

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 3rd May, 2023.

Present:

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

Cllr. Mrs. O. Brazier Cllr. Mrs. J. A. Johnson Cllr. M. McKenzie Cllr. A. Newell	Cllr. Mrs. S. Toddington Cllr. Mrs. C. Whiston-Taylor Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood
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Also in attendance was the Parish Clerk (Mrs. S. McGlue).

150/2023 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllr. A. J. Kelsey, Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE and Cllr. R. J. Perry.

151/2022 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest on this occasion.

152/2023 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood requested the Parish Council to take into account the fact that the Rainbow Club had not meant to apply for Grant Aid. Their application related to the funds raised when Cornwell's Chemists was operating its Covid Vaccination Clinic. Cllr. Mrs. J. Johnson gave Members a brief resume with regard to the purpose for which the request had been made. Following discussion, Cllr. J. C. Jones advised the meeting that the use discussed would still meet the criteria of the Grant Aid Scheme. Cllr. J. C. Jones advised the meeting that monies raised during the Covid Clinic operation was still being held by the Parish Council and a decision on its recipients would be made by the new Council in due course. Cllr. Mrs. J. A. Johnson declared an interest in this agenda item and took no part in the decision process merely gave the Parish Council a brief report on the background of the Rainbow Club for their information.

The Parish Council resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 5th April, 2023 be accepted, approved and signed by the Chairman. It was carried.

153/2023 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman advised the meeting that unfortunately, Cllr. R. Myatt's wife Christine had sadly passed away very recently at the Conifers. The Chairman advised Members that as Cllr Myatt had been such a stalwart of the Parish Council for very many years he felt it only fitting that the Clerk write expressing the Parish Council's sympathy at this very sad time.

The Chairman then asked Members to observe a one minute silence in tribute to a much valued member of the community.

One Minute Silence in tribute to the Late Christine Myatt

The Chairman advised the meeting that Christine Myatt's funeral would take place on Friday 26th May at 11.30 a.m. at The Wesley, followed by a private committal service at Streetly Crematorium and a wake at Harrisons Club later in the

day. This was noted by Members.

154/2023 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

There were two members of the public present on this occasion, one of which addressed the Parish Council.

One member of the public present was extremely concerned that there had been a spillage of a substance which was thought to be black oil on land to the rear of Great Wyrley Community Centre. The resident felt that this should be dealt with immediately because it would carry into every building. The Chairman advised the resident that the Parish Council would look into this matter.

The resident also advised the meeting that he had observed that earth banks and fencing had been installed all along the boundary of the Landywood Development site up to Fishers Farm. This was noted.

The Chairman requested clarification of the resident's question regarding this issue. The resident wished to know if Cllr. Mrs. Johnson was aware of what any future development plans were for Landywood Lane as it was only supposed to be for 51 houses. Cllr. Mrs. Johnson was not aware of the reason for this and on this basis the Chairman advised the resident that the Parish Council was unable to answer his question.

The Chairman reinstated Standing Orders and the business to be transacted at the meeting was recommenced.

STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE SERVICE

The monthly report from Staffordshire Police had been circulated to all Members of the Parish Council in the absence of any of the local Police Community Support Officers. **Please see Appendix A**

155/2023 CLERK'S REPORTS TO COUNCIL

(a) Parish Council Accounts for the year ended 31st March, 2023

A copy of the Parish Council Accounts for the year ended 31st March, 2023 had been circulated to all Members prior to the meeting in order to allow time for Councillors to consider the financial position of the Council prior to authorisation and annual sign off at the meeting.

Following consideration of the accounts for the year ended 31st March, 2023 they were approved and accordingly signed off as a correct reflection of the Parish Council's financial position. The Clerk and the Chairman then signed the documents required which was witnessed by the Council.

The Chairman took this opportunity to thank the Parish Administrator for both the preparation of the accounts and their presentation which he felt to be very well presented, very well prepared and far easier to understand than in previous years.

(b) Annual Governance and Annual Return Statement 2023

Following the approval of the annual accounts for the year ended 31st March, 2023 the Parish Council **resolved** to sign off the Annual Governance and Annual Return Statement for 2023. It was carried.

(c) Request for reconsideration of modification of Cemetery Railings

Members recalled that in 2021 the owners of a property which adjoined the driveway to Great Wyrley Cemetery had requested the Parish Council's permission to remove the stanchions which support a section of the railings which lead up to the Cemetery Gates.

This issue had been investigated thoroughly at that time and the Parish Council had **resolved** not to allow permission for the stanchions to be removed. This decision was made on the basis that the stanchions were actually on land within the Parish Council's ownership.

Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** to seek a professional opinion on whether the stanchions were actually integral to the stability of the railings and to discuss the matter again following such an inspection. It was carried.

(d) Request from Pegasus Club to reduce hours of hire

The Parish Council had received a request from the Pegasus Shotokan Karate Club to reduce their period of hire to 1.5 hours. Following discussion, the Parish Council **resolved** that as this policy had been put in place to ensure that hiring out the Community Centre, whilst never making a profit, should, in as much as possible, not lead to a loss of revenue and accordingly the existing charge should remain in place. It was carried.

The Parish Council **resolved** that for clarification purposes going forward it may be clearer if the hire is marketed as a standard payment of, for example, £30.00 for a maximum of two hours with a cut off point of 10.00p.m. during the week. This policy was to include the proviso that any time taken over the two hours of hire would incur an additional charge of £5 per 15 minutes. It was carried.

(e) Request from Great Wyrley Art Club to refurbish their Art Display

Members recalled that when Great Wyrley Art Club used to hold their weekly Art Club at the Community Centre the Parish Council agreed to display their work in the Club Room. A purpose built display section was constructed for the Art Club and had been on the wall in the Club Room since 2018. By way of clarification The Art Club purchased the mounts surrounding the paintings which were inside the display. However, not all the paintings within the display were owned by the Art Club nor was the display cabinet. This was noted by Members.

Several of the paintings in the display at the moment were the property of the Great Wyrley Art for Pleasure Group and the Parish Council had received a request for these paintings to be returned to the artists who had produced them, particularly as they were being displayed under the banner of a club to which they no longer belonged.

The Parish Council had been approached by Great Wyrley Art Club with a request to update the paintings in the display and to continue to have their work displayed at the Centre.

By way of background the Clerk advised the Parish Council that Great Wyrley Art Club relocated to a different facility following the pandemic and even though the Parish Council agreed to hold the space, if at all possible, until September of last year, the Club chose to remain in its new location. In real terms Great Wyrley Art Club has not been based at Great Wyrley Community Centre since 2020.

The Parish Council had now been advised that Great Wyrley Art for Pleasure Group, which had been based at Great Wyrley Community Centre for approximately ten

years, would like to be allowed to display their own art work at the Centre.

Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** to refuse permission for the art already displayed at the Centre to be refreshed by Great Wyrley Art Club and the Clerk was also to request that the exhibits belonging to Great Wyrley Art Club be removed.

The Parish Council also **resolved** that should Great Wyrley Art Club decide to return to the Community Centre to hold their Art Club then they would, of course, be allowed to display their works on one of the available walls in the Club Room.

The Clerk was instructed to advise the Great Wyrley Art for Pleasure Group that they would be more than pleased for them to display their work in the existing display case.

(f) Purchase of Equipment for Parish Council Groundsmen

Members were already aware that the Memorial Wall was now almost complete, however, there still remained a considerable amount of detritus behind the wall which needed to be removed prior to being landscaped and planted.

Originally, the majority of the detritus which had accumulated in that corner of the Cemetery was to be removed prior to the construction of the wall. However, this had not proved possible and the task would now need to be carried out by the Parish Council Groundsmen.

Following research into the situation it appeared that the most cost effective way of dealing with the issue was to purchase a motorised wheel barrow which in effect was a mini transporter with a 4 stroke petrol engine. This would not only solve the issue of the removal of the mounded detritus without hours and hours of staff time barrowing tons of earth away by hand, but would also be invaluable in terms of time saving for other Cemetery needs. This was noted by Members.

Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** to purchase The Handy THLCO9715 Petrol Mini Transporter in the sum of £1,535.20 excluding VAT. It was carried.

(g) Memorial Wall in Great Wyrley Cemetery

As Members were aware the Memorial Wall was now very much in progress and it now fell to the Parish Council to finalise the details in terms of landscaping. The Chairman advised the meeting that this matter would now be deferred until the next meeting of the Parish Council which would include all new Councillors.

The Chairman also advised the meeting that the structure was really impressive and that it would be something which would merit an official opening ceremony of dedication. This was noted by Members.

(h) Retirement of Internal Auditor

The Clerk advised the meeting that she had now been informed by Mr. P. A. Cooper, who had been the Parish Council's Internal Auditor for the last eight years, that he was to retire from the post following the completion of this year's audit process.

The Clerk advised the meeting that Mr. Cooper had seen the Parish Council through some challenging times and would not be easy to replace, however, his replacement was something the Parish Council would need to put in place well in advance of the next financial year. The Clerk was instructed to commence the search as there would be a need for the Internal Auditor's Services by September of this year. This

was noted. The Clerk was also instructed to write a letter of thanks to Mr. Cooper for his valuable service. This was noted by Members.

(i) Wyrley Juniors Request for Financial Assistance

The Parish Council had received an appeal from Wyrley Juniors. Members agreed that this matter be deferred to a future meeting when the new Council had had an opportunity to form.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that the Parish Council was still holding the funds raised during the time that Cornwell's Chemists was operating the Covid Clinic at the Community Centre which amounted to £800.00. This was noted by Members.

(j) Update on Coronation of King Charles III

Members recalled that they had received an explanation from the Clerk regarding the fact that it had not been possible to secure an entertainer for the Picnic in the Park event which had been proposed to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III.

The Clerk advised the meeting that Members had, however, been in favour of the Parish Council offering to give a donation to any street party holders in the Parish on the proviso that a poster had been displayed and that photographs would be provided to the Parish Council for publication on the website. To date there were two definite Street Parties to be held one in Nuthurst Drive and one in Bluebell Lane.

For Members information the feedback on this idea had been really good and people were most appreciative of the helping hand the Parish Council was giving them to host their own events. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. J. C. Jones asked of Members how the Parish Council intended to deal with the unspent funding. The Parish Administrator advised the meeting that any funds remaining in the budget for the Kings Coronation Celebrations would need to be reallocated at an Audit and Governance Meeting.

156/2023 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

There were no County Councillors able to be present on this occasion.

157/2023 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

There was no report from the District Council on this occasion as the Local Government Elections were to be held the following day.

158/2023 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS

There were no reports from Parish Councillors on this occasion.

159/2023 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

Landywood Voluntary Help Centre

Cllr. Mrs. J. A. Johnson advised the meeting that Landywood Voluntary Help Centre had recently launched a new Light Bite Session which was to be held on a Friday from 11.00a.m. until 1.30pm.

At this session people who had attended the event could have a bite to eat and a chat. The food was being provided by an outside caterer and everyone had enjoyed it so far. There was a small payment for the food provided and the session was

open to anyone who wished to attend.

The Chairman took this opportunity to thank Cllr. Mrs. Johnson and the other members of the Landywood Voluntary Help Centre team for all the hard work they do which has made the Help Centre such a great service for the village. Cllr. Mrs. Johnson advised the meeting that she would be taking the Chairman's kind comments back to the members of the team.

160/2023 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

23/00267/FUL – RETENTION OF MESH PERIMETER FENCING ASSOCIATED WITH AN EXISTING HARD COURT FACILITY AT GREAT WYRLEY PERFORMING ARTS HIGH SCHOOL, HALL LANE, GREAT WYRLEY – THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS APPLICATION.

23/00320/FUL – SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION TO REPLACE EXISTING CONSERVATORY AT 12 BEAUMONT ROAD, GREAT WYRLEY – THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS PROPOSAL BUT RESERVED THE RIGHT TO SUPPORT NEIGHBOUR OBJECTIONS SHOULD THIS PROVE NECESSARY

23/000264/FUL – EXTENSION OVER EXISTING GARAGE AND GARAGE CONVERSION AT 35 QUINTON AVENUE, GREAT WYRLEY - THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS PROPOSAL IN PRINCIPLE BUT RESERVED THE RIGHT TO SUPPORT NEIGHBOUR OBJECTIONS SHOULD THIS PROVE NECESSARY.

161/2023 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.

162/2023 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.

163/2023 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

The Parish Council noted the issues which had been outlined in the Clerk's confidential Report and duly authorised the recommendations within it.

The Chairman took this opportunity to thank Cllr. Mrs. Janet Johnson for her hard work, loyalty and dedication to both the District Council and the Parish Council over such a long time. Janet's contribution to the Parish Council had been much valued and the Chairman congratulated Janet on her retirement.

Cllr. Mrs. Johnson thanked the Chairman for his kind comments and wished the Parish Council all the very best for the future.

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

The meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.

Chairman.....Date.....

