

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 July, 2024.

Present:

**(Chairman)
Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE**

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

21/2024 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllr. M. Jackson.

22/2024 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE had 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.

23/2024 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** to accept, approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5th June, 2024. It was carried.

24/2024 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE ORGANISATION

Cllr. Mrs. Perry advised the meeting that the Clerk had circulated a copy of the new style Police Report for Councillors consideration. Unfortunately, the new Chief Inspector of Police had made the decision that the new style of report would be the only version made available to Parish Councils going forward, and sadly it was not as user friendly or informative as the previous version had been. This was noted by Members.

GREAT WYRLEY CARNIVAL

Cllr. Mrs. Perry advised the meeting that Great Wyrley Carnival had been a huge success again this year and had very well attended indeed. The Carnival Floats had been absolutely excellent this year and a huge thank you was due to the Carnival Committee for organising such a fantastic event for the village. All Members supported Cllr. Mrs. Perry's vote of thanks to the Carnival Committee.

CHAPS MINING MEMORIAL TABLEAU

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that she had recently attended a meeting with Mr. M. Mellor of the Chase Arts for Public Spaces Organisation and discussed their proposal to provide a commemorative art piece of the mining community in Great Wyrley. The proposed art piece was to be sponsored by an anonymous benefactor, however, Cllr. Mrs. Perry felt that it would be also

be appropriate to raise funds towards it by having suitably covered collection tins around the Parish which would ensure that all residents could feel that they had become part of such an important local tribute. This was noted.

A design had now been provided to the Parish Council which was circulated to all Members by the Clerk for their consideration and observations. A copy of the proposed design is attached at **Appendix A**.

Members agreed that the design was very beautiful and that it would be a very attractive addition to the village landscape. Full discussion took place with regard to the positioning of the proposed tableau, in particular the fact that it needed to be positioned where everyone travelling through the village would see it. The original proposal by the CHAPS organisation was for the tableau to be installed in the Memorial Garden. All Members agreed that such an art work should be much more accessible.

The Parish Council **resolved** to accept the very kind offer to provide this beautiful memorial and instructed the Clerk to make contact with the CHAPS organisation to discuss alternative locations. It was carried.

25/2024 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were several residents from Shaws Lane in the Public Gallery on this occasion, all of whom had attended with the intention of ensuring that the Parish Council was aware of the situation with regard to the number of HGV's which were constantly using Shaws Lane.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry explained that she had liaised with Mr. M. Keeling of Staffordshire County Council who had advised her that there wasn't really an update as such as Shaws Lane was not a prioritised site currently and there was no funding identified that would address the issue. This was noted.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry went on to say that there was an issue with Heavy Commercial vehicles accessing nearby industrial estates via Shaws Lane and other adjacent roads. As most of the evidence had come from Shaws Lane residents the County Council had provided temporary signs to educate the Heavy Commercial Vehicle drivers and had provided a partial solution that could be actioned fairly quickly. This was noted.

However, the issue at Shaws Lane had also been discussed at the Staffordshire Freight Forum, which is the mechanism for addressing local lorry movement and also provides a dedicated platform to discuss a range of issues associated with freight traffic on a County wide and strategic level. This was noted.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry explained that it had been agreed at the Freight Forum that further analysis would be required to determine the extent of the issues and also to identify those routes which heavy commercial vehicles should be using. The County Council currently had the data for Shaws Lane but not others and this was something that needed to be considered.

Apparently, Mr. Keeling had also advised Cllr. Mrs. Perry that even with a Weight Restriction in place at Shaws Lane it may not deter all heavy commercial vehicles and that currently there was no enforcement of restrictions being carried out due to the demand on Police resources. This was noted.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry advised the meeting that she had been informed by Staffordshire County Council that should a Weight Restriction be considered locally they would need to secure funding for investigation, design, data collection, the legal process (Traffic Regulation Order) and the for the construction works (signs etc.) including

any illumination of the signs. The cost of the scheme would exceed the current local County Councillors community priority fund of DHP (Divisional Highway Program) which was currently set at £7,000. Therefore, to progress this scheme in excess of £10,000, the County Council would need to consider submitting a request for Capital Program Funding.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry explained that capital schemes were managed and prioritised through Local Members and the Community Highway Managers which were then prioritised against other schemes across Staffordshire and also that the pressure County wide on this program is extremely high, however, was the only avenue to progress this scheme further.

In conclusion Cllr. Mrs. Perry explained that she would certainly do everything she could to get another sign put up. At this point the spokesman for Shaws Lane who was present in the public gallery asked whether there was anything that the residents could do themselves to assist in gathering data. Cllr. Mrs. Perry advised the members of the public present at the meeting that they had done exceptionally well to have achieved as much as they had already. This was noted.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry also advised those present that the Parish Council would be discussing this matter under an agenda item later in the meeting and the Parish Council would be fully supporting the residents' wish to escalate this matter to the powers that be. This was noted.

26/2024 CLERK'S REPORTS TO COUNCIL

(a) REQUEST FOR UPDATE ON SHAWS LANE ROAD SAFETY

As Members were already aware this matter had been fully discussed under the Public Participation Session of the meeting. It now fell to Members to discuss this issue to enable the Parish Council to pledge its support of the residents to Mr. J. Bailey of Staffordshire County Council Highways.

Cllr. J. C. Jones advised the meeting that he fully understood how frustrating this matter was for the residents of Shaws Lane but was also cognizant of the fact that these measures could not be treated in isolation and that the Parish Council also needed to consider the other lanes which would undoubtedly fall foul of exactly the same treatment. Cllr. Jones advised the meeting that Cllr. Mrs. Perry had worked very hard indeed to try to resolve this matter and also pledged to work with all Members and residents to try to get a resolution to this matter.

Cllr. Jones also advised the members of the public present that should they wish to receive a copy of Staffordshire County Council's reply to Cllr. Mrs. Perry this could easily be arranged. This was noted.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry suspended Standing Orders once again and allowed another member of the public to speak briefly at this point who advised the Parish Council that as Shaws Lane had already proved that by having the temporary signage that the matter could be resolved, surely this meant that the County Council did not need to go to the expense of a feasibility study. This was noted.

Following discussion it was agreed by all present that in fairness SATNAVS were primarily to blame in such instances. This was noted.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry reinstated Standing Orders and responded that she quite understood the residents' view and would ensure that this aspect was included in the appeal to Mr. James Bailey in support of the residents' request.

(b) Report from the Cemetery Working Party

As Members were already aware the Parish Council had agreed to hold a meeting of the Cemetery Working Party. That meeting had taken place on Tuesday 25th June, 2024 and the following items were considered by Members.

One of the main reasons for the meeting to be held was to allow Members an opportunity to investigate the situation with regard to a complaint which the Parish Council had received from a resident of Westbourne Avenue. The resident asserted that ivy from Great Wyrley Cemetery had encroached into her garden and destroyed the wooden fence which they had erected on their own side of the metal railings which were on the boundary of "F" Section.

This matter was discussed at the last Council meeting and Cllr. M. Jackson advised the Parish Council that he had also been contacted by the resident concerned. This was noted.

In this instance, the Cemetery Working Party was of the view that the Parish Council Groundsmen had carried out all the works they possibly could have to resolve this matter and felt that this situation would not have arisen had the owners of the property carried out the same exercise on their own property. It would not have been lawful for the Parish Council to enter onto private property and carry out works to other people's property; so as far as their portion of the works was concerned they had completely fulfilled their side of the bargain. Members' views were requested on this view prior to the formulation of an official response to the complainant. The Parish Council **resolved** to accept the findings of the Cemetery Working Party in this regard.

Another matter of concern related to the limb of a large Oak tree which was overhanging Grave No. K82. Contact had been made with the Parish Council with a request that this tree be looked at in terms of levelling up, as it appeared to be a great deal heavier on one side than the other.

However, it was noticed at the site meeting that there were a number of trees immediately adjacent to the footpath on K Section which would also benefit from a degree of pruning.

The Members of the Cemetery Working Party agreed that this area may need further investigation and felt that this work may be carried out in conjunction with works which will be required to fell a very large dead Ash tree situated to the rear of Park Close.

The Parish Council **resolved** to accept the findings of the Cemetery Working Party in this regard.

In conclusion the Parish Council had also received a request from a resident of Westbourne Avenue to cut back the lower branches of a tree on the boundary of his property. As it happened one of the residents who had asked the Parish Council to consider this matter was present at the time of the meeting and an agreement was reached that some of the lower branches could be removed and the works could be carried out, in due course, by the Parish Council Groundsmen.

The Parish Council **resolved** to accept the recommendations of the Cemetery Working Party in this regard.

(c) Update on unauthorised removal of stanchions to Cemetery Railings

Members' recalled that the railings on the boundary of the driveway to The Cemetery were destabilised during September of last year. This was caused by the unauthorised works which were carried out to them in the form of the removal of the stanchions which supported the railings.

Members also recalled that this matter was put in the hands of South Staffordshire Council's Legal Department to take the matter forward.

Unfortunately, despite several reminders, this matter had not progressed at all and the Parish Council had now received a communication explaining that the instructions which were issued by the Solicitor dealing with the case were not carried out by the Officer issued with that instruction. Unfortunately, that particular officer had now left the employ of South Staffordshire Council making it impossible to clarify why this inaction had occurred.

This was obviously extremely disappointing and the District Council had now offered to send a letter (a copy of which had been circulated to all Members for their consideration) requesting recompense.

However, the Parish Council had been advised that should those people chose to refuse to reimburse the Parish Council for the money that had already been outlaid or; didn't respond at all it would leave the Parish Council with two choices one of which was to go to the Small Claims Court.

Apparently going to the Small Claims Court would only entail the Parish Clerk's costs of attending Court and the Court Fee which would be £2000. The alternative was to go for legal proceedings which would cost in the region of £7000.

However, the draft letter included a paragraph which stated that the stanchions were positioned on land in the ownership of the person concerned and the Parish Council holds the view that there is no definitive proof that the railing stanchions were on the land owned by the person who cut them off and felt that this paragraph should be removed.

The Clerk requested guidance from Members on how the Parish Council would wish her to proceed with this matter; bearing in mind she had no experience of pursuing a claim through the Small Claims Court, which she was, of course, prepared to do if necessary, but would not necessarily excel at in the circumstances. This was noted.

Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** that the Clerk write to South Staffordshire Council Legal Department with a request that the paragraph relating to ownership be deleted. It was carried.

(d) Planning Appeal – Landywood Enterprise Park

Councillors were already aware that the Parish Council had very strongly objected to the application referred to above. The Planning Application related to the proposed demolition of the existing building and the erection of a new building for flexible B2/B8 use with associated parking and loading areas in Holly Lane. However, even though it was refused by the Planning Committee at South Staffordshire Council following strong support from Members, there was always the fear that this decision may be overturned by the Planning Inspectorate at the appeal stage.

Unfortunately, this was exactly what had happened and Members were very disappointed, as a great deal of work had gone into resisting the appeal and it would appear that the Inspector appointed to determine the case had completely ignored the majority of the very significant reasons for refusal and had also applied for costs against South Staffordshire Council.

As this appeal was determined by the Written Representations Procedure the costs incurred by the appellant may not be as exorbitant as they would have been for a Public Inquiry, however, it was not really the issue here, it is the fact that the relevant information had been completely ignored.

However, an Inspector's decision may be challenged in the High Court, within 6 weeks, on the basis that the process has erred in law. For example, if there was a mistake in legal procedures or some vital information was ignored. However, to bring a judicial review claim, the person bringing the claim must have "standing". Presumably this meant they needed to be a party to the appeal accordingly, any claim could only be lodged by the District Council.

The Clerk asked the Parish Council whether it wished to raise this issue with South Staffordshire Council to ascertain whether or not it would entertain the idea of a High Court Challenge, bearing in mind how weak the representations lodged on its behalf were by the external planning consultants they used to deal with this matter.

Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** to support Cllr. Mrs. Perry MBE's offer to take this matter forward with South Staffordshire Council. It was carried.

(e) Request for use of Star Land for Dog Training Classes

The Parish Council had received a request from a resident of Norton Lane to use the Star Land for Dog Training Classes which she had now contracted to hold at the Scout and Guide Centre. It was a 12 month contract and the requirement to use the field would only be when the weather permitted. Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** that the Parish Council would be unable to accede to this request on the basis that it would contravene the regulations imposed by the Charity Commission Scheme which governs the Star Land. It was carried.

(f) Request to use Jones Lane Field for Parking for Football Training

The Parish Council had received a request from a Football team which had been using the Jones Lane Recreation Ground for training sessions to be issued with a key to the Recreation Ground Barrier so that they could use the area to park vehicles off road during their training sessions.

Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** that unfortunately, it was not in a position to grant permission to use the land for the purposes described as it would be in contravention of the rules applying to the area of public open space. These rules were imposed by the Charity Commission and could not be ignored without repercussions. It was carried.

(g) Climate Change

There were no specific items regarding Climate Change to be discussed on this occasion.

27/2024 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that there was not a great deal to report on this occasion as most activities had been halted by Purdah in the run

up to the General Election.

However, Cllr. Mrs. Perry was able to share the fact that Station Road was to be revisited by County Highways Contractors and closed off on 22nd July when it was hoped that the mini roundabout would be looked at again. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry also advised the meeting that, at the present time, a consultation was in progress regarding the method of disposal of food waste in the County. This was noted by Members.

28/2024 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr. Mrs. Perry advised the Parish Council that she did not have a great deal to Report on District Council matters. This was noted.

29/2024 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS

REMOVAL OF SELF SEEDED TREES – LANDYWOOD PLAYING FIELD

Cllr. J. C. Jones requested the Clerk to make contact with Mr. I. Round in order to request that the trees bordering Lingfield Drive (which the Parish Council had already **resolved** to have removed) be felled as a matter of urgency.

REPLACEMENT OF WIRE MESH FENCING – CO-OP CAR PARK AND PLAYING FIELD

Cllr. J. C. Jones advised the meeting that a section of wire mesh fencing had been removed from the boundary between the Co-op and the Landywood Play Area. The Clerk was instructed to request the Parish Council Grounds Men to investigate this matter and effect repairs where necessary.

DISGRACEFUL CONDITION OF WYRLEY BROOK

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE requested the Clerk to contact Mr. A. Brett and Severn Trent with a request that improvements are made to the condition of Wyrley Brook as a matter of urgency. At the present time the Brook looks disgraceful and was also posing a real risk to public safety in that its actual existence is being hidden by overgrowth of vegetation.

COMMEMORATION OF MINING COMMUNITY

The Parish Council had now been given a copy of the design proposed for the commemoration of the mining community and Members fully supported the installation of such a beautiful monument. It now fell to the Parish Council to decide on the most appropriate location for the monument itself. A number of suggestions were made and fully discussed.

Suggestions were as follows:-

- The Green opposite Hazel Lane towards Hilton Lane
- Opposite the Wesleyan Chapel
- Brook Lane opposite The Swan

The Clerk was requested to contact the CHAPS Organisation and advise them that the Parish Council was more than pleased to agree to this installation and give them the suggestions put forward by Members. It was carried.

The Parish Council also discussed a proposal whereby the members of the Parish

could also be part of the project by having collecting tins in various places within the Parish that residents could make their own contribution towards this incredibly worthwhile project.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that it may be a nice idea to hold a Christmas Lights Switch on this year and to hold a small event at the Community Centre with Carols and Christmas Entertainment. The date selected was 6th December, 2024. It was carried.

SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry advised the meeting that Friday 20th December, 2024 would be a good day to hold the Christmas Lunch. The Parish Council **resolved** to select this date for the event.

30/2024 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

GREAT WYRLEY CARNIVAL COMMITTEE

Cllr. A. J. Kelsey advised the meeting that the Carnival had been fantastically well attended and had boasted the best floats ever. The stalls were all sold out very early in the day.

Cllr. J. C. Jones advised Cllr. Kelsey that he was aware of how much work the Carnival Committee put into this event and that personally, Cllr. Kelsey had done a great job and it was such a lot of work and was very much appreciated.

Cllr. Kelsey felt that the procession may have been a little bit shorter than in previous years. Cllr. Kelsey also advised the meeting that there were more new members of the Committee now but that they still needed more members in order to get the clear up done afterwards. Cllr. Kelsey thanked Cllrs. Kath and Ray Perry for helping to clear the field following the event.

CHEZFEST

Cllr. A. Newell advised the meeting that there was to be an event held at Cheslyn Hay on 13th July which would be taking place in Rosemary Road. Cllr. Mrs. Perry also explained that it was hoped that the Carbon Bubble was to be featuring at this event.

31/2024 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

24/00487/ADV – PROPOSED OUTDOOR DIGITAL SCREEN MEASURING 2.03M TALL BY 0.96M WIDE LOCATED AT LANDYWOOD COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL, HOLLY LANE, GREAT WYRLEY – THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS PROPOSAL.

24/00496/VAR – VARIATION OF CONDITION 4 (OPERATING HOURS OF PLANNING PERMISSION 23/00600/FUL. THE CONDITION RELATED TO A CHANGE IN THE OPERATION TIMES OF ONE VEHICLE BY LEAVING THE SITE AT 6.00A.M. INSTEAD OF 7.00 A.M. PERMISSION TO EXPIRE IN 2025. MEMBERS HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS PROPOSAL IN PRINCIPLE BUT RESERVED THE RIGHT TO SUPPORT NEIGHBOUR OBJECTIONS SHOULD THE NEED ARISE.

32/2024 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 Chairman thanked all members for their attendance and closed the meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.

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