

## GREAT WYRLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GREAT WYRLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.00 P.M.  
ON WEDNESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2020 AT GREAT WYRLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE,  
LANDYWOOD LANE, GREAT WYRLEY

### PRESENT:

(Chairman)  
Cllr. Ms. H. R. Snape

Cllr. Mrs. O. Brazier Cllr. M. Dabbs Cllr. Mrs. J. A. Johnson Cllr. J. C. Jones Cllr. A. J. Kelsey Cllr. M. McKenzie Cllr. R. Myatt	Cllr. A. Newell Cllr. A. Pearson Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry Cllr. R. J. Perry Cllr. A. D. Smith Cllr. Mrs. S. Toddington Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood
---	--

### 86/2020 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence on this occasion.

### 87/2019 MINUTES OF LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2019 be accepted, approved and signed by the Chairman.

### 88/2019 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman advised the meeting that thanks to the ministrations of Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE a meeting had now been held with the local builder who was to carry out the building works which would enable a number of projects the Parish Council was currently working towards to come to fruition. This was noted by Members.

#### FRENCH DRAIN

The Chairman advised the meeting that the works required to the French Drain situated at the rear of Lingfield Drive would be carried out on the 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> January, 2020 weather permitting. This was noted.

#### HEIGHT RESTRICTION BARRIER - ENTRANCE TO YEMSCROFT

The Chairman advised the Parish Council that the builder had now been able to procure a free of charge brand new height restriction barrier which he would like the Parish Council to have erected at the entrance to Yemscroft in order to deter gypsy incursion. This was noted by Members.

#### NEW SECURITY DOORS FOR GARAGE AT COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Chairman advised the meeting that the builder had also procured new security doors to facilitate the reconfiguration of the brick built garage at the Community Centre. There would be no charge for the doors. This was noted by Members.

#### MEMORIAL WALL – GREAT WYRLEY CEMETERY

The Chairman advised the meeting that the Memorial Wall at Great Wyrley Cemetery was to be built with no labour costs involved and there was a

possibility that the bricks required to complete the project would also be at a discounted rate. This was noted by Members.

### **RAISED RAMP/KERB – LANDYWOOD LANE**

The Chairman advised the meeting that the builder was to research the benefits of raising the kerb level at the entrance to the car park to the Community Centre. This action would achieve the capability of lessening the outfall of flood waters from Landywood Lane itself directly onto the site of the Community Centre during exceptional rainfall. This was noted by Members.

### **FULL ASSESSMENT OF FLOOD DEFENCES FOR COMMUNITY CENTRE**

The Chairman advised the Parish Council that the contractor was to carry out a full survey of the drainage system surrounding the Community Centre including places where he felt that the damp proof course had been breached. A full report on the present situation and a suitable way forward was expected to be received within the next month. This was noted by Members.

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO COUNCILLOR MRS. K.M. PERRY MBE**

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry for her valuable input into the projects described above and went on to announce to the Parish Council that she was delighted to congratulate Cllr. Mrs. Perry on her recent award of an MBE. The Chairman advised Cllr. Mrs. Perry that her award was well deserved and thanked her for all the hard work she had carried out on behalf of the Parish Council as well as all of her other commitments. The Chairman advised Cllr. Mrs. Perry that she was well aware of the incredible amount of hard work that had gone into raising so much for charity and how valuable her work for the community was as a whole. The Chairman presented Cllr. Mrs. Perry with a bouquet flowers signifying the congratulations of all the Members of the Parish Council.

### **89/2019 STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE SERVICE REPORT**

PCSO K. Terry gave the Parish Council a comprehensive report on the crime figures in the Parish over the previous month. A copy of the report is appended to the minutes at **Appendix A**. PCSO K. Terry also advised the Parish Council that the service may well be depleted for the immediate future as PCSO Chris. Timmins had now left the service of Staffordshire Police and, as yet, she had no details of any replacement. This was noted by Members.

### **90/2019 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

#### **PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE**

A resident of the Parish addressed the Parish Council with the statement that his question had already been answered in the Clerk's Reports. His question would have referred to the new Parish Council website which would now be supported by Staffordshire County Council.

#### **INSURANCE CLAIM**

The Parishioner also wished to be advised of the exact figure involved in the recent insurance claim relating to the effects of the flooding of the Community Centre. The Chairman advised the resident that she was unable to provide this information "off the cuff," however the Clerk would research the matter and provide the information requested.

## **PROPOSED CHARGES FOR GREEN WASTE**

The Parishioner advised the Parish Council that he would be very interested in hearing the personal opinions of the District Councillors who had recently considered proposals to levy a charge for the collection of green waste. The Parishioners comments were noted.

91/2019

### **CLERK'S REPORTS**

#### **(A) LOCAL AUTHORITY TREE WORKS POLICY**

The Parish Council had received the final version of the Local Authority Tree Works Policy which had been circulated to all parishes by the South Staffordshire Council Street Scene Department.

The Clerk had taken this opportunity to circulate a copy of the document to all Members with a view to the Parish Council formally adopting the final version of the policy in line with the existing practice of mirroring the District Council's protocols.

Members were already aware that the trees within the Parish were assessed on a regular basis by the Parish Council ground staff. Works were also carried out in line with the results of the annual assessment carried out by an Arboriculture expert. Accordingly, the assessment of the trees in The Cemetery and The Memorial Garden was to be carried out next week and the assessment of the trees within The Star Land shortly afterwards.

Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** to adopt the final version of the Local Authority Tree Works Policy. It was carried.

#### **AGENDA ITEM (b) OFFER OF LAND FOR SALE GREAT WYRLEY/CHESLYN HAY BORDER – STATION ROAD**

The Parish Council had received communication from South Staffordshire Council requesting the Parish Council to give its views on whether it would be interested in purchasing a parcel of land in District Council ownership in Station Road. At the present time the land was being used as an overspill car park for St. Mark's Church.

Members recalled that this parcel of land was used as an unauthorised gypsy encampment on two occasions last year and a third attempt was only resisted because the Police were already in the vicinity and managed to stop the incursion. Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** to defer this matter until more detail became available which would provide the Parish Council with the relevant information upon which to make an informed decision on this matter. It was carried.

#### **(c) SETTING OF PRECEPT FIGURE FOR 2020/2021**

The Clerk advised the Parish Council that Great Wyrley's tax base for 2020/2021 had increased from **3330.28 to 3360.09** this represented a percentage increase of 0.9% which was minimal in real terms but nevertheless still increased the precept income of the Parish Council which would amount to an additional £1,574.64p. The increase was due to the fact that there had been an element of new housing development within the Parish in recent years and accordingly an increase in eligible Council Tax payers.

The Clerk advised the Parish Council of the issues which needed to be considered with a view to earmarking funds for the coming financial year and

the following items were agreed accordingly.

<b>ONGOING PROJECTS</b>		
Memorial Wall at Great Wyrley Cemetery	The Parish Council amended its budget to include an amount of £5000 to provide the Memorial Wall for Great Wyrley Cemetery.	£5,000.00
Olympic Torch Commemoration	Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the Parish Council that this matter was ongoing and the Parish Council <b>resolved</b> to retain the sum of £2000 in earmarked funds.	£2,000.00
Replacement of children's play area at Landywood Lane	The Parish Council <b>resolved</b> to retain the sum of £10,000 in earmarked funds for this purpose.	£10,000.00
Portable CCTV Camera	The Parish Council <b>resolved</b> to take action on this matter as one of urgency and accordingly retained an amount of £1,000 in earmarked funds for this purpose.	£1000.00
Replacement of footpath on Millennium Green	Following discussion Members resolved that there were a number of options to explore to resolve this issue and accordingly agreed to retain an amount of £1,500 in earmarked funds for this purpose.	£1500.00
Replacement PA System for the main Hall at the Community Centre	Following discussion the Parish Council <b>resolved</b> to take immediate action on this issue and the Clerk was instructed to contact the provider as soon as possible.	£4197.00
Flood defences on Landywood Lane Playing Field	These works were expected to be part funded by DEFRA under a joint working project with Staffordshire County Council. I am unsure of the exact amount the Parish Council would need to contribute towards this project but would suggest an amount of £5,000. Members were aware that this project would be of a long term nature and <b>resolved</b> to retain the sum of £5,000 in earmarked funds for this purpose.	£5000.00
Roof to the Community Centre	The roof to the Community Centre was not presenting a problem at the present time, however, the Parish Council <b>resolved</b> that it would be prudent to begin to earmark an amount of £2,000 per year towards its eventual replacement in the future.	£2000.00

Changes to the configuration of the Community Centre garage.	This project was expected to come to fruition in the near future and accordingly, the Parish Council <b>resolved</b> to retain the sum of £2000 in earmarked funds for this purpose.	£2000.00
Flood defence boundary treatment between the Community Centre and the Playing Field.	This project was already in the design stage and would hopefully come to fruition this year. Accordingly the Parish Council <b>resolved</b> to retain the sum of £3,000 in earmarked fund for this purpose.	£3000.00
New Equipment for ground works	The Parish Council <b>resolved</b> to retain the amount of £12,000 in the budget for this purpose. This matter was to be revisited during the coming months and considered in conjunction with the review of the ground staffing structure.	£12000.00
For Members information the Clerk had set out earmarked funds for annual donations and expected expenditure other than normal running costs which had remained largely unchanged.		
<b>ANNUAL DONATIONS AND REGULAR EXPENDITURE</b>		
Annual Bonfire Event	<p>Bonfire and Fireworks display including hiring of WC's, First Aid Provision etc.</p> <p>Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood advised the Parish Council that she felt this matter should be revisited on the basis that there were a number of parishioners of Great Wyrley who would prefer that the funds were spent on Christmas decorations for the Parish.</p> <p>Cllr. A. D. Smith advised the Parish Council meeting that he totally disagreed with Cllr. Mrs. Wood on the basis that the Bonfire event was much valued and very well attended by the Parish.</p> <p>The Parish Council agreed that it would discuss this matter as a separate item in the future, however, agreed to retain the sum of £5500 in earmarked funds for this purpose.</p>	5,500.00
Great Wyrley Scouts and Guide Movement Cllr. A. J. Kelsey declared an interest in this matter.	Contribution towards refreshment etc. for the New Year's Day Walk	100.00
Great Wyrley Carnival Committee  Cllr. A. J. Kelsey declared an interest in this matter.	Donation towards Great Wyrley Carnival Event	400.00

Senior Citizens Welfare Committee	Annual donation towards to the running of the Senior Citizens Welfare organisation.	£1,100.00
Assessment of trees	The Parish Council agreed to retain the sum of £800 in earmarked funds for this purpose.	£800.00
New Parish Council website	The Parish Council <b>resolved</b> to sign up to the Staffordshire County Council website provision.	£400.00
<b>TOTAL EARMARKED FUNDS</b>		<b>£56,002</b>

As at 6th January, 2020 the Parish Council's Balance at bank totalled £98,004.20. This balance did not include the VAT reimbursement of approximately £40,000 due to be received before the end of the financial year.

Earmarked funds amount to £56,002, 71.5% of which could be met from the forthcoming VAT refunds and Members should bear in mind that the one-off £12,000 included of the earmarked funds had the potential to make a much larger saving for future years.

Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** to increase its Parish Precept by 1.5%. It was carried.

The Parish Council **resolved to** apply the annual increase to all charges pertaining to hire of the Community Centre and Cemetery Charges by the usual 2%.

#### **92/2019      COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that she did not have a great deal to report on activities at Staffordshire County Council at the present time other than the fact that the responsibility for social care was growing constantly. Cllr. Mrs. Perry was to report back to the Parish Council regarding this matter as soon as further information became available.

#### **93/2019      DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

Cllr. Mrs. J. A. Johnson advised the Parish Council that the decision had recently been taken by the District Council to levy a charge for the collection of Green Waste. Cllr. Mrs. Johnson advised Members that this decision had not been taken lightly and would only be levied for two years. The Green bins were to be collected on a twice a month basis and the charge was to be £43.60 per annum.

Members were of the view that this was a thoroughly retrograde step which would ultimately lead to fly tipping. The new charges were to commence in July, 2020. A free and frank exchange of views took place which concluded in the Clerk being instructed to write a letter of objection in the strongest possible terms to the Cabinet Member for Community Services.

#### **94/2019      REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS**

##### **CHRISTMAS LUNCHES**

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the Parish Council that the Christmas Lunch event had been a fantastic occasion and that she had received excellent feedback from all in attendance. This was noted by Members. Cllr. Mrs. S. Toddington apologised that she had been unable to help on this occasion.

### **NEW YEAR'S DAY WALK**

Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood thanked Cllr. A. J. Kelsey and everyone else involved for their contribution towards making the New Year's Day Walk such a success.

### **LOVE LANE FOOTPATH**

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry advised the meeting that the Parish Council was still awaiting the view of Staffordshire County Council's legal team.

### **95/2019      REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES**

There were no reports from outside bodies on this occasion.

### **96/2019      PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**19/00984/FUL – VARIATION OF CONDITION 2 OF APPROVAL OF PLANNING APPLICATION 16/01023/REM. VARIATION RELATED TO SUBSTITUTION OF HOUSE TYPE. THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THE VARIATION.**

### **97/2019      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 meeting closed at 8.55p.m.

**Chairman**



## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING CRIME REPORT.

Public bodies can only disclose information if they have the power to do so. Section 115 of the Crime and Disorder Act provides a power to exchange information where disclosure is necessary to support the local Crime Reduction Strategy and Partnership in achieving the aims of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy and objectives outlined within it.

The degree of disclosure that takes place must be proportionate and relevant to the level of social ill or criminality it is intended to counter or prevent.

The information is only to be processed in relation to crime and disorder purposes. Information will be handled in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998, the Human Rights Act 1998 and any other relevant legislation governing disclosures and will ultimately be disposed of in a secure manner.

Report from 04/12/2019 till 07/01/2020

Main headlines since the last meeting:

- Burglary residential ...Number of shed and garage breaks reported this month. Tools stolen from a shed on Walsall Road but IP unable to say when this occurred. Garages were broken into on Hazel Lane and The Crescent (scrap metal stolen from this). Attempt break in Ash Lane, ongoing investigation due to evidence.
- Vehicle crime... Car stolen last night from Station Road after male on a test drive, drove off in the vehicle, Ford Fiesta stolen off the drive in Lingfield Drive, attempt theft of a Corsa in The Crescent where offenders had used an implement to try to force the driver's door, another attempt on a Fiesta on Holly Lane where offenders have smashed a window. Tools stolen from vans in Ramillies Crescent, Streets Lane and attempt breaks to vans in Anson Road x2 and Hall Lane (offenders were disturbed). There were 3 reports of number plate thefts from vehicles in Olde Hall Lane, Station Road, Oxford Close.
- Criminal damage...Damage to vehicles in Streets Lane, Station Road, The Crescent, Forge Close. Damage to windows in Bentons Lane and Walsall Road.
- ASB...Issues at Spar and Co-op with group of youths stealing eggs and throwing them at shop windows. They boarded a train to Cannock where 7 of them were arrested. Youths causing a nuisance in Dunston Close.
- 3 Traveller vehicles turned up at Meadowbank Grange carpark in the early hours of the morning. Reports of vehicles racing in Wardles Lane, I have asked police officers to look at this. Report of Quad bike in Ash Lane with a child sitting on the handlebars which I am trying to find. Neighbour dispute in The Crescent.
- Violence...2 males fighting in Streets Lane after a disagreement on the train carried on after they got off.

Incidents are being put out on smart alert and surgeries are advertised on Twitter and now Facebook

PCSO Karen Terry