommendations.
- The biannual fire alarm service and the annual emergency lighting service was performed this month; it was delayed due to the summer holiday period.
- The annual fire extinguisher service was performed this month with a new carbon dioxide extinguisher supplied.
- A new rubbish bin has now finally been installed on the Washdyke.
- Wymeswold Football Club will be using the Sports Pavilion for their 2024-2025 season.
- East Midlands Stargazers Observing Group will also be using the Sports Pavilion this upcoming year.
- The 3 year tree survey was completed in September. The report has just been received and contains a 3 month, 6 month and 18 month priority list for works needed which will be forwarded to the Council for review and approval.

- A concern was raised by a parishioner regarding some sections of roadside wall on Far Street where 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. This was chased up again on 24/10/2024. LCC Highways reported that the owner of the wall was contacted and advised to engage a structural engineer to make it safe. Regarding the streetlight, LCC supplied information that they will only get involved when there is existing damage to the streetlight.
- Please note that all waste sites will move to standard **winter opening hours on 1st October 2024 until 31st March 2025 (9am to 4pm on days they are open)**. Residents are encouraged to arrive at least 10 minutes prior to closing, with the last admittance no later than 6.55/3:55pm respectively).
- Charnwood Borough Council contacts for residents should they require help in advance of flooding. They are asking residents to call into their contact centre so that cases will be sent directly to the Contracts Manager and the Head of Service 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).
- Forthcoming Temporary Traffic Restriction Orders:
 - a. Hoton Road, Wymeswold between Trinity Crescent and London Lane. The purpose of the TTRO is to allow LCC to safely facilitate highway improvement works. This will incorporate a prohibition of waiting. The duration of the restriction is not anticipated to exceed a period of **1 day** commencing on the **7th October 2024**.

17. Parishioner Queries: None.

18. Items for future consideration: In line with the internal audit recommendations earlier in the year, the Council are going to investigate placing a reserve in a higher interest-bearing savings account. The Clerk will speak to one of the mowing contractors to clear the ditches next to the Washdyke on Burton Lane and Hoton Road.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

The next Wymeswold Parish Council Meeting will take place on Monday 4th November 2024 at 7pm in the Sports Pavilion on Burton Lane unless advised otherwise.