

GREAT WYRLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GREAT WYRLEY PARISH COUNCIL held at Great Wyrley Community Centre, Landywood Lane, Great Wyrley which commenced at 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday 11th January, 2023.

Present:

**(Chairman)
Cllr. J. C. Jones**

Cllr. Mrs. O. Brazier Cllr. M. Dabbs Cllr. A. J. Kelsey Cllr. M. McKenzie Cllr. A. Newell	Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE Cllr. R. J. Perry Cllr. Mrs. S. Toddington Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood
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Also in attendance was the Parish Clerk (Mrs. S. McGlue)

93/2023 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllr. Mrs. J. A. Johnson, Cllr. R. Myatt, Cllr. A. Pearson and Cllr. Mrs. C. Whiston-Taylor.

94/2022 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. J. C. Jones gave the Parish Council an explanation relating to why Parish Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE declares a standing interest in any items relating to planning applications. This interest is declared on the basis that she represents Locality 3 at South Staffordshire Council's Planning Committee meetings, and would, therefore, not vote on any planning matters brought before the Parish Council. Cllr. Mrs. Perry may remain at the meeting and any views she may have chosen to express would be based on the information before her at that time. Those views may change in the light of further information or debate at a future South Staffordshire Council Planning Committee meeting. This was noted by Members.

95/2023 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Resolved that following an amendment requested by Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood to the paragraph relating to the Annual Carol Concert referred to on page 6 to read"... due to lack of co-ordination between the local schools" rather than "there had not been enough children to support the event", the minutes be accepted, approved and signed by the Chairman. It was carried.

96/2023 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed Councillors and members of the public to the meeting and wished everyone a very happy and prosperous New Year.

ONE MINUTE SILENCE IN MEMORY OF ALAN JONES

The Chairman advised the meeting that he felt sure that Members would wish to honour the passing of Alan Jones who had sadly passed away over the Christmas period. Mr. Jones had been a much valued member of the Community and had served it well. Following the one minute silence, Cllr. A. Newell gave all present the details of the funeral service which was to take place at 12.00 noon on 26th January, 2023 at Wesley Methodist Church. This was noted by Members.

SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The Chairman advised the Parish Council that the Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch

had been a really enjoyable event and advised the meeting that the senior citizens had raised £84.00 as a thank you to everyone which was to be donated to the Local Air Ambulance. Cllr. Jones then invited Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE to give Members a full report on the event.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry thanked all the volunteers from the Parish Council who had been able to attend the lunch and explained that there had also been volunteers who were not part of the Parish Council. These volunteers had included three ladies who were associated with Great Wyrley Academy who had been absolutely brilliant.

The Parish Council had received excellent feedback from the residents who had attended the event. Cllr. Mrs. Perry explained that on the day, it had not been without its hitches, but in the main all of these difficulties had been overcome and everything had gone very well indeed. Cllr. Mrs. Perry also explained that the caterers had reduced the invoice for the event to take into account the hitches referred to and had also offered a 10% discount on any further events the Parish Council may wish to hold. Cllr. Mrs. Perry then asked Cllr. A. J. Kelsey to give a report on the day itself in his capacity as a trustee of the Senior Citizens Centre and the Chairman of the Carnival Committee.

Cllr. Kelsey advised the meeting that as had become tradition the Carnival Committee had supplied the wine and the crackers for the event, however, the Senior Citizens Centre had found itself with more funds than it usually had and felt that it would be fitting to give some of this back to the community of Great Wyrley. Everyone who had received their £10 bonus of their ticket money reimbursed had been absolutely delighted and really surprised. Cllr. J. C. Jones thanked Cllr. Kelsey for his brilliant efforts in this regard and also thanked Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry for all the work that she had put in to organising this event. The Chairman's thanks was supported by all Members.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

The Chairman advised the Parish Council that everyone needed to be aware that the Local Government Elections would be taking place in May of this year and that the onus was on each individual member to ensure that they had completed their forms and submitted them to the District Council within the time scales allowed; should they decide they wished to stand for election. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. Jones also advised the meeting that in the event that there were more candidates than vacancies this would mean that there would be a Parish Council election. In the past the Parish Council had always been slightly light on candidates and had not been in the position where there was a need to call an election. Whether this would be the case this year was, of course, not known at this time, however, should there be more candidates than vacancies then there would have to be an election. This is quite a costly process and an amount is already set aside in the Parish Council budget to ensure that these costs can be met. This was noted by Members.

PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER – LANDYWOOD PLAYING FIELD

The Chairman advised the meeting that the District Council had now displayed Official Orders on the railings of Landywood Playing Field advising the public that this area was now covered by a Public Space Protection Order. Unfortunately, the Notices were of inferior quality and had already been torn down. In addition to this situation, the Parish Council had not been advised that the Orders were now in place. The Clerk would be researching this matter and would hopefully have a response from the District Council which would clarify how the Orders would be policed and when the inferior notices would be exchanged for more permanent

notices. This was noted by Members.

97/2023 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman suspended Standing Orders to allow the Parish Council to be addressed by Members of the public.

A resident of Great Wyrley advised the Parish Council that she was extremely concerned with regard to the junction at the top of Streets Lane. This junction is already very bad and the overgrown hedges did not help the situation. The resident suggested that a chicane be put in place to slow the traffic down with the hope of avoiding an accident. The resident suggested that a site visit should take place with an Officer from Staffordshire Highways in attendance. Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that Staffordshire Highways had walked this area in the past and had decided to place a speed restriction sign in the area in order to slow down the motorists. Cllr. Mrs. Perry was to raise this matter again with Mr. M. Keeling of Staffordshire County Council. The Chairman requested the Clerk to write to the County Council Highways explaining the problem and asking for a progress report on any plans which may already be in progress.

Cllr. A. Kelsey advised the meeting that speeding was a real problem in Streets Lane and the junction was very dangerous. This together with the parking associated with the Train Station at the opposite end of Streets Lane created a very dangerous situation all round. Cllr. Mrs. Perry also reminded the Parish Council that there was a need to chase up the issue relating to double yellow lines at the Shanks Bridge side of Streets Lane.

The Chairman thanked the resident for raising this issue with the Parish Council and assured her that it would be taking the matter forward.

There were no further questions from the Public Gallery and accordingly, the Chairman reinstated Standing Orders and continued with the business to be transacted at the meeting.

98/2023 Clerk's Report

(a) Junction of Walsall Road and Bentons Lane, Great Wyrley

Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood gave Members a full report on the situation with regard to this issue. Cllr. Mrs. Wood explained that there had been a lot of near misses in this area and that it was very dangerous and people were taking their life in their hands. Cllr. Mrs. Wood advised the meeting that she had been wondering whether the Parish Council could persuade the people who are responsible for the hedge at one side of the junction to lower its height and also whether the Parish Council could approach the Fish Shop to lower the height of their wall and possibly cut down the laurel tree. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. Mrs. Wood also advised the meeting that so many drivers were crossing over double yellow lines and parking on the pavement, Cllr. Mrs. Wood advised the meeting that this was actually against the law. The Chairman advised the meeting that it was a major problem to have double yellow lines actually policed. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. A. Newell also advised the meeting that inconsiderate parking was forcing other motorists into the Walsall Road to make any kind of manoeuvre. This in his view was not the fault of people parking outside their properties it was the inconsiderate parking of people using the shops which was the main problem. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that she had received a communication from Staffordshire County Highways that the matter referred to by Cllr. Mrs. Wood would be included on the agenda for the meeting to be held on 2nd March.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry explained to the meeting that she had received correspondence from Mr. M. Keeling of Staffordshire County Highways which stated that there were already restrictions in Jones Lane opposite and again further down just past Cost Cutter and there was a short break in the restrictions to allow access for the businesses. Mr. Keeling was of the view that it may be possible to lengthen the existing restrictions to protect the Bentons Lane junction. This would require a legal order and a full consultation process. However, such a scheme was likely to take up the majority of the allocation of DHP money and there were already two or three applications for Double Yellow Lines in the pipeline. On this basis it was suggested that should the Parish Council wish to do so it should go forward with the plans to ask for the hedge to be reduced and the Fish Shop wall to be lowered. Cllr. Mrs. Perry also advised the meeting that it may be that the Parish Council may wish to consider financial support with this issue.

Cllr. Mrs. O. Brazier advised the meeting that the amount of parking outside the Memorial Gardens the other side of the Double Yellow Lines on the footpath was disgraceful, especially on a Friday evening and what could be done to have the matter policed. Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry advised Cllr. Mrs. Brazier that this matter could be dealt with by South Staffordshire Council parking wardens. The Chairman advised the meeting that perhaps this would have more weight with the support of Inspector Cotton of Staffordshire Police and the Clerk was to make contact with a request for his observations. This was noted by Members.

(b) Out of Area Cemetery Charges – Appeal

The Chairman advised the Parish Council he had agreed to add a late agenda item to the business to be transacted at the meeting due to the fact that the appeal related to a funeral which was to take place on 25th January, 2023. The Clerk had circulated a copy of the written appeal to all Members of the Parish Council.

The main grounds of appeal related to the fact that the parents of the person who had lodged the appeal had moved to Mitre Road, Cheslyn Hay shortly after her birth in 1961. The house overlooked the cemetery and it was where her father wished to be buried. The family had left the Great Wyrley area some time ago but had appealed to the Parish Council to either revoke or reduce the non-resident multiplier particularly, as it was her mother's last wish to be reunited with her husband at Great Wyrley Cemetery.

Following discussion it was proposed by Cllr. A. Kelsey and seconded by Cllr. Mrs. O. Brazier that the Parish Council **resolve** to reduce the fee by £500.00. It was carried.

99/2023 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that she did not have a great deal to report on this occasion, other than the fact that it would be helpful if Members would contact the Clerk with a note of any areas within the Parish which needed attention. On receipt of such a list she would be able to flag these matters up at her meeting with Highways at the beginning of March.

This list was to include the repainting of the crossing at Hilton Lane and the associated raised area. Cllr. J. C. Jones advised Cllr. Mrs. Perry that he was having difficulty reporting a defective drain on the corner of Lingfield Drive and Wardles

Lane on the Highways website. Cllr. Mrs. Perry advised the meeting that she would report this matter to the County Council and also advised Cllr. Jones that she had already reported the defective drain to the Highways Department. This was noted by Members.

100/2023 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry advised the Parish Council that she had been in attendance at a Meeting at South Staffordshire Council the previous evening which had basically involved a presentation on the carbon footprint of the new building at Codsall. Presumably this was to encourage Parish Councils to carry out a similar exercise with their own premises. This was noted by Members.

101/2023 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS

PADDOCK LANE LIGHTING

Cllr. Mrs. O. Brazier advised the meeting that she was concerned that there was very little lighting in the region of Paddock Lane and she felt that this was not an ideal situation as they were Senior Citizens Bungalows and needed to be able to be in as safe an environment as possible. This was noted by Members.

There had already been a representation from a resident of Great Wyrley regarding the same area of land as it was being used as a roadway. This matter had been reported to the Housing Association but no response had yet been received.

The Clerk advised the meeting that she had recently spoken to the resident who had raised this matter with the Parish Council and unfortunately, he had not been any more successful than she had in his approach to the Housing Association. The Clerk was to contact the Housing Association again regarding both the matters which had been raised at the meeting.

102/2023 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

NEW YEAR'S DAY WALK

Cllr. A. Kelsey advised the meeting that the Walk had been well attended and everyone appeared to have really enjoyed the event. Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood advised the meeting that her daughter felt that there had not been enough publicity about the event and that next year there should be more.

The Clerk advised the meeting that posters had been placed in all the Notice Boards and also on the Parish Council website publicising the event. This was noted.

103/2023 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

22/00920/FUL – PROPOSED DEMOLITION OF 2 NO. SEMI-DETACHED HOUSES (203-295) WALSALL ROAD) AND CONSTRUCTION OF 7 NEW HOUSES COMPRISING 6 NO. SEMI-DETACHED, 3 BEDROOM PROPERTIES AND 1 NO. DETACHED 4 BEDROOM PROPERTY, COMPLETE WITH ASSOCIATED PARKING AND GARDEN SPACES AT 203 WALSALL ROAD, GREAT WYRLEY, STAFFORDSHIRE – THE PARISH COUNCIL OBJECTED TO THIS APPLICATION ON THE BASIS THAT IT WAS OVERDEVELOPMENT, WOULD RESULT IN A CRAMPED APPEARANCE AND GENERATE ADDITIONAL VEHICLE MOVEMENT ONTO A BUSY "A" ROAD. THIS DEVELOPMENT WOULD ALSO BE COMPLETELY OUT OF CHARACTER WITH THE SURROUNDING BUILDINGS AND INCONGRUOUS IN THE STREET SCENE.

22/01145/FUL – TWO STOREY SIDE ADDITION AT 13 TOWER VIEW ROAD, GREAT WYRLEY – THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS PROPOSAL BUT RESERVED THE RIGHT TO SUPPORT NEIGHBOUR OBJECTIONS SHOULD THIS PROVE NECESSARY.

22/01017/FUL – DEMOLITION OF EXISTING GARAGES AND HARD STANDING AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF 2 NO. SEMI-DETACHED 2.5 STOREY HOUSES WITH PRIVATE REAR AND FRONT GARDENS AND OFF STREET PARKING PROVISION AT GARAGE SITE, ALPHA WAY, GREAT WYRLEY – THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS PROPOSAL.

104/2023 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.

105/2023 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.

106/2023 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Following discussion the Parish Council unanimously **resolved to** support the recommendations made under this item.

The Chairman thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

Chairman