

GREAT WYRLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF GREAT WYRLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY 7TH APRIL, 2021.

PRESENT:

(Chairman)
Cllr. A. Newell

Cllr. Mrs. O. Brazier Cllr. Mrs. J. A. Johnson Cllr. J. C. Jones Cllr. A. J. Kelsey Cllr. M. McKenzie	Cllr. R. Myatt Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE Cllr. R. J. Perry Cllr. Mrs. S. Toddington
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202/2021 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. M. Dabbs, Cllr. A. Pearson, Cllr. A. D. Smith and Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood.

203/2021 MINUTES OF LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3rd March, 2021 be accepted, approved and signed by the Chairman.

204/2021 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman advised the meeting that he had today visited the Co-op in Wardles Lane and had a conversation with the Manager. The Chairman had made yet more enquiries regarding the damaged tree situated on the car park to the store. Members recalled that part of the tree had fallen due to extreme weather conditions in February of last year, however, the remaining section of the tree was deteriorating badly and it had been reported by Cllr. J. C. Jones that the tree was a danger to the public in that should the tree fall it would land directly onto the Children's play area situated very nearby.

The Chairman advised the Parish Council that despite the fact that this matter had been raised with them on a number of occasions, the only record they had of the matter was that the tree had fallen. The Chairman reported that the Manager of the Co-op does not know or have any information regarding the ownership of the land in question. As this information had been extremely difficult to establish the Chairman had taken the decision to contact the company which monitored the parking on the land and request assistance with this dilemma.

Cllr. J. C. Jones advised the meeting that this matter had been very protracted and it was clear that no-one wished to take responsibility for the situation. Cllr. Jones advised Members that in his view the Parish Council needed take direct action to protect the safety of the public. Members agreed that there was a need to resolve this matter and agreed to await a response from the Horizon Company which monitored the car parking on the land and to pursue this matter more vehemently. The matter was to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the Parish Council. However, in the meantime the Clerk was to contact the Street Clean team at the District Council and ask them to clear the area of the tree debris which still remained on site.

The Chairman advised the meeting that sets of six testing kits were to be made available to all Vaccination Centre volunteers by Cornwell's Chemists.

205/2021 STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE SERVICE REPORT

A copy of the Police Report from the Staffordshire Police Service had been forwarded to Members for their information.

206/2021 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public had joined the virtual meeting but did not address the Parish Council on this occasion.

207/2021 CLERK'S REPORTS

(a) Merger of Clinical Commissioning Groups

Cllr. R. Myatt had requested that this item be placed on the agenda for the meeting of the Parish Council in order to ensure that Members were made aware that the six Clinical Commissioning Groups which operated in Staffordshire were merged into one on 1st April, 2021.

By way of background information to this subject Cllr. Myatt has supplied the following information:-

- "There were currently six CCGs across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent – these are Cannock Chase CCG, East Staffordshire CCG, North Staffordshire CCG, South East Staffordshire and Seisdon Peninsula CCG, Stafford and Surround CCG, Stoke-on-Trent CCG.
- The whole of Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent was covered by the six CCGs, including some areas that fall outside the boundaries of local authorities depending on which GP practice they were registered with, e.g. Featherstone on the Wolverhampton border.
- There were no CCGs in Staffordshire which did not fall within the scope of the proposed new organisation.
- The new organisation would operate within the same boundaries of the existing CCGs however the proposed development of the Integrated Care Systems would continue historical partnership working with neighbouring areas.
- The Governing Bodies of the six CCGs were leading the process alongside NHS England, whose merger and organisational change requirements are being addressed as part of the blueprint. To do this, a dedicated internal Programme Management Office has been established to co-ordinate the merger process and is working across all six CCGs to deliver the required outcomes and create the single, new organisation."

Cllr. Myatt gave Members a full report on his concerns in this regard relating to the fact that this action had been taken without any consultation with the general public.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the Parish Council that this action had been part of a National initiative, which it was hoped would assist with the need to claw back funding by changing the way the service was delivered. Cllr. Mrs. Perry explained that the changes to the process would be carried out very gradually and that there would be no immediate change. This was noted.

Cllr. Mrs. J. A. Johnson advised the meeting that this matter had become a subject for consideration by the Health and Wellbeing Committee some months ago and that she was unaware that a public consultation exercise on the subject had not been carried out. This was noted.

Following discussion it was proposed by Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE and seconded by Cllr. R. Myatt that the Clerk contact Cllr. John McMahon who was the Cabinet Member for Health Care and Wellbeing voicing the Parish Council's concerns and requesting clarification regarding the lack of public consultation on this matter.

208/2021 MATTERS ARISING

Future Plans for the Memorial Garden

This item was not on the agenda for the meeting as it was to form the subject of a separate meeting. However, Cllr. R. Myatt had kindly supplied the following information in his capacity as Chairman of the FROG organisation as he had not felt that a separate meeting was required to discuss this matter and had submitted the following report:

"1. The volunteers have no fixed plans. Everything is done, as perceived as necessary, to help retain the quality of the garden for community members and groups therein to enjoy as they feel best suited to their needs. No-one sees this changing in the foreseeable future.

2. It is all done in an informal capacity working harmoniously with Todd Vaughan and the Council team. The availability of the FROG volunteers is entirely at their discretion. No-one sees this changing in the foreseeable future.

3. Within this team approach, FROG members may be the first to identify features needing further consideration and, also, possibly having cost implications. To date, all such instances have been addressed readily without the need to present it formally at a Parish Council meeting. No-one sees this changing in the foreseeable future.

To complement these points, FROG members have a good awareness of horticultural features. They see aspects that could possibly be brought into the garden for the first time. All are discussed informally within the team. If they have a material impact on the garden, they are presented to the Parish Council for consideration and, hopefully, approval. Costing issues would be addressed, as appropriate, especially where FROG team funding efforts could be needed in some way. No such 'projects' are being considered at the present time.

The main consideration for FROG members is to effectively interface with Parish Council initiatives, if and where possible. One tentative such issue that has been discussed within the FROG team is 'does the Parish Council want to recognise/acknowledge in the garden the magnificent efforts of key workers throughout this horrific pandemic and/or the tragic losses in the community arising from the pandemic?'

FROG members await Parish Council feedback of their preferred policy and would support the way forward, if at all possible and if needed.

The main focus of FROG at the present time is to work 'behind the scenes' in readiness of the garden for the opening to the public, as discussed at the March 'virtual' Parish Council meeting."

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that in her view the integration between the Parish Council and the volunteers of FROG could be better organised. For example the Parish Council was aware that there were volunteers, some of which were known to the Parish Council, but also a number of volunteers that remained unknown to most of us.

In order to address this situation there merely needs to be a little more structure

so that everyone has the same aims and aspirations for the gardens. It needed to be recognised that in matters pertaining to the Memorial Garden the ultimate responsibility would rest with the Parish Council.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry stressed that she had no wish to take away from the fantastic works that FROG are carrying out at the garden as it is looking beautiful.

Cllr. Mrs. J. A. Johnson fully supported Cllr. Mrs. Perry's view and looked forward to an opportunity when the idea of a tribute to the NHS could be properly planned. Cllr. Mrs. Johnson felt that when the situation had gone as far back to normal as possible would be the time for the Parish Council and FROG to work together on this matter. Cllr. Myatt advised Cllr. Mrs. Perry that FROG would not come forward with ideas for any project, they would only assist with enabling any project decided upon stressing that any such project would need to be driven by the Parish Council.

Cllr. R. Myatt assured the meeting that the FROG organisation had no intention of carrying out any projects at the Memorial Garden without first bringing the matter to the Parish Council. Cllr. Myatt's view was that FROG's role was one of support, maintenance and assistance. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. A. Newell advised the meeting that if Members recalled it had already been decided that the Parish Council would drive the Tribute to the NHS project and that it was not the right time at the moment. The Parish Council **resolved** that this matter be held in abeyance until such time as the way forward became clearer.

Suggestion of a Warden for the Skate Park

The meeting was advised that Cllr. J. C. Jones had requested that this matter be placed on the agenda for the meeting as there had been a number of reports that the Playing Field and the Skate Park was being abused. Children had recently been witnessed careening around the area in shopping trolleys. The suggestion had been mooted that the Parish Council look into the possibility of appointing a Warden to monitor the area for 2-3 hours per day. As he felt that the area could be better supervised and kept cleaner.

The Clerk advised the meeting that for the present time she would suggest that the Parish Council Ground Staff resume their previous duty of checking the Skate Park every morning to ensure that the area is swept and cleared of any glass present. Unfortunately, these incidences seemed to have increased lately following several years of very little trouble in this direction.

Cllr. J. C. Jones advised the meeting that he had during the previous week witnessed a resident clearing the skate park and had taken the opportunity to thank him for his care of the area. However, Cllr. Jones was very concerned at the amount of litter and general misuse of the area and felt that this matter needed to be addressed as soon as possible. Members agreed to place this matter on the agenda for the next meeting of the Parish Council.

Repairs to the Skate Park

The Clerk advised the meeting that she had received a report from the Parish Council Grounds men that the foundation to the Skate Park was severely compromised in places and needed to be repaired as a matter of urgency. The Clerk had several photographs of the affected areas which had now been forwarded to a local builder with a request for a quotation for the works to be carried out. This was noted by Members.

209/2021 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that she did not have anything to report to the Parish Council at the present time other than those matters which had already been discussed earlier in the meeting. Cllr. Mrs. Perry advised the meeting that Staffordshire had received national recognition of the incredibly efficient roll out of the vaccine in the County. This was noted.

Cllr. J. C. Jones asked Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE if she was aware of the fact that the A5 had been closed. Cllr. Jones asked Cllr. Mrs. Perry whether she had received notification of the closure. Cllr. Mrs. Perry advised Cllr. Jones that the highway had been closed due to an emergency situation which had dictated its closure by Highways England. Cllr. Mrs. Perry advised the meeting that public utilities were not required to give prior notification on road closures in the event of an emergency and that the highway had been closed by Highways England and not Staffordshire County Council. It was believed that there may have been a burst water main. Cllr. Mrs. Perry reiterated that it would not be possible to receive prior notification in the event of works required due to an emergency.

Cllr. J. C. Jones asked Cllr. Mrs. Perry if she was aware of the opening date of the MacArthur Glen complex. Cllr. Mrs. Perry advised Cllr. Jones that it was her belief that the complex would be opening on 12th April, 2021. This was noted by Members.

210/2021 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr. Mrs. J. A. Johnson advised the meeting that a number of members of the Leisure Centre Staff had now resumed work in advance of their opening date in order to be in readiness for the return to normal services.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that the District Council was presently in the process of having its Electoral Boundaries reviewed, however, it was not possible to report any further on this matter at the present time. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry advised the meeting that when the District Council had gone through this process in the past, the Boundary Commission had taken notice of Local Authorities and she hoped that this would also be the case this time.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry advised the meeting that the Re-Opening of the High Street Safety Funding had returned as a Welcome Back Project and the Parish Council would be able to apply for funding to enhance the Parish. The fund would be open until March 2022. The Clerk was to research this matter and bring it to a future Parish Council meeting.

211/2021 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS

BROOKLANDS AVENUE WORKS TO UNOFFICIAL FOOTPATH

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry advised the meeting that she had been approached by residents in the Brooklands Avenue area regarding the fact that an unofficial footpath to The Brook side of Brooklands Avenue had been surfaced with shale. The Clerk was requested to establish who had carried out this work as the footpath was not an official right of way. Residents were questioning why the pathway had not been properly tarmaced as a similar path in Hall Lane had been, however, the reason for this was because that particular lane was a diverted Public Right of Way.

Cllr. Mrs. J. A. Johnson advised the meeting that she was in possession of information regarding this matter in so far as the contractors had visited the area to lay hardcore and that it would be top dressed in the coming weeks. The Clerk was to approach Mr. A. Aston from South Staffordshire Council for an update on this matter.

PARKING ON A34

Cllr. Mrs. O. Brazier advised the meeting that she had recently witnessed eight cars parked on the pavement outside the Chip Shop on Walsall Road, outside the Memorial Garden and also on the corners of Bentons Lane. This level of inconsiderate parking was making safe negotiation of the road junction in this vicinity almost impossible. The Clerk was instructed to contact the PCSOs with a request that this area be brought under additional scrutiny for safety reasons.

Cllr. J. C. Jones advised the meeting that the Clerk may wish to research his belief that there were six new laws about to come into effect relating to cars parking on pavement. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. A. J. Kelsey advised the meeting that he wished to support Cllr. Mrs. Brazier's view that this situation needed to be addressed as a matter of urgency as he had found himself in a position where he had needed to take unnecessary risks to cross the road in this location only this week. This was noted by Members.

PORTABLE SPEED CAMERA

Cllr. A. J. Kelsey advised the meeting that he would very much like the Parish Council to pursue the idea of having a Mobile Speed Indicator Device. The perfect location for its first use would be Streets Lane as at present the speed motorists were travelling the Lane was very dangerous indeed. This was noted.

212/2021 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

GREAT WYRLEY CARNIVAL COMMITTEE

Cllr. A. J. Kelsey advised the Parish Council that the decision had been made that the Annual Great Wyrley Carnival would not now go ahead. Cllr. Kelsey was asked whether it was correct that the St. George's Day Parade would be going ahead and Cllr. Kelsey advised the meeting that it may be a possibility but that it would not be organised by the Carnival Committee.

The Clerk advised the meeting that the Parish Council needed to discuss whether or not the Great Wyrley Annual Bonfire Event would be going ahead this year. This matter was to be placed on the agenda for the June meeting of the Parish Council.

213/2021 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

21/000214/FUL – NEW TILED PITCHED ROOF OVER REAR SINGLE STORY UTILITY AT REAR AND FIRST FLOOR BATHROOM EXTENSION AT REAR OF HOUSE AND NEW FLAT ROOF WITH LANTERN LIGHT TO CONSERVATORY AT 496 WALSALL ROAD, GREAT WYRLEY – THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS PROPOSAL.

21/00198/FUL - PROPOSED ALTERATIONS AND FORMATION OF NEW DORMER WINDOW AT 39 LILAC LANE, GREAT WYRLEY – THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS PROPOSAL.

21/00211/OTHERS - INSTALLATION OF ROOF MOUNTED SOLAR PV PANELS WITH A SYSTEM CAPACITY OF 194 KwP INCLUDING ALL ASSOCIATED ANCILLARY INFRASTRUCTURE AT GREAT WYRLEY HIGH SCHOOL, HALL LANE – THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS PROPOSAL.

21/00203/FUL – SINGLE STOREY SIDE EXTENSION AT 44 UPPER LANDYWOOD LANE, GREAT WYRLEY – THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS PROPOSAL.

21/00229/FUL – PROPOSED FRONT AND REAR EXTENSION AT 74 HALL LANE, GREAT WYRLEY – THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTIONS TO THIS PROPOSAL.

21/00256 - FUL - SINGLE STOREY SIDE EXTENSION. INSTALLATION OF DOORS AND A WINDOW IN THE REAR OF THE PROPERTY AND INTERNAL ALTERATIONS AT 12 SPRING MEADOW, CHESLYN HAY – THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTIONS TO THIS APPLICATION.

20/00249/FUL – ERECTION OF ONE DETACHED BUNGALOW AT HOLLYHURST, HOLLY LANE, CHESLYN HAY. THE CLERK WAS TO RESEARCH THIS MATTER AS IT WAS NOT A STRAIGHT FORWARD APPLICATION IT WAS NOW THE SUBJECT OF A PLANNING APPEAL.

21/00275/FUL – SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION PROJECT 5.4 METRES FROM THE ORIGINAL REAR WALL. THIS WILL HAVE A FLAT ROOF WITH A LANTERN. THERE IS AN EXISTING TWO STOREY SIDE EXTENTION THAT THIS ATTACHES TO. THERE IS AN EXXISTING SINGLE STOREY EXTENSION AND AN EXISTING CONSERVATORY THAT IS PROPOSED TO REMOVE PRIOR TO THE STARTING OF THE WORKS AT 441 WALSALL ROAD, GREAT WYRLEY – THE CLERK WAS TO RESEARCH THIS MATTER MORE FULLY PRIOR TO FORMULATING A RESPONSE.

21/00044/FUL - SIDE EXTENSION UNDER 30 SQ.M. AT 70 WALSALL ROAD, CHURCH BRIDGE. THE PARISH COUNCIL OBJECTED TO THIS APPLICATION ON THE BASIS THAT IT DID NOT MEET THE DISTRICT COUNCIL'S SPACE ABOUT DWELLINGS POLICY.

214/2021 REPORT OF OUTSTANDING ACCOUNTS

A report on the outstanding accounts for authorisation for payment was presented to Council and it was **resolved** that the report be accepted, approved and signed by the Chairman. The Parish Administrator agreed to monitor future charges relating to the cost of diverted phone calls due to the Community Centre being used by Cornwell's Chemists as a Vaccination Centre.

215/2021 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted that the public and press be excluded and that they are instructed to withdraw in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Section 12.

216/2021 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Following discussion the Parish Council unanimously **resolved to** support the recommendations included in the Clerk's Confidential Report put forward by South Staffordshire Council.

The meeting closed at 9.01 p.m.

Chairman