

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 2nd December 2024 at 7:00pm. Parishioners were welcome to attend in person OR via Teams.

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

Attendees via Teams: County Cllr Richard Shepherd.

1. **Apologies:** It was resolved to approve apologies from: Cllr Laura Mills, Cllr Andrew Wright and Borough Cllr Jenny Bokor.
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 November 2024.
5. **To receive the Declaration of Acceptance of Office from our newly co-opted member of the Council:** Cllr Julie Banks signed their Declaration of Acceptance of Office. The Council warmly welcomed our newly co-opted Cllr to the team.
6. **Leicestershire County Council Report (LCC):** County Cllr Richard Shepherd attended the meeting via Teams and reported to the Council that the Winter Edition of the County Council's residents' newsletter 'Leicestershire Matters' had now been published, and he checked whether it had been distributed to homes in Wymeswold. As usual, the newsletter reflects the Council's communications campaigns and priorities across the authority's six departments. The Winter Edition focuses on how LCC are supporting residents to stay warm and well and highlights practical steps people can take to stay safe, such as getting vaccinations and using their interactive gritting map as well as getting flood ready, amongst other things. He explained that the November meeting with Cora Homes to discuss flooding mitigation solutions on the Storkit Lane development had now been rescheduled to 13th January 2025. County Cllr Richard Shepherd also referred the Council to the regular LCC news updates that he sends to the Cllrs for their information, all of which are distributed to the Council.
7. **Charnwood Borough Council Report (CBC):** Borough Cllr Jenny Bokor was unable to be present at the meeting.

County Cllr Richard Shepherd left the meeting via Teams at 7.10pm.

8. Accounts/Finances:

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

December 2024	December	NEST Employer and Employee Pension Contribution Direct Debit payment	n/a	£25.68
	04/12/2024	Clare Higgins Salary - November 2024	n/a	
	04/12/2024	Richard Higgins Expenses - Parish Council Mobile Phone - November Invoice 2024	n/a	£9.25
	04/12/2024	Easyspace Whois Privacy Yearly Fee (Village Website) - November Invoice 2023	£2.50	£15.01
	04/12/2024	WaterPlus Ltd - Cemetery - November Invoice 2024	n/a	£0.42
	04/12/2024	WaterPlus Ltd - Sports Pavilion - November Invoice 2024	n/a	£23.25
	04/12/2024	Total Energies G&P Collections - November Invoice 2024	£5.62	£117.87
	04/12/2024	SSE - VAS Unmetered Electricity Supply (Rempstone and East Road) - November Invoice 2024	£4.61	£27.65
	04/12/2024	Roma Landscapes Limited - Mowing - November Invoice 2024	£143.00	£858.00
	04/12/2024	Roma Landscapes Limited - Washdyke and Sports Field Hedgecutting/Wildflower Area Mowing - November Invoice 2024	£248.00	£1,488.00
	04/12/2024	Mark Munro Garden Maintenance - Ditch Clearance on Burton Lane - November Invoice 2024	n/a	£180.00
	04/12/2024	AS Blackburn - Sports Pavilion Maintenance Works and Repairs - November Invoice 2024	n/a	£464.00
			£403.73	£4,348.75

Signed and dated by: *Richard Higgins* 02/12/2024

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

December – Bank (Current Account)	
Opening Balance	£47,271.54
Spend (November Invoices/Direct Debits paid in December)	£4,348.75
Income (for November)	£0
Anticipated Closing Balance for December (correct at time of the meeting)	£42,922.79

December – Bank (Project Account)	
Opening Balance	£6,543.33
Spend	£0
Income (for November)	£0
Anticipated Closing Balance for December (correct at time of the meeting)	£6,543.33

- c) The Council discussed the proposed budget and precept requirement for the financial year 2025/2026 (which had been sent to all Cllrs prior to the meeting for them to read). Cllrs discussed possible future areas of expenditure which may need to be included in the 2025/2026 precept. The budget and precept for 2025/2026 will be confirmed and approved at the next Council meeting in January 2025.
- d) The Council approved the quote of £5,800 (excluding VAT) from Martin Tree Care Arboricultural Services for the Priority 1 Tree Works required as per the Local Government Act 1894 s.8, the Open Spaces Act 1906 s.9, s.10 and Highways Act 1980 s.43, s.96. They also approved the quote of £1,000 from Wymeswold Cricket Club for the mowing of the Sports Field as per the Highways Act 1980 s.43, s.96 and the Open Spaces Act s.9, s.10.

9. Risk Assessments:

- a) The Monthly Washdyke and Sports Field Risk Assessment for November was not received prior to this meeting so will be now be recorded in the January meeting alongside the December Monthly Washdyke and Sports Field Risk Assessment.

10. Planning Applications and Appeals:

Application Number	Proposal / Location	Comments Deadline	Distribution Date to Cllrs
P/24/1992/2	<p>Proposal: Erection of garden room (Self Assessment Form B completed).</p> <p>Location: 73B Brook Street, Wymeswold, Leicestershire, LE12 6UE.</p> <p>Resolved: Not to comment on this application.</p>	For Information Only	12/11/2024
P/24/2092/2	<p>Proposal: Proposed change of use from agricultural land to residential curtilage.</p> <p>Location: 2 Narrow Lane, Wymeswold, Leicestershire, LE12 6SD.</p> <p>Resolved: Not to comment on this application.</p>	17/12/2024	26/11/2024

11. Landscaping, Environment and Biodiversity:

- a) Cllr Cooke informed the Council that he has now completed the planting of the 4,000 bulbs (daffodils, crocus, English bluebells and snowdrops) around the village, and he noted that in the past 6 years the Biodiversity team have impressively planted approximately 20,000 bulbs in Wymeswold on behalf of the Parish Council. The Council is extremely appreciative of all their hard work. He also reported that 2 new oak trees had been planted in the Washdyke.

12. Cemetery:

- a) There were no interments in the Cemetery in November, and there are no upcoming burials/interments planned for December so far.
- b) The Council approved the updated Cemetery Fees and Cemetery Regulations documents which will be published on the village website, and set the next review date for these documents as December 2025.

13. Section 106 and Village Projects:

- a) Cllr Nottingham informed the Council that he is in the process of finalising the drawing up of a plan regarding the drainage of the Sports Field to take forward to contractors to receive quotes for the work required. He is investigating the cost of using Ordnance Survey data and Computer-Aided Design (CAD) to help with this. Cllr Nottingham also reported that he had sent the quote received for the provision of cinema equipment to Cllr Beaumont who will liaise with the Parochial Church Council (PCC) with this information for their approval.

14. Sports Pavilion, Playing Field and Washdyke:

- a) No updates from Cllrs this month.
- b) The Council discussed and approved the revised Sports Pavilion criteria and charges for 2025/2026.

15. Local Transport Update: Cllr Beaumont updated the Council that the Charnwood Borough Council Public Transport Scrutiny Committee had completed their initial report. Cllr Beaumont had carried out surveys of the village and submitted the findings on behalf of the Parish Council. The report's findings echo much of the Council's

submission and recognises the fact that public transport improvements are needed. The findings are as follows:

- to address isolated communities.
- to look at the reliability of services.
- to incorporate transport issues in planning applications.
- closer work and links needed with Leicestershire County Council.
- recognising the need for links to avoid routing issues.
- prioritising the use of Section 106 funding to help improve public transport.

Cllr Beaumont offered to continue to monitor the situation and submit further survey work if required.

16. Church Clock: The Church Clock has unfortunately stopped striking again. Clockwise Restorations have been contacted to come and assess the problem and hopefully this will be sorted as soon as possible. The Council discussed this and the possible necessary work that will need to be undertaken, and approved that to save on costs, it should be completed in one visit rather than having two separate visits for call out and then completion of works.

17. 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 new Parish Council Noticeboard is being installed on Tuesday 3rd December.
- The hedge cutting of the Washdyke and Sports Field hedges has now been completed alongside the mowing of the wildflower areas.
- The picket fence in front of the Sports Pavilion has now been repaired as well as a repair to the fence and a new entrance gate to the Sports Pavilion car park area.
- Note from Charnwood Borough Council that the Christmas period will see some changes to waste and recycling collections. These can be viewed on their website via https://www.charnwood.gov.uk/pages/christmas_waste_collection
- Please note that all recycling and household 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)**. LCC encourage residents to check their website prior to going (especially in adverse weather conditions) and 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).

18. Parishioner Queries: None.

19. Items for future consideration: Following the final end of defects site meeting of the Churchyard Wall in December, Cllr Beaumont will report feedback on the meeting and whether future regular weedkilling of the Churchyard Wall is advisable.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

The next Wymeswold Parish Council Meeting will take place on Monday 6th January 2025 at 7pm in the Sports Pavilion on Burton Lane unless advised otherwise.