

WYMESWOLD PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Meeting Minutes

The Annual Parish Meeting was held both virtually via Zoom and in person at the Sports Pavilion on Burton Lane, Wymeswold on Tuesday 7th May 2024 at 7:00pm. Parishioners were welcome to attend in person OR via Zoom.

Attendees: Cllr Laura Mills (Chair), Cllr Richard Higgins (Vice Chair), Cllr Adrian Cooke, Cllr David Albert, and Cllr Janet Beaumont.

1. **Apologies:** Cllr David Nottingham and Cllr Andrew Wright.
2. **Chair of Wymeswold Parish Council to approve and sign the minutes from the last Annual Parish Meeting:** Minutes from the last Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 9th May 2023 were approved and signed by the Chair of the Parish Council, Cllr Laura Mills.

3. Chair of Wymeswold Parish Council's Report:

Firstly, I would like to thank all the Councillors for their support over the last year to the village and myself, which together, have made many improvements.

Washdyke and the Sports Pavilion: Many of us are continuing to enjoy the facilities on the Washdyke; it's great to see so many children and young adults enjoying the MUGA (Multi use Games Arena). Following our regular audits and annual inspection of the play equipment we have repaired the zip wire and replaced key elements for the first time since installation nearly 20 years ago!

We are currently reviewing our options for additional play equipment on the Washdyke; potentially swings and slides and additional seating, which we hope to receive further monies from the new East Road Development; again, all ideas of what to purchase would be greatly appreciated.

The Sports Pavilion has been in regular use by the Football and Cricket Club, and we hope to see both these clubs expand over the next year, making good use of this wonderful facility we have in our village. Sadly, the Sports Pavilion had been subjected to vandalism and burglary which raised concerns over our current security measures. It was agreed that after persistent breakages, the requirement for improved doors and security grilles was necessary, and would be purchased to secure the building from further attempted break ins. These works were completed earlier this year alongside additional security lighting.

Many parties and events have taken place over the past year, including the Wymeswold Farmers Market, Wymeswold Summer and Christmas Fair that were huge successes for residents and neighbouring villages. And we hope to see more events over the next year.

Landscaping, Environment and Biodiversity: The Parish Council have been busier than ever this year continuing with the planting of bulbs across the village with the help of parishioners and we thank them all for their hard work.

The Council have managed to source and plant many new bulbs and tree saplings on the Washdyke, plus with a grant from the Wymeswold Garden Walkabout Committee, 1800 bulbs and plug plants were planted across the village. The Biodiversity Team have also been sourcing and putting up Bat and Bird boxes in the Cemetery; we thank them for their continued hard work.

We are coming into the growing season and, like last year, we reviewed our mowing contracts, and you will notice that the number of cuts across the village will be decreased. This is to protect and increase our wildlife population, especially in “No Mow May”. This will not mean that areas will be left unsightly or dangerous but will be maintained, and that the money saved will be made available to spend elsewhere around the village. Please can we ask all parishioners and visitors to the village not to park on the grass verges, so we are able to maintain them and not become unsightly and churned up.

Cemetery News: We have been continuing to increase the biodiversity at the Cemetery; new bird boxes have been fitted, honeysuckle hedging has been planted and a new wildflower area is beginning to come to life.

St. Mary's Church: We appointed a contractor earlier in the year after a tender process to complete the works to rebuild St. Mary's Churchyard Wall. We have continued to liaise with the Diocese at each step of the process. The decision was made to pay for the works through a Public Works Loan. This has been secured and works on the wall have started. We are hopeful that the wall will be restored to its former state by mid-June 2024.

4. To thank community volunteers and groups in the village:

The Parish Council would like to thank the following groups and Committees: The Scouts, Cubs and Beaver groups, 1st Responders, Cricket Club, Football club, Pre-School, Memorial Hall, Wymeswold Farmers Market and Duck Race Committees, Garden Walkabout, Wymeswold Primary School, St. Mary's Church, everyone on the Council, its volunteers and parishioners who play a vital role in the upkeep and improvement of the village and we thank all of them.

The Parish Council would like to acknowledge and record its thanks to our County Councillor, Cllr Richard Shepherd, for his help and advice over numerous matters with Leicestershire County Council, and to our Borough Councillor, Cllr Jenny Bokor, who also liaises with us and keeps us informed over many issues with Charnwood Borough Council, and the help given by Dan Norcott and particularly Janet Thomas who run and maintain the village website.

This summary gives you an overview of some of the many issues we cover as a Parish Council. Parishioners are welcome to attend the regular monthly meetings, usually held on the first Monday of the month at 7.00pm at the Sports Pavilion. And finally, I wish to thank our Parish Clerk, Clare Higgins, who has continued to make an exemplary contribution to the Parish Council again this year. We thank her for all her work and support to the Council over the past year.

5. Questions or points raised by residents or members of the public: None.

The meeting closed at 7.10pm.

The next Wymeswold Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Tuesday 6th May 2025 at 7pm unless advised otherwise.