

GREAT WYRLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GREAT WYRLEY PARISH COUNCIL held at the Senior Citizens Centre, Broadmeadow Lane, Great Wyrley which commenced at 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday 2nd March, 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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114/2022 APOLOGIES

No apologies had been received on this occasion.

115/2022 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 2nd February and 9th February, 2022 be accepted, approved and signed by the Chairman.

116/2021 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr. A. Newell gave the following announcement which was followed by a one minute silence signifying the Parish Council's solidarity with the people of Ukraine.

As Members were, of course, already aware the situation in Ukraine was absolutely horrifying. This was a case of there but for the grace of god go all of us. Cllr. Newell advised the meeting that on a personal basis if he could, he would go and fight for the Ukrainians himself. Unfortunately, there was little that the Parish Council could do in practical terms, however, Cllr. Newell felt it incredibly important that as a body, the Parish Council should make a clear declaration of its solidarity with the people of Ukraine.

As Cllr. Newell understand it, all the Local Authorities in the UK were in the process of, wherever possible, severing ties in terms of any existing contracts with Russian suppliers. For example Gazprom which had been one of the main recommendations by the Warmer Homes Project operated by South Staffordshire Council.

Members fully supported Cllr. Newell's statement and a one-minute silence commenced.

The Chairman thanked all Councillors for their support.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was one resident of Great Wyrley Parish present on this occasion.

The resident of Great Wyrley advised the Parish Council that he had noticed that 50% of the lighting columns on the car park to the Co-operative in Wardles Lane were not working. The resident requested that this matter be brought to the attention of the owner of the land on the basis that the car park was regularly used as a shortcut by people who live in the village. In view of the fact that there had recently been a robbery at the Co-op this situation should be resolved as soon as possible in order to ensure the safety of the public. The Clerk was to report this

matter immediately.

The chairman then closed the public participation session.

117/2022 CLERK'S REPORTS TO COUNCIL

(a) Use of Community Centre as Covid Vaccination Clinic

Members recalled that 31st March, 2022 marked the end of the contracted hire to Cornwell's Chemists of the Community Centre for use as a Covid Vaccination Clinic.

It had been envisaged that the contract would have concluded a month earlier than planned, due to the fact that fewer clinics were being held as the bulk of the vaccination programme had now been carried out. However, the latest guidelines from the Government included plans for a fourth vaccination to be administered to the clinically vulnerable and the over 75s in the spring. This was noted.

The Parish Council had now been approached by Cornwell's Chemists to consider whether it would agree to the extension of the hire to Cornwells to allow it to continue with the next tranche of the vaccination programme; or allowing part of the Centre to be used on a part time basis. However, when balanced against the number of existing hirers who had been in contact expressing their wish to return to the Centre as soon as possible this matter required very careful consideration in order to be as fair as possible to all concerned.

Following discussion the Parish Council agreed that bearing in mind the fact that withdrawal of the use of the Community Centre was not going to have a negative impact on either a local business or the residents of the village in terms of vaccination provision it made the decision less difficult to make than it had been previously. Subsequently the Parish Council **resolved** not to enter into an extension of the existing contract or to enter into a new contract relating to partial use of the Centre on an ad hoc basis. The resolution was carried unanimously.

Cllr. J. C. Jones advised the Parish Council that, in his view, the Centre should re-open to hirers from 1st May, 2022. Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the Parish Council that a full assessment of the premises should be taken as soon as possible following the removal of Cornwell's equipment to assess any damage or areas which required attention. Any works required were to be funded by Cornwell's Chemists in line with the original agreement. This was noted by Members.

(b) Pathway to NHS Tribute

Cllr. Mrs. S. Toddington declared a personal interest in any matters pertaining to the footpath leading to the Tribute.

As Members were aware the FROG organisation had been in the process of liaising with Great Wyrley Academy over the fabrication of a fitting tribute to the front line workers of the NHS to be situated in Great Wyrley Memorial Gardens.

In order to allow people of all abilities who were wishing to view the tribute access with ease it was intended to construct a footpath leading to the tribute with appropriate turning areas for wheelchairs etc. This was noted. As the custodians of the Memorial Gardens, the Parish Council was eager to ensure that it fulfilled all its responsibilities in this regard. Accordingly, the plan/design of the footpath had now been submitted by FROG to the Parish Council for its approval.

Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood advised the Parish Council that she had been part of the project in terms of accessibility rather than health and safety and as such she was of the opinion that it would be a better idea to install the actual structure before making a decision on the design of the footpath.

Cllr. J. C. Jones raised the question of why the path was designed on an angle and not following a straight course to the Tribute itself. Cllr. R. Myatt advised Cllr. J. C. Jones that the position of the Tribute had been thoroughly discussed and that it had been agreed that the position selected was the most suitable.

Following full discussion including a show of hands the Parish Council **resolved** to accept the design of the footpath and gave its permission for the works to take place under the supervision of the FROG organisation.

The Parish Council had also received a brief report from Cllr. Myatt in his capacity as Chairman of FROG. Cllr. Myatt's report included a number of questions which needed an official response from the Parish Council. The following bullet points set out the plan to date.

- There was to be one official opening on a date to be agreed which will be publicised in the press and on the website.
- A formal guest list was to be drawn up and agreed by the Parish Council on the basis that the event was primarily for the local community.
- The dedication of the tribute would be placed in the hands of Churches Together
- Dependent upon the date selected for the event it was possible that it would include both the Community Band and Community Choir.

Following discussion, Members agreed that this matter should be placed on the agenda for the April meeting of the Parish Council in order to ensure that full consideration could be given to the matter, in particular the selection of an appropriate date. Confirmation was still required from Great Wyrley Academy that the structure itself was finished. Cllr. R. Myatt advised the meeting that the Academy felt that their role in the project could be completed by the end of March and their link with the supplier had revealed that the pathway could be constructed independently.

(c) Royal British Legion Commemorative Plaque

The Parish Council had been made aware that the Royal British Legion Shop was offering for sale Queen's Green Canopy Plaques to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee. Following discussion at the informal meeting of the Parish Council held to discuss the Platinum Jubilee, Members informally agreed that it would like to purchase a plaque on behalf of the Great Wyrley Branch of the Royal British Legion as a gesture of goodwill. The Great Wyrley Branch was very grateful for the Parish Council's Offer and would like to accept.

The Parish Council **resolved** to purchase the plaque for the sum of £119.00 to be donated to the Royal British Legion for display in the Memorial Gardens. It was carried.

(d) Great Wyrley Annual Bonfire Event

Cllr. R. J. Perry had requested that this matter be placed on the agenda for this meeting in order for full discussion to take place on the future of the Great Wyrley Annual Bonfire Event.

The main reason for placing this item on the agenda was because the event had now grown to such a proportion that it was not considered practical for the Parish Council to run it. The event was primarily run by the Parish Council Ground staff and in the main this all fell on the shoulders of the Head Groundsman.

The last event had in excess of 5000 attendees and the Parish Clerk was very concerned that this event had now outgrown Parish Council management.

Cllr. J. C. Jones advised the Parish Council meeting that he had read the Clerk's Report on the matter and had to admit there was nothing of a positive nature contained within it. This was noted by Members.

This matter was very thoroughly discussed and a number of options were considered. There were three failed proposals considered by Members which were as follows:-

It was proposed by Cllr. J. C. Jones and seconded by Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood that the Parish Council should not hold the Bonfire Event this year.

Cllr. A. Smith proposed that the Parish Council needed to consider looking at the event in three separate elements which was the Fireworks, the Bonfire and the Fair.

Cllr. Smith felt that to not hold the event would disappoint a lot of residents which he could gauge quite well from the Facebook posts which he had seen. Cllr. Smith felt that if a way could be devised to have attendees at the Bonfire pay an entrance fee and keep the event going it would provide an income stream to be used for other community good. Cllr. Smith was advised of the pitfalls connected with this proposal at which point he suggested a number of alternative electronic ways to operate a system such as this.

Cllr. Smith felt that the Bonfire was a much loved event within the village and that if the Parish Council started to look at the event in a way that it could find ways to make it work instead of worrying about the risks involved the Parish Council would come closer to a solution. This proposal was not seconded.

Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood advised the meeting that she understood why Cllr Smith felt strongly, but that at its inception the event had been meant to be an alternative to people setting off fireworks in their gardens and to avoid the risk to health and safety. Now that the event had grown so much it was no longer the small family event it was meant to be. The Parish Council had no control over who would attend the event and people come from far and wide, there is no parking facility and in fairness it was not what the people of Great Wyrley pay their Council Tax for.

Cllr. Mrs. J. A. Johnson advised the meeting that she felt it was completely unfair to make the residents of Great Wyrley pay twice.

Cllr. Mrs. S. Toddington proposed that the Parish Council should consider holding a fireworks display in a closed area which could be viewed from all over the village without bringing so many people together in one place. This proposal was not seconded.

Cllr. R. Myatt was of the view that the Parish Council had read in the Clerk's Report about all the risks involved and the responsibility it placed on its staff and felt that it would be unwise to go against the recommendations for the reasons contained in the Report.

Cllr. J. C. Jones proposed that the Parish Council should not hold the Annual Bonfire Event this year and that next year it should explore a way to have the event run by a completely independent organisation so that the responsibility for the event would not rest with the Parish Council Grounds Staff. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood and following a 9 to 2 vote of acceptance the Parish Council **resolved** that this proposal be carried.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that she did not disagree with Cllr. Jones proposal for an organised fireworks event but that she did not agree with the Bonfire element of the proposal which held the majority of risk. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. A. Smith asked the question was this how the Parish Council intended to treat

anything it was successful at. Cllr. Smith received the response that this would be dependent upon individual circumstances.

(e) Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that the Parish Council should consider the idea of forming a Platinum Jubilee Working Party:

The Clerk had provided Members with an itinerary of the events it was proposed to hold during the weekend of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations.

These were as follows:-

Thursday 2nd June - Lighting of the Beacon

The Parish Council was intending to hold an event on the Millennium Green at which the Great Wyrley Community Band would be performing in the run up to a brief service immediately prior to the actual Lighting of the Beacon at 9.45 p.m. The timing was prescribed by the Palace as all Beacons are lit in a strict sequence. Cllr. Mrs. Perry had contacted the Rev. Monica Judson who would be lighting the beacon on behalf of Churches together. There was also the possibility of offering tea and cake at St. Andrews following the lighting ceremony. This was noted.

Friday 3rd June - Outdoor Event for Children

The Parish Council was proposing to hold an outdoor event on Landywood Playing Field on the morning of Friday 3rd June for the children of the village incorporating old fashioned entertainment, a children's disco etc. This was noted.

Senior Citizens' Afternoon Tea

The Parish Council was proposing to hold a late Afternoon Tea for the Senior Citizens of the village which was to be held outdoors in an old fashioned Street Party setting or inside the Community Centre should the weather dictate. There would be a film showing the Queens Accession to the throne and various other features along with the History Society Exhibition to be displayed at the Community Centre.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry requested all Members to look out any old photographs they may have relating to that time as these would be much appreciated by the History Society

Saturday 4th June – Platinum Jubilee Party from the Palace

The Parish Council was planning to hold a Party from the Palace to be held on the Great Wyrley Academy field backing onto Olde Wyrley Hall. The Parish Council was hiring an 8sq. metre mobile screen which would be showing the Platinum Party at the Palace live streamed from Buckingham Palace. This would be an event for all ages and involve attendees bringing their own chairs, tables, food, drinks etc. umbrellas or gazebos if required. This event would follow the format of an outside Night at the Proms. The timing of this event was to be confirmed along with security details. Cllr. Mrs. Perry had been given the permission of the Headmaster of the Academy to use the school field and possibly the car park. There would also be security for the event.

Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** to approve the programme of events as formulated at the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting held on 9th February, 2022.

In conclusion the Parish Council appointed the following Councillors to form the

Working Party:-

Cllr. A. Kelsey
Cllr. J.A. Johnson
Cllr. J. C. Jones

Cllr. A. Newell
Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE
Cllr. R. J. Perry

Cllr. Mrs. Perry advised the meeting that there was no further information at the moment regarding the commemorative Platinum Jubilee Lighting. This was noted by Members.

The Clerk was to arrange a date for the first meeting of the Jubilee Working Party.

(f) Purchase of Jubilee Celebration Union Flag

The Parish Council had recently received a publication from the Royal British Legion Shop which included items on sale celebrating the Platinum Jubilee Celebration. The Union Flag had recently been replaced but the flag referred to above could be flown for the relevant period.

Amongst the merchandise on sale was a Jubilee Celebration Flag which costs approximately £18.00 which the Parish Council would be able to fly at the Community Centre during the Jubilee month.

In addition there are very attractive lamp post signs which would be perfect for use on the railings between the Community Centre and the Landywood Playing Field and look much more effective than bunting. These items could be purchased in packs of ten for £47.99. The purchase of these items would also provide an excellent opportunity for the Parish Council to support the Royal British Legion. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry also advised the meeting that the Flower Tubs along the A34 would be planted with red, white and blue flowers to commemorate the event.

Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** to purchase a Jubilee Celebration Flag and two packs of the Lamp Post signs. It was carried.

(g) Replacement of Fencing between Landywood Lane Playing Field and Landywood Halt

The Parish Council had recently received an email from South Staffordshire Council to the effect that it had been looking at a number of options for the fence at Landywood Station. The District Council was now proposing to remove the damaged old fence and replace it with 1.2m high post and rail timber fencing. The District Council hoped that this was a solution that Members would find agreeable. At the moment, the District Council was looking to commission this work as soon as possible and was inviting the Parish Council's observations.

Members may recall that the Parish Council had been attempting to have this matter resolved for some time and the last agreement reached with the District Council was for concrete bollards with appropriate shrubbery between, in order to create a more substantial barrier to avoid future hostile entrance onto land in the Parish Council's ownership.

Following discussion it was **resolved** by the Parish Council that the Clerk request the District Council to include shrubs (possibly a Hawthorn Hedge) into the proposals for the fencing.

(h) Annual Governance and Audit Committee

The Clerk invited the Parish Council to agree a date for the inaugural meeting of the Annual Governance and Audit Committee. The Clerk explained that this committee

had been formed with the aim of scrutinising financial matters with a view to reporting to Full Council for ratification. The Parish Council set the date at Tuesday 15th March, 2022.

118/2022 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cty. Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the Parish Council that the County Council's precept of 4.9% had now been ratified and as it was the end of the financial year all the little pots of money which were available had now closed. Some moneys had been given Locality 3 and Cllr. Mrs. Perry would be having meeting with Highways in the near future. Should Members have any items they wished to report on highway matters could they advise the Clerk and she would ensure that these would be discussed at the Highways Meeting with Mark Keeling. Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry was also to mention the need for traffic lights on the Bentons Lane junction. This was noted by Members.

119/2022 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr. Mrs. Johnson advised the meeting that South Staffordshire Council had been shortlisted for the title of UK Council of the Year at a National Awards Ceremony. The District Council was presently awaiting the results of the Parliamentary Boundary Review which was currently taking place.

Cllr. Mrs. Johnson advised the meeting that the planning application for works at Landywood Farm had now gone to the Planning Inspectorate for appeal. This application had received a great deal of objection and the Parish Council should respond to the appeal in the strongest of terms.

Cllr. Mrs. J. A. Johnson also advised the meeting that she had been present at the Planning Committee when the Landywood Application was under consideration.

Cllr. Mrs. Johnson explained to Members that there had been objections from residents of Cheslyn Hay. Cllr. Mrs. Johnson had spoken at the meeting with regard to the need for affordable housing in Great Wyrley and alluded to the fact that Cheslyn Hay already had this facility and it was time that the Great Wyrley stood its ground in support of the need for the young people of the Parish to be able to buy homes in their own village. This site had been taken out of the Green Belt in 2018. This was noted.

Cllr. J. C. Jones asked a number of questions regarding the Planning Committee voting process. Cllr. Mrs. Johnson described the process to Cllr. Jones as requested.

120/2022 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS

CHESLYN HAY DEFIBRILLATOR

Cllr. A. Smith advised the Parish Council that unfortunately there had been a fatality in Cheslyn Hay during the previous week, when a gentleman had collapsed and sadly passed away. There were conflicting reports with regard to the availability of a defibrillator at The Salem. Cllr. Ashley was aware that Great Wyrley had a system whereby the Defibs were checked every week to make sure that they were in good working order. Cllr. Smith did not know whether the same system applied to Cheslyn Hay.

Unfortunately, the Parish Council was unable to advise Cllr. Smith on this subject and could only enlighten him to the fact that the latest information they had been given was the fact that the Defibrillators had been stolen from both The Salem and the Police House in Cheslyn Hay. This was noted.

Cllr. R. Myatt advised the meeting that the responsibility for the Defibrillators in Great Wyrley had now been placed in the hands of the Community Heartbeat Trust. However, the Heartbeat Trust was slightly lacking in its communication methods. Cllr. Myatt advised the meeting that it was correct that the Defibrillator was missing from The Salem, however, this was not to say that it had been stolen it was more likely that the device had been used but there was no indication from the Ambulance Service that this was the case.

Cllr. R. Myatt advised the Parish Council that in the case of a stolen defibrillator once it had come under the auspices of the Community Heartbeat Trust it would be replaced under the insurance policy in place with the Community Heartbeat Trust. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. A. Smith advised the Parish Council that similar difficulties had been experienced in Essington some years back and he felt that it was very important that the Parish Council do every it could to support this matter. The Clerk was to express the Parish Council's support for this matter to the Community Heartbeat Trust.

BRASS BENCH PLAQUE

Cllr. R. Myatt advised the meeting that he had found a plaque dating back to 1985 commemorating World War II which he felt needed to be returned to its original position. This was noted and the Clerk was to make the appropriate enquiries.

DONATION TO SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE

Cllr. J C. Jones advised the Parish Council that he felt that Members should consider making a donation to the Senior Citizens Centre as a thank you for the use of the Senior Citizens Centre over last six months. Cllr. A. J. Kelsey felt that it was an extremely nice idea, however, he also felt that the Parish Council already made an annual donation to the Senior Citizens Centre which was very much appreciated.

Cllr. R. Myatt fully agreed with Cllr. Kelsey's view. It was felt that allowing the use of the Senior Citizens Centre for Parish Council meetings to be held could be treated as a thank you to the Parish Council and that there was no need for any further donation. This was noted.

GREAT WYRLEY CARNIVAL COMMITTEE

Cllr. A. J. Kelsey advised the meeting that Great Wyrley Carnival would be held on 25th June and would include some very interesting acts such as a Strongman. This year, a little extra money had been spent to ensure that it was the best it could be and that everyone got back into the swing of things. There would also be a St. Georges Day Event on 23rd April, 2022 in association with Harrisons Club. There would be a mini St. George and an English Rose competition at the event. This was noted by Members.

LANDYWOOD VOLUNTARY HELP CENTRE

Cllr. Mrs. J. A. Johnson advised the meeting that Landywood Voluntary Help Centre was now up and running again but very much in need of new volunteers in order to provide the service it used to. At present they did not have volunteers to run the Centre on Tuesday and Wednesday. Should the Parish Council be aware of any potential volunteers it would be much appreciated. This was noted by Members.

121/2022 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

22/00014/FUL – AMENDED PLANS FOR TWO STOREY SIDE AND REAR EXTENSIONS AT 21 LINGFIELD CLOSE, GREAT WYRLEY. THE PARISH

COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTIONS TO THIS APPLICATION BUT RESERVED THE RIGHT TO SUPPORT NEIGHBOUR OBJECTIONS IF REQUIRED.

22/00206/TTREE – 27 SPRING MEADOW, CHESLYN HAY – CROWN REDUCTION BY 30% - THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS APPLICATION.

PLANNING APPEAL BY MR. T. PARK RE: LANDYWOOD FARM, LANDYWOOD FARM LANE, GREAT WYRLEY – THE CLERK WAS TO RESPOND TO THE PLANNING INSPECTORATE ON THE PARISH COUNCIL’S BEHALF WITH STRONGEST POSSIBLE SUPPORT FOR THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE DISTRICT COUNCIL IN REFUSING THIS APPLICATION.

122/2022 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.

123/2022 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.

124/2022 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 9.50 p.m.

Chairman