

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 12TH January, 2022.

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. M. McKenzie Cllr. R. Myatt	Cllr. A. Pearson Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE Cllr. R. J. Perry Cllr. A. D. Smith Cllr. Mrs. S. Toddington Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood
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91/2022 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies received.

92/2022 MINUTES OF THE LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1st December, 2021 be accepted, approved and signed by the Chairman.

93/2022 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr. A. Newell advised the meeting that he did not have any specific announcements to make on this occasion other than to wish everyone present a very Happy New Year.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were two members of the public present on this occasion. One a resident of Great Wyrley Parish and one a resident of Cheslyn Hay Parish.

The resident of Great Wyrley advised the Parish Council that "he understood that tonight was going to be the meeting when the Parish Council set the budget or Parish Rates should I say. I haven't seen anything on the agenda and there's no reference to setting it tonight - will it be set tonight?"

The Clerk advised the resident that the setting of the precept had been deferred until the February meeting because neither the County Council nor the District Council had set their budget yet; the Parish Council's precept requirement was not usually set until this information was available.

The resident then said "I repeat a question I asked in October and now presume every Member of the Parish Council has received the outcome of the AGAR form. The revised AGAR form with all the crossings out and all the rest of it all over it." The resident then asked "will this now appear on all the notice boards around the village." The resident stated that "it has not been published yet for the first time, not the final one would it now appear on the Notice Boards?" The resident was advised that it was now posted on the website. The resident then advised the meeting "there were a further three pages". The Clerk advised the resident that these pages were not normally published. The resident then said that "if normal was normal then it would appear on the notice boards as not everybody was able to go online as the majority of people who took part in such things and followed them were older people. So are you saying that it is not going to go on the notice boards?" The Clerk responded that

there was no plan to do so. The Parish Council was required to place a copy of Completion of the Audit notice on the notice boards.

The resident stated that "many people do not have access even now to the internet." The clerk responded that she did not believe that this was actually recognised specifically by the new rules. The Parish Council was required to put everything on the website. The resident asserted that "with respect a lot of people would not look at the website but they would look at the noticeboards". The Clerk responded that "yes I am sure they would" the resident asserted that "because if you do not put it there they would have no inclination of what went on" The resident went on to say "what I was going to say to you was..... The Clerk then advised the meeting and the resident that she was sure everyone would know what was going on if they looked at Essington Live's Face book page as Essington Live had chosen to publish all of the dealings the Parish Council had just had with the auditors on there - it is all published on Essington Lives Face Book as she had just seen it. The resident then stated that "If you put the one sheet, as has always happened in the past with a line along the bottom saying that a full explanation of the above can be viewed. (presumably the address of Great Wyrley Parish Council website). The Clerk responded that if people were only able to look at the Noticeboard what was the point in directing them to the website. The resident then said that "it is not the easiest website to find". The resident then asked for "one sheet of A4 on the Parish Council notice boards directing people to the website so the general public can see it - I see no reason why not."

Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood suggested that the resident cast his mind back to before everything was available on the website and if anyone wanted to see the accounts in full they could make an arrangement with the Parish Office to see the accounts there or even at the Library sometimes. That is what was done years ago and she did not see what was wrong with that.

The Clerk advised the meeting that the Parish Council was required to publish the Completion of the Audit Notice. The resident then asserted that "by the same token that page was always put on the notice board." The Clerk advised the resident that the Parish Council had nothing to hide but the decision was one to be made by the Council; she saw no reason why it should not go on the notice board or any reason why it should and suggested that the resident ask the Parish Council directly to make the decision. The resident then said "its public information if you haven't got anything to hide publish it."

Cllr. A. Newell asked for Members views on this subject and it was suggested that a vote be taken. Cllr. Mrs. J. A. Johnson advised the meeting that she felt this matter needed to be discussed further at the next meeting of the Parish Council and assured the resident that the Parish Council did not have anything to hide and never has had to which the resident responded "absolutely publish it". Cllr. Mrs. Johnson went on to say that we advise the public that they are welcome to visit the Council Offices and sit down and go through the accounts and all of the Council's records. Cllr. Mrs. Johnson felt that this was the way forward. A copy could be put on the notice board at the Community Centre so people going in for injections could read it if they wanted to. Cllr. Mrs. Johnson felt it was something which needed discussing as she did not think it was necessary. It was on the website.

Cllr. Mrs. S. Toddington agreed that it may be useful to put a generic statement on the notice boards stating that information can be found on the website too, so that everybody was aware that this information could be found on the website; because although not everyone had access to the internet they would be able to perhaps ask friends or family to look at the information for them.

Councillor A. Newell then advised the meeting that this would enable anyone to make an appointment to visit the Centre where all records would be made available. We have nothing to hide; a notice on the board would only suggest that a full version is on the website.

Members **resolved** that this was the way forward.

The resident then closed his questions with "where does the buck stop?"

The Clerk advised the meeting that it was very unfortunate that no one from the local organisations had chosen to attend the meeting to discuss their plans regarding the Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

This matter was to be discussed more fully under the dedicated agenda item.

94/2022 CLERK'S REPORTS TO COUNCIL

(a) HM QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that as we had already referred to this matter at a previous meeting it now needed to be placed on the agenda for a full discussion.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry explained that funding was available from Staffordshire County Council towards the Platinum Jubilee which was to be celebrated over the period spanning 2nd to 5th June. The Parish Council had already considered the idea of holding an outside children's event on the morning of 3rd June with an afternoon tea later in the day for the more elderly residents of the Parish. The Afternoon Tea could take place either outside or inside the Community Centre dependent upon the weather.

The Clerk advised the meeting that she had posted a notice within the Parish itself and on the website inviting organisations to attend the meeting this evening. The Clerk had also emailed all the local schools inviting them to attend the meeting in order to avoid potential clashes in events. The meeting was also called in an attempt to gauge whether any of our local organisations would be interested in working in partnership with the Parish Council to stage a joint Community event.

A number of schools had responded expressing their interest in this matter, however, there had not been any attendance by representatives of any of the local schools at the meeting.

Cllr. A. Kelsey advised the Parish Council that the Carnival Committee would certainly like to be part of the project and that a meeting of Harrison's trustees had been held where this matter had been discussed. The outcome of Harrison's Trustees meeting was that there was a need to gauge what other events were already planned to take place in order to avoid clashing of events either by date or nature.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry also advised the meeting that since the programme of events had now been published it may be possible that the Parish Council could arrange an event whereby the Platinum Party Concert Event could be live streamed from Buckingham Palace to a location yet to be decided in Great Wyrley. It was felt that perhaps the large field near Great Wyrley Academy would be appropriate for this event where it could take the form of an informal picnic in the park. Obviously with appropriate security arrangements etc.

Cllr. R. Myatt advised the meeting that he had already had a conversation with Mr. I. Moreton of Great Wyrley Academy and been advised that the Academy would be very interested in being part of this project. Cllr. Myatt also advised the meeting that he was aware of a funding stream for this purpose which could be spent up to the end of June and not spent specifically over the 2nd to 5th June. This flexibility would allow for later events and avoid any potential clash. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood advised the Parish Council that she was Chairman of the Parish Council in 2002 when the Queen's Golden Jubilee was celebrated and in conjunction with the Community Partnership they managed to source Lottery Funding to put toward the celebrations. A number of different events had been held at that time including a Show, however, the old fashioned Street Party, which had been held indoors with all present dressed in 1953 fashions, with party food from the same era had been very popular. There was old fashioned entertainment for the children in the form of a clown and magician and the 1952 food offerings of paste sandwiches and jelly and ice cream were of great fascination to the children.

Cllr. Mrs. Wood also reminded those present that in 2002 the Parish Council had also involved all the local schools in a Plate Decorating Project which had been very well received. Cllr. Mrs. Wood felt that this might be something to look at.

Cllr. Mrs. Wood also liked the idea of the picnic in the park but was concerned about parking. Cllr. Mrs. Perry advised Cllr. Mrs. Wood that this event would hopefully be held at the school and it was more than likely that parking would be allowed within the school grounds.

Cllr. J. C. Jones suggested that the Parish Council form a Sub-Committee to take this matter forward holding monthly meetings. Cllr. J. C. Jones also suggested to Cllr. A. Kelsey that perhaps the Carnival could be brought forward to the beginning of the month and become part of the celebrations. Cllr. A. J. Kelsey advised the meeting that, unfortunately, arrangements had already been put in place to hold the Carnival at the end of the month, at its usual time, which would be very difficult to rearrange. This was noted by Members.

The Parish Council **resolved** to hold an inaugural meeting on 9th February to which the local organisations would be extended a further invitation in order to discuss this matter.

Cllr. Mrs. Wood suggested that the Local Organisations should be approached in person to ensure that they were all aware of the plans. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. A. Smith advised the meeting that the Clerk should ask any local organisations expressing an interest in attending the meeting to give an outline of their plans beforehand to facilitate discussion.

Cllr. Mrs. O. Brazier kindly offered to advertise the meeting on social media.

(b) Pathway to NHS Tribute at the Memorial Gardens and Dedication Ceremony

Members recalled that at the last meeting of the Parish Council Members were asked for their collective permission to allow a pathway leading from the main walk way through the Memorial Gardens to the location which had been chosen to house the Tribute to the NHS.

Cllr. R. Myatt gave Members a brief update on the progress being made with the Memorial itself and advised the Parish Council that the path would be constructed in line with the appropriate health and safety guidelines and inclusive access. The materials for the path were to be selected to match that of the existing pathway through the Memorial Gardens.

The Parish Council **resolved** that the dedication/unveiling of the NHS Tribute was envisaged to take place in late Spring and Members needed to discuss who would perform any ceremony required and who would be included on the guest list.

Cllr. J. C. Jones was of the view that this should be a high profile event and not one which would largely go unnoticed. This was noted by Members.

Agenda Item (c) Changes in Natwest Account Tariff

The Clerk advised the Parish Council that Natwest had been in contact with the Parish Council due to the fact that it was currently in breach of the terms required to keep its Bank Accounts entitled to its current status of free banking as a Not for Profit Organisation.

This situation had arisen as the Parish Council had considerably more funds resting in its Bank Accounts than it would normally have. This is due to a number of reasons, all of which were temporary. However, the threshold which had been breached and taken the account into a different tariff was by some 50%.

At the present time an Officer of Natwest had advised the Clerk that no such changes had been applied to the Parish Council Bank Accounts and that it was likely that a computer generated letter had been sent automatically. This matter had now been raised as an official query by Natwest. Upon receipt of further information the Clerk would cascade the information out to Members prior to the next meeting of the Parish Council.

Cllr. A. Smith and Cllr. Mrs. O. Brazier both contributed to this conversation in terms of suggesting alternative ways that the Parish Council's present banking arrangements could be reviewed. This was noted by Members.

(d) Community Safety Forum Representatives

Members recalled from the last meeting of the Parish Council that, South Staffordshire Council had invited Members of all Parish Councils to discuss the possibility of nominating Members to be a Police Liaison person. This role would be more fully explained at the inaugural meeting, however, preliminary enquiries suggested that the role would involve the dissemination of information between the Police and the Parish Council.

As there had been a reduced complement of Councillors able to attend the last meeting of the Parish Council it was agreed by all Members that this matter should be discussed at the next meeting of full Council. Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** to appoint Cllr. Mrs. S. Toddington and Cllr. A. Smith as its representatives on the Community Safety Forum.

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COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the Parish Council that Staffordshire County Council had not, as yet, set its budget for the forthcoming year.

FUNDING TO BOOST STAFFORDSHIRE'S ECONOMY

The only other matters Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry had to report were that an additional £1million annual funding to boost Staffordshire's economy through a range of support and investment programmes looks set to be approved next week. The County Council funding would support existing programmes and further its reach over the next four years. It would also help strengthen the successful working between the County Council, District and Borough Councils and other public and private sector organisations to ensure businesses could thrive and people could access better paid jobs. This was noted.

ENVIROGRANTS

Cllr. Mrs. Perry also advised the meeting that Community Groups from across Staffordshire were being invited to apply for funding for projects that help improve their local environment.

The Staffordshire EnviroGrant programme was being coordinated by Staffordshire County Council and Environmental Company, Veolia and was making grants of up to £750 available.

The funding was open to not-for-profit organisations, including Charities, Societies, Voluntary and Community Groups and Schools.

Grants could be awarded to projects which helped improve waste and recycling, improve the natural environment or raise awareness of environmental issues. These could include community food gardens and community larders and fridges that helped reduce food waste.

Schemes that helped reduce carbon emissions or promoted and improved recycling and re-use such as repair cafes may also be considered for funding.

Cllr. J. C. Jones advised the meeting that this may be a route towards securing additional refuse bins. Cllr. Mrs. Perry advised Cllr. Jones that this may well be correct, however, it was the emptying of additional bins which would present the problem. This was noted.

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DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr. Mrs. J. A. Johnson advised the meeting that there would be temporary closures of the M54 over the weekend periods for the coming few months and this may lead to traffic congestion. This was noted.

Cllr. Mrs. J. A. Johnson advised the meeting that she did not have a great deal to report on this occasion as there had not been many meetings held at South Staffordshire Council since mid-December. This was noted.

Cllr. Mrs. S. Toddington advised Cllr. Mrs. Johnson that unfortunately, her green refuse bin had not been emptied for almost eight weeks. Cllr. J. C. Jones advised the meeting that the green bin collection had been suspended for four weeks. Cllr. Mrs. Toddington advised Cllr. Jones that this did not have any bearing on this matter as it had taken place well before that.

Cllr. Mrs. J. A. Johnson kindly offered to take this matter forward with the District Council. This was noted by Members.

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REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS

UNSTABLE TREE – FIELD LANE

Cllr. A. D. Smith advised the meeting that he had had a conversation with the Clerk at the latter end of last year regarding a tree which had been cut in half vertically at Field Lane, Great Wyrley. The Clerk had taken this matter forward with the Housing Association and works had now taken place. However, the Housing Association had chosen to carry out tree works on the wrong tree. Accordingly, the matter remained unresolved. The fact that cracks had now appeared in both the footpath and parking bays close to the tree in question was of deep concern and the Clerk was to take this matter forward with the Housing Association and Cllr. Smith was to provide photographic evidence to support the Clerk's complaint. This was noted.

SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE thanked all of the Members of the Council who had been able to be present at the Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch for their fantastic efforts on the day. The event had been very much enjoyed by all present and a thank you should be registered to all of the people who volunteered to help with this event who were not Parish Councillors, this included members of the Carnival Committee and a number of others.

Cllr. J. C. Jones advised the meeting that a vote of thanks should go to Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE for organising the event so efficiently and providing such a lovely event for the Senior Citizens of the Village. This was endorsed by all present. Cllr. R. Myatt advised the meeting that there had been a great deal of work involved prior to the day itself all of which had been carried out by Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE and the event had been organised very well indeed.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Cllr. Mrs. O. Brazier enquired of the Parish Council who would be footing the bill for the electricity supplied to fuel the Christmas lights; she was concerned that they had been illuminated on a 24/7 basis. The Clerk advised Cllr. Mrs. Brazier that the Parish Council would be billed for this usage but that it was expected to be around £50-£60 as they were LED lights and, accordingly, very inexpensive to run. This was noted by Members.

NEW YEAR'S DAY WALK

Cllr. A. J. Kelsey advised the meeting that the New Year's Day Walk had been attended by 45 people and that it had been a very enjoyable walk in very nice weather for the time of year. Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood made a plea at this point that going forward other Councillors assist Cllr. Kelsey in this event.

DAMAGED BUS SHELTER – GORSEY LANE

Cllr. Mrs. J. A. Johnson advised the meeting that she had been contacted by District Councillor Mrs. K. Williams with a report that she had received a number of complaints from residents that no action had been taken to repair the Bus Shelter in Gorse Lane. Cllr. Mrs. Johnson advised the meeting that it may be worth the Parish Council removing the damaged shelter and buying a new bus shelter from an alternative provider should Commutaports continue to ignore the Parish Council's requests to have the Shelter repaired. This was noted by Members.

BATON BEARER FOR COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Cllr. R. Myatt advised the meeting that now was the time to put nominations in for Baton Bearers for the Commonwealth Games. The Parish Council felt that this information should be placed on the website to ensure that this opportunity was advertised.

98/2022 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no reports from Outside Bodies on this occasion.

99/2022 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

21/01276/FUL - DETACHED GARDEN GAZEBO (PARTLY RETROSPECTIVE APPLICATION) AT 219 WALSALL ROAD, GREAT WYRLEY – THE PARISH

COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS PROPOSAL BUT RESERVED THE RIGHT TO SUPPORT NEIGHBOUR OBJECTIONS SHOULD THIS BE REQUIRED

21/01305/TTREE - APPLICATION TO CARRY OUT WORKS TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDER TREE NO. 161/1997 TO REDUCE ITS CROWN BY 5 UP TO METRES. 2 OAKEN GRANGE, CHESLYN HAY - THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS APPLICATION BUT RESERVED THE RIGHT TO SUPPORT NEIGHBOUR OBJECTIONS SHOULD THIS BE REQUIRED.

21/01306/TTREE - APPLICATION TO CARRY OUT WORKS TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDERED TREE NO. 161/1997 TO REDUCE ITS LOWEST THREE BRANCHES ENCREACHING ON NEIGHBOURING GARDEN BACK TO BOUNDARY LINE. 3 OAKEN GRANGE, CHESLYN HAY - THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS APPLICATION BUT RESERVED THE RIGHT TO SUPPORT NEIGHBOUR OBJECTIONS SHOULD THIS BE REQUIRED.

21/01209/FUL – PROPOSED TWO STOREY SIDE EXTENSION TO THE DETACHED SIDE OF THE HOUSE TO REPLACE AN EXISTING SINGLE STOREY EXTENSION AT 63 BROADMEADOW LANE, GREAT WYRLEY - THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS PROPOSAL BUT RESERVED THE RIGHT TO SUPPORT NEIGHBOUR OBJECTIONS SHOULD THIS BE REQUIRED.

21/01337/FUL – PROPOSED EXTENSION TO FRONT OF PROPERTY AND REAR SINGLE STOREY EXTENSION TO FORM OPEN PLAN KITCHEN, LIVING, DINING. LOFT CONVERSION TO CREATE THIRD BEDROOM AND EN-SUITE INCLUDING REAR DORMER EXTENSION AND ROOF LIGHT TO FRONT ROOF SLOPE AT 73 HILTON LANE GREAT WYRLEY- THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS PROPOSAL BUT RESERVED THE RIGHT TO SUPPORT NEIGHBOUR OBJECTIONS SHOULD THIS BE REQUIRED.

100/2022 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.

101/2022 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.

102/2022 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 9.40 p.m.

Chairman