

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 5TH March, 2025.

Present:

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

Cllr. Mrs. O. Brazier Cllr. A. Kelsey	Cllr. A. Newell Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood
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Also in attendance was Parish Clerk (Mrs. S. McGlue).

114/2025 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllr. R. Fairclough, Cllr. M. Jackson, Cllr. D. Norris (Jnr.) Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE, Cllr. R. J. Perry and Cllr. Mrs. C. Whiston-Taylor.

115/2025 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. M. Jackson had declared a standing interest in any matters pertaining to Planning Applications in his capacity as a member of the Planning Committee of South Staffordshire Council. This was a standing agenda item despite the fact that Cllr. Jackson was not present on this occasion.

116/2025 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** to accept, approve and sign the minutes of the Audit and Governance Meeting held on 5th February, 2025. Following the inclusion of Cllr. Mrs. O. Brazier and Cllr. M. Jackson in the list of Members in attendance at the Parish Council meeting which immediately followed the Audit and Governance Committee meeting held on 5th February, 2025 the document was accepted, approved and signed by the Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council. It was carried.

117/2025 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

In the absence of Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE due to a prior engagement, the Clerk reported to all Members present that Cllr. Mrs. Perry wished to remind everyone that the Parish Council would be hosting an event to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of VE Day on 8th May, 2025 and that she would appreciate it if Members would make a note of this date in their diaries. It was noted.

118/2025 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

SHAWS LANE ACTION GROUP

The Clerk advised the meeting that Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry had asked her to apologise on her behalf that she was not able to be here in person to share the following information with the Group this evening due to a prior engagement.

The Clerk then advised the Group that Cllr. Mrs. Perry had been informed by Mr. M. Keeling that she could confirm in advance that the IT Capital Programme was going to Cabinet on 19th March, 2025 and that the Shaws Lane issue had been included within the report. Mr. Keeling would be able to advise further following this meeting. This was noted.

A member of the Action Group advised the meeting that the situation had worsened considerably over the last few weeks and that today there had been an issue involving a double unit articulated lorry. This situation was completely unacceptable and action was needed urgently. This was noted.

The Vice-Chairman congratulated the Action Group on their achievements with this issue with a well done to all.

The Vice-Chairman invited any other questions from the residents in the Public Gallery and having received confirmation that there were no further questions reinstated Standing Orders and continued with the business to be transacted at the meeting.

119/2025 CLERK'S REPORTS TO COUNCIL

(a) COUNCILLORS' NEW .GOV.UK. EMAIL ADDRESSES

Members were already aware that the Parish Council had now been advised that each Parish Councillor would need to use a dedicated .gov.uk e-mail address with effect from 31st March, 2025.

The technical work behind the scenes had now been carried out by the Parish Administrator and each e-mail address would need to go live before the end of March. Each Councillor was to be issued with their own user name, password and a full set of detailed instructions on how to log in and operate going forward. This was noted.

The .gov.uk e-mail address was to be used for Parish Council business only and would not have any connection to Members' personal e-mail accounts. However, the Practitioner's guidelines attached to the .gov.uk e-mail states clearly that it is essential that e-mails be checked on a regular basis. It also needed to be noted that current e-mail addresses held for Councillors would now be deleted from the Parish Council system, therefore, all communications would be sent to the .gov.uk email addresses only. This was noted.

The Clerk advised the meeting, that should any Member experience difficulty with this process, provided that their IT equipment was portable, the Parish Administrator had offered assistance at the Community Centre at a prearranged time. This was noted.

All Parish Councillors had been issued with a Hints and Tips Guide which had been designed to assist with this process and User names and Passwords would be e-mailed to Councillors' personal e-mail addresses over the following couple of days following which it would simply be a case of logging into the e-mail with individual User Names and Passwords and carrying on in the normal way. This was noted.

(b) COMMEMORATION OF THE REIGN OF HER MAJESTY THE LATE QUEEN ELIZABETH II

(c) COMMEMORATION OF THE ASCENSION OF KING CHARLES III TO THE THRONE

(d) OLYMPIC TORCH ROUTE COMMEMORATION

Members had been aware for some considerable time that the Parish Council had been attempting to procure suitable memorials for all the items listed above.

Following a number of failed attempts to source these items, Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE suggested that the Clerk make contact with Imre Tolgyesi of South Staffordshire Council for assistance with these matters. The Clerk had followed this advice and been pointed in the direction of a local supplier who had now attended a meeting with the Clerk. The meeting had been extremely lucrative and the Clerk was expecting to have mock ups of the designs in time for the April meeting of the Parish Council. This was noted.

(e) Climate Change Funding Application

As Members were already aware the Clerk had recently applied for funding from Staffordshire County Council's Climate Change Fund and had been experiencing considerable difficulty in obtaining a quotation to have the works carried out. As Members were already aware, obtaining quotations for anything in the present economic climate seemed to have become more and more difficult and in some cases completely impossible.

The Clerk had been attempting since October 2024 to make contact with a contractor which would be prepared to provide the Parish Council with a quotation to convert the lighting in the foyer into light emitting diodes without success. However, at the very last minute the contractors who worked with the Christmas Lighting Supplier had come to the rescue and followed up with a quote for the required works almost immediately.

The Parish Council had already been advised that its application had been approved in principle, however, that it all rested on the receipt of a quotation from an approved electrician. Accordingly, the Clerk advised the Parish Council that now that the necessary paperwork had been received and forwarded to Staffordshire County Council, the Clerk was confident that this matter would be resolved shortly. This was noted by Members.

(f) S106 MONIES – HOLLY LANE DEVELOPMENT

Members were, of course, aware that most major planning developments involve an Agreement under S106 of the Town and Country Planning Act; normally to provide some form of contribution to the village which would complement/ accommodate any said development.

The Clerk advised the meeting that Section 106 Agreements had been in place for many years, however, in some Local Authority areas the use of an alternative mechanism i.e. Community Infrastructure Levies had been adopted. This was not the case in South Staffordshire. This, in all fairness was actually a good thing for Parish Councils as any monies raised through a Community Infrastructure Levy could be spent anywhere in a Local Planning Authority's area and not necessarily in the location to accommodate the development.

In this regard, Members recalled that a development of approximately 30 houses had been approved for Holly Lane and would take place in due course; and that the consent for this development included a Section 106 contribution of £27,900.00.

The Clerk advised the meeting that bearing in mind the constant pressure on the Parish Council to replace the Children's Play Equipment on Landywood Lane Play Area an application had been made to South Staffordshire Council for the Section 106 Agreement monies to be applied towards the provision of just such a project.

The Parish Council had now received confirmation from the Legal Department of South Staffordshire Council that a replacement Play Area was a suitable project for this funding to be allocated to and once the development commenced and the monies received, the transfer of the monies could take place. This was incredibly encouraging news, as not only was it quite an amount of money in itself, it could also be relied upon in terms of obtaining match funding from other sources for the same project. This was noted by Members.

(g) Community Benefit Schemes – Battery Energy Storage Sites

The Clerk advised the Parish Council that over the the last 12 months the number of Planning Applications which had been lodged with South Staffordshire Council to provide for Battery Energy Storage Sites had rocketed. Applications of this nature were being heavily encouraged by the Government and in many cases were proving to be extremely difficult to resist. By way of background these developments were temporary in nature and covered a period of 40 years.

One such development was Application 24/00010/FULM a full planning application for a proposed Battery Energy Storage Site, Substation Compound, with associated Infrastructure, Fencing, Drainage and Landscaping with access off Hobble Lane, Great Wyrley.

This application came before the Parish Council some months ago and the Parish Council lodged its objections on the grounds of the quality of the land and its negative effect on a local area of special regard, Silver Wedding Wood. Despite a number of objections to this application it had become clear that it was highly likely to receive planning consent as there were insufficient grounds to refuse permission.

Having already dealt with a similar application at a neighbouring Parish, the Clerk was aware that each of these applications appeared to be accompanied by a Community Benefit Scheme. Accordingly, once the Officer had recommended approval of the application to the Planning Committee the Clerk took the opportunity to contact Anglo Renewables UK, (the developer in this instance). This contact included a request that they clarify whether or not a Community Benefit would be attached to this development and, if not why not, as it was considered to be one of the key elements to successful applications along with public consultation.

The Parish Council had now received confirmation that the Hobble End Lane Development was no different to others which had gained consent in South Staffordshire and would indeed include a Community Benefit Scheme. Fortunately, Anglo Renewables were more than happy for their Community Benefit Scheme Contribution to be spent on improving play facilities in the Parish. This was very welcome news, as the Community Benefit Scheme had been known to be a considerable amount in other similar situation and hopefully would also apply in this instance. This was noted by Members.

The Clerk advised the meeting that it may well take some time for the monies to become available because the site needed to be constructed and everything would depend on the date of its connection to National Grid, however, having agreement in principle was quite a step forward and again may be referred to in attempting to obtain match funding for the new play facilities. This was noted by Members.

(h) Great Wyrley Local History Society – Book Launch

The Parish Council had received an invitation to all Members to attend the official launch of the Great Wyrley Local History Society's latest book "Great Wyrley and Cheslyn Hay – Great War". The book had been written by the History Society's close associate the Local Historian, Mr. Paul Ford.

The Launch itself was to take place at the Senior Citizen's Centre at Broadmeadow Lane, Great Wyrley on Monday 24th March, 2025 at 7.30p.m. Unfortunately, the Launch could not be accommodated at the Community Centre on this occasion as the Parish Council would have been more than happy to support this event.

The Clerk advised the meeting that should any Member wish to attend the Launch to please respond directly to Mrs. D. Tolley. This was noted by Members.

(i) Central Heating System – Great Wyrley Community Centre

Members recalled that at the last meeting of the Parish Council the subject of the earmarked funds for the forthcoming year was discussed. One of the earmarked funds related to the replacement of the Central Heating boiler for the Community Centre. At that time the Parish Council was only awaiting a replacement part for the boiler which was expected to resolve the ongoing issue. Accordingly, Members agreed to reduce the earmarked amount under this heading (approximately £13,000) to £7,400 in order to ensure that in the event of the Central Heating Boiler failing in the future the Parish Council would be prepared for necessary expenditure on repairs. This was noted by Members.

This issue had now moved on rather, in as much as the Parish Council had now been advised that the boiler was no longer fit for purpose because the replacement for the damaged flue, which was the existing problem, could no longer actually be sourced and accordingly, the boiler itself could no longer be safely operational.

Surprisingly, the heating was still allowed to function, but Brelmayne Ltd. could not guarantee that their temporary repairs would hold the situation for much longer. Accordingly, Brelmayne had now provided the Parish Council with a quotation to replace the boiler, which unexpectedly was considerably less than the amount originally earmarked for boiler replacement. The quotation amounted to £7,468.00 exclusive of VAT, which coincidentally amounted to almost exactly the same amount that the Parish Council had earmarked for emergency repairs to the Boiler. This was noted.

Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** to accept the quotation from Brelmayne Limited. It was carried.

120/2025 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE was unable to be present on this occasion, but would be reporting upon any progress with regard to the Local Government Reorganisation situation at the next meeting of the Parish Council. This was noted.

121/2025 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

The Clerk advised the meeting that Cllr. Mrs. Kath Perry had requested that she advise the Parish Council that there would be a Parish Summit hosted by the District Council on Thursday 22nd May, 2025. This was noted by Members.

In addition The District Council was presently in the process of reviewing the Tenders for the new Waste Contract and that consideration of the requirement to include specific arrangements for food waste would also now be under review.

Cllr. Perry had also asked the Clerk to advise everyone that the next tranche of the United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund opened again in April and was to be administered by South Staffordshire Council. This was noted by Members.

122/2025 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS

FLOODED AREA JUNCTION OF BENTONS LANE AND WALSALL ROAD

Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood advised the meeting that the flooding which takes place at the junction between Bentons Lane and Walsall Road had become a great deal worse and it did not appear to be associated with a broken drain. No one appeared to be taking responsibility for this issue and Cllr. Mrs. Wood would like the situation minuted and an update on the subject at the next meeting of the Parish Council. This was noted by Members.

NEW CAR PARK TO SERVE LANDYWOOD HALT

Cllr. Mrs. Wood advised the meeting that she had been approached by a member of the public asking when the new car park to serve Landywood Station would become usable. Unfortunately, there was no definitive answer to this question at the present time and the Clerk was to investigate both the timescales for use and the question of responsibility for the car park. This was noted.

SALVATION ARMY CLOTHES BANK

Cllr. Mrs. O. Brazier advised the meeting that the Salvation Army Clothes Bank located on the Co-op Car park appeared to have overflowed and spread its contents all over the car park.

Cllr. J. C. Jones advised the meeting that this situation had arisen due to vandalism when someone had deposited a number of bags next to the Clothes Bank and they had subsequently been mindlessly thrown around the car park. It was thought that this situation had now been resolved, however, if this was incorrect and anyone had information to the contrary please contact the Clerk with a request that she alert the Salvation Army of the situation. This was noted by Members.

REORGANISATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Cllr. J. C. Jones advised the meeting that he had had sight of Staffordshire County Council's proposals in relation to the reorganisation of Local Government which included the interim reorganisation plan which could see their authority merge with all eight District and Borough Councils in the County. This was noted by Members.

123/2025 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no reports from outside bodies on this occasion.

124/2025 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

23/00113/FUL – CAR PARK EXTENSION AT 271 WALSALL ROAD, GREAT WYRLEY. THE PARISH COUNCIL OBJECTED TO THIS APPLICATION ON THE BASIS THAT IT ENTIRELY SUPPORTED THE VIEW OF STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL HIGHWAYS IN THAT THE PROPOSAL SHOULD BE REFUSED ON THE BASIS THAT THE APPLICATION FAILS TO DEMONSTRATE A SAFE AND SUITABLE ACCESS.

25/00109/FULHH – TWO STOREY SIDE AND REAR EXTENSION AT 433 WALSALL ROAD, GREAT WYRLEY – THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS PROPOSAL IN PRINCIPLE BUT RESERVED THE RIGHT TO SUPPORT NEIGHBOUR OBJECTIONS SHOULD THIS BE NECESSARY.

25/00138/FUL - APPLICATION FOR GRANNY FLAT AT 60 STREETS LANE, GREAT WYRLEY – THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS

**PROPOSAL BUT RESERVED THE RIGHT TO SUPPORT NEIGHBOUR
OBJECTIONS SHOULD THIS BE NECESSARY**

125/2025 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.

126/2025 ELECTRICITY CONTRACT 2025

Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** to enter into a two year term contract with Tomato Energy to supply power to Great Wyrley Community Centre. It was carried. Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood abstained from the vote. It was carried.

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

The meeting closed at 7.55p.m.

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