

## **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 6.00 p.m. on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2021.**

**Present:**

**(Chairman)  
Cllr. A. Newell**

Cllr. Mrs. O. Brazier Cllr. M. Dabbs Cllr. Mrs. J. A. Johnson Cllr. J. C. Jones Cllr. R. Myatt	Cllr. A. Pearson Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE Cllr. R. J. Perry Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood
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### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were two members of the public present in the public gallery on this occasion. Neither party addressed the Parish Council in the public participation session.

#### **33/2021 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. A. J. Kelsey, Cllr. M. Mckenzie, Cllr. S. Toddington and Cllr. A. D. Smith.

#### **34/2021 MINUTES OF THE LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2021 be accepted, approved and signed by the Chairman.

#### **35/2021 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman advised the meeting that he had now been advised by the Royal British Legion that the recent request for a fun day to be held on Parish Council land had now been taken out of the Council's hands as they had chosen to hold the event at the Scout and Guide Hut.

Cllr. Newell went on to say that he did not have anything further to report to Members other than the fact the Vaccination Programme was still forging ahead at the Community Centre and that he had recently written an article for the History Society magazine commending the good work of the volunteers. This was noted by Members.

#### **CLERK'S REPORTS**

##### **(a) CONTINUED USE OF COMMUNITY CENTRE AS COVID VACCINATION CENTRE**

Cllr. J. C. Jones informed the meeting that he had been advised by Mr. P. Grewal of Cornwells Chemists that the Community Centre would be needed until at least the end of September and that there were plans afoot for after that date which as yet were unconfirmed. The Government needed to make a decision in this regard whether the remainder of the rollout of vaccines would take place either in premises such as the Community Centre or at the Doctors Surgeries along with the annual flu vaccinations. This was noted by Members.

Members were aware that the Vaccination Programme was now entering into the seventh month and were extremely impressed that they had now passed the

50,000 milestone of vaccinations given.

Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood advised the meeting that she was very keen to have the Parish Council regain control of the Community Centre as she felt that the Parish Council may be in danger of losing its normal income and that the Parish Council would lose out in the long run. Cllr. Mrs. Wood appreciated that this would be a difficult decision to make, however, it was felt that the Parish Council needed to support the regular users of the Centre.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M Perry MBE advised the meeting that she had been approached by Jonathan Mitchell regarding this matter and had advised him to approach the Parish Council formally so that the situation could be considered properly by the Parish Council as a whole.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry also advised the meeting that to her knowledge none of the regular hirers of the Community Centre had made any approach to the staff regarding return to the Centre. Cllr. Mrs. Perry agreed that this situation may also be affected by the fact that we were approaching the summer months when the majority of the classes did not meet, however, the fact remained that no organisation had yet enquired about returning to the Centre.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry advised the meeting that she had wondered whether the process may go on even longer than September in order to accommodate a booster programme.

It was proposed by Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE and seconded by Cllr. J. C. Jones that the Parish Council should allow the Centre to be used for the additional month of September as requested with a review to be carried out at the end of September.

#### **(b) WYRLEY BROOK PROJECT**

Members were well aware that the Parish Council had been trying to get the Wyrley Brook Project off the ground for quite some time. Members were also aware that for some months the project had been on hold all together at the behest of Mr. Andrew Brett, Staffordshire County Council's Flood Risk Officer, on the basis that there were recommended changes to the course of the Brook which would ameliorate the flooding risks elsewhere in the Parish. This, of course, was excellent news, however, it did not take away from the fact that works were needed to clear the brook as a matter of urgency. The Parish Council had been in contact with Mr. Brett requesting an update on the situation and also with South Staffordshire Council and Severn Trent requesting clearance works to The Brook to avoid any further flooding in the meantime. The Clerk advised the meeting that she had received an assurance from Andrew Brett that this matter would be moving forward in the near future.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE kindly advised the Parish Council that the proposed changes to the course of The Brook was part of a much bigger project and that it was hoped that a meeting could be called with all of the agencies involved in the near future in an attempt to progress this matter.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry assured all present that the Parish Council was certainly not intending to let this project fall by the way side and she would continue to pursue the matter until progress was made. This was noted by Members.

#### **(c) BOUNDARY COMMISSION REVIEW OF DISTRICT COUNCIL WARD BOUNDARIES**

The Clerk had advised the Parish Council that South Staffordshire Council was

presently in the throes of a review by the Boundary Commission which was intended to ensure that all electors were fairly represented.

By way of background information the Clerk had set out below a brief report on the virtual meeting which had been hosted by South Staffordshire Council which had been designed to give Parish Council's an idea of what the review was intending to achieve.

A number of people had asked the question why South Staffordshire was the subject of a review, apparently it was because it hadn't been reviewed since 2000 and there was a need to ensure electoral equality. In short, some Council wards were much larger than others and there was a disparity between the number of Councillors in some wards compared to others.

The Boundary Commission had already made the decision that the number of Councillors on South Staffordshire Council would be reduced from 49 to 41.

The aim of the exercise was to review the following:-

- Total number of wards,
- The ward boundaries,
- The numbers of Councillors elected to each ward,
- The names of each ward.

The review was expected to be based on achieving electoral equality for electors, community identities and common interests which would lead to effective and convenient Local Government.

From a Parish point of view, the Boundary Commission wanted everyone to recognise that they could not create or abolish Parishes or amend their boundaries. Should they find themselves in a position where they would need to divide a Parish they would create Parish Wards. The Boundary Commission would, however, be able to change Parish Electoral arrangements but only as a direct consequence of their ward proposals.

Should the Parish Council wish to make representations regarding this matter there was a need to do this by 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 2021.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE kindly clarified the situation from the point of view of South Staffordshire Council and the Parish Council **resolved** that the Clerk should compile a response prior to the deadline and allow Councillors sight of the response prior to submission. It was carried.

#### **(d) 2023 REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES**

The Boundary Commission for England is the independent organisation responsible for reviewing Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries in England.

At the present time a review was being conducted which would conclude with a formal report and recommendations in June 2023, so it was being referred to as the '2023 Review'.

The Clerk had signposted all Members to the guidance document which would provide the finer detail on this matter which was entitled Guide to the 2023 Review. The Clerk explained to the Parish Council that recent changes to the law made it very likely that the recommendations from this review would be implemented, so all electors were being encouraged to participate in the process by giving the Boundary Commission their views through the website referred to above.

The Clerk advised the Parish Council that the Consultation was currently open until Monday 2nd August 2021 – and all Members were being requested to please ensure that the Boundary Commission received responses by that date at the latest or they would not be considered. This was noted by Members.

**36/2021**      **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Councillor Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that children from across Staffordshire were being invited to take part in this year's Summer Reading Challenge to help encourage reading over the summer holidays. Thousands of children were expected to sign up for the campaign being delivered by Staffordshire County Council's Libraries Service in partnership with national charity, the Reading Agency.

This year's theme is Wild World Heroes and will run throughout the summer holidays. Children aged 4 to 11 would be able to collect stickers along the way and a medal and certificate when they completed their challenge. This was noted.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry advised the meeting that she would now have £2500 for each County Councillor in funding to put towards Local Community Projects aimed at the recovery from the Covid Pandemic. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry also advised the meeting that Staffordshire County Council Highways did not have any objection on highways grounds to the Landywood Application which was to be discussed later.

Cllr. J. C. Jones asked Cllr. Mrs. Perry if she could provide him with an update on any future refurbishments to the footpaths in Great Wyrley. Cllr. Mrs. Perry was to provide this to Cllr. Jones at the September meeting of the Parish Council.

**37/2021**      **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 had already been covered by the Round Up from the District Council. Leisure Centres would be opening again soon in order to accommodate the Children's schemes which were to run from 29<sup>th</sup> July to the end of August. The schemes were also to be publicised on the Notice Boards.

Cllr. J. C. Jones asked if the Parish Council could publicise the District Council's Round up on the Parish Council's website.

**38/2021**      **REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS**

**POTHOLE OUTSIDE 57 BENTONS LANE**

Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood advised the meeting that the very large pothole immediately outside 57 Bentons Lane had now been repaired. Cllr. Mrs. Wood was also very pleased that the No. 74 Bus Service had now been replaced and the No. 2 Service now goes to Walsall. This was noted.

**LANDYWOOD VOLUNTARY HELP CENTRE**

Cllr. Mrs. Wood advised the meeting that at the present time the Landywood Voluntary Help Centre was experiencing problems with the parking of the Community Bus. These problems were emanating from the fact that the adjoining site which had previously been in the ownership of Staffordshire County Council had now been sold and unfortunately the gates were locked and there

was no provision for the parking of the bus. Cllr. Mrs. J. A. Johnson advised the meeting that at the present time this matter was slightly up in the air and it may take a while to resolve this situation, however, she would happily take this matter up with the new owners.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry advised the meeting that as far as this matter was concerned there should be no assumptions made as to the proposed use of the land despite the fact that the new owners were developers of care home facilities as no plans had been submitted to any authority and, therefore, the use could in fact be for any purpose within the permitted by national guidelines.

#### **PARKING AT THE SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE**

Cllr. R. Myatt advised the meeting that he had recently been trying to resolve an issue which was being complained about by a local resident. Cllr. Myatt took this opportunity to stress the fact that the problems being complained about were not the responsibility of the Senior Citizens Centre and were general parking matters and non-specific to the Centre. Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry advised the meeting that this matter was not the responsibility of Great Wyrley Parish Council or Staffordshire County Council either. This was noted by Members.

#### **CHARGING FOR THE LANDYWOOD HALT CAR PARK**

Cllr. R. Myatt asked when there would be a response to the consultation relating to charges for use of the car park to Landywood Halt. The Clerk advised the meeting that she had not received any feedback from the Parish Council's submission. This was noted by Members.

#### **STREET SCENE LEAFLET**

Cllr. J. C. Jones requested that the Parish Council place the Street Scene Leaflet on the Parish Council's website and in the Parish Council notice boards. Debra May advised Cllr. Jones that she would certainly investigate the possibility of publicising this leaflet.

Cllr. Mrs. J. A. Johnson advised the meeting that Street Scene facilitated the street cleaning of any road which was not an A Road. Cllr. Mrs. Johnson also advised the meeting that weeds in the gutters was not the District Council's responsibility it was that of the County Council. This activity took place once per year and once the weeds had died the District Council could be contacted with a request that the street sweeper attend the area to remove the detritus from the gutters.

#### **39/2021 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES**

There were no reports from Outside Bodies on this occasion.

#### **40/2021 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**21/00733/FUL – TWO STOREY SIDE EXTENSION AT 47 WHARWELL LANE, GREAT WYRLEY – THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS PROPOSAL.**

**21/00714/COU - DEMOLITION OF EXISTING GARAGE AND CONSERVATORY AND ERECTION OF SINGLE STOREY EXTENSION TO RESIDENTIAL DWELLING ON 126 WALSALL ROAD, CHURCHBRIDGE- THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS APPLICATION.**

**21/00606/FUL – EXISTING CONSERVATORY TO BE PARTLY REBUILT WITH NEW WINDOWS AND TILED ROOF AT 28 NUTHURST DRIVE, GREAT WYRLEY - THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS PROPOSAL.**

**21/00631/FUL – FULL PLANNING APPLICATION SEEKING PERMISSION FOR 50 DWELLINGS SERVED VIA A NEW VEHICULAR ACCESS VIA LANDYWOOD LANE; THE DELIVERY OF A NEW CAR PARK TO SERVE LANDYWOOD RAILWAY STATION ACCESSED VIA LANDYWOOD LANE; AND THE PROVISION OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACE, SURFACE WATER ATTENUATION AND ASSOCIATED ENABLING WORKS AT LAND AT LANDYWOOD LANE, CHESLYN HAY.**

**THE CLERK HAD FORWARDED A REPORT ON THE APPLICATION PRIOR TO CONSIDERATION AT THE MEETING FOR THE BENEFIT OF THOSE MEMBERS WHO HAD NOT SERVED ON THE PARISH COUNCIL AT THE TIME THE LOCAL PLAN HAD BEEN OUT FOR CONSULTATION FOR THEIR INFORMATION. EXPLAINING THE FOLLOWING:**

*"For the benefit of those Members who were not serving on the Parish Council in 2014 it may be useful to read the following explanation of the status of the land at the present time.*

*This application related to part of the land allocated in the District Council's adopted Site Allocations document (SAD), (which is part of the Local Plan) for residential development and for a new car park for the station and including a new 20 acre public park. A plan showing the scheme is attached. However, I would ask Members to look at this application on the internet prior to the meeting as it may not be possible to print them off showing as much detail as will be clear electronically. There are very many supporting documents with the application which need to be taken into account particularly, drainage and access reports.*

*The Site Allocations Document followed from the adoption of the District Council's Core Strategy in 2012. Members will recall that the initial consultation on the Site Allocations Document took place in the spring of 2014; the preferred sites were published in late 2015/early 2016.*

*At that point the Landywood Lane site was not a preferred site. However, subsequently, one of the then preferred sites was withdrawn by the promoting agent and Landywood Lane effectively took its place. It was included as an allocation in the final draft sent to the Secretary of State in September 2017. It was considered by an independent Inspector at the Examination in Public in November/December, 2017. The Inspector confirmed its allocation in his report of May 2018 and the Site Allocations Document was adopted, including this site in September 2018.*

*For Members information, the SAD process of site selection was based upon a specific formula applied to all applications which basically boils down to an objective evaluation of a great deal of data concerning, for example, a site's location in relation to proximity to community facilities, highways impact; landscape impact etc. All sites put forward were subject to the same process and the results were judged to be sound.*

*On the basis of the foregoing the principle of development on this site, is confirmed in the adopted Development Plan and, therefore, it is no longer in the Green Belt.*

*Obviously, the Parish Council will still be able to make their views known on the proposal, however, it would not be able to base any objections it may have on the land's Green Belt value. This was noted by Members."*

Cllr. J. C. Jones strongly objected to this application and advised the Parish Council that he had started a campaign on Facebook to object to it. Such objections to be supported by Gavin Williamson MP

Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood and Cllr. A. Pearson also objected very strongly to the application.

Following a free and frank exchange of views it had proved impossible to reach a majority decision on this matter Members chose to make their own individual representations to South Staffordshire Council within the prescribed time limits.

41/2021

**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.

42/2021

**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.

43/2021

**CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

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

It was proposed by Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE that the Parish Council needed to assess the situation with regard to the placement of benches in Great Wyrley Cemetery. This was to take place over the recess and be discussed following a complete audit of the benches currently placed in Great Wyrley Cemetery. This was noted by Members.

The meeting closed at 7.40 p.m.

**Chairman**