

## **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 5<sup>TH</sup> July, 2023.**

**Present:**

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

Cllr. Mrs. O. Brazier Cllr. A. J. Kelsey Cllr. A. Newell Cllr. D. Norris	Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE Cllr. R. J. Perry Cllr. Mrs. C. Whiston-Taylor
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Also in attendance was Parish Clerk (Mrs. S. McGlue).

**22/2023 APOLOGIES**

Apologies had been received from Cllr. M. Jackson and Cllr. D. F. W. Norris

**23/2022 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE has a standing interest in any items relating to planning applications 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.

**24/2023 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS**

It was proposed by Cllr. A. Newell and seconded by Cllr. Mrs. C. Whiston Taylor that the Chairman be requested to accept, approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2023. It was carried.

Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood advised the meeting that with reference to the minutes of the meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2023 she wished to have added to the minutes that she was in attendance at the funeral of the late Christine Myatt. This was noted.

**25/2023 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OVERHANGING TREES ALONGSIDE WYRLEY BROOK**

The Chairman advised the meeting that he was very pleased to inform everyone that following liaison with Mr. D. Allen of South Staffordshire Council he had been advised that the works referred to had been included in the programme of works to be done for over six months and that the work would be carried out within the next two weeks. The Chairman then advised the meeting that these works had now been carried out. This was noted by Members.

**THANK YOU CARD FROM RETIRED COUNCILLOR MRS. J. A. JOHNSON**

The Chairman advised the meeting that the Parish Council had received a card thanking all Members for the bouquet of flowers which had recently been sent to her expressing Members thanks for her dedication and long service to the Parish as both a District and Parish Councillor. This was noted by Members.

**PARISH SUMMIT**

The Chairman advised the meeting that he had attended the recent Parish Summit which he had found extremely interesting and informative. The Clerk advised the

meeting that for those who could not be in attendance, a copy of the presentation slides would be forwarded to Members for their information. This was noted.

### **CHANGE TO DATE OF SEPTEMBER MEETING**

The Chairman advised the meeting that due to circumstances beyond control there was a need to change the date of the September meeting of the Parish Council from 6<sup>th</sup> September to 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2023. This was noted by Members.

### **26/2023 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Chairman suspended Standing Orders to allow the Parish Council to be addressed by Members of the public. There was one member of the public present on this occasion.

A resident of the Parish who was present in the public gallery asked the Chairman if he yet had an answer to the questions he had posed at the previous meeting. The Chairman responded with the fact that he did not have an answer to either of these questions as yet. When the information was available it would be forwarded to the resident.

The same resident also advised the Chairman that information given to him by both the Chairman and the Clerk relating to a four hour period during which time candidates could withdraw from standing for the Local Government Elections was incorrect and the actual time period was 10 days. The Clerk advised the resident that the ten day period to which he referred related to the period of time before the nominations were published and not afterwards. This was noted.

The Chairman confirmed this timescale as he had been given this information by the Chief Executive of South Staffordshire Council.

The resident then passed a set of written questions to the Chairman. Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that this was not the correct way to address the Parish Council and requested the resident to voice his questions to the Parish Council in an appropriate manner. Cllr. J. C. Jones agreed with Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE and requested the resident to address the Parish Council verbally.

The resident requested clarification that given the fact that her position was advertised in January when was the Clerk leaving? The Chairman advised the resident that the situation had now changed and that the Clerk was not now leaving and the Parish Council was extremely grateful to her that she had decided not to do so.

The same resident asserted that Cllr. Mrs. Johnson had sat on the Planning Committee of South Staffordshire Council and did not represent Locality 3. Why was this not published by Cllr. Mrs. Johnson?

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the resident that Cllr. Mrs. Johnson had been a member the Planning Committee for many years and she had chosen to declare an interest on each individual occasion and had never taken part in the determination process. Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE had replaced Cllr. Mrs. Johnson on the Planning Committee and chosen to publish her declaration of interest at the commencement of the meeting as a permanent agenda item for the avoidance of doubt. This was noted by Members.

The resident's final question related to the alleged incursions into land at Great Wyrley Cemetery and what action had been taken. The Chairman advised the resident that these matters were in progress.

The Chairman reinstated Standing Orders and continued with the business of the meeting.

**27/2023 STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE SERVICE**

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

**28/2023 CLERK'S REPORTS TO COUNCIL**

**(a) REQUEST FROM MIDLANDS PARTNERSHIP NHS FOUNDATION TRUST (MPFT) TO EXTEND PARKING AGREEMENT ON COMMUNITY CENTRE CAR PARK TO FACILITATE PHASE 2 OF BUILDING WORKS**

The Parish Council had received a request from the organisation which operated the Health Centre off Wardles Lane, Great Wyrley. The Health Centre building is located immediately adjacent to Great Wyrley Community Centre.

The Clerk advised the meeting that the Builders (Marshdales) had now requested an extension of the agreement to use the Community Centre Car Park in order to complete Phase 2 of the project which commenced on 3<sup>rd</sup> July and was due to conclude at the end of September, 2023.

Following full discussion the Parish Council **resolved** unanimously not to agree to the Contractors request. It was carried.

**(b) PERSONAL REQUEST FROM EMPLOYEE OF MPFT TO USE COMMUNITY CENTRE CAR PARK**

The Parish Council has also been approached by a member of staff of the Quinton Practice who was based in the Health Centre with a similar request. This request basically related to a personal wish to use the Community Centre Car Park on every Monday and Tuesday on a permanent basis to assist in carrying out her duties at the Quinton Practice. Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** that permission should be refused as it would create an unwelcome precedent. It was carried.

**(c) ANNUAL GUY FAWKES NIGHT EVENT**

The Parish Council had been advised at the last meeting of the Parish Council that a lot of questions were being asked on social media regarding whether it was intending to hold its Annual Bonfire event again this year.

As the Parish Council had agreed to review this situation following the Local Government Elections when a new Parish Council would be formed it now fell to Members to make a decision on this matter.

However, for the benefit of the new Members of the Council who may not have been aware of the situation it was felt appropriate to mention that Chief Inspector Chris Cotton of Staffordshire Police Service had already advised the Parish Council that, in his view, the event in its original format was far too large in scale to be managed by the Parish Council. It had also been stated that Staffordshire Police Service would not be able to provide any Officers to assist with the event, whether they were paid to do so or not, as it simply did not have the staff resources to do so. This was noted by Members.

Members had previously discussed the possibility of having a Fire Works display only without the Bonfire aspect of the event, however, this

would also need to be carefully staged as the general public would still make their way towards the field to gather on the night, thus creating the same problem as existed when there was a Bonfire held there.

The Clerk explained that by way of additional background for new Councillors, in 2018 the Parish Council was advised by Staffordshire Police Service to discontinue allowing the Fun Fair to operate at the Bonfire Event. This assertion was made on the basis that in the opinion of Staffordshire Police, the Fair was considered to be the main attraction for the less desirable of characters who were attending the events from outside the Parish; these were also alleged to be involved in a number of serious crime incidents. In 2019 Children's Rides only were allowed, however, the damage to the surface of the Star Land was substantial and the Fairground Operator did not return to reinstate the surface by chain mowing the area as had been promised.

Members were hopeful that a way forward could be found which would satisfy the requirements of all agencies, however, a decision needed to be made sooner rather than later as the Parish Council was already being pursued by the Fairground Operator in this regard.

Following discussion the Clerk was instructed to establish whether or not it would be possible to place a contract with a Fireworks Display Company to carry out any such display and Members agreed that it needed to make a decision as to what day any event would be staged as Bonfire Night actually fell on a Sunday this year.

The Clerk was to report back on this matter to the September meeting of the Parish Council.

#### **(d) SENIOR CITIZENS LUNCHES**

Members recalled that the Christmas Lunch last year had been very well attended and really successful. Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE had now asked that this matter be placed on the agenda to enable a discussion to take place on the best way to move forward with a relaunch.

Members also recalled that the Parish Council had been offered a really good deal by the catering company used at Christmas 2022. In addition a reasonable discount was also to be applied for the next event the Parish Council decided to hold in order to compensate it for the hiccups which took place during the 2022 Christmas Lunch. This was noted by Members

The Clerk advised the meeting that the Parish Council now had two new Community Centre Assistants in place who were looking forward to being part of the relaunch of the Lunches.

By way of background the Clerk advised the meeting that during the research into this event it had become apparent from a number of the caterers who had been approached in this regard that many of them, including Plyvine would have liked to take on the contract but were unable to do so if it had to take place on a Friday. This was noted by Members.

Following discussion it was agreed to provisionally book the date of 8<sup>th</sup> December, with the caterers used in 2022. Members also agreed to attempt a luncheon during October in order to get back into the swing of things.

#### **(e) FIRST AID IN THE HOME FREE COURSE**

The Clerk advised the meeting that the Parish Council had been approached by a resident of the village who had recently found herself in a challenging situation

when she would have really benefitted from some kind of first aid knowledge.

With this in mind the resident had contacted the Parish Council asking whether it was aware of any organisation which could provide some kind of a course for First Aid in the Home. Debra May explained to the resident that this was not something with which the Parish Council had ever become involved; however, this in turn started a train of thought which had led to this item being placed on the agenda for discussion at this meeting.

The Clerk advised the Parish Council that Midland Health and Safety regularly hire the Community Centre and that it may be possible to tailor one of these courses to fit the requirements of the resident who has put this suggestion forward.

Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** to instruct the Clerk to approach the local Health and Safety Course provider with a request that they consider holding such an event. Should this project come to fruition it was intended that an event be held at the Community Centre which was free of charge for the public to attend.

The Parish Council would, of course, pay the costs involved with the provision of such a course but not pass any cost on to the residents of the Parish. This was noted by Members.

#### **(f) COMMEMORATION OF 80 YEARS - D DAY LANDINGS 2024**

The Clerk advised the meeting that the Parish Council had been invited by the Pageant Master of Buckingham Palace to be part of the Beacon Lighting Ceremony to commemorate the 80 years anniversary of the D Day landings.

As the Beacon Lighting Ceremony Event the Parish Council held for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee was such a great success the Parish Council was asked if it would like to start the ball rolling by booking the Community Band to perform at an event.

Following discussion, Members were delighted to hear that the Parish Council had been invited to be part of this ceremony and **resolved to** instruct the Clerk to contact the Great Wyrley Community Band to secure their services if possible.

#### **(g) 2023 SURVEY OF TREES IN THE PARISH COUNCIL'S OWNERSHIP**

The Clerk advised the Parish Council that she had now received a copy of the survey of trees recently undertaken by Rob Keyzor Tree Surgeons and Arboricultural Consultants Ltd. Members noted from the report that there were a number of trees in all areas in the Parish Council's ownership to which remedial works were required with high priority.

Members who had now had an opportunity to digest this document **resolved to** authorise the Clerk to contact the Tree Surgeon contracted to the Parish Council to programme the works into his schedule.

The Clerk explained for the benefit of new Members of the Council that the survey is carried out by an independent Arboriculturist and that the actual works were carried out by an alternative organisation in order to ensure transparency.

Members recognised that although some of the issues itemised in the summary to the report were time sensitive they would still come under the general maintenance budget rather than emergency tree works which would relate to incidents more in the nature of storm or impact damage.

**(h) REQUEST FOR CEMETERY TREE WORKS FROM RESIDENT OF TUDOR CLOSE, CHESLYN HAY**

The Clerk advised the meeting that the Parish Council had received a request for works to be carried out to a group of trees in the Cemetery which had been claimed was presently blocking a great deal of light from a property in Tudor Close.

The meeting was also advised that the group of trees in question had not been highlighted as requiring any tree works under the present Tree Assessment and following discussion, which included the fact that there is no legislation which would lead the Council to override its policy not to carry out works to healthy trees the Clerk was instructed to advise the property owner that on this occasion it would not be possible to accede to his request.

**29/2023 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

**RETIREMENT OF COUNTY COUNCIL CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

County Councillor Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that The Chief Executive of Staffordshire County Council was about to retire.

**CLIMATE CHANGE FUNDING**

Cllr. Mrs. Perry also advised the meeting that Climate Change Funding was now available and should anyone know of any organisation who could benefit from this fund would they please pass this information on to them.

**POTHOLE REPAIRS**

Cllr. Mrs. Perry advised the meeting that the Roadmaster Pothole Repair machine would be carrying out repairs in the Great Wyrley area in the near future and that the Highways Department would be monitoring the quality of the repairs carried out. This was noted by Members.

**CANCELLATION OF IRON MAN UK EVENT**

Cllr. Mrs. Perry concluded her report with the fact that the County Council would not be holding its Ironman UK Event next year. This was noted by Members.

**30/2023 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

**AWARDS FOR DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that South Staffordshire Council was named Planning Authority of the Year – West Midlands at a prestigious event in Birmingham. The Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) Awards, which took place at Millennium Point on Friday (June 30th), named South Staffordshire the winner of the accolade after it was among just two local authorities shortlisted for the award.

South Staffordshire Council was also awarded the Chair's Special Award on the evening for the way its planning team had worked to develop and nurture staff talent. This was noted by Members.

**UPDATE ON GREEN BIN STICKERS**

Cllr. Mrs. Perry also advised the meeting that the Green Bin Stickers which had not been sent out to people who were entitled to them would be receiving them next month. This was noted.

### **GORSEY LANE PLANNING APPLICATION REFUSED**

Cllr. Mrs. Perry advised the meeting that at the Planning Committee meeting held the previous week, all the local Members had spoken against the proposal for The Enterprise Park at Gorsey Lane. Cllr. Mrs. Perry also spoke on the proposal and following consideration the application was unanimously refused. Cllr. Mrs. Perry was thanked for her great efforts on the Parish's behalf. Cllr. Mrs. Perry also advised the meeting that although the Planning Committee had refused the application it may still go to appeal and be successful. This was noted by Members.

### **STRAWBERRY LANE CEMETERY**

Cllr. Mrs. Perry had also planted a tree at Strawberry Lane Cemetery to commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the opening of its opening and was pleased to advise the meeting that she had been in conversation with an Environmental Officer who had assured her that in his view the recent problems being experienced with water logging of the area had now been resolved.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry hoped that this assertion was correct.

Cllr. J. C. Jones asked Cllr. Mrs. Perry whether there would be any further landscaping carried out at Strawberry Lane Cemetery. Cllr. Mrs. Perry was confident that additional tree planting would be carried out, however, promised to find out exactly what the plans were and report back to the next meeting of the Parish Council.

### **AWARD NOMINATION – CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

Cllr. Mrs. Perry advised the meeting that South Staffordshire Council's Chief Executive Mr. Dave Heywood had also been nominated for an award for all the work he had carried out on behalf of South Staffordshire. This was noted.

### **FLY TIPPING**

In conclusion there had been 20 incidences of fly tipping in Locality 3, however, the crime figures, as a whole, were down but specifically car thefts had increased. This was noted by Members.

31/2023

### **REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS**

#### **VEHICLES PARKED ON WALSALL ROAD FOOTPATHS**

Cllr. Mrs. O. Brazier advised the meeting that she was still very concerned that a number of vehicles were being parked on Tuesday evenings in Jones Lane and she felt that this was due to the fact that some organisation was using the Recreation Ground as a training area.

Members established that no permission had ever been given to train on a regular basis on the Recreation Ground, and that it was not the use of the ground that was causing concern it was the inconsiderate parking which was took place on such occasions.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry advised the meeting that in her view, anyone wishing to use the area on a regular basis should at least have the courtesy to seek permission from the Parish Council.

The Clerk advised the meeting that during the previous week there had been a telephone conversation when a representative of the organisation concerned had requested that the Parish Council mark out the pitch, but admitted that they had no intention of hiring the pitch. This was noted by Members.

The Parish Council **resolved** to place a sign on the gates to the Recreation Ground to the effect that no organised events could take place without permission of the Parish Council.

### **GREAT WYRLEY CARNIVAL**

Cllr. Mr. K. M. Perry MBE took this opportunity to thank the Great Wyrley Carnival Committee for the absolutely fantastic event that they had put on for the Village. The work of all the volunteers was astounding and it made the village feel very proud again.

Cllr. J. C. Jones seconded everything that Cllr Mrs. Perry had said about the Carnival and advised Cllr. Kelsey that they do a fabulous job every year but that this year it had been amazing and thanked Cllr. Kelsey from the bottom of his heart. Cllr. Jones also advised the meeting that it had been very difficult to judge the floats and the stalls on the day because the quality of all competitors was so high. All in all it was a brilliant event. This was noted by Members.

### **32/2023 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES**

#### **GREAT WYRLEY CARNIVAL COMMITTEE**

Cllr. A. J. Kelsey thanked Cllr. Mrs. Perry and Cllr. Jones for their kind words of encouragement and thanked Cllr. Jones and Sir Gavin Williamson for their kind efforts in judging the floats and stalls.

### **33/2023 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**23/00365/FUL - PROPOSED CONVERSION OF AN EXISTING GARAGE INTO RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING LEAVING CARE ACCOMMODATION AT 14a JOHNS LANE, GREAT WYRLEY – THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS APPLICATION BUT RESERVED THE RIGHT TO SUPPORT NEIGHBOUR OBJECTIONS SHOULD THIS BE REQUIRED.**

**22/00920/FUL - PROPOSED DEMOLITION OF 2 NO. SEMI-DETACHED HOUSES AND CONSTRUCTION OF 5 HOUSES COMPRISING 4 NO. SEMI-DETACHED 3 BEDROOM HOUSES AND 1 NO. DETACHED 3 BEDROOM PROPERTY WITH ASSOCIATED PARKING AND GARDEN SPACES AT 203 – 205 WALSALL ROAD, GREAT WYRLEY - THE PARISH COUNCIL OJECTED TO THIS APPLICATION ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT REPRESENTED OVER-DEVELOPMENT AND DANGER TO HIGHWAY SAFETY.**

#### **LICENSING REQUEST – p10062**

**VARIATION TO PREMISES LICENCE FOR BOOZE SHOP AND CONVENIENCE STORE AT 383-385 WALSALL ROAD – THE APPLICANT HAD APPLIED TO EXTEND HIS EXISTING LICENSING HOURS FROM 8.00 A.M. TO 11.00 P.M. FROM MONDAY TO SATURDAY AND 10.00 A.M. TO 10.30 P.M. ON SUNDAY TO 6.00 A.M. TO MIDNIGHT ON MONDAY TO SUNDAY. THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS PROPOSAL IN PRINCIPLE BUT RESERVED THE RIGHT TO SUPPORT NEIGHBOUR REPRESENTATIONS SHOULD THIS BE REQUIRED.**

### **34/2023 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.

The meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.

**Chairman.....Date.....**