

GREAT WYRLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GREAT WYRLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE BROADMEADOW LANE, GREAT WYRLEY WHICH COMMENCED AT 7.00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY 2ND JUNE, 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
--	--

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public in the gallery on this occasion.

15/2021 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. J. C. Jones and Cllr. A. Smith.

16/2021 MINUTES OF LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Resolved that the minutes of the virtual Annual General Meeting and the Parish Council meeting held on 5th May, 2021 be accepted, approved and signed by the Chairman.

17/2021 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman advised the meeting that he did not have a great deal to report on this occasion, other than the fact that he was still receiving complaints that the hedge at Shaws Lane, was still cause for concern. The Clerk advised the meeting that she had written to No. 60 Shaws Lane, which had been identified as the property concerned, however, No. 60 Shaws Lane does not exist. The Clerk was to send another letter to No. 62 Shaws Lane in an attempt to resolve the problem.

However, Cllr. Newell was extremely concerned at the escalating number of trouble makers in the Parish at the present time. The Chairman had observed at least 100 youngsters in the area just prior to his arrival at the meeting. The Clerk advised the meeting that in the last couple of weeks, groups of between 20 and 30 youths had been coming into the Parish from nearby areas. The majority of the situations had revolved around very challenging behaviour in the local stores and repeated incidents whereupon the youths had gained access to not only the roof of the Community Centre but also onto the roof of the Health Centre. The Chairman advised the meeting that it was his understanding that Staffordshire Police was to arrange an operation whereby Dispersal Orders would be served when and where possible. The advice which had been given to the Community Centre staff was to ring 999 whenever they felt threatened and the staff had agreed to make contact directly with emergency services should the need arise. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that there would appear to be a need to call the British Transport Police back in to ensure that its presence was made obvious on the train. Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood said that Network Rail was losing a great deal of revenue due to this practice.

Cllr. A. J. Kelsey supported the reports which had already been given by his fellow Councillors in that he had also witnessed the gangs of youths on the roofs of the buildings and throwing bottles etc. In addition a young volunteer who had been in attendance at The Centre had left the building and had had bottles thrown at her on leaving which had led to her not volunteering again.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that it may be beneficial to contact the new Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, Cllr. Ben Adams with an invitation that he visit the area to witness the mindless behaviour which was presently taking place and ask him for his suggestions with regard to this matter.

The suggestion was also made that the Clerk approach South Staffordshire Council with a request that its portable CCTV cameras are utilised in Great Wyrley Parish in order to assist with the present situation. The Clerk was to contact Mrs. M. Quinn.

18/2021 **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.

CLERK'S REPORTS

19/2021 **Annual Governance Statement 2021**

The Clerk presented a completed copy of the Annual Governance Statement for the year 2021 which was duly approved and signed by the Chairman.

20/2021 **Accounts and AGAR 2020/21**

The Clerk circulated a copy of the Parish Council accounts, Accountability Return and associated documents relating to the year ended 31st March, 2021 in readiness for submission for audit. The Parish Council noted the contents of the report and **resolved** that the documents represented fairly the financial position of Great Wyrley Parish Council and accurately reflected its income and expenditure over the last financial year.

21/2021 **SSDC Consultation re: Charges – Station Car Park**

The Parish Council had received a consultation letter regarding South Staffordshire Council's proposal to commence a charging regime on the car park to Landywood Halt.

Members had already voiced very strong objections to this proposal on the basis that they believed there would be serious repercussions should this proposal be implemented. To agree to such a proposal would be extremely detrimental to the village of Great Wyrley.

For the sake of clarification, the Parish Council was the previous custodian of the land the car park is located on and that it was only transferred to the District Council in order to make the Landywood Halt a viable proposition.

The car park to Landywood Halt was never used as a Shoppers Car Park, it was far too far away from the main shops to be of practical use. Moreover, there was more than enough shopper parking available for the Quinton Centre already. However, more importantly, such action would lead directly to the same level of inconsiderate parking by commuters that villagers had to suffer from before the Covid crisis temporarily changed the situation. This will almost certainly bring

the situation straight back to the unacceptable level of virtually abandoned cars all over the village.

The land was transferred to South Staffordshire Council as a gesture of goodwill in support of an identified need in the village for a rail halt. The land was not transferred in order to create an income stream for South Staffordshire Council. It may well be that this proposal has emanated from pressure from independent groups who had been campaigning for the car park to be resurfaced and also from the Parish Council itself to either repair or replace the fencing to the car park in order to enhance the security of the land surrounding it. However, the reasoning behind it did not make the fact that the replacement of the fencing had already been agreed to be replaced by concrete bollards with intermittent thorny natured hedging. However, the car park was taken on by South Staffordshire Council for a very specific reason and as such it is the District Council's responsibility to fund its upkeep. A scheme which had the potential to cause both inconvenience and, in a number of scenarios, danger to motorists and pedestrians alike was fundamentally flawed and should be identified as such. The disadvantages this process would create far outweighed any perceived benefits and would result in disproportionate harm to the residents of Great Wyrley.

The Clerk was instructed to respond to the consultation mirroring the terms outlined above.

22/2021 Request from Royal British Legion – Fun Day

The Parish Council was requested to consider a suggestion put forward by the Royal British Legion that it should allow a Children's Fun Day to take place on Sunday 22nd August, 2021 with the aim of raising funds for the Royal British Legion.

The main aim behind this proposal was to arrange an event whereby the local children could all get together and spend time outside in the fresh air, having been under the restrictions of lockdown for such a long time. The secondary aim was that it would provide an opportunity for the Royal British Legion to kick start its fund raising activities having also been very much hampered by the Covid19 Regulations.

Cllr. A. Newell gave Member's a brief report on the origination of this request and several views were put forward for discussion. The main drawback to this suggestion was the fact that at the present time the Parish Council was experiencing such problems with groups of youths that it may exacerbate the situation should the playing field in Landywood Lane be used for the event.

Cllr. Newell explained that the event was intended to be a family event on a small scale and not open to large crowds to drop in on the day. On this basis Cllr. A. J. Kelsey advised the Parish Council that it may be more beneficial if the event was to take place at the Scout and Guide Centre.

Any event to take place would, of course, be subject to the organisers taking full responsibility for the event including application for a Temporary Events Notice and all appropriate insurance, risk assessment and adherence to Covid Regulations.

23/2021 Calendar of Meetings

The Clerk had provided the Parish Council with a Calendar of Meetings for the forthcoming Municipal Year. The Parish Council **resolved** to adopt the Calendar of Meetings. It was carried.

24/2021

Great Wyrley Annual Bonfire Event

Members already acknowledged, that it was with great regret that the Parish Council found itself, yet again, in a position where it needed to discuss whether or not Great Wyrley Bonfire Event should be held.

Members had taken into account the fact that it would seem to be a retrograde step to allow the event to be held. This decision was based on the premise that when balanced against the fact that volunteer Parish Councillors and residents of the village had given so much of their personal time towards safeguarding the public by so ably assisting Cornwells in the roll out of the Covid19 Vaccine - it would perhaps be ill advised to be seen to be exacerbating the problem by bringing so many people together with no realistic way of enforcing any sanitising or distancing measures.

Following discussion and thorough consideration of all options the Parish Council **resolved** that the Annual Bonfire Event would not go ahead this year on health and safety grounds.

25/2021

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that she did not have a great deal to report to the meeting on this occasion other than the vaccination roll out which continues at a pace. Cllr. Mrs. Perry also advised the meeting that she understood that there would be sewerage pipe works taking place in the area in the near future. This was noted by Members.

26/2021

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr. Mrs. J. A. Johnson advised the meeting that she did not have a great deal to report on this occasion other than those matters which have already been covered by the Round Up from the District Council.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that at the present time that the District Council had been informed that there were to be changes to the Boundaries represented by South Staffordshire Council Members. The number of Councillors was now to be reduced to 41 for South Staffordshire Council and the boundaries would be adjusted accordingly. This matter would be discussed further at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

27/2021

REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS

Pothole outside 57 Bentons Lane

Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood advised the meeting that there was a very large pothole immediately outside 57 Bentons Lane. Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that the County Council Highways advice now stated that all instances of potholes other highway defects etc. needed to be reported directly through the App. Direct reporting, along with a photograph ensured that a reference number was allocated to a specific task and made the process far easier to manage. Cllr. Mrs. Wood advised the meeting that she would be ensuring that a report would be made.

Parking in Bentons Lane

Cllr. Mrs. S. Wood advised the meeting that she again needed to report the fact that the parking in Bentons Lane had now reached proportions that it represented a very real threat to public safety. Cllr. Mrs. Wood also suggested

that it may be slightly alleviated if the hedge on one of the corners was to be cut back. Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry advised the meeting that she had tried on a number of occasions to secure double yellow lines in this area, but reminded Members that the number of installations of double yellow lines was subject to restriction but that she would bring this matter back to the County Council for urgent consideration.

Damaged Bus Shelter in Bentons Lane

Cllr. Mrs. S. Wood asked the meeting to provide an update on the condition of the bus shelter in Bentons Lane. The Clerk advised the Parish Council that the remedial works required to the Bus Shelter would be carried out as soon as the company which had erected the bus shelter would be allowed to travel from Scotland. This was noted.

Bus Improvement Plan

Cllr. Mrs. S. Wood advised the meeting that Staffordshire County Council was going to have to produce a Bus Improvement Plan before October of this year. Cllr. Mrs. Wood's question related to whether the Parish Council could become part of the consultation process relating to bus route requirements.

By way of background information the No. 2 Bus route had been taken off because the bus operators changed hands. The meeting was also advised that the No.1 Bus was to be reinstated from 21st June. Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry agreed that the Parish Council would be able to give valuable input into the consultation exercise on where routes needed to be operated. Members discussed the subsidies which were applied to bus routes and also the fact that there was an amount of money which remained in the pot following the cessation of the Connect Bus and that this surplus could only be spent in Locality 3. Cllr. Mrs. Perry also stated that we should be mindful that the amount of money which remained would not achieve a great deal in the grand scheme of things. This was noted.

Damaged Tree to the rear of the Co-op

Cllr. R. Myatt requested clarification of where the responsibility would lay should there be any incident in connection with the damaged tree. Cllr. Myatt was advised that any responsibility would be that of the land owner.

Compliments regarding the Community Centre

Cllr. R. Myatt also advised the meeting that during his volunteering sessions at the Community Centre he had been extremely pleased to hear all of the nice comments on what a lovely facility we have in Centre and that we should be very proud of what has been achieved for the Parish. This was noted.

Pavements in Wardles Lane

Cllr. M. McKenzie advised the meeting that the repairs to the footpaths had been started in Wardles Lane and he would like to know what the programme for the future included. Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised Cllr. McKenzie that she would take this matter to the meeting she was scheduled to have with the Highways Department in the near future. This was noted.

Potholes in Anson Road

Cllr. A. Newell advised the meeting that the road had virtually disintegrated in Anson Road. Members agreed that Anson Road needed to be looked in its entirety as it would not be classed as a repair and it would need to be fully assessed as a major overhaul. This was noted.

28/2021 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no reports from Outside Bodies on this occasion.

29/2021 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

21/00391/FUL – DEMOLITION OF EXISTING CONSERVATORY TO BUILD A SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION WITH A FLAT ROOF SPANNING THE WIDTH OF THE PROPERTY AND GARAGE AT 16 THE SPINDLES, GREAT WYRLEY – THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS PROPOSAL.

21/00444/FUL – STABLES AND ASSOCIATED HAY STORE AT CANNOCK FARM, LAND OFF JACOBS HALL LANE, GREAT WYRLEY – THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS APPLICATION.

21/00496/FUL – SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION AT 1 CEDAR GROVE, GREAT WYRLEY – THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS PROPOSAL.

21/00555/TTREE – TREE PRESERVATION ORDER 16/1975 AREA A 1 REMOVAL OF 2 CONIFERS (T3 AND T4 IN APPLICATION AT 109 WALSALL ROAD, GREAT WYRLEY – THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS PROPOSAL

21/00533/FUL – PROPOSED EXTENSION TO SIDE OF EXISTING DWELLING TO INCREASE SIZE OF EXISTING KITCHEN PLUS THE ADDITION OF A UTILITY ROOM AND SMALL FRONT PORCH EXTENSION. AT FIRST FLOOR LEVEL IT IS PROPOSED TO INCREASE THE SIZE OF THE REAR DORMER TO PROVIDE MORE SPACE IN THE EXISTING BATHROOM AT 38 POPLAR ROAD, GREAT WYRLEY – THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS PROPOSAL.

21/00565/FUL – ALTERATIONS OF EXISTING BUNGALOW AND ERECTION OF 2 NO DETACHED BUNGALOWS ASSOCIATED GARAGING AND PRIVATE DRIVE ACCESS – 37 JACOBS HALL LANE, GREAT WYRLEY – THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTIONS TO THIS PROPOSAL

21/00483/FUL – ERECTION OF 2 NO. DETACHED DWELLINGS AT 434 WALSALL ROAD, GREAT WYRLEY – THE PARISH COUNCIL STRONGLY OBJECTED TO THIS APPLICATION ON HIGHWAY GROUNDS DUE TO ITS CLOSE PROXIMITY TO AN EXTREMELY DANGEROUS JUNCTION AND THE FACT THAT IT WOULD SEVERELY COMPROMISE THE SETTING OF THE MEMORIAL GARDENS - ANY APPROVAL WOULD REQUIRE TRAFFIC LIGHTS TO ENSURE PUBLIC SAFETY

30/2021 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.

31/2021 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.

32/2021 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