

## **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 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2022.**

### **Present:**

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

Cllr. M. Dabbs Cllr. Mrs. J. A. Johnson Cllr. J. C. Jones Cllr. A. J. Kelsey Cllr. M. McKenzie 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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Immediately prior to the commencement of the meeting Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood addressed the Parish Council with a request that it be taken into account that she had issues with her hearing and that it would be much appreciated if meeting protocol could be observed and only one member of the Council spoke at a time. Due to the lack of an Induction Loop at the Senior Citizens Centre, Cllr. Mrs. Wood was utilising her personal device to be able to participate in the meeting. However, the device was not foolproof and if more than one person spoke at a time it was unable to distinguish speech clearly. This was noted by all present.

### **103/2022 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllr. Mrs. O. Brazier and Cllr. R. Myatt.

### **104/2022 MINUTES OF THE LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 be accepted, approved and signed by the Chairman.

With regard to the minutes of the last meeting of the Parish Council, Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood referred members back to a question which had been asked by a member of the public to the effect that he wished to know "where the buck stopped". Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood advised all present that the question should have been answered that "the buck stopped with the Parish Council" this assertion was unanimously supported by Council.

### **105/2021 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Cllr. A. Newell advised the meeting that he did not have any specific announcements to make on this occasion.

### **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 would like to thank Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood for highlighting the fact that the acoustics in the Senior Citizens Centre were very challenging to people who were hard of hearing.

The resident then asked the Parish Council to refer back to the minutes of 1<sup>st</sup> December, and referred to the delay in his being able to view them as member of the public. Because there

was a delay he had not seen what the Parish Council had seen until the minutes were published, which meant that he could not refer to anything in the minutes until now. The resident referred back to the item in the minutes relating to a request for the Parish Council's comments on the naming of the Hazel Lane Development. The resident then asked where this request had come from. The Chairman answered that the request had come from the District Council giving the Parish Council an opportunity to have input into the naming of the development.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE explained to the resident that whenever there was a new development in any location the District Council worked with the developer to choose the name for the development. On some occasions the Developer would already have put forward the name they would like to give the development but the District Council then consulted with Local Members, the Parish Council and Royal Mail. Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE explained that this matter had been considered at the October meeting and the Parish Council had put forward its views. The issue was raised again in the December minutes because the District Council did not agree with the suggestion made by the Parish Council and went ahead with the naming of the development with its own choice and this was reported back to the Parish Council. The Parish Council wanted the naming of the development to be historical but the District Council wanted to support the Developer's choice.

The resident then disputed the name of the development which had been referred to in the minutes as Hazelbrook, in that the development had always been known as Hazelwood. At this point Cllr. Mrs. J. A. Johnson suggested that now was the time to move on from this subject as it was out of the hands of the Parish Council and that there was a long agenda yet to receive attention.

Cllr. Mrs. Johnson suggested that should the resident have further questions for the Parish Council they should be asked now. The resident suggested that all that needed to be done was the correction of the minutes.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the resident that the minutes were correct and that the resident may be party to information which was not in the possession of the Parish Council and that accordingly, she agreed with Cllr. Mrs. Johnson that the Chairman needed to move on with the agenda.

The resident then raised the issue that he had visited the cemetery and seen that a number of trees had been reduced to ground level, which in his view was a disgrace. The resident then requested clarification as to why the payments for the works had been paid on three different dates, one of which had been paid from the Clerk's personal bank account. The Clerk advised the resident that the works had been carried out on a staged payment basis. The payment which had been made from the Clerk's personal bank account had occurred in order provide funding to secure the hire of additional equipment for the next tranche of works whilst Natwest Bank Online Banking was off line. This action was taken in order not to lose the slot during which the works could be carried out; it had taken over two years to secure the services of a tree surgeon. The Auditors had been made aware of the fact that there had been occasions when this had been necessary and the Parish Council was now in the process of arranging a Parish Council Debit card which would negate the need for this situation to occur again.

The resident failed to accept the Clerk's answer to the question and described it as "no answer".

The chairman then closed the public participation session.

## **106/2022 CLERK'S REPORTS TO COUNCIL**

### **(a) OUTCOME OF THE 2021 AUDIT INVESTIGATION**

As Members were already aware Mazars, the Parish Council's External Auditors, had received a complaint, under Notice of Objection Section 27 of the Local Audit

and Accountability Act 2014, from a resident of Great Wyrley against the accuracy of the 2020/21 AGAR.

The complaint was lodged on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2021 and included a request for the auditors to issue a Public Interest Report as the objector believed that the Parish Council had acted unlawfully.

Following these allegations a full investigation was undertaken by Mazars, the cost to the public purse amounting to £5,500. The full results of the investigation dated 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021 are set out in the report attached to these minutes at

### **Appendix 1.**

In summary the Auditor had stated that except for the matters stated in Section 3 of the External Audit Report 2020/21, on the basis of their review of the Annual Return, in their opinion the information in the Annual Return was in accordance with proper practices and no other matters had come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislative and regulatory requirements had not been met.

In order to ensure that all Members of the public were able to assess the situation in this regard the Clerk had set out a copy of the full report as follows: -

### **"Response to the External Auditor's Limited Assurance Opinion 2021**

The Auditors asserted that the Parish Council had not monitored actual performance against budget during the year as required by proper practice. This would be addressed within the new financial package. Going forward the Parish Council would now submit a mid-year performance review to the Annual Governance and Audit Committee and subsequently to full Council.

It was intended to investigate further the possibility of utilising a debit card facility which had now been offered by Natwest. This situation now needed to be considered as the External Auditors had penalised the Parish Council for allowing staff members to use their personal finances to procure the best price for items required by the Parish Council. This took place on a number of occasions throughout the lockdown periods of 2020 and 2021. The external auditors accepted that this practice was utilised with the best of intentions; indeed in some cases there was no alternative due to the restrictions imposed by the global pandemic in order for Parish business to continue to operate. However, these restrictions had now been relaxed and an alternative way forward needed to be fully investigated and executed.

It should be noted at this point that part of the narrative contained in the issues raised under the Accounts and Audit Regulations and Corona Virus Regulations 2020 related to the publication of the Notice of Electors Rights to Inspect the Parish Council's Financial Records in 2020. This anomaly arose as the Parish Council was contractually obliged to include the second day of a statutory Bank Holiday in its holiday entitlement, however, this was not recognised within the 30 working days allowed for the inspection to take place. Consequently the Auditors disagreed with the Parish Council's calculation of the 30 day period. In fairness, it was felt that to advertise an opportunity to view the accounts on a day when it was known that the Parish Council Offices would be closed was considered to be both misleading and unfair to the general public.

The Parish Council would in future ensure that the External Audit Report was formally considered in public and appropriate action, in response to any recommendations, taken within reasonable time and reported at the next available meeting from the receipt of the Auditors Report.

The Parish Council's response to the issues raised in the External Auditors Report

relating to Other Matters is set out below:-

To ensure that the Annual Governance and Accountability Return were both accurate and complete, the following steps had been taken and would be followed to minimise any human error or misinterpretation.

For Members information this situation arose due to the fact that the Clerk to the Parish Council who was also the Responsible Financial Officer of the Council does not personally prepare the annual accounts. It was not part of her contracted duties and never had been.

The Parish Administrator carried out the daily book keeping and reports to the Council on a monthly basis, this data was published on the website and in the event of an error being discovered the Parish Administrator was completely open in her process of apology, acceptance and noted correction on the website. The conversion of the data produced by the Parish Administrator was then undertaken by a third party, subsequently forming the Annual Accounts and providing the information stated on the completed AGAR.

On this occasion the third party misinterpreted the information the Parish Council provided and the Parish Council found itself in the position where it was under investigation with the threat of the Public Interest Report which was requested by the resident who had objected.

The resident who lodged the objection with the Council's External Auditors had sight of the books every year during the 30 day period when Local Government Electors had a right to inspect the books of any Parish Council under Section 25 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

During this time the objector converses with the Parish Administrator relating to any data which she had prepared on behalf of the Parish Council. However, when examining the documents for the year in question the objector raised a concern regarding the converted data that the Parish Administrator was unable to expand on; consequently the third party contractor responded to the objector directly. It is recommended that any future discourse of this nature will emanate from the Responsible Financial Officer of the Parish Council.

The Parish Council had now taken a number of actions to ensure that this situation would not arise in the future.

- The Parish Council had now purchased the Scribe Finance Package which was a computer programme specifically designed for Parish Councils. Scribe had the capability to produce the AGAR form and Annual Accounts and was expected to result in the lack of need for a third party to be contracted to produce the annual accounts.
- In order to be able to utilise the full capabilities of the Scribe Finance Package the Parish Administrator had dedicated herself to inputting every financial transaction which had taken place since 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2021 onto the system over the last two months.
- This had been a mammoth task in itself and her determination to accomplish it in order to ensure that the package was able to produce the accounts for the forthcoming financial year was humbling to the say the least.
- However, in fairness this financial package was very new to the staff and both consideration and patience may be required to overcome any teething troubles through the training process. The actual conversion of the data into AGAR and accounts would be overseen by an accredited Officer of Scribe to ensure a

seamless transfer. It would be wrong not to assume that there would be anomalies arising from this initial year of data transfer, however, the staff are assured that assistance is freely available. Please be assured that any anomalies would be investigated and resolved.

- The Parish Council was to form a sub-committee to oversee the compilation of both the Annual Accounts and the AGAR submission to the External Auditor. Formation of the Committee and election of its Members to take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2022 at the meeting of Full Council.
- The Financial Regulations of the Parish Council would be reviewed following the inaugural meeting of the Annual Governance and Audit Committee”

Cllr. R. J. Perry asked whether this report would be placed on the Parish Council Website and Notice boards. The Clerk confirmed that the report would be published on both. This was noted.

### **(b) Election of Members to the Annual Governance and Audit Committee**

Following discussion the following Councillors were elected to form the new Committee, the inaugural meeting of which would be held in the very near future. This Committee was to meet twice per year and comprise five members:-

Cllr. J. C. Jones  
Cllr. A. J. Kelsey  
Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE  
Cllr. R. J. Perry  
Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood

The Clerk advised the meeting that this Committee had been formed with the aim of setting appropriate budgets which were required to operate the new Scribe Package and to enable in depth consideration of the Parish Council’s financial future.

### **(c) Budget Report and Precept Requirement**

Cllr. J. C. Jones thanked the Clerk for a well put together report but drew particular attention to the fact that the opening paragraphs included the statement that all Councillors were responsible for the financial circumstances of the Parish Council and not just the Clerk. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. Jones also suggested that it would be beneficial to have a breakdown of the standing costs involved in actually running the Parish Council on a day to day basis not just its list of forthcoming projects. The Clerk advised Cllr. Jones that this would indeed follow once the budgets had been set by the new Committee.

Cllr. J. C. Jones advised the meeting that having read the report and bearing in mind that the Parish Council presently held £137,000 in its bank account that he saw no need to increase the annual precept for this year.

Cllr. J. C. Jones then proposed 0% increase in the precept.

Cllr. Jones felt that the items contained in the Budget Report should be fully discussed and reviewed by the new Committee with the aim of ensuring that all items were absolutely necessary or whether there were other ways of procuring the listed items such as by leasing agreements. The findings at that meeting to then be reported in full to Council.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry advised the meeting that she did not disagree with the Cllr. Jones suggestion of reviewing the budget report at the Annual Governance and Audit Committee but disagreed with the suggestion of a nil precept which had been proposed by Councillor Jones. Cllr. Mrs Perry felt that the Parish Council needed to bear in mind the ever increasing costs for utilities bills along with the fact that the Community Centre would need to be reinvented before it could expect people to return to using it and generating any income. The Parish Council had lost a lot of its existing customers who had found alternative venues and the Parish Council may well have no income at all from hiring to pay the bills with. In addition the Parish Council had already had two private claims made against it amongst other unexpected expenditure and there was a need to recoup some of the money it had lost to ensure a secure way forward.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE also explained that bearing in mind the increases being levied by other Parish Councils, she would like propose an increase in the precept of 4.95%. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Mrs. J. A. Johnson. Cllr. A. Smith also voiced his support for Cllr. Mrs. Perry's proposal on the basis that the Parish Council was in a very precarious situation and it was difficult to gauge what was on the horizon.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry went on to say that the levy of an increase of 4.95% would only impact on householders to the tune of £1.42 per year per household.

Cllr. Mrs. J. A. Johnson reminded the Parish Council that a number of the projects included in the Budget List had been on that list for a very long time and should be carried out now. The Memorial Wall in the Cemetery and the Olympic Torch commemoration should not be included in new discussion they should be carried out as soon as possible.

The Clerk advised the meeting that both of these projects were now about to commence following quite a challenging process to get them off the ground, but the last two years delay was completely as a result of the Covid situation.

Cllr. Mrs. Johnson also mentioned the Children's Play Area on Landywood Lane as she understood that this had been carried out. The Clerk explained that the £10,000 in budget for that project related to the complete replacement of the Play Area which in the current climate was not proving easy to secure as most funding streams were being directed toward Covid recovery.

Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood advised the meeting that part of her wanted to support the proposal by Cllr. J. C. Jones however, she was mindful of the issues which had been raised in the second motion because, yes, whether we like it or not the items which had been mentioned by Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry were going to be an issue if the Centre had no income. Cllr. Mrs. Wood was also strongly of the view that the other Councils would increase their requirements and that there was already a cost of living crisis, whether we like it or not, and she felt that as the Parish Council had that money in the bank could it afford to at least set a precept of a small increase. Cllr. Mrs. Wood felt that she could not go with a 0% increase and could not go with a 5% increase either because although when you broke it down per household it looked like a small amount, that was not the way residents will look at it. That £2.00 to some families could mean a meal. Cllr. Mrs. Wood proposed an increase of 2.5%.

Cllr. J. C. Jones asked Members to cast their minds back to Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry's statement that the Community Centre needed to be reinvented and he reminded everyone that any repairs etc. required would be responsibility of Cornwell's Chemists under a gentlemen's agreement. This was noted.

Cllr. J. C. Jones also drew Member's attention to the assertion by Cllr. Mrs. Perry that we needed to budget for events over which the Parish Council had no control which had been given a £10,000 budget provision. Cllr. Jones felt that there was no need for such a provision even if it was £5,000 he still did not see that there was a need for it. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. J. C. Jones also drew Member's attention to the item amounting to £18,500 for a new lawn mower. Cllr. Jones felt that this also could be removed from the budget list as the Parish Council could lease the plant if it chose to. This was noted.

Cllr. J. C. Jones also advised the meeting consideration should be given to whether there was a need to replace the boiler at the Community Centre. Cllr Jones admitted that he had raised this issue himself, having had a conversation with an engineer who had advised him that it needed replacement with two new boilers, however, since that conversation had taken place a different engineer had worked on it and it was working perfectly well.

Cllr. J. C. Jones summed up his comments with the fact that there were items included in the earmarked projects which he felt were not meaningful enough to create concern about whether the Parish Council had enough money in the budget.

Cllr. A. Smith advised the meeting that he really appreciated the input from Cllr. Jones and stated that firstly, in his view the Parish Council was going to be in recoup and recovery mode from the moment that Cornwells left the Community Centre and the Pandemic was over. Secondly the budget should be able to cope with the worst case scenario not the best case scenario and that everything that Cllr. Jones had suggested would be amazing if it all worked out that way but the reality was that there was no real guarantee that that would happen. Cllr. Smith again supported an increase of 4.95% because it made sense and that the country had just been through the worst case scenario with the Covid Pandemic and now was the time to recover and recuperate and start to get back what we had before Covid.

The Clerk advised the meeting that it was her belief that Parish Councils were the only level of local authority which would be allowed to draw down what was needed via this process as both the District and County Councils were capped in terms of precept requirement and that the Parish Councils needed to ensure that they would be able to stand alone with less and less financial input from the County or District in terms of funding or services.

Cllr. R. J. Perry advised the meeting that he agreed with everyone's views but felt that he did not want the Parish Council to be in a position where in twelve months time it would have to try to catch up. Cllr. R. J. Perry also advised the meeting that even though it would not happen this year, in the next year when the Boundary Review was finalised there may well be a large hole in the Parish Council's precept and there was a need to ensure there were sufficient funds to take the Parish Council through.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that following the discussion she still intended to stick with her proposal of an increase of 4.95% and also took the opportunity to clarify a point she had made earlier in the meeting. When she had referred to the reinvention of the Community Centre she was not referring to its decoration or repair, which would be covered by Cornwells, she was actually referring to selling the Centre to hirers again as the existing ones had in many instances gone to alternative accommodation and would not be returning.

The Parish Council was going to need to promote the Centre for usage by paying customers, at the present time there were very few of the paying hirers waiting to come back. The terms and conditions and hiring fees were also a subject which was going to need to be considered by the new Annual Governance and Audit Committee.

It was agreed by Members at this point that the Fees for Cemetery Services would also need to be reviewed at the first meeting of the Annual Governance and Audit Committee.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry also supported Cllr. Mrs. Johnson's view that the items referred to above, i.e. the Memorial Wall in the Cemetery and the Olympic Torch Commemoration should go ahead now. These projects had not been held on the back burner for the want of trying they had been held up by the Covid Pandemic and were now ready to be completed.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry agreed with Cllr. Jones that all the other projects could be discussed by the Annual Governance and Audit Committee when Members would have an opportunity to make a decision on whether these items needed to come out of this year's budget or be placed in the budget for the next financial year.

It was agreed by all Members that the most important thing to do now was get out of the Pandemic and recover from all the unexpected drains on resources which the Parish Council had experienced over the last two years.

Following in depth discussion and subsequent vote the Parish Council **resolved** to levy an increase of 4.95% on its precept requirement for the forthcoming year.

Cllr. J. C. Jones requested the Clerk to record the fact that he did not agree with this resolution in the minutes of the meeting.

## **107/2022 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the Parish Council that Staffordshire County Council had now set its budget for the forthcoming financial year, however, this had not been ratified by Full Council and accordingly, should still not be quoted officially.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that Severn Trent Water was currently carrying out site surveys in various areas and streets of Cheslyn Hay and Great Wyrley, starting imminently, and had suggested the Parish Councils involved be notified should residents require further information.

The locations were :-

- The length of Wyrley Brook fronting Moat Hall Primary and Great Wyrley High Schools.
- Norton Lane, Huthill Lane and Pool View.
- Gorsey Lane, Landywood Lane (Great Wyrley side) – Great Wyrley Parish
- The length of Wyrley Brook in the open space from Landywood Lane to the rear of Sutherland Road/Berwyn Grove Cheslyn Hay – Cheslyn Hay Parish
- Mitre Road and Campians Avenue – Cheslyn Hay Parish

Severn Trent expected to be working for the next couple of weeks or so. The surveys were topographical and would give an accurate layout of those locations and where assets were positioned. This was part of the wider Wyrley Brook project to look at the effects of the brook through the urban catchment and to have the basis



data to be able to then design proposals to reduce the risk and likelihood of the flooding to properties.

The Wyrley Brook project was a partnership collaboration of Severn Trent Water, Staffordshire County Council Flood Risk Management, Staffordshire County Council Highways, and the Environment Agency. The Flood Risk Management team's role would be to oversee the project, and to attract and secure any additional public funding to contribute to the improvements, thus helping to reduce the risk and likelihood of property flooding in the future.

In the coming weeks, Severn Trent Water would be looking to arrange a public forum/meeting to demonstrate all the 'behind the scenes' work undertaken so far. The dates were not firm as yet but were lightly pencilled in for the end of March/beginning of April. The County Council would be looking to arrange a meeting space for the public to see a presentation but was aware of the issues that that would bring.

Severn Trent Water suggested a daytime meeting and then a separate early evening meeting so that all demographics could be included. The number of attendees would be very unclear at this point, as the decision was yet to be made whether to invite directly affected residents for a meeting or have an open door walk through exhibition. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. R. J. Perry advised the meeting that the Brook was presently flowing freely, however, its banks were still collapsing into the water. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry advised the meeting that Staffordshire County Council was presently administering a funding opportunity under the banner Climate Action Fund. Cllr. Mrs. Perry explained that in July 2019 Staffordshire County Council had declared a climate change emergency to demonstrate a commitment to reduce climate change impacts. Accordingly, the County Council was putting in place measures to reduce carbon emissions and to adapt and build local resilience to the impacts of climate change.

This was the second round of the County Council's Community Climate Change Action Fund, offering funding assistance to local communities to build resilience and reduce Staffordshire's contributions to climate change. This was noted by Members.

#### **108/2022 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

Cllr. Mrs. J. A. Johnson advised the meeting that there was not a great deal to report on the activities of the District Council at the present time other than the fact that everyone was looking forward to some kind of normality again soon.

Cllr. Mrs. Johnson advised the meeting that the Senior Commissioning Manager for Public Health and Prevention at Staffordshire County Council was to be making a presentation to the Health and Wellbeing Committee in the near future which was expected to clarify the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for 2022/27.

Cllr. Mrs. Johnson also advised the meeting that there was to be a Locality Forum Meeting in the near future involving the 3-tiers of members for all localities which was a follow on from the November Community Events and Celebrations Forum.

Cllr. Mrs. Johnson advised the meeting that funding was also available from the District Council for the celebration of the Queens Platinum Jubilee but that the closing date for applications was February 18<sup>th</sup>. This was noted.

#### **109/2022 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS**

### **UNSTABLE TREE – FIELD LANE**

Cllr. A. D. Smith referred to a previous conversation with the Clerk regarding the tree in Field Lane, Great Wyrley. Cllr. Smith had requested the Clerk to secure works to a tree which was now unstable having been cut in half vertically.

Unfortunately, South Staffordshire Housing Association had responded to the request by carrying out works on the wrong tree. The Clerk was to await photographic evidence from Cllr. Smith prior to raising the issue again with South Staffordshire Housing Association as the situation had now led to damage to the footpath and a parking bay close to the tree in question.

### **DAMAGED BUS SHELTER – GORSEY LANE**

Cllr. Mrs. J. A. Johnson advised the meeting that she had received several messages of thanks for the works which had been carried out to the damaged bus shelter in Gorse Lane.

The Clerk explained that in the absence of any response from Commutaports in this regard she could only assume that now the structure was out of guarantee that Commutaports no longer considered the issue to be one which they would be prepared to resolve. Accordingly, the Parish Council Ground Staff took on the task and the Bus Shelter was now fit for the purpose. Cllr. Mrs. J. A. Johnson requested a vote of thanks to the Parish Council Ground staff.

Cllr. Mrs. J. A. Johnson also advised the meeting that the refuse collection programme was now back on target. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood also asked that the staff be thanked for their much welcomed action with regard to the damaged bus shelter.

Cllr. Mrs. Wood also mentioned the fact that it was disappointing that the No.74 bus was no longer operating. Cllr. Mrs. Wood was of the view that this situation was due to a deliberately manoeuvred timing clash which ensured that the No. 74 would not appear to be viable by programming it to follow the No. 51. Many of the local people are missing the bus that went to Cheslyn Hay. This was noted by Members.

### **CORNWELLS USAGE OF COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that now was the time that the Parish Council needed to discuss whether or not it would be prepared to extend the timescales for the usage of the Community Centre as a Covid Vaccination Centre.

The current contract comes to an end on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2022. Cllr. Mrs. Perry explained that there was a possibility that the Parish Council may be asked to extend the period of hire dependent upon the latest ruling by the Government. Members discussed the fact that it may be possible to allow partial use of the Centre whilst still reopening for the Centre's regular hirers. As the Covid Clinic was now only being operated on one day during the week and on Saturdays there was a chance that it may be possible to achieve a workable balance, however, this would depend entirely upon the Clinic's requirements in terms of distancing and health and safety regulations. This matter would need to be renegotiated after 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2022.

Following thorough discussion Members agreed that once the contract period had come to an end there was a need to hold a meeting with the operators of the clinic. The meeting was vital in order to ensure that any damage arising from the use of the premises as a Covid Vaccination Centre could be highlighted and arrangements

made for Cornwell's to honour their contractual commitment to fund any repairs necessary.

### **DAMAGED TREE CO-OP CAR PARK**

Cllr. J. C. Jones advised the meeting that he was still extremely concerned about the tree on the boundary of the Landywood Lane Playing Field and the car park to the Co-Op in Wardles Lane. The Clerk had made several attempts to have this matter resolved and had contacted the owner of the land but unfortunately with no response. The Clerk was now instructed to contact the Head Office of the Midland Counties Co-op with a request that they support the Parish Council's attempts to have the tree removed. Cllr. J. C. Jones felt that the tree was very dangerous and had previously suggested that the Parish Council pay for the required works. This would be a last resort as such action may be actionable and might also create an unwelcome precedent.

### **COMMUNITY SAFETY DISCUSSIONS**

Cllr. Mrs. S. Toddington advised the meeting that she was to attend her first meeting of the Community Safety Discussion as a Police Liaison Councillor on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2022. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry also advised the meeting that it may be beneficial to invite Inspector David Wain to a future meeting of the Parish Council as he seemed very open to working with Parish Councils.

### **GREAT WYRLEY ANNUAL BONFIRE EVENT**

Cllr. R. J. Perry advised the meeting that he felt that the Great Wyrley Annual Bonfire event should be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the Parish Council in order for a full discussion to take place on the feasibility of holding the event this year.

## **110/2022 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES**

### **LANDYWOOD VOLUNTARY HELP CENTRE**

Cllr. Mrs. J. A. Johnson advised the meeting that the Landywood Voluntary Help Centre was hoping to be back up and running very soon. This was noted by Members.

### **GREAT WYRLEY CARNIVAL COMMITTEE**

Cllr. A. J. Kelsey advised the meeting that Great Wyrley Carnival would be held on 25<sup>th</sup> June and that there would be a St. Georges Day Event on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2022. This was noted by Members.

### **FROG**

Cllr. R. Myatt advised the meeting that he now had a quotation for the works required to lay a path to the NHS Tribute. Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood advised the meeting that she had concerns regarding its design. In order to ensure that all matters could be resolved it was agreed that the matter should be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the Parish Council.

## **111/2022 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

### **22/00004/FUL - DEMOLITION OF EXISTING BUILDINGS AND REDEVELOPMENT OF SITE TO DELIVER 90 BEDROOM RESIDENTIAL CARE**

**HOME (C2 USE CLASS) AND 47 CARE APARTMENTS (C2) WITH CAR PARKING, LANDSCAPING AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE INCLUDING IMPROVEMENT TO VEHICLE ACCESS DRIVE FROM WALSALL ROAD AT THE FORMER GREAT WYRLEY COMMUNITY SUPPORT UNIT, 156 WALSALL ROAD, GREAT WYRLEY.**

**THE PARISH COUNCIL STRONGLY OBJECTED TO THIS PROPOSAL ON THE BASIS THAT THE THREE STOREY BUILDING ITSELF IS OUT OF CHARACTER WITH EXISTING PROPERTIES. IT ALSO OBJECTS ON HIGHWAY GROUNDS AS A PROPOSAL OF THIS SCALE HAD THE POTENTIAL TO ATTRACT A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF VISITOR TRAFFIC, PARTICULARLY, AT WEEKENDS. THERE IS A BUS STOP IMMEDIATELY OUTSIDE THE DEVELOPMENT WHICH WILL ALSO RESTRICT PARKING. THE DENSITY OF THE DEVELOPMENT IS EXCESSIVE. THE DEVELOPMENT WILL HAVE A DETRIMENTAL AFFECT ON THE AMENITY OF THE SURROUNDING PROPERTIES. THE TREES WHICH ARE TO BE REMOVED WILL ALSO HAVE A DETRIMENTAL AFFECT ON THE SURROUNDING PROPERTIES IN THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE SCREENING WILL BE REMOVED. THE THREE STOREY NATURE OF THE BUILDING WILL LEAD TO OVERLOOKING AND HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE PRIVACY OF SURROUNDING PROPERTIES. THE PARISH COUNCIL FELT THAT THIS PROPOSAL WOULD BE OVERDEVELOPMENT IN THE EXTREME AND HAD CONCERNS AT THE SIZE OF THE LIVING ACCOMMODATION PROPOSED FOR EACH UNIT.**

**22/00014/FUL - TWO STOREY SIDE AND GROUND FLOOR EXTENSION TO REAR OF 21 LINGFIELD CLOSE, GREAT WYRLEY - THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS APPLICATION IN PRINCIPLE BUT HELD CONCERNS REGARDING THE FACT THAT THIS AREA WAS PRONE TO FLOODING AND ADDITIONAL BUILD WOULD COMPROMISE FURTHER THE NATURAL DRAINAGE IN THE AREA. THE PARISH COUNCIL ALSO RESERVED THE RIGHT TO SUPPORT NEIGHBOUR OBJECTIONS SHOULD THIS BE REQUIRED.**

**22/00035/FUL - DOUBLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION, INTERNAL ALTERATIONS AND LOFT CONVERSION AT 365 WALSALL ROAD, GREAT WYRLEY - THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS APPLICATION BUT RESERVED THE RIGHT TO SUPPORT NEIGHBOUR OBJECTIONS SHOULD THIS BE REQUIRED.**

**22/00047/FUL – SINGLE STOREY REAR/TWO STOREY SIDE EXTENSION WITH INTERNAL ALTERATIONS AND ASSOCIATED WORKS AT 11 JACOBS HALL LANE, GREAT WYRLEY - THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS PROPOSAL BUT RESERVED THE RIGHT TO SUPPORT NEIGHBOUR OBJECTIONS SHOULD THIS BE REQUIRED.**

**22/00060/FUL – PROPOSED TWO STOREY SIDE EXTENSION TO FORM ANNEXE TO ALLOW CARE FOR ELDER RELATIVE AT 5 HUT HILL LANE, GREAT WYRLEY, GREAT WYRLEY- THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS PROPOSAL BUT RESERVED THE RIGHT TO SUPPORT NEIGHBOUR OBJECTIONS SHOULD THIS BE REQUIRED.**

**21/00444/FUL - AMENDED PLANS/INFORMATION RECEIVED AND AMENDED DESCRIPTION RETENTION OF EXISTING RECEPTION/OFFICE AND STORE BUILDINGS,PROPOSED STABLE BLOCK INCLUDING TACK ROOM/HAY STORE/KITCHEN AND WC AND ASSOCIATED HARDSTANDING AREA AND PROPOSED MENAGE AT CANNOCK FARM LAND OFF JACOBS HALL LANE, GREAT WYRLEY – THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THE AMENDMENTS IN PRINCIPLE, HOWEVER, WOULD REQUEST THAT CONDITIONS BE IMPOSED ON ANY CONSENT GRANTED FOR THIS**

**DEVELOPMENT THAT THE BUILDINGS CAN ONLY BE USED FOR THE USE APPLIED FOR AND NO OTHER PURPOSE ON THE FUTURE.**

**21/00483/FUL - APPEAL RELATING TO THE ERECTION OF 2 NO. DETACHED DWELLINGS ON LAND AT 434 WALSALL ROAD, GREAT WYRLEY. THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD STRONGLY OBJECTED TO THIS PROPOSAL AT THE APPLICATION STAGE ON THE BASIS THAT THE SITE IS LOCATED ON AN EXTREMELY DANGEROUS JUNCTION WHICH IS ALREADY CAUSE FOR CONCERN. TO ADD THE VEHICLE MOVEMENTS FROM TWO ADDITIONAL PROPERTIES CAN ONLY EXACERBATE AN ALREADY UNACCEPTABLE SITUATION. THE PARISH COUNCIL IS ALSO CONCERNED THAT THIS SCALE OF DEVELOPMENT WILL SEVERELY COMPROMISE THE SETTING OF GREAT WYRLEY MEMORIAL GARDEN.**

**112/2021 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 meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.

**Chairman**