

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 1ST September, 2021.

Present:

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

Cllr. M. Dabbs	Cllr. A. Pearson
Cllr. Mrs. J. A. Johnson	Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE
Cllr. J. C. Jones	Cllr. R. J. Perry
Cllr. R. Myatt	Cllr. A. D. Smith
Cllr. M. Mckenzie	Cllr. S. Toddington

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was one member of the public present on this occasion who was in attendance with regard to a specific agenda item.

44/2021 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Mrs. O. Brazier, Cllr. A. J. Kelsey and Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood.

45/2021 MINUTES OF THE LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th July, 2021 be accepted, approved and signed by the Chairman.

46/2021 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 the Covid Vaccination programme still continued.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M Perry MBE reminded the Chairman that he needed to congratulate the Clerk to the Parish Council on her recent marriage. The Clerk thanked everyone for their kind wishes and the arrangement of flowers she had received from the Parish Council on the morning of her wedding on 20th July.

CLERK'S REPORTS

(a) Great Wyrley Cemetery Memorial Bench Audit

Members recalled that at the last meeting of the Parish Council, Members had been asked to consider a request to place a memorial bench in Great Wyrley Cemetery.

Following discussion it had been agreed by all Members that an audit of the numbers and positions of the existing benches in Great Wyrley Cemetery be carried out in order to reflect an accurate picture of the present situation. By way of background the Parish Council had adopted a policy a number of years ago not to allow any additional benches to be placed within the Cemetery.

In order to assist with this matter Debra May had kindly carried out a complete audit of the benches which had been circulated to all Members for the purpose of discussion.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE thanked Debra May for carrying out the audit and suggested to Members that now may be the time to resurrect the Great Wyrley Cemetery Working Party so that this matter can be progressed. As there was a clear need for the owners of the benches to take responsibility for their maintenance/refurbishment there was a requirement to gather this information.

Following consideration and full discussion Members **resolved** that there was a need to carry out a consultation process to ascertain the contact details of those with responsibility for existing benches. The Clerk was to compile a notice to be attached to all the benches in the Cemetery asking parishioners to contact the Parish Council Office in order to provide the required information. The Clerk was to give an adequate timescale for responses to the notice to be made to ensure that all visitors were able to be part of the consultation process.

Members also agreed that following this process the Parish Council should re-elect its Cemetery Working Party so that this matter could be regulated going forward.

Cllr. J. C. Jones advised the meeting that in his view the Parish Council should now keep an official register of those with a responsibility for the benches within the Cemetery in order to facilitate maintenance and refurbishment for the future.

In view of the foregoing resolution it was agreed by all Members that the request to place a new bench in Great Wyrley Cemetery should be held in abeyance until such time as this matter had been regularised and the person who had made the request for a bench to be placed in K Section be advised of the situation. It was carried.

(b) Request for modification to Railings at Great Wyrley Cemetery

Immediately prior to the last meeting, the Parish Council had received a request from the owners of the property on the left hand side of the entrance drive to Great Wyrley Cemetery to the effect that they wished to have two supporting stanchions removed from the railings bordering the Cemetery. This request was being made in order to accommodate a summer house in the garden of their property.

Members discussed this matter at length which included the views of the resident concerned who was present in the public gallery on this occasion. Cllr. A. D. Smith felt that this matter was not quite as cut and dried as it appeared and was of the view that their removal would compromise the heritage attached to the Cemetery. Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE completely supported Cllr. Smith's view and stressed to all Members that the Parish Council were the custodians of the Cemetery and as such duty bound to protect it. Cllr. Mrs. Perry was extremely concerned that the Parish Council may be overriding the need why the stanchions had been applied to support the railings at the outset and felt it would be unwise to carry out any works which might affect the stability of the railings and the Cemetery Gates. Members were also concerned that agreeing to this request may well set an unwelcome precedent with the potential to result in a far more serious problem.

Cllr. J. C. Jones advised the meeting that he was extremely concerned that that in the event that this action was taken and subsequently compromised the stability of the railings and subsequently the gates then

the responsibility would rest with the Parish Council.

Following further discussion Members agreed that this matter needed to be taken to a vote. There were no votes in favour of removal of the stanchions from the railings.

The resident concerned expressed her disappointment and advised the Parish Council that she would be taking further advice on the matter. This was noted.

(c) Request for Works Leander Close Play Area

The Clerk advised the meeting that since the last meeting of the Parish Council a request for works to be carried out to a sizeable hedge within its ownership had been received.

It was clear from the photographic evidence provided that the hedge had become a problem as it was now ingressing onto the resident's property. The Parish Council had received a quotation for the works to be carried out and agreed to accept it and request that the works be carried out as a matter of urgency. It was carried.

(d) Request for Tree Works – Walsall Road/ Star Land, Great Wyrley

The Clerk advised the meeting that the Parish Council had also received a request for works to be carried out to an Oak Tree on Star Land which was causing nuisance by leaf drop on an adjoining property. Following discussion Members agreed that as the tree was perfectly healthy; it did not represent any threat, a view which had been supported by the recent survey of all the trees in the Parish Council's ownership that no works were required. However, the Parish Council resolved to write to the resident assuring them that the Parish Council would have no objection to the resident removing the branches which were overhanging into her garden on the basis that no works were performed which would compromise the stability of the tree itself. It was carried.

(e) Emergency Tree Works

The Clerk advised the meeting that she had finally managed to procure the services of an accredited Tree surgeon to carry out the now long overdue works to trees in The Cemetery, Star Land and the Memorial Garden.

Following discussion Members agreed that these works needed to be carried out as a matter of urgency and accepted the quotation for the tree works. It was carried.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE reminded Members that once the Cemetery Working Party was reformed part of its remit should include looking at the trees which had been planted in the recent past situated in the middle of the Cemetery. It was carried.

(f) Community Recognition Memorial

Cllr. R. Myatt had originally requested that this item be placed on the agenda for discussion as to a way forward.

Cllr. Myatt advised the meeting that he felt that The Memorial Garden was the logical, most suitable venue for a memorial and that an appropriate plot had been tentatively earmarked, however, others might, of course, be

considered, if preferred.

Cllr. Myatt advised the meeting that he felt it was important that any memorial should be harmonious with other plaques/commemoration areas already in the Memorial garden. Cllr. Myatt also advised the meeting that the Members of the Friends of the Memorial Gardens had kindly offered to support a way forward with this project.

The meeting was also advised that based on very rough cost suggestions, FROG would like to provide some funding support subject to more detailed costs being provided. The meeting was also advised that there were other organisations within the village who would also like to be part of this project, however, it was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council should take the lead on this project from the outset.

Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** that it agreed that now was the time to set this project in motion and invited FROG to put forward its ideas and associated costings with a view to making a decision at the next available meeting of the Parish Council.

Cllr. Myatt kindly agreed to drive this project on behalf of the Parish Council and would report back to the next meeting of the Parish Council.

(f) Resurfacing of Original Wooden Skate Ramps

Cllr. J. C. Jones advised the meeting that Cllr. Newell and himself had carried out a degree of research with the view to effecting the replacement of the wooden ramps on the original wooden skate ramp. A suitable surface had now been chosen, however, the company which supplies the surface does not carry out the fitting. To this end the Clerk was now in negotiations with a company which was prepared to carry out the necessary works. Cllr. J. C. Jones explained to the Parish Council that despite the fact that the skate ramp was advancing in years it was still a valued facility within the village and not beyond repair. Cllr. Jones felt that the Council had a responsibility to ensure that all its facilities were safe and to this end all maintenance of equipment should be carried out as a matter of urgency.

All Members entirely agreed with Councillor Jones and the matter was to be resolved as soon as possible.

Cllr. R. J. Perry advised the meeting that he felt it may be time to look at the future of all the play areas within the village on the basis that children's play requirements had changed over the years and there was a need to ensure that the Parish Council was providing facilities which were meeting the current needs of local children.

With regard to the above the Clerk was instructed to place an item on the Agenda for the next meeting under the heading Future of Play for the Children of Great Wyrley.

47/2021 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that under the **Together We're Better** – Staffordshire's Healthcare Provider that in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, a new and improved way for residents to access urgent NHS care was being implemented.

The enhanced offer would enable the 111 service to directly book patients into time

slots for Emergency Departments and Same Day Emergency Care services, when clinically appropriate. By triaging a greater number of patients through 111 first, they would reduce unnecessary attendances at Emergency Departments.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry advised the meeting that Members would be able to find a great deal more detail on this matter on the District Council's Round Up publication. This was noted.

Cllr. J. C. Jones had previously requested that Cllr. Mrs. Perry provide him with a list of programmed street works and Cllr. Mrs. Perry explained that at the present time there was no current programme as this was to be drawn up and reviewed in April of next year. This programme was expected to include works to the A34 up to Churchbridge where the footpaths were in desperate need of improvement and Station Road footpath from the Church up to Churchbridge and to Newtown.

48/2021 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr. Mrs. J. A. Johnson advised the meeting that she did not have a great deal to report other than those matters which had already been reported to Members via the Round Up Publication.

However, it was with great regret that she needed to advise the Parish Council that South Staffordshire Council had lost two very well liked and respected Members of the Council in the last month. The funerals of the Leader of the Council, Cllr. Brian Edwards MBE and Cllr. Reg. Williams who was a very longstanding member of the Council, were both to take place during the week commencing 6th September.

49/2021 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS

LANDYWOOD VOLUNTARY HELP CENTRE

Cllr. J. C. Jones requested Cllr. Mrs. J. A. Johnson to clarify the situation with regard to the operation of the Landywood Voluntary Help Centre.

Cllr. Mrs. Johnson advised the meeting that she had indeed been able to resolve the issue with regard to parking at the premises and that the new owners of the adjoining site had been extremely helpful and parking was now being allowed on their property for the Community Bus and Volunteers.

Cllr. Mrs. Johnson also advised the meeting that at the present time the Centre was only able to work skeleton hours due to the need for more volunteers. This was noted.

DEMOLISHED WOODEN FENCE BETWEEN RAILWAY HALT AND PLAY AREA

Cllr. J. C. Jones advised the meeting that he was extremely concerned that no action had been taken by the District Council to replace the fencing between Landywood Halt and the Parish Council Playing Field. Cllr. Jones reminded Councillors that he had suggested that the Parish Council fund these works in order to secure the playing field from the insurgence of travellers as had already occurred on a number of occasions. Members agreed that this matter should be pursued with urgency and the Clerk was to contact South Staffordshire Council with a request for immediate action.

DAMAGED BUS SHELTER – GORSEY LANE

Cllr. J. C. Jones asked the Parish Council to clarify the position with regard to the damaged bus shelter in Gorse Lane. The Clerk explained that at the present time

she was awaiting notification from the company who erected the bus shelter as to when they would be able to return to the area in order to reset the shelter. By way of background the bus shelter was erected by Commutaports Ltd, a company which is based in Scotland, and within four hours of the erection of the shelter it was vandalised and as the concrete had not had enough time to set the shelter was now set permanently out of kilter until Commutaports can return to reset it. It does not represent any danger to the public but it certainly represents an eyesore. This was noted by Members.

50/2021 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no reports from Outside Bodies on this occasion.

51/2021 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

21/00733/FUL – REAR GARDEN CANOPY AT WOODHAYES, HOLLY LANE, GREAT WYRLEY – THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS PROPOSAL.

21/00714/COU - SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSIONS INCLUDING PARTIAL CONVERSION OF EXISTING GARAGE AT 81 LOVE LANE, GREAT WYRLEY - THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS APPLICATION.

21/00606/FUL – SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION AT 10 GORSEY LANE, GREAT WYRLEY - THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS PROPOSAL.

52/2021 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.

53/2021 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.

54/2021 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

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

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

Chairman