

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 3rd February 2025 at 7:00pm. Parishioners were welcome to attend in person OR via Teams.

Attendees: Cllr 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 and Borough Cllr Jenny Bokor.

1. **Apologies:** It was resolved to approve apologies from: Cllr Laura Mills.
2. **Declarations of Interest or Requests for Dispensation:** None.
3. **Public Participation (limited to 15 minutes):** A representative of the village attended the meeting and gave a presentation regarding issues of surface water drainage relating to the planning application P/25/0008/2. This application for 45 houses on the Land to the North of East Road had previously been approved by the Charnwood Borough Council planning authority, but this application contains detailed reserved matters of the development. The parishioner raised important concerns about the potential for the increased flood risk resulting from the extra surface water drainage plans from this new development adding to the existing surface water drainage from the Dandara development and the effect that may have on the water level of the Brook and the properties in the village. Following this, two other parishioners attended the meeting to discuss the proposed Mantle Solar Farm Project. They expressed concerns over the retention of wildflowers within the proposed area as well as the impact on the local hare and skylark community. The parishioners offered to investigate the other solar farm applications in the locality that had been rejected, the reasons for the rejections and report these reasons back to the Council. The Council informed the parishioners that the public consultation that was being held regarding the proposed Mantle Solar Farm Project in the Memorial Hall on 6th February 2025 will be attended by a representative of the Council. At this point, no formal planning application has been submitted.
4. **Approval of previous minutes:** The meeting approved minutes from the WPC meeting held on Monday 6th January 2025.
5. **Leicestershire County Council Report (LCC):** County Cllr Richard Shepherd attended the meeting via Teams and reported to the Council that on 7th February the County Council will consider a Report about flooding headed 'Flooding in Leicestershire in January 2025 and implications for Lead Local Flood Authority and Local Highway Authority'. This Report is available to read on LCC's website. Its purpose is described as "...to provide information on the impacts of the unnamed storm which affected Leicestershire on 6 January 2025, highlight the County Council's ongoing work as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), and set out proposals to support the LLFA's statutory duty in managing local flood risk. It also outlines the discretionary efforts by the County Council to aid local residents and businesses, and updates on the activities of the Local Highway Authority (LHA) regarding recent flood events and proposed actions to manage increased pressure on highways assets and resources." He also referred to an oversight concerning the timetable issued for the new bus service LC8. The oversight was the removal of the 17.40 journey from Loughborough to Melton Mowbray. LCC have since confirmed that the Centrebus timetable effective from 13th January 2025 includes the reinstatement of the journey. County Cllr Richard Shepherd also referred to the regular LCC news updates that he sends to the Cllrs for their information, all of which are distributed to the Council. (Richard Shepherd's County Cllr Report can

be found on the village website next to the current Minutes).

- 6. Charnwood Borough Council Report (CBC):** Borough Cllr Jenny Bokor attended the meeting via Teams and reiterated to the Council that there was going to be a delay to the completion of the CBC Local Plan as the Inspectors had called for further evidence to support how CBC are going to secure funding for community infrastructure for any new developments. She also confirmed that the virtual meeting with Cora Homes, LCC, CBC and concerned parties to discuss flood mitigation solutions on the Storkit Lane development had been rearranged to sometime in March. Additionally, Borough Cllr Jenny Bokor will look into details relating to the progress of the installation of the planned pedestrian crossing on East Road. Regarding the planning application P/25/0008/2, Borough Cllr Jenny Bokor will use the objection raised by the Council to request review at the Plans Committee.

County Cllr Richard Shepherd and Borough Cllr Jenny Bokor left the meeting via Teams at 7.46pm.

- 7. Approval of the existing Wymeswold Parish Council Privacy Notice:** The Council approved the existing Wymeswold Parish Council Privacy Notice with no amendments. This will be republished on the village website, with the next date for review being set for February 2027 unless interim amendments are deemed necessary.

8. Accounts/Finances:

- a) Expenditure for February (payment of January 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:

February 2025	February	NEST Employer and Employee Pension Contribution Direct Debit payment	n/a	£25.68
	05/02/2025	Clare Higgins Salary - January 2025	n/a	
	05/02/2025	Richard Higgins Expenses - Parish Council Mobile Phone - January Invoice 2025	n/a	£9.25
	05/02/2025	WaterPlus Ltd - Cemetery - January Invoice 2025	n/a	£9.92
	05/02/2025	WaterPlus Ltd - Sports Pavilion - January Invoice 2025	n/a	£23.25
	05/02/2025	Total Energies G&P Collections - January Invoice 2025	£6.19	£130.05
	05/02/2025	SSE - VAS Unmetered Electricity Supply (Rempstone and East Road) - January Invoice 2025	£0.61	£12.85
	05/02/2025	LRA/LC Internal Audit Service 2024-2025 - January Invoice 2025	n/a	£290.00
	05/02/2025	J.Thomas - Easyspace Website Storage Upgrade 1GB - January Invoice 2025	n/a	£24.00
			£6.80	£1,397.01

Signed and dated by: *Richard Higgins* 03/02/2025

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

February – Bank (NatWest Current Account)	
Opening Balance	£19,195.84
Spend (January Invoices/Direct Debits paid in February)	£1,397.01
Income (for January)	£0
Anticipated Closing Balance for February (correct at time of the meeting)	£17,798.83

February – Bank (NatWest Project Account)	
Opening Balance	£15,885.50
Spend	£0
Income	£0
Anticipated Closing Balance for February (correct at time of the meeting)	£15,885.50

February – Unity Trust Bank Savings Account (General Reserves)	
Opening Balance	£12,000
Spend	£0
Income	£0
Anticipated Closing Balance for February (correct at time of the meeting)	£12,000

- c) In accordance with the Financial Regulations 2024 section 2.6, Cllr Nottingham verified the bank reconciliations with the bank statements for the last quarter (this was delayed by a month due to late receipt of the December bank statements).
- d) In line with the Council's Financial Regulations 2024 section 5.15, the Council approved the £24 emergency village website storage upgrade of 1GB that had been authorised by the Chair following notification by the Clerk, in order to enable the continued functioning of the village website. The Council approved the estimated quote of £545 from G Davies Plumbing and Heating for necessary repairs to the Sports Pavilion heating system as per the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s.19. The Council were made aware that this quote is subject to slight adjustment depending on the labour time required.

9. Risk Assessments:

- a) The Monthly Washdyke and Sports Field Risk Assessment for January will be reported alongside the February Risk Assessment at the February meeting when Cllr Mills is available. The Quarterly Wymeswold Cemetery Risk Assessment for December which was completed by Cllr Beaumont was reported at this meeting. No risks were identified, however some maintenance issues were raised such as; extra gravel for the paths, repainting of the iron railings and a sign for car parking. It was suggested that the Council have a meeting in the Cemetery when the weather improves in the Spring to take a look at what repairs/improvements can be made to the area.

10. Planning Applications and Appeals:

Application Number	Proposal / Location	Comments Deadline	Distribution Date to Cllrs
P/24/2293/2	<p>Proposal: Erection of single storey rear extension and changes to facing materials of existing extension.</p> <p>Location: The Paddock, 24 Brook Street, Wymeswold, Leicestershire, LE12 6TU.</p> <p>Resolved: Not to comment on this application.</p>	31/01/2025	07/01/2025
P/24/2419/2	<p>Proposal: Proposal: Discharge of Conditions 4 (Biodiversity Enhancement Scheme), 8 (Extent of Residential Curtilage) and 9 (Bird Nesting Box) of Planning Application ref: P/23/0346/2 (Proposed conversion of the existing stables to residential dwelling and erection of new stables).</p> <p>Location: Two Gates Field, Narrow Lane, Wymeswold, Leicestershire, LE12 6SD</p> <p>Resolved: Not to comment on this application.</p>	23/01/2025	16/01/2025
P/25/0008/2	<p>Proposal: Application for approval of Reserved Matters relating to appearance, landscaping, layout and scale of Outline application for the erection of 45 new dwellings, all matters reserved except access (revised scheme, P/18/0081/2 refers) (TO BE CONFIRMED)</p> <p>Location: Land to the North of East Road, Wymeswold, Leicestershire.</p> <p>Resolved: To comment on this application with regard to plans for surface water drainage and its impact on village flooding.</p>	07/02/2025	21/01/2025

11. Proposed Mantle Solar Farm Project: The Council having already discussed this with parishioners during the public participation section of the meeting, will be represented by one of the Cllrs at the public consultation on the 6th February and will report back to the Council any relevant information gathered at the next meeting.

12. Landscaping, Environment and Biodiversity:

- a) Cllr Cooke reported that there were numerous potholes around the village requiring repair. He will send the details to the Clerk so they can be reported to LCC. Any further potholes noted by parishioners can be reported via:

13. Cemetery:

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

14. Section 106 and Village Projects:

- a) Cllr Nottingham confirmed that he would send Cllr Beaumont the finalised quote from the supplier for the potential film/cinema equipment and will support the Parochial Church Council (PCC) with the details of the S106 application process. He has received the OS Data of the village from LCC and is working to finalise 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.

15. Sports Pavilion, Playing Field and Washdyke:

- a) No updates from Cllrs this month.

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.
- Information received from LCC - The new bus service LC8 (formerly service 8) began operation on 6th January 2025. It has emerged, following the issue being raised by a member of the public, that the removal of the 5.40pm journey from Loughborough to Melton Mowbray from the new timetable was an oversight. LCC have now confirmed that the Centrebus timetable effective from 13th January 2025 includes the reinstated 5.40pm journey from Loughborough to Melton Mowbray.
- The stone for the new WW2 Memorial plaque at the Eagle Mural is now ready, so a new date has been set by the organisers for the Service of Dedication and unveiling. It will now be on **Thursday 20th March 2024 at 2pm**. All parishioners are welcome to attend. Further information on the crash and the plaque can be found in this article from the Wymeswold Historical Organisation http://www.hoap.co.uk/who/eagle_memorial.htm
- Exagen, a renewables developer are holding a public consultation process on an early-stage development situated within the village. The proposed project site is located south-east of Wymeswold. Information including the project brochure has already been posted on the village website for all Wymeswold residents to read. The project, called Mantle Solar Farm, encompasses a 49.9MW solar farm along with associated infrastructure such as access tracks and substation buildings. The site is made up of three parcels – western parcel, central parcel and eastern parcel. The public consultation, which will include an online webinar, and a 'drop in' consultation event is booked in **Wymeswold Memorial Hall** on the **6th February 2025**. Feedback from the public consultation and environmental assessments will then help inform the final design of the development before they submit a planning application.
- One of the trees in the Churchyard was blown over in the storm last week blocking the pathway, and this was kindly cleared by a few of our parishioners. The Council extends their sincere gratitude for their hard work.
- The village website reached a critical storage limit, so an extra 1GB of storage had to be purchased prior to the meeting.
- Following the required consultation with CBC, the advert for co-option of a new Councillor has been published on the village website and noticeboard. The closing date for applications is Tuesday February 25th 2025.

- Clockwise Restorations have been contacted again to secure a date for the repair of the Church Clock. This will hopefully be confirmed as soon as possible.
- Wymeswold Cricket Club have confirmed their use of the Sports Pavilion and Sports Field for their junior and adult teams' training and fixtures from May 1st to August 31st 2025.
- 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).

17. Parishioner Queries: None.

18. Items for future consideration: Cllr Banks and Cllr Beaumont suggested exploring ways to communicate the roles and responsibilities of members of the Council with the village. This will be presented as an agenda item for the March meeting. Cllr Banks also agreed to investigate how the Council could provide a Christmas tree for the village. Following the recent Memorial Hall meeting she had attended, Cllr Banks informed the Council that the Memorial Hall AGM was going to be held on Saturday 15th March.

The meeting closed at 8.37pm.

The next Wymeswold Parish Council Meeting will take place on Monday 3rd March 2025 at 7pm in the Sports Pavilion on Burton Lane unless advised otherwise.

Appendix – Finance Actuals

The details below reflect the actual finance activities of the Council in the month. This is the result of the NEST direct debit not being taken from the bank account following the meeting in February as expected.

February 2025	05/02/2025	Clare Higgins Salary - January 2025	n/a	
	05/02/2025	Richard Higgins Expenses - Parish Council Mobile Phone - January Invoice 2025	n/a	£9.25
	05/02/2025	WaterPlus Ltd - Cemetery - January Invoice 2025	n/a	£9.92
	05/02/2025	WaterPlus Ltd - Sports Pavilion - January Invoice 2025	n/a	£23.25
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	05/02/2025	LRALC Internal Audit Service 2024-2025 - January Invoice 2025	n/a	£290.00
	05/02/2025	J.Thomas - Easyspace Limited Website Storage Upgrade 1GB - January Invoice 2025	n/a	£24.00
			£6.80	£1,371.33

The spend in the table above is combined across 2 bank accounts detailed below:

February – Bank (NatWest Current Account)	
Opening Balance	£19,195.84
Spend (January Invoices/Direct Debits paid in February)	£1,371.33
Income (for January)	£0
Anticipated Closing Balance for February (correct at time of the meeting)	£18,074.51

February – Bank (NatWest Project Account)	
Opening Balance	£15,885.50
Spend	£0
Income	£0
Anticipated Closing Balance for February (correct at time of the meeting)	£15,885.50

February – Unity Trust Bank Savings Account (General Reserves)	
Opening Balance	£12,000
Spend	£0
Income	£0
Anticipated Closing Balance for February (correct at time of the meeting)	£12,000