

# 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 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025 at 7:00pm. Parishioners were welcome to attend in person OR via Teams.

**Attendees:** Cllr Laura Mills (Chair), Cllr Richard Higgins (Vice Chair), Cllr Adrian Cooke, Cllr David Nottingham, Cllr Janet Beaumont, Cllr Jeff Weston, 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 Julie Banks.
2. **Declarations of Interest or Requests for Dispensation:** Cllr Beaumont highlighted that she continues to be a member of the Wymeswold Church Fund Appeal (WCFA).
3. **Public Participation (limited to 15 minutes):** The community engagement and project managers from Exagen attended the meeting to inform the Council about the public consultation regarding the proposed Mantle Solar Farm Project that had been held at the Memorial Hall on February 6<sup>th</sup>. Results of this consultation have fed into an updated design and explanations of the changes made; which includes the size of the site, retention of existing footpaths and public rights of way including a new permissive path, amongst other things. They mentioned that they plan to submit a formal planning application to Charnwood Borough Council (CBC) by the end of March. During questions from Cllrs, it was ascertained that if the planning application was successful, and once the site was operational, if it was approved, a Community Benefit Fund would be created for the lifetime of the site which local groups would be able to access. The Council asked for further details regarding this, as well as the updated results from the public consultation, which once received, will be published on the village website. A parishioner also attended the meeting to discuss the recent flooding events in the village which had led to unrecoverable damage to their vehicles. They expressed the need for a flood group and warning systems that could be put in place to enable more prompt reactions prior to a flooding event to notify affected parishioners. The parishioner had already initiated conversations with CBC regarding this and the Clerk had signposted them to Leicestershire County Council (LCC) as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) and the Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Resilience Partnership (LLRRP) for advice on what could be actioned. They agreed to research this and then liaise back with the Council.

Agenda items (14) and (17) were brought forward for discussion at this point in the meeting. Details of agenda item (14) are contained above in agenda item (3). Please see agenda item (17) for the details relating to this item.

4. **Approval of previous minutes:** The meeting approved minutes from the WPC meeting held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025.
5. **To receive the Declaration of Acceptance of Office from our newly co-opted member of the Council:** Cllr Jeff Weston signed their Declaration of Acceptance of Office. The Council warmly welcomed their 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 he had investigated the details surrounding the construction of the planned pedestrian crossing on East Road which formed part of both of the housing development planning applications on East Road. He

has written to Borough Cllr Jenny Bokor to confirm that as the Dandara development has now been partially occupied, CBC planning enforcement could investigate the construction of the planned pedestrian crossing. County Cllr 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.

County Cllr Richard Shepherd left the meeting via Teams at 8pm.

- 7. Charnwood Borough Council Report (CBC):** Borough Cllr Jenny Bokor attended the meeting and informed the Council that she had placed her detailed Borough Cllr report in the latest edition of the Christian Link giving information to parishioners about the planned Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation in Leicestershire. She encouraged parishioners and Cllrs to read it. The report also touches on flooding issues in Wymeswold, of which she is currently involved in the investigations with the LLFA. Additionally, Borough Cllr Bokor will look into details relating to the progress of the installation of the planned pedestrian crossing on East Road after receiving correspondence from County Cllr Shepherd.

Borough Cllr Jenny Bokor left the meeting at 8.15pm.

## 8. Accounts/Finances:

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

March 2025	March	NEST Employer and Employee Pension Contribution Direct Debit payment	n/a	£51.36
	March	HMRC NI Contributions - Direct Debit payment	n/a	£218.16
	05/03/2025	Clare Higgins Salary - February 2025	n/a	
	March	Parish Council Mobile Phone - Direct Debit payment	n/a	£9.25
	05/03/2025	Richard Higgins Expenses - Parish Council Mobile Phone - February Invoice 2025	n/a	£9.25
	05/03/2025	Richard Higgins Expenses - Microsoft 365 Annual Renewal - February Invoice 2025	£10.00	£59.99
	05/03/2025	WaterPlus Ltd - Cemetery - February Invoice 2025	n/a	£9.92
	05/03/2025	WaterPlus Ltd - Sports Pavilion - February Invoice 2025	n/a	£23.25
	05/03/2025	Total Energies G&P Collections - February Invoice 2025	£6.97	£146.16
	05/03/2025	SSE - VAS Unmetered Electricity Supply (Rempstone and East Road) - February Invoice 2025	£0.61	£12.85
	05/03/2025	Easyspace Limited Domain Yearly Billing Fee (Village Website) - April Invoice (received early) 2025	£7.55	£45.31
	05/03/2025	Wymeswold Football Club - Refund for unplayed fixtures 2024 Season	n/a	£70.00
	05/03/2025	Parochial Church Council of St Mary Wymeswold - Churchyard floodlighting electricity for 2023 - February Invoice 2025	n/a	£84.18
	05/03/2025	Parochial Church Council of St Mary Wymeswold - Churchyard floodlighting electricity for 2024 - February Invoice 2025	n/a	£114.56
			<b>£25.13</b>	<b>£1,726.25</b>

Signed and dated by: *Laura Mills* 03/03/2025

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

<b>March – Bank (NatWest Current Account)</b>	
Opening Balance	£18,074.51
Spend (February Invoices/Direct Debits paid in March)	£1,726.25
Income (for February) - Cemetery Fees	£250.00
<b>Anticipated Closing Balance for March (correct at time of the meeting)</b>	<b>£16,348.26</b>

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

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

c) No quotes were received from suppliers/contractors this month.

**9. Reapproval of WPC and Burial Board Procedural Standing Orders document and next review date:** This was reapproved by the Council with the next review date of March 2026, and will be published on the village website.

**10. Reapproval of Bankline and Payments Best Practice Guidance Policy document and next review date:** This was reapproved by the Council with the next review date of March 2026, and will be published on the village website.

**11. Review of internal control/ risk and approval of updated Annual Risk Assessment documents for 2024-2025:** The Council reviewed and approved as adequate its internal control/risk and approved the Annual Risk Assessment document for 2024-2025 which will be published on the village website.

**12. Risk Assessments:**

a) The Monthly Washdyke and Sports Field Risk Assessments for January and February were completed by Cllr Mills; no action is required.

**13. Planning Applications and Appeals:**

<b>Application Number</b>	<b>Proposal / Location</b>	<b>Comments Deadline</b>	<b>Distribution Date to Cllrs</b>
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<b>P/25/0201/2</b>	<p><b>Proposal:</b> Erection of single storey outbuilding to north-east corner of rear garden.</p> <p><b>Location:</b> 79 Brook Street, Wymeswold, Leicestershire, LE12 6TT.</p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> Not to comment on this application.</p>	19/02/2025	29/01/2025
<b>P/25/0317/2</b>	<p><b>Proposal:</b> Application for Approval of Reserved Matters following Outline Approval ref: P/23/0271/2 (site for the erection of 3 dwellings (Outline planning application with all matters reserved except the access)). Erection of 3 dwellings including details, layout, scale, appearance and landscaping.</p> <p><b>Location:</b> 1 London Lane, Wymeswold, Leicestershire, LE12 6UB</p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> Not to comment on this application.</p>	03/03/2025	11/02/2025

**14. Proposed Mantle Solar Farm Project:** Feedback from the public consultation on 6<sup>th</sup> February. Details of this were covered during discussions in the public participation section of the meeting. Please see agenda item **(3)** for details.

**15. The government's consultation on strengthening the standards and conduct framework for local authorities in England:** Feedback from completion of the survey by Cllrs. Cllrs Beaumont, Banks and Nottingham met on 7th February 2025 to submit a response to the government's consultation on strengthening the standards and conduct framework on behalf of the Council. The key points in response to the lengthy document were:

- high standards in public service should be supported
- the government should encourage the appointment of independent persons to investigate issues, but should be cognisant of the resource issues and costs involved in appointing independent experts to assist in resolutions
- the government should map and share current best practice to support improvements/ help introduce stronger standards and conduct frameworks
- suspensions from office need to be handled sensitively, but it would not be appropriate for a suspended person to be allowed access to premises, documents or decision making during a period of suspension
- the overall view of the survey was that it had not been well developed and was cumbersome to complete.

**16. Village Communications:** The Council agreed to adjourn discussions regarding various communication links and strategies for distributing information to the village to the April meeting.

**17. Fibre Internet Connectivity for the village:** Cllr Nottingham told the Council that he has been looking into the delivery of fibre internet connections to homes in Wymeswold and found that currently there is no rollout proposed by BT Openreach or City Fibre in the near to medium future. He has been in dialogue with BT Openreach about this situation and is looking at the possibility of co-funded delivery of fibre broadband. He has offered to collate details of any interested parties in the village to take back to BT for a potential

cost estimate to deliver fibre to Wymeswold. Cllr Nottingham will set up a separate dedicated email address for parishioners to register their interest in this. This email address will be posted via various communication channels to parishioners. He will also contact City Fibre (who are installing fibre connections in Loughborough) about this and report back to the Council at the next meeting.

**18. Landscaping, Environment and Biodiversity:**

- a) No update was required this month.

**19. Cemetery:**

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

**20. Feedback from the latest Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting:** Cllr Beaumont had met the PCC in her capacity as Secretary of the WCFA. The key issues discussed which were relevant to the Council were:

- the Heritage Project could be useful in sharing communications channels for the Council
- the Church Architect agreed that the small retaining wall inside the Churchyard as you enter from The Stockwell was in need of repair. He agreed to prepare a note to share with the Council. Richard Bimson would pass on Ackroyd Electrical Services Limited details to the Council to obtain a quote whilst they are on site to save costs
- Richard Bimson had found the finial which had fallen off the Church gate some time ago which could now be remounted
- Regarding the proposed cinema equipment, after much debate, the PCC agreed that this would be better positioned and stored as a community shared resource in the Memorial Hall. Cllr Banks would be asked to liaise with the Memorial Hall and Cllr Nottingham agreed to arrange a site visit once the agreement had been finalised.

Cllr Beaumont would link with the PCC regarding the wall quote, and the Clerk was asked to source costs of the finial repair. The April meeting would consider the costs involved along with the potential for a Cemetery and Churchyard maintenance plan going forward.

**21. Section 106 and Village Projects:**

- a) No update was required this month.

**22. Sports Pavilion, Playing Field and Washdyke:**

- a) Cllr Higgins informed the Council that a plumber would be performing the necessary repairs to the heating system in the Sports Pavilion this month, and also that an electrician will be contacted to quote for repairs to lighting that is required, with a view to improving energy efficiency at the same time.

**23. 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.
- Parishioner report of 2 faulty streetlights on Rempstone Road that had been unresolved was reported to LCC by the Clerk on 04/02/2025. The issue was referred back to the Street Lighting team to enquire if they have any information about who would be responsible for repairing the streetlights numbers 32 and 33.

- Some of the potholes identified in the village (The Stockwell, bus stop and on Brook Street) have been reported by the Clerk to LCC for repair on 06/02/2025. A response is still being awaited. If any further potholes are noted by parishioners, please can they be reported through <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/road-maintenance/report-a-road-problem>
- BT will be removing the public payphone in Wymeswold. Communities can 'adopt' phone boxes to turn into something completely different and find new ways of using them. Thousands of boxes have been reinvented as cafes, mini-libraries, and defibrillator sites. Communities can adopt most red boxes for just £1. They can also adopt modern glass boxes if they want to house a defibrillator. Please visit [bt.com/adopt](http://bt.com/adopt) for more information. **Members of the community can make representations in the next 90 days until 24 May 2025.** If there are any questions or wish to make representations, please email them at [bt.authorisation.team@bt.com](mailto:bt.authorisation.team@bt.com).
- A reminder that 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.hoap.co.uk/who/eagle_memorial.htm)
- There is a Free Mosaic Workshop for Adults being held at Wymeswold Memorial Hall on **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 10am-1pm**. Learn the ancient craft of mosaic and make a durable artwork for the home in a 3 hour practical workshop. You will learn how to use tile cutters to make a detailed design of your own creation on a 13cmsq board. All hand tools/safety specs and materials supplied, some precut tiles available. Grout supplied with instructions. This workshop is being funded as part of an art project in Wymeswold commissioned by Stonewater Housing. **BOOKING is essential** so please contact the artist: [Joanna@dewfallmosaic.co.uk](mailto:Joanna@dewfallmosaic.co.uk) [www.dewfallmosaic.co.uk](http://www.dewfallmosaic.co.uk)
- LCC's residents' newsletter, '**Leicestershire Matters**' will be delivered from Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March. The newsletter will be delivered over 2 weeks to homes in Leicestershire, some 300,000 in total, and is distributed by Royal Mail. An electronic version will be put on the village website for residents to access.
- LCC is currently looking for volunteers who enjoy research and can assist in evaluating claims for unrecorded footpaths, bridleways, and restricted byways across the County. They would support you in finding and researching lost ways and missing links or ask you to assist with existing cases and registered claims. Your work would contribute towards gathering, analysing, and presenting historical and other evidence in relation to claims. This could range from delving into the historical records to helping post notices or take photos on site. Volunteers would need to be able to travel throughout the County. For the full details of this new role and how to apply please follow this link on their Volunteer Portal: <https://leicestershirecountycouncil.goassemble.com/opportunities/82059-public-rights-of-way-research-volunteer-2025-02-17> If successful you will be invited to an Induction afternoon on **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 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).
- CBC 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).

**24. Parishioner Queries:** None.

**25. Items for future consideration:** Cllr Beaumont suggested an in-person meeting of Cllrs at the Cemetery to discuss a future maintenance plan based on the last quarterly risk assessment that she had performed. A date in March for this will be arranged by the Clerk.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

The next Wymeswold Parish Council Meeting will take place on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April 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 a reduced NEST direct debit amount being taken from the bank account and HMRC not collecting a direct debit following the meeting in March as expected. Additionally it includes the income for March.

March 2025	March	NEST Employer and Employee Pension Contribution Direct Debit payment	n/a	£25.68
	05/03/2025	Clare Higgins Salary - February 2025	n/a	
	March	Parish Council Mobile Phone - Direct Debit payment	n/a	£9.25
	05/03/2025	Richard Higgins Expenses - Parish Council Mobile Phone - February Invoice 2025	N/a	£9.25
	05/03/2025	Richard Higgins Expenses - Microsoft 365 Annual Renewal - February Invoice 2025	£10.00	£59.99
	05/03/2025	WaterPlus Ltd - Cemetery - February Invoice 2025	n/a	£9.92
	05/03/2025	WaterPlus Ltd - Sports Pavilion - February Invoice 2025	n/a	£23.25
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	05/03/2025	Parochial Church Council of St Mary Wymeswold - Churchyard floodlighting electricity for 2023 - February Invoice 2025	n/a	£84.18
	05/03/2025	Parochial Church Council of St Mary Wymeswold - Churchyard floodlighting electricity for 2024 - February Invoice 2025	n/a	£114.56
			£25.13	£1,482.41

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

<b>March – Bank (NatWest Current Account)</b>	
Opening Balance	£18,074.51
Spend (February Invoices/Direct Debits paid in March)	£1,482.41
Income (for March) - Cemetery Fees	£320.00
<b>Actual Closing Balance for March</b>	<b>£16,912.10</b>

<b>March – Bank (NatWest Project Account)</b>	
Opening Balance	£15,885.50
Spend	£0
Income	£0
<b>Actual Closing Balance for March</b>	<b>£15,885.50</b>

<b>March – Unity Trust Bank Savings Account (General Reserves)</b>	
Opening Balance	£12,000
Spend	£0
Income (Quarterly Credit Interest)	£68.22
<b>Actual Closing Balance for March</b>	<b>£12,068.22</b>