

GREAT WYRLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF GREAT WYRLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WHICH COMMENCED AT 7.00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY 5TH MAY, 2021.

PRESENT:

(Chairman)
Cllr. A. Newell

Cllr. Mrs. O. Brazier Cllr. M. Dabbs Cllr. Mrs. J. A. Johnson Cllr. J. C. Jones Cllr. A. J. Kelsey	Cllr. R. Myatt Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE Cllr. R. J. Perry Cllr. A. D. Smith
--	--

1/2021 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. M. McKenzie, Cllr. A. Pearson, Councillor Mrs. S. Toddington and Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood.

2/2021 **MINUTES OF LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Resolved that the minutes of the virtual Parish Council meeting held on 7th April, 2021 be accepted, approved and signed by the Chairman at the first physical opportunity.

3/2021 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman advised the meeting that he did not have a great deal to report to the Parish Council; other than to say that the roll out of the Vaccination programme was progressing extremely well. So much so that during the previous week the number of vaccinations had passed the 25,000 mark. The Chairman offered his personal thanks to all involved both on a professional and on a volunteer basis. This was noted.

4/2021 **STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE SERVICE REPORT**

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

5/2021 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

The Clerk reported a complaint from a member of the public regarding the condition of Landywood Playing Field.

Which read as follows: The Clerk had responded but unfortunately, the email address on the message would not accept the Parish Council's response.

(i) LANDYWOOD LANE PLAY AREA

To whom it may concern,

I visited the park and skate park with my children today and I wanted to share my concerns with you. I don't live in Great Wyrley, I was visiting the park as I was passing after attending the leisure centre.

I must say that I have never seen so much litter in and around the park, in any place I have visited. I could not believe that children played amongst such a terrible state. The bins were overflowing, some bins are very small and there is a lack of normal sized bins.

It is a shame as the grounds are well thought out with bike tracks, skate parks,(part of the skate park is in need of repair) football goals and park.

I hope that you can raise this point in one of your local meetings, maybe pick up litter signs, more bins, messages in schools to teach children to recycle and put their rubbish in bins to help care for the environment and where they live. In Bridgnorth there is a bus recycling bin inside the children's play area, this looks very child friendly. Local schools, scout groups, community groups etc, could get involved to help clean up the litter?

Best wishes,

The Clerk had responded in the following terms :

Good afternoon,

I am so sorry that you had to witness what is probably the first time that the Play Area has been the site of such mayhem.

I can only imagine that the good weather along with the desperate urge of all youngsters to get back out and about again led to such an unacceptable outcome. I can, however, assure you that the Parish Council has put additional arrangements in place to try to keep on top of the situation. I also note your observations regarding the bins. The Parish Council does experience severe difficulties with this particular issue; every time a new, much larger, bin is concreted in at the park it is uprooted and strewn across the park before the concrete has even had an opportunity to dry. It is for this reason that the site is litter picked by Parish Council staff every day, with the exception of Saturday, however, following the events of this weekend this now needs to be reviewed.

The Parish Council is aware that repair works are required to the Skate Park and this work is being carried out tomorrow. Hopefully, the concrete will be allowed the opportunity to set, however, to be on the safe side it is my intention to ask the local PCSOs to keep an eye on this area more closely than usual.

I have also reported the fact that the fencing between the Station Car Park and the Playing field was demolished over the weekend; this fence is in the ownership of South Staffordshire District Council and the Parish Council has been requesting replacement with concrete bollards and appropriate hedging since 2019, however, this I fear has been delayed by the Pandemic.

On a brighter note, thank you very much for your encouraging words regarding the design and the facilities that the Parish Council make available for our younger people. I would like to add at this point that it is not the local children who create this situation; there are a number of gangs from adjoining areas who seem to enjoy travelling by train to Great Wyrley, creating absolute chaos and then jumping back onto the train for home. The Parish Council has needed to involve the Local Transport Police in this regard on a number of occasions and it now seems that it needs to do so again.

Thank you for keeping the Parish Council in the picture in this regard and I shall do my best to ensure that your next visit to Great Wyrley will show a considerable improvement.

kind regards

(ii) OVERGROWN HEDGE AT SHAWS LANE

The Clerk had also received information that the hedge bordering 62 Shaws Lane was severely overgrown and was in need of cutting back in order to safeguard the public.

Cllr. Mrs. O. Brazier advised the meeting that the hedge in question was indeed overgrown, but she was aware that the property had changed hands very recently and felt that the new owners may not have had an opportunity to

organise this task yet. In view of this information the Parish Council **resolved** to write informally to the new owners advising them of the situation.

6/2021

CLERK'S REPORTS

(a) Portable Speed Indication Devices

Members recalled that at the last meeting of the Parish Council, Members discussed a proposal to purchase a Portable Speed Indication Device which could be applied in various different locations within the Parish when the need arose.

To this end, the Clerk had carried out preliminary research in order to give Members a fuller understanding of the amount of expenditure this project would incur. To date, she had only received one quotation and was yet to receive another three. Following discussion it was agreed by Members that the Clerk contact both South Staffordshire Council and the neighbouring Parish Councils who had already carried out this exercise in order to gauge whether or not the one quotation which had been received was competitive prior to making a full decision on this matter.

(b) Condition of Original Timber Skate Ramps

Members recalled that when the Parish Council obtained the funding from Veolia Environmental Trust to provide the Parish with a concrete Skate Park, the main reason for doing so related to the extortionate costs involved in keeping the original timber and metal skate ramps in a usable condition.

Following the construction of the concrete Skate Park the Parish Council was put under pressure to also retain the original Skate Park so that it could continue to be used by the younger element of skateboarders in the Parish. At that time the Parish Council agreed to retain the original Skate Park. In order to accede to this request safely the Parish Council funded the necessary repairs to the original skate park. The Parish Council also took the decision to enclose the sides of the ramps; this action was deemed necessary in an attempt to curtail the number of incidences relating to the setting of fires underneath the ramps by vandals.

Fortunately, the Parish Council Groundsmen had been able to keep on top of the repairs to the skatepark, however, the Parish Council had recently received an email from a young user, who had injured his knee on one of the metal sheets which had been forced into an upward position by vandals.

As this young gentleman had taken the trouble to write to the Parish Council on behalf of all the young skaters in the village it was felt that perhaps now was the time for the subject to be revisited.

Clearly, there was still an appetite to use the original Skate Park and Members recalled that in the past the Parish Council looked into the possibility of replacing the surface of the existing ramps with Neoprene. Since that date new methods of resurfacing had been produced and there was now also the possibility that the surface could be replaced with a product called Rhino Board which is a Phenolic Faced Birch Plywood for Playground and Skate Ramps.

Following discussion Members agreed that the Clerk should research this matter further. Cllr. J. C. Jones requested the Clerk to make arrangements to visit a skatepark which had been treated with a similar surface to gauge whether or not the Phenolic Faced Birch Plywood would impede the speed of the skaters. The Clerk was requested to organise a visit to an appropriate installation.

(c) Vandalism to Fence and General Maintenance of Landywood Lane, Playing Field – Measures to Control Anti-Social Behaviour

Members had agreed that this matter should be placed on the agenda for the Parish Council meeting in order for Members to discuss more fully the suggestion put forward by Cllr. J. C. Jones that it may be beneficial to have a Warden present on the Playing Field at certain times.

Members were already aware that the Landywood Lane Playing Field had been exceptionally well used since the lock down restrictions had been eased, which was, of course, only to be expected and there was no wish to put a dampener on everyone's enthusiasm to get back to normal.

As Members were already aware, the previous weekend had brought the demolition of the fence between the Landywood Halt Car Park and the Playing Field. In security terms this was not a welcome event.

Accordingly, in an attempt to ensure that the Playing Field could be secured as soon as possible the Clerk had contacted South Staffordshire Council with a request that the fence be replaced immediately/or at least as soon as possible. To date the Clerk had not received a response. However, Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE and Cllr. Mrs. J. A. Johnson kindly offered to contact the District Council with a view to expediting this matter.

Cllr. J. C. Jones advised the Parish Council that it should ask the Parish Council Grounds Men to repair the fence as a matter of urgency.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE and Cllr. Mrs. J. A. Johnson disagreed with Cllr. Jones' suggestion on the basis that the replacement of the fence was not the responsibility of the Parish Council it rested with South Staffordshire Council. Any action taken by the Parish Council had the potential to compromise any insurance already in place.

The Clerk advised the meeting that the Parish Council had been advised in writing that the fence was to be replaced with concrete bollards and suitably impenetrable hedging in due course.

In addition to the demolition of the fence it seemed that the amount of litter left all over the playing field had reached epic proportions during the previous weekend a situation which had been confirmed by the email from a member of the public referred to earlier.

The Clerk advised the Parish Council that amendments had now been made to the working hours of its part time litter picker who had kindly agreed to clear the park of litter on Saturday, Sunday and Monday mornings. The remainder of the litter picks would take place during Tuesday to Friday by the Parish Council Groundsmen.

Arrangements had also been made for the Parish Council Groundsmen to ensure that the concrete skate park was kept clear of any broken glass or other detritus by starting their working day with an inspection of the area. This was noted by Members.

The Clerk advised the meeting that the repairs required to the concrete skate park would be effected shortly by John Webb who had very kindly declined payment for the works as he wished to give his support back to the Community. The Clerk had thanked Mr. Webb for his generosity.

(d) Local Plan Review

The Parish Council had received an update from South Staffordshire Council regarding the Local Plan Review. A copy of the update had been forwarded to all Members of the Parish Council for their information.

(e) Open Space Improvement Schemes

The Parish Council had received information from the Street Scene and Envirocrime Assistant Team Manager of South Staffordshire Council regarding Open Space Improvement Schemes. Members were to contact the Clerk should they have any proposals to put forward in this regard. This was noted.

(f) Reopening High Streets Safely Funding

The Parish Council has received information which confirmed the information given to the last meeting of the Parish Council that the funding described below had reopened in the form of a Welcome Back Fund. Members agreed to contact the Clerk should they any proposals to put forward in this regard.

(g) Royal British Legion – VE Day Anniversary 2021

The Parish Council had received a letter from the Royal British Legion advising it that there were a number of ways in which the Parish Council could commemorate the VE Day 2021 Anniversary.

Following discussion it was agreed by Members that the Tommy Figure already positioned in the Memorial Gardens was sufficient to commemorate this Anniversary.

Members also discussed the notification by the Local Branch of the Royal British Legion that they would be temporarily placing a banner on the gates to the Memorial Gardens to raise awareness of the Centenary of the Royal British Legion Organisation. The Legion was also intending to raise funds by selling Poppies in this location. Following discussion it was agreed by Members that the Legion may have an increased chance of more effective fund raising if they chose a location closer to the centre of the village. The Chairman was to respond to the Royal British Legion with a suggestion to this effect.

7/2021

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that she did not have anything to report to the meeting on this occasion in view of the fact that the Staffordshire County Council elections were to take place the following day. This was noted by Members.

8/2021

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr. Mrs. J. A. Johnson advised the meeting that the District Council had launched its business grants to assist local businesses and that funding to set up and support businesses was in place.

Cllr. Mrs. J. A. Johnson advised the meeting that as from 6th May Local Authorities would no longer be allowed, by Law, to hold virtual meetings. This was likely to apply to Parish Councils and the Parish Council should now look at alternative accommodation to hold its meetings.

Members discussed the suggestion that it may be possible to utilise that part of the Community Centre which was not being used by Cornwells or whether there was a need to hire alternative accommodation.

The Clerk was to research the distancing regulations in order to ensure that the Parish Council was able to comply with the necessary legislation.

However, to ensure that arrangements were put in place for the next meeting to be held a firm booking was made at the Senior Citizens Centre for the

meeting on 2nd June. Cllr. A. J. Kelsey was to ensure that a booking was recorded for this purpose.

Following further discussion, it was **resolved** by Members that Parish Council meetings for the next three months should be booked to take place at the Senior Citizens Centre. Cllr. Kelsey confirmed that these dates would be confirmed in the booking diary for the Senior Citizens Centre.

9/2021 **REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS**

There were no reports from Parish Councillors on this occasion.

10/2021 **REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES**

There were no reports from Outside Bodies on this occasion.

11/2021 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

21/000195/FUL – CHANGE OF USE FROM FIELD TO DOG WALKING FIELD. PROPOSED SHELTER AND BOUNDARY TREATMENT ON LAND ADJACENT TO SOUTH CANNOCK FARM, JACOBS HALL LANE, GREAT WYRLEY – THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS PROPOSAL.

21/00290/FUL – CHANGE OF USE TO A5 HOT FOOD TAKEAWAY AT 116 WARDLES LANE, GREAT WYRLEY – THE PARISH COUNCIL STRONGLY OBJECTED TO THIS PROPOSAL ON THE BASIS THAT THERE WERE FAR TOO MANY HOT FOOD TAKEAWAYS IN GREAT WYRLEY ALREADY WHICH GAVE RISE TO EXTREME LITTERING AND THE PARISH COUNCIL FELT THE NEED TO OBSERVE THE RISING LEVELS IN OBESITY WHICH IS ATTRIBUTED TO THIS USE ON A NATIONAL LEVEL.

21/00349/LUE – USE OF LAND AS RESIDENTIAL GARDEN/AMENITY SPACE AT BAROQUE HOUSE, LANDYWOOD LANE, CHESLYN HAY – THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTIONS TO THIS PROPOSAL PROVIDED THAT THE USE WAS RESTRICTED TO THAT APPLIED FOR AND ENURES SOLELY FOR THE PRESENT OWNER.

21/00322/FUL – ERECTION OF GARDEN BUILDING AT 15 KEMPTON DRIVE, GREAT WYRLEY – THE PARISH COUNCIL REQUESTED CLARIFICATION ON THE SIZE AND PURPOSE OF THE BUILDING PRIOR TO MAKING ITS REPRESENTATIONS TO THE LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY.

21/00344/FUL – SINGLE STOREY SITE EXTENSION TO 50 RAMILLIES CRESCENT, CRESCENT, GREAT WYRLEY – THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS PROPOSAL.

21/00971/FUL – 2 STOREY EXTENSION REAR AND SIDE EXTENSION AT 16 MANOR DRIVE, GREAT WYRLEY – THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTIONS TO THIS PROPOSAL IN PRINCIPLE BUT RESERVED THE RIGHT TO SUPPORT NEIGHBOUR'S VIEWS

21/00325/FUL – REMOVAL OF EXISTING 17.5M TELECOMMUNICATIONS MAST TO BE REPLACED BY NEW 20M MAST TO SUPPORT 6NO. ANTENNAS, 2NO. 300MM TRANSMISSION DISHES, ERS UNITS AND ANCILLARY DEVELOPMENT THERETO AT WALSALL ROAD, GREAT WYRLEY – THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS PROPOSAL IN PRINCIPLE PROVIDED ALL HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS WERE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN ORDER TO SAFEGUARD THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

21/00379/FUL – DORMER TO FRONT OF 76 TOWER VIEW ROAD, GREAT WYRLEY. THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTIONS TO THIS PROPOSAL IN PRINCIPLE BUT RESERVED THE RIGHT TO SUPPORT NEIGHBOUR'S VIEWS

21/00398/FUL – PROPOSED SINGLE STOREY EXTENSION TO THE REAR/SIDE AND FRONT OF AN EXISTING SEMI-DETACHED DWELLING AT 151 WALSALL ROAD, GREAT WYRLEY– THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTIONS TO THIS PROPOSAL IN PRINCIPLE BUT RESERVED THE RIGHT TO SUPPORT NEIGHBOUR'S VIEWS

21/00044/FUL – SIDE EXTENSION UNDER 30SQM AT 70 WALSALL ROAD, CHURCHBRIDGE – THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD OBJECTED TO THIS PROPOSAL THE PREVIOUS MONTH ON THE BASIS THAT IT DID NOT MEET THE LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY'S SPACE ABOUT DWELLINGS POLICY.

PLANNING APPEAL – 603 WALSALL ROAD, GREAT WYRLEY

The Parish Council had also been notified of an appeal relating to a Planning Application for a three bedroom detached dwelling at 603 Walsall Road, Great Wyrley. The Clerk advised the Parish Council that as its representations had been submitted at the time of determination there was no need to make any further representations unless the Parish Council was in the possession of new information. This was noted.

DEVELOPMENT - LANDYWOOD LANE

The Clerk advised the meeting that she had received an email from the Planning Consultant acting on behalf of Cameron Homes. Cameron Homes now had an interest in the land following the withdrawal of the Planning Application submitted by Taylor Wimpey. Cameron Homes had requested a meeting with the Parish Council in order to gauge its views. Members agreed to meet with Cameron Homes and the Clerk was to arrange a suitable time, date and venue.

12/2021 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 continue 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.

13/2021 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.

14/2021 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Following discussion the Parish Council unanimously **resolved to** support the recommendations included in the Clerk's Confidential Report.

The meeting closed at 8.58 p.m.

Chairman