

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 2ND October, 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. D. Norris (Snr.)	Cllr. D. Norris (Jnr.) 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)

ONE MINUTE SILENCE IN MEMORY OF THE LATE JOHN TALBOT

Councillor Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that the Parish had recently lost one of its real characters when John Talbot had passed away. John Talbot had worked tirelessly for the Great Wyrley Royal British Legion for many years and would be sadly missed.

Councillor Mrs. Perry had also represented the Parish Council at John's funeral which was held on 24th September, 2024. The service had been conducted by John's son and was a poignant and personal service very much centred on the family, however, there was, of course, representation by the Royal British Legion. This was noted by Members.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CHAIRMAN ON BECOMING LEADER OF SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

Immediately prior to the commencement of the Parish Council meeting the Clerk advised Members that there was an additional item on the agenda this evening and invited the Vice-Chairman to address the Chairman.

Cllr. J. C. Jones congratulated Cllr. Mrs. Perry on her achievement of becoming the Leader of South Staffordshire Council, all Members supported Cllr. Jones sentiments and the presentation of a bouquet of flowers was followed by well deserved applause.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry thanked everyone for their kind words and advised everyone that she would do everything in her power to fulfil the role she had been given. Cllr. Mrs. Perry then continued to open the meeting.

46/2024 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllr. M. Jackson.

47/2024 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no specific declarations of interest on this occasion.

48/2024 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 4th September, 2024. It was carried.

49/2024 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

RETIREMENT OF WINDOW CLEANER

The Chairman advised the meeting that she had recently been informed that Frank Clare had finally retired as the Community Centre window cleaner having given more than 30 years service to the Parish Council. Cllr. Mrs. Perry felt there was a need to acknowledge Frank Clare's long service to the Parish Council in some way and suggested that he be invited to the Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch as the Parish Council's guest.

The Parish Council was also advised that Mr. Clare would be 90 years old on 8th November and that this could be commemorated at the same time. Members agreed that the Clerk should take action on the Parish Council's suggestions.

NEW VICAR FOR GREAT WYRLEY CHURCHES

The Chairman advised the meeting that she had attended the Licensing Service of the new Vicar at St. Marks Church which was conducted by the Bishop of Lichfield on 25th September, 2024. The Reverend Marie Meredith would now be serving our parishes and the Clerk had been requested to invite Rev. Meredith to a meeting of the Parish Council once she had had an opportunity of settling in to her new role.

REVIEW OF THE POLICE SERVICE AND FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE IN STAFFORDSHIRE

The Chairman also advised the meeting that bearing in mind the difficulties being experienced in Great Wyrley over the last few months relating to crime, that Members may wish to respond to the consultation out at the moment inviting everyone to have their say about the Policing and Fire and Rescue Service in Staffordshire. It was an online consultation and the link was on the Parish Council website and would be open until 21st October, 2024. This was noted by Members.

50/2024 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Chairman suspended Standing Orders in order to allow the members of the public in the gallery to address the meeting.

There were no residents of Shaws Lane in attendance on this occasion. However, for everyone's information Cllr. Mrs. Perry advised the meeting that she had been informed by Mr. M. Keeling of Staffordshire County Council Highways that she was planning to request that when DHP funding which was allocated to each Councillor on a yearly basis was available this year she would have the situation in Shaws Lane included in the programme. This was noted by Members.

There was no one in attendance in the Public Gallery on this occasion, accordingly, the Chairman reinstated standing Orders and continued with the meeting.

51/2024 **CLERK'S REPORTS TO COUNCIL**

(a) Application for Co-option onto Great Wyrley Parish Council

The Parish Council had received a request from Mr. Robert Fairclough (who resides at 56 Brooklands Avenue, Great Wyrley) for Councillors to consider his co-option onto Great Wyrley Parish Council. Mr. Fairclough was in attendance at the meeting and addressed the Parish Council accordingly, responding to Cllr. Mrs. Perry's question as to what he felt he could bring to Great Wyrley Parish Council.

Mr. Fairclough advised the Parish Council that his main reason for wishing to become a Councillor related to his wish to have Great Wyrley Brook properly maintained and cared for. Mr. Fairclough also advised Members that he was interested in all matters considered by the Parish Council and was prepared for hard work. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry explained that the Parish Council had no jurisdiction over Wyrley Brook, however, as a body made every effort to keep pressure on the organisations which do have control over the Brook. Cllr. Mrs. Perry reminded all present that the Brook also runs through Cheslyn Hay.

At the present time, the plans the Parish Council had to enhance the appearance of the brook were being held in abeyance due to the fact that there were far larger plans for the brook itself going on in the background. Those larger plans also included holding ponds which were expected to go some way towards the alleviation of the flooding problems being experienced in the area. Cllr. Mrs. Perry also took this opportunity to advise Mr. Fairclough that Wyrley Brook was always on the agenda for Parish Council meetings. This was noted.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry thanked Mr. Fairclough for his application and advised him that the Parish Council would be considering his request in the confidential session to be held at the end of the meeting. Cllr. Mrs. Perry invited Mr. Fairclough to remain for the duration of the meeting. This was noted.

(b) Reform of the National Planning Policy Framework

Members were already aware that the Government had recently published its proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework. Members were, of course, aware that this document underpins every planning decision made nationally and was known as the Bible in terms of planning. This document was introduced in 2012 and was amended by the Government sitting at that time in December, 2023.

Accordingly, a public consultation on the proposed changes had been launched to review the proposed changes and Parish Councils had been invited to respond to the consultation.

The Clerk advised the meeting that she had taken this opportunity to undertake a review of the existing NPPF document and had highlighted the matters which were felt to be relevant to the Parish Council. Mainly in order to ensure that all members would have a grasp on what those changes represented. The document itself was extremely long (85 pages) and very detailed. Because of the sheer size of the document the Clerk had prepared a summary from the tracked changes to the policies for Members information.

As the response to the consultation had fallen between meetings of the Parish Council, in consultation with the Chairman, the Clerk had now formed a consultation response and lodged this with the Government Office in order to keep within the prescribed timescales.

A copy of the review of the changes to the document accompanied by a copy of the Parish Council's response to the Government Office for Members' information at **APPENDIX 1**. This was noted by Members.

(c) Update on Repairs to Community Centre Defibrillator

Following on from the report to Council at last month's Parish Council meeting the Clerk was now pleased to advise Members that the broken component required to repair the Defibrillator had now been delivered to the Community Heart Beat Trust. After several months of delay the new component along with the new battery and

pads had now been received by the Parish Council and would be fitted shortly.

The Clerk was to carry out research concerning the differing costs involved with supplies of the batteries and pads in order to ensure best value for money.

(d) Condition of Wooden Skatepark at Landywood Lane

As Members were aware from the last meeting of the Parish Council some damage had been identified to the wooden skate ramps on Landywood Lane playing field. The Clerk had now had an opportunity to make contact with the organisation that repaired the structure in 2021 and had discovered that the company who carried out the repairs runs a scheme called 'pay it forward'.

The Parish Council **resolved** to instruct the Clerk to pursue this matter with Mr. Steele. It was carried.

(e) Location for Mining Memorial CHAPS

As Members were already aware the proposed Mining Memorial proposed by the CHAPS organisation for Great Wyrley was now progressing well. Cllr. Mrs. Perry had now attended a meeting with Mr. Mellor of CHAPS to discuss the proposed sites put forward at the last meeting and it would seem that one position had been informally agreed upon by all parties. At the present time CHAPS were awaiting the formal permission of South Staffordshire Council to position the memorial on land on the junction of Hilton Lane and Walsall Road adjacent to Radioworld. This was noted by Members.

Once the relevant permissions had been received Mr. Mellor was to be invited to a Parish Council meeting in order to give a presentation on the Memorial itself. This was noted by Members.

(f) Audit Requirement – changes to email and website domains

Members recalled that when the 2023/2024 Audit was signed off by Forvis Mazars it included a new requirement concerning e-mail and website management.

By way of explanation this suggestion came under the umbrella of minor scope for improvement in 2024/2025. The Practitioner's Guide (March 2024), points 5.210 and 5.211 respectively state that:

- All Parish, Town and Community Councils were eligible to use, and were advised to use, a .gov.uk domain for their websites and email communications. Our community, suppliers and partners would now reasonably expect a local council to have a .gov.uk domain name.
- To assist with compliance with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), it was advised that Clerks provide official .gov.uk email accounts to their councillors, which must only be used for official council business. If the Council had not created a generic email address by 31st March 2025, then this could result in either a qualification or other matters on the 2024/2025 AGAR.

Accordingly, this was an issue which the Parish Council needed to address in terms of security and at the present time research was being carried out as to the best way of achieving this status. There would, of course, be a cost implication, however, in reality the Parish Council was left with little choice other than to comply. The annual cost of a .gov.uk domain was in the region of £100 plus VAT, however, for this year, funding was available to cover this cost and this had been applied for.

This would, of course, mean that each Councillor would need to use a dedicated .gov.uk e-mail for any business relating to their roles as Parish Councillors and all information from the Parish Council office would automatically be sent to the dedicated .gov.uk e-mail address.

In summary all this meant was that each member would have an email address which began with their name and finished with the generic email address which was most likely to be @greatwyrleyparishcouncil.gov.uk.

The Clerk advised the Parish Council that this was an issue which had been raised with all Councils and a Parish Council of the size of Great Wyrley would very likely benefit from the additional layer of security.

The Clerk was hoping to have an update on this matter by the next meeting of the Parish Council and, of course, the transition would hopefully be completely seamless.

(g) Condition of Wyrley Brook

Members were already aware that the Parish Council was desperately trying to have the condition of Wyrley Brook improved as a matter of urgency. At the present time the Clerk had been pursuing Richard Beech of Severn Trent to give the Parish Council an update into the current situation. In the absence of a response, Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry advised the Parish Council that she had recently attended what is known at the District Council as the Ward Walk. During the site visit she had been accompanied by the Corporate Director for Communities and Wellbeing. Cllr. Mrs. Perry explained that she had pointed out the appalling condition of Station Road Car Park and the disgraceful and dangerous condition of Wyrley Brook from Quinton Avenue down to Moat Hall School. Following discussion on that occasion it had been agreed with Mrs. Smith that works would be carried out by the District Council to the Brook as soon as possible. These works had now been factored into the programme and would take place shortly. This was noted by Members.

(h) Christmas Lunch Ticket Price and Eligibility

The meeting was advised that the Parish Council had been able to secure the services of a very popular and experienced caterer to provide the Christmas meal for the Senior Citizens at its Lunch on 20th December, 2024. The price per head for the service and provision of a three course Christmas Lunch was £15.00. This was noted by Members.

Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** that tickets should be sold for £10 per ticket and not specifically to residents of Great Wyrley and Cheslyn Hay other residents with a connection to other diners would also be welcome. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry advised the meeting that the ladies from Great Wyrley Academy restaurant would also be in attendance to assist this year which is extremely kind of them. This was noted by Members.

The Parish Council also **resolved** to provide free tickets to the event to the two residents of the village who were responsible for litter picking the area on a regular basis. It was carried.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry also advised the meeting that the Parish Council had now purchased a complete new set of crockery which would be available to hire by users of the Community Centre. This was noted by Members.

(i) Naming of Phase II of Cameron Homes Development at Landywood Lane

The Parish Council had received an invitation to put forward suggested names for the second phase of the development by Cameron Homes taking place at Landywood Lane.

The Developers had no particular preference in this matter and had asked if the Parish Council could suggest a name for the newest road which would be in keeping with the existing roads on Phase 1.

Following full discussion the name the Clerk was requested to suggest to the District Council was Shantsbridge Way. This name was chosen on the basis that the bridge over the railway in Landywood Lane which was commonly known as Shanks's Bridge was actually called Shants Bridge. This was noted by Members.

(j) Climate Change

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that the funding stream under the Climate Change banner was shortly to close and that monies were still available to be claimed and invited Members to give some thought to where this funding could be utilised in the Parish.

Following discussion the Clerk was instructed to apply for funding towards replacement of the lighting system in the foyer of the Community Centre with LED lighting. It was carried.

52/2024 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 usual situation with potholes. Cllr. J. C. Jones advised the meeting that, in his view, he felt that the pothole situation was improving and that many people would be pleased when the same treatment was applied to the pavements. Cllr. Mrs. Perry explained that hopefully this would be taking place after the new financial year.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry was pleased to advise that even though it appeared that all of the roads on the Parklands Estate had now been repaired again as they had only been patched in the past. This was noted by Members

53/2024 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that the District Council was presently consulting on the appetite for a weekly food waste collection. Apparently this service had been available in Newcastle-under-Lyme for seven or eight years and may be rolled out in South Staffordshire. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. J. C. Jones asked what the situation was likely to be in terms of funding for public transport which had been sadly reduced. Cllr. Mrs. Perry explained that this issue would all be about devolution. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry also advised the meeting that she had recently attended the 50th Anniversary event of the District Council. This event had been a very well attended occasion and the guest list had included the Lord Lieutenant. As part of this event Cllr. Mrs. Perry had been invited to record her thoughts on her time in office at South Staffordshire Council where she had ensured that she had mentioned Great Wyrley as many times as possible. This was noted with amusement by Members.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry also advised the meeting that the South Staffordshire Council Hub had now received an award for being such a great example with regard to Climate Change. The Hub was also bringing in considerable income, which was also much valued in corporate terms. This was noted by Members.

54/2024 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Mrs. O. Brazier advised the meeting that she had noted that work had now started on the new car park to serve Landywood station. The question was also asked who was to take responsibility for the operation of the car park. Unfortunately, at the present time this question was unanswerable. Several approaches had apparently been made, to various organisations, however, unfortunately, as yet, there had been no interest. Network Rail had not responded and, of course, car parks were no longer just car parks; in many instances there was also the EV Charger question to be addressed. This was noted by Members.

55/2024 BUS SHELTER PAINTING AND NOTICEBOARD REFURBISHMENT

Cllr. J. C. Jones asked the Clerk whether there was any chance that the bus shelters in the Parish could be refurbished as at the present time they were not in the best condition. The Clerk advised Cllr. Jones that the Parish Council Groundsmen had factored this task into their work programme for the winter and had also included the works required to the notice boards. This was noted by Members.

56/2024 GREAT WYRLEY PARISH COUNCIL – CHRISTMAS MARKET

Councillor Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the Parish Council that the plan for the Christmas Market was now progressing extremely well. Father Christmas had now been booked and there had been quite a lot of interest from stall holders to be in attendance at the event. The Parish Council was intending to stage a grotto for Father Christmas to receive his young visitors and there would be mince pies and mulled wine to accompany the choir for the switch on of the Christmas Lights both at the Community Centre and at the same time in Walsall Road. This was noted by Members. This issue would be reported upon more fully at the next meeting of the Council.

57/2024 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr. A. Newell advised the meeting that Great Wyrley History Society was to hold its Open Night on 19th October, 2024. This was noted by Members.

58/2024 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

24/00522/FUL - CONVERSION AND EXTENSION OF EXISTING ROOF SPACE AT DENTAL SURGERY TO CREATE ADDITIONAL ROOMS AT SECOND FLOOR LEVEL AT 171 WALSALL ROAD, GREAT WYRLEY – THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS PROPOSAL BUT HAD CONCERNS WITH REGARD TO PARKING PROVISION.

24/00781/FUL –REPLACEMENT OF FRONT ELEVATION WINDOWS AT 4 SUNBEAM DRIVE, GREAT WYRLEY. THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS PROPOSAL.

24/00748/FULHH – RETROSPECTIVE APPLICATION FOR THE RETENTION OF A SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION AT 92 WALSALL ROAD, GREAT WYRLEY - THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS APPLICATION.

PLANNING APPEAL

APPEAL AGAINST REFUSED PLANNING APPLICATION REGARDING ERECTION OF A DETACHED TWO STOREY 2 BEDROOM DWELLING ON LAND

