

## WYMESWOLD PARISH COUNCIL

### Annual Parish Meeting Minutes

The Annual Parish Meeting was held both virtually via Teams and in person at the Sports Pavilion on Burton Lane, Wymeswold on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 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 David Nottingham, Cllr Janet Beaumont, Cllr Julie Banks and Cllr Jeff Weston, County Cllr Naomi Bottomley and 4 parishioners.

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Adrian Cooke.
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 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024 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 still enjoying the MUGA (Multi use Games Arena). Following our regular audits and annual inspection of the play equipment we have made some repairs to the fitness equipment and continued to maintain the orchard, surrounding wildlife areas, and refilled and re-seeded the football pitch. In addition to the above, and part of keeping the Washdyke free from litter, a new bin was installed which has seen a reduction of litter around the play areas.

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 the Cricket club have improved their facilities with the help of the Section 106 monies. We hope to see the Cricket Club expand over the next year making good use of this wonderful facility we have in our village. Sadly, the Football Club has folded so we won't be seeing them return for another season, but we wish the players all the best.

Many parties and events have taken place at the Sports Pavillion over the past year, including the Wymeswold Farmers Market, East Midlands Stargazers Observing Group, Wymeswold Summer and Christmas Fair that were a huge success 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 the parishioners and we thank them all for their hard work. The Council have managed to source and plant many new bulbs, tree saplings and 2 new oak trees which have been planted on the Washdyke. The Biodiversity Team planted 4,000 bulbs (daffodils, crocus, English bluebells and snowdrops) around the village; some on the Burton Lane verges and some on the verges near the Dandara housing development. The Biodiversity Team have also been

sourcing and putting up Bat and Bird boxes in the Cemetery. It has to be 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. 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.

Village Projects: The Council agreed that a donation would be made towards the installation of the new village Memorial Plaque that was added to the existing Wymeswold RAF Eagle Mural Memorial on the pharmacy wall. The Memorial commemorates the crew of the Wellington Bomber DV771 of 28 OTU that crashed in Wymeswold on 25th November 1943.

The 3-year tree survey was completed in September 2024 with a 3-, 6- and 18-month priority list for works needed across the village on our protected trees, which will increase the safety and life cycle of the trees ongoing.

Cemetery News & St. Mary's Church: 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.

This year we finally saw the completion of the re-building of the Churchyard wall. After a lengthy process our skilled contractors completed a fantastic job with much praise being given from across the village.

#### **4. Wymeswold Volunteer Public Footpath Warden Report:**

We are fortunate to have many footpaths around Wymeswold, and I'd like to record a big thank you to our local farmers who maintain them for us – it's access to the countryside which helps make Wymeswold a great place to live.

I regularly walk the footpaths around Wymeswold and report any issues I find to Leicestershire County Council (LCC). These have included broken stiles and finger posts, inaccessible footpaths and difficulty in finding footpaths across fields. The Council has responded to all my reports and most issues have been resolved either by them or the landowner. However, there have been some which they don't think need repairing / improving including some stiles and fingerposts and some parts of footpaths which become inaccessible or muddy / waterlogged and slippery when it's very wet.

Reporting of issues in Leicestershire is very straightforward, and the Council have now included the option to add “What3Words” to pinpoint where the issue is, which is much easier than trying to locate the exact position on the map.

There is currently an issue with the footpath which runs along the southside of A6006, east of the village (what3words: tides.speedily.caked and cabs.lows.isolated). This path does not show up on the LCC footpath map even though there are footpath fingerposts. I understand that this section of the footpath has always been problematic with some years worse than others depending upon if it was cleared the previous year and it can become impenetrable during the summer. Is this something the Parish Council can help with?

Although not strictly a footpath, I know that many of us walk up Narrow Lane. While most motorists slow down and give plenty of room to pedestrians, there are a few who do not, and

this is a real concern.

And finally, unfortunately due to a computer issue, I didn't give input into LCC Rights of Way Improvement Plan, but I have registered to receive updates (expected summer 2025).

Janel Fone

[wymeswold.footpaths@gmail.com](mailto:wymeswold.footpaths@gmail.com)

#### **5. 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, 1<sup>st</sup> Responders, Cricket Club, Football Club, Wymeswold Pre-School, Memorial Hall, Wymeswold Farmers Market and Duck Race Committees, Garden Walkabout, Wymeswold Primary School, St. Mary's Church, Janel Fone (village Public Footpath Warden), 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, Councillor Richard Shepherd, for his help and advice over numerous matters with Leicestershire County Council over many years; we are sad to see him go but we wish him farewell and all the best in his retirement. Our continued thanks go out to our Borough Councillor, Councillor 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 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.

#### **6. Questions or points raised by residents or members of the public:**

None.

The meeting closed at 7.15pm.

The next Wymeswold Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Tuesday 5th May 2026 at 7pm unless advised otherwise.