

GREAT WYRLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GREAT WYRLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY 8TH JULY, 2020 AT GREAT WYRLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE, LANDYWOOD LANE, GREAT WYRLEY

PRESENT:

(Chairman)
Cllr. Ms. H. R. Snape

Cllr. Mrs. J. A. Johnson Cllr. J. C. Jones Cllr. A. J. Kelsey Cllr. M. McKenzie Cllr. A. Newell	Cllr. A. Pearson Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE Cllr. R. J. Perry Cllr. S. Toddington
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124/2020 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Mrs. O. Brazier, Cllr. M. Dabbs, Cllr. R. Myatt, Cllr. A. D. Smith and Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood.

125/2020 MINUTES OF LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4th March, 2020 be accepted, approved and signed by the Chairman.

126/2020 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman advised the meeting that she did not have a great deal to report on this occasion other than her wish to officially thank Great Wyrley Parish Council for all the hard work involved in keeping everything going during lockdown along with the problems associated with yet another flooding incident when all hands had again been on deck to protect the Community Centre.

The Chairman advised the meeting that Debra May had continued to work tirelessly from home all through lock down in order to keep the Cemetery services available to all in these troubled times. The Ground Staff had also continued to carry out ground works as soon as the restrictions had been lifted to do so and the Parish was looking as well cared for as ever. The Chairman also thanked the Clerk for taking on her role as a Co-Ordinator for the Great Wyrley Volunteers under the umbrella of the Coronavirus Support Team.

The Parish Council gave a spontaneous round of applause to the Members of the Parish Council staff. This was much appreciated.

The Chairman also took this opportunity to thank the Members of the Parish Council for continuing to take care of Parish Council business albeit remotely.

127/2020 STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE SERVICE REPORT

There were no representatives of Staffordshire Police Service present on this occasion.

128/2020 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no one present in the public gallery on this occasion.

(a) CANCELLATION OF GREAT WYRLEY BONFIRE EVENT

The Chairman advised the meeting that the Parish Council needed to make a decision on whether or not to cancel the Annual Bonfire Event. Following discussion it was **resolved** by Members that it would not be possible to ensure that the event could be held whilst still adhering to the restrictions in place to safeguard the public from the spread of the Coronavirus. Accordingly, it was felt that the event should be cancelled whilst it was still possible to gain a refund of any deposits already paid. **It was carried.** The Clerk was to ensure that a notice was placed on all of the local notice boards making residents aware of this decision as soon as possible.

Cllr. A. Kelsey advised the meeting that with regard to the Parish Council's proposal to make a donation to the Carnival Committee it was felt that normally this would be gratefully received. However, as the Carnival Committee had not expended any funds this year and had also received donations through the Scarecrow Event the Committee was not in a poor position financially and he felt that in view of the lockdown situation the Parish Council may benefit more from conserving their funds in this instance. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that in her view it may be beneficial for the Parish Council to review the possibility of making a donation to the Carnival Committee until later in the year.

(b) CANCELLATION OF FRIDAY LUNCHES

The Chairman advised the meeting that it was a very sad decision to have to make but that it would be foolhardy to continue to hold the Friday Lunches as it would be impossible to ensure the safety of the most vulnerable category of residents. Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE enquired of the Clerk whether there had been much contact made with the office in an attempt to discover when this service would be resumed. The Clerk advised the meeting that apart from an inconclusive enquiry there had not been any contact made. Cllr. Mrs. Perry requested that the Clerk prepare a poster to be placed on the Noticeboards advising residents that the Friday Lunches would be cancelled for the near future but that they would be up and running again as soon as possible.

Further to the above, Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that it would be beneficial if a notice could also be erected to advise hirers that we would be up and running as soon as we were able to.

Cllr. J. C. Jones requested that the Clerk make telephone contact with all the hirers in order to ensure that they were aware that the Parish Council was looking forward to welcoming them back as soon as possible.

Ms. D. May requested the Parish Council to confirm whether they would be prepared to allow the Blood Transfusion Service to use the Community Centre. As the Blood Transfusion Service is an exempt service there would be no breach of rules in allowing this use. The Parish Council **resolved** to allow the use of the Centre for Blood Donation purposes.

(c) GYPSY AND TRAVELLER ENCAMPMENT AT LANDYWOOD PLAYING FIELD

The Chairman advised the meeting that following the recent incursion of gypsies onto the Playing Field in Landywood Lane the Parish Council had reviewed the security measures to all land in the Parish Council's ownership.

The Chairman advised the meeting that new barrier locks were in the process of being purchased which would make it impossible for the locks to be cut off in the way they had been on this occasion. This was noted.

The Chairman advised the meeting that she had already passed on the Parish Council's thanks to both Staffordshire Police and the Officers who were present from South Staffordshire Council on the day of the incident. The Officers had carried out their task in the most efficient and effective way possible and all agencies had been thanked. Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry advised the meeting that she had all expressed her thanks to the District Council for their assistance in this matter.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that the travellers who had left Great Wyrley Parish had gone directly to Willenhall. However, ten caravans had been witnessed driving into Jacobs Hall Lane and it was felt that the Parish Council needed to be extra vigilant in terms of securing land in the Parish Councils ownerships as the District Council had advised the Parish Council that the travellers who had unlawfully entered the play area on Landywood Lane had not yet left the area. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. J. C. Jones advised the meeting that in view of the traveller incident there was an urgent need for the District Council to replace the fence between the Station Car Park land and the Parish Council playing field.

The Chairman advised Cllr. Jones that the Officers who were present on the day had mentioned that this action needed to be taken sooner rather than later; accordingly, it was their intention to have concrete bollards installed with a hedge to grow around them in order to avoid the same point of entry being used in the future. This was noted.

(d) UPDATE ON FLOOD DEFENCES

Members recalled that the village had again been subjected to torrential rain on 16th June. The Chairman was delighted to advise Members that the flood defences in place within the Community Centre had done a fantastic job and kept about 90% of the water out of the building. Some ingress of water was present but nothing compared to the previous occasion. This was felt to be quite an achievement in view of the level of deluge. However, the appalling weather conditions had done the Parish Council quite a service in that Severn Trent Water had now come forward with a number of very proactive schemes which were to run alongside the various plans already in the pipeline to protect the village.

The Chairman advised the Parish Council that two members of staff from Severn Trent had been gathering information via social media which had led to a virtual meeting held during the previous week at which Cllr. Mrs. Perry had also been in attendance in her capacity as a County Councillor. The meeting had been very beneficial and a number of the surrounding areas which had also been flooded it had been discovered also eventually discharged into Wyrley Brook. These areas had now been included in the programme and hopefully a number of matters would be resolved with a much improved result.

The Parish Council had been working alongside the Flood Protection Team in ensuring that the Staffordshire County Council Flood Information Questionnaires had been cascaded to anyone within the village who was affected. The information gained from the returned questionnaires was instrumental in providing the data to support the upcoming project.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE also advised the meeting that by chance on the night of the storm, Mr. J. Webb, the builder who had been commissioned to build the wall alongside the Community Centre, had been able to film some very valuable evidence of the direction the flood waters had come from which may well result in some of the flood defence plans agreed in the Parish Council budget proving unnecessary.

(e) PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS

The Chairman of the Parish Council advised Members that they had been given a copy of the Parish Council accounts for the year ended 31st March, 2020. The Parish Council **resolved** to accept the accounts.

(f) Following the acceptance of the accounts the Parish Council agreed that the Annual Governance and Annual Return Statement would be signed on this occasion prior to submission to the Auditors.

Cllr. J. C. Jones asked the Chairman of the Parish Council whether it was felt that the Parish Council would suffer financially resulting from Lockdown. The Chairman advised Cllr. Jones that some of the losses from the lack of bookings and general use of the Centre would be slightly ameliorated by the cancellation of the annual bonfire and a number of other factors including savings on light heat etc. This was noted.

(f) SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE – PARKING

The Parish Council had been advised recently that there were a number of problems being caused to residents of Broadmeadow Lane due to inconsiderate parking at the Senior Citizens Centre. The problem appeared to have arisen since the car park and the access way which runs parallel to it were resurfaced. There now appeared to be no physical boundary between the Centre car park and the access road way to the homes off Broadmeadow Lane.

Members understood that this situation did not come under the jurisdiction of the Parish Council, however, the Parish Council had become involved in the matter because a resident of the area had requested the Parish Council's assistance with what was referred to as inconsiderate parking.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE gave Members a brief report on the history of this area following which Cllr. A. Kelsey gave Councillors a brief report on this matter and advised Members that he would be prepared to take this matter back to the Senior Citizens Centre whereupon he would request that all users of the Centre ensure that they do not park anywhere which restricts resident's driveways.

(g) AUTO ENROLMENT PENSION PROVISION

Members were already aware that the Government now operated an automatic Enrolment Scheme to help more people save for later life through a pension scheme at work. In the past, many workers missed out on valuable pension benefits, because their employer didn't offer them a pension or they didn't apply to join their company's pension scheme. Automatic enrolment changed this. It made it compulsory for employers to automatically enrol their eligible workers into a pension scheme. The employer must also pay money into the scheme. Automatic enrolment was phased in from 2012, starting with the largest UK employers. All eligible workers should have been automatically enrolled in their employer's workplace pension scheme by 1st February 2018. During the run up to this Parish Council's staging date, I carried out the appropriate exercise to identify any person in the Parish Council's employ to ascertain whether they wished to be part of the Government Pension Scheme. To carry out this exercise

properly there is a need to enrol all eligible staff in the pension scheme where they have to remain for one month and they then have the opportunity to opt out of the scheme. There were two members of staff who were eligible to join the Pension Scheme both of which joined for the statutory month and then opted out.

The Parish Council's declaration date was 1st March, 2020 and as things stand at the present time there is only one member of staff in the Pension Scheme and all other employees are either ineligible or have chosen not to join the Pension Scheme.

In order to adhere to the regulations surrounding automatic enrolment it was necessary to declare to the Pension Service that there had been no change in circumstances every three years. Accordingly, the Clerk confirmed that there would be no increase in the Parish Council's liability for pension contributions until such time as circumstances change. This was noted.

130/2020 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

COVID 19

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that although the County Council was in lockdown it had still continued to operate its normal business via virtual meetings. A great deal of work had been done to safeguard Care Homes during the Covid crisis and that work was still ongoing. Team meetings have been held every week to ensure that contingencies were in place to ensure that care homes were not overwhelmed.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE also advised the meeting that the County Council had made funding available to be put toward Covid related purposes. A portion of the funding was used for Great Wyrley in association with the volunteer system which was set up within the village and other funding to the CCSN. Food parcels were also given out to the vulnerable and some towards vulnerable children to protect them during this difficult time. This was noted.

FLOODING

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the Parish Council that the level of Flooding in the village had again reared its head and that residents were very concerned that this matter was not going to go away and that the County Council was concentrating on safeguarding households for the future. This was noted.

HIGHWAY REPAIRS

Cllr. J. C. Jones asked Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE to explain the reasoning behind the County Council operatives painting white markings on the road and the footpaths. Cllr. Perry advised Cllr. Jones that this practice denoted areas in need of repair, however, there were occasions when some areas which were flagged up were not being dealt with in the expected order, however, these repairs would all be dealt with eventually. This was noted.

Cllr. J. C. Jones also advised the meeting that he had witnessed for the first time in his life the Drain Cleaning Operatives in Wardles Lane and thanked Cllr. Mrs. Perry for her involvement in this matter. Cllr. Mrs. Perry also advised the meeting that it had been discussed at the County Council that it may be possible to utilise alternative companies rather than always going through the contracted agents; which may prove to be less expensive. This was to be looked into further in due course.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry concluded by advising the meeting that via the auspices of the Three Tier Working Group it may be possible to progress matters more quickly. Cllr. Mrs. Perry was to bring this matter back to the next meeting of the Parish Council.

131/2020 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr. A. Pearson asked Cllr. Mrs. Perry MBE if she was aware of a specific planning proposal entitled Yieldsfield in Essington. Cllr. Mrs. Perry explained to Cllr. Pearson that through the call for sites exercise a proposal had come to their notice. Cllr. Mrs. Perry MBE gave Members a brief précis on this particular proposal and advised all that the District Members were aware of its existence and also of its implications on Great Wyrley Parish.

The Parish Council discussed a number of areas which had been included in the Call for Sites mechanism of the Local Plan and had no observations to make at this stage.

Cllr. Mrs. J. A. Johnson advised the meeting that the teams at South Staffordshire Council had been working hard to keep on top of all the business required to be attended to and the Council Offices were only open at limited times to allow for collection of work. The library was to be opened for the return of books from 27th July. The Leisure Centres as yet remained closed.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE brought Members up to date on a number of planning applications which had been dealt with during the lockdown period and assured Members that none of these items had slipped through the net because of the current restrictions. This was noted.

132/2020 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS

Cllr. A. Pearson advised the meeting that he had recently reported a problem relating to an unsafe structure in Old Hall Lane, Cllr. Pearson was pleased to advise Members that this problem had now been rectified. This was noted.

GORSEY LANE BUS SHELTER

Cllr. Mrs. J. A. Johnson asked the question when the damaged bus shelter in Gorse Lane would be repaired. The Clerk explained that the company which had installed the Bus Shelter was based in Scotland and due to the present restrictions it was not possible for the repairs to be effected at the present time.

RE-OPENING OF THE MEMORIAL GARDENS

Cllr. Mrs. J. A. Johnson asked when the Memorial Gardens would be reopened and when the wreaths would be removed from the gates. The Chairman advised the meeting that she wanted to discuss the re-opening of the Gardens with the Parish Council later in the meeting. Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that there had been some beautiful photographs of the gates to the Memorial Gardens taken only recently for the new Parish Council website and that the wreaths were probably still in position for the VE DAY Anniversary and the VJ Day Anniversary in August. This was noted.

The Chairman advised the meeting that, of course, everyone was aware of the fact that FROGS had carried out some magnificent work at the Memorial Gardens and that presently they were looking absolutely spectacular. The Chairman had attended a meeting immediately prior to lockdown during which it was agreed

that the gardens would remain closed until further notice.

Members agreed to discuss this matter now and the following observations were made:-

The Chairman advised the meeting that she was concerned about re-opening the gardens at the present time, particularly as there were still Travellers present in the area, local children were still off school with very little available to amuse themselves. The lovely benches in the Memorial Garden would be absolutely perfect as an informal gathering point for local children. The Chairman also reminded everyone that in very recent weeks travellers had driven straight through a fence to gain access to the playing field at Landywood Lane and clearly they would show no respect at all for the tremendous work which FROG had carried out in the Memorial Gardens. In short, it was felt very important that the Parish Council react to their responsibility to protect such a beautiful resource.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE also advised the meeting that she was concerned for the safety of the people working in the gardens should there be an event of the nature referred to above. This was noted.

Cllr. A. Newell advised the meeting that at no point in the past had the FROG team ever encountered any anti social incidence in the gardens. This was noted.

Cllr. Mrs. J. A. Johnson advised the meeting that she felt that the gardens could be opened for limited periods and only when supervised.

Cllr. J. C. Jones advised the meeting that he agreed with all of the reasons why the gardens needed to remain closed for the moment but felt it would be beneficial to review this decision on a monthly basis.

Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** to keep the Memorial Gardens closed to the general public for the time being with the proviso that this decision be reviewed on a monthly basis. It was carried.

TREES IN SAXON CLOSE

Cllr. A. Newell asked that the Clerk pass on his thanks to the Parish Council ground staff for their prompt action in pruning trees which were overhanging a private garden in Saxon Close. This was noted.

OVERGROWN HEDGE AND OVERHANGING WILLOW TREES

Cllr. J. C. Jones brought Members attention to the fact that there was an overgrown bush on the footpath close to the end bungalow in Sunbeam Drive towards Moat Hall School. A Willow tree was also overhanging the Brook where some branches needed to be lopped as they were hanging into the brook. Cllr. Mrs. J. A. Johnson kindly agreed to take this matter forward with South Staffordshire Council.

133/2020 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no reports from outside bodies on this occasion.

134/2020 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

20/00458/FUL – DROPPED KERBS INCLUDING FOOTPATH WORKS AT 510 WALSALL ROAD, GREAT WYRLEY. THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS PROPOSAL.

20/00342/FUL – TWO STOREY SIDE EXTENSION INCLUDING INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ALTERATIONS A PORCH TO FRONT ELEVATION AND A SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION AT 46 TOWER VIEW ROAD, GREAT WYRLEY THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO

THIS PROPOSAL.

20/00393/FUL – DEMOLITION OF EXISTING BUNGALOW AND ERECTION OF 4 NO. DETACHED BUNGALOWS ASSOCIATED GARAGING AND PRIVATE DRIVE ACCESS AT 37 JACOBS HALL LANE, GREAT WYRLEY, WALSALL. THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO MAKE ON THIS APPLICATION, HOWEVER, IT WAS EXTREMELY CONCERNED THAT THE DEVELOPER HAD CHOSEN TO CUT DOWN A NUMBER OF HIGHLY RELEVANT TREES DURING THE PERIOD IN WHICH ANY SUCH WORKS WERE PROHIBITED UNDER THE COUNTRYSIDE AND WILDLIFE ACT.

20/00291/FUL – RETENTION OF SHEDS TO THE REAR OF 122 STREETS LANE, CHESLYN HAY – MEMBERS REQUIRED CLARIFICATION AS TO WHY THESE SHEDS WERE TO BE RETAINED.

20/00425/COU – CHANGE OF USE OF PART OF EXISTING DWELLING TO BEAUTY/HAIR SALON RUNNING SMALL PART TIME BUSINESS FOR HOMEOWNER AT 42 MANOR AVENUE, GREAT WYRLEY – THE PARISH COUNCIL OBJECTED TO THIS APPLICATION ON HIGHWAY GROUNDS AS THE ROAD IS EXTREMELY NARROW. MEMBERS WERE ALSO EXTREMELY CONCERNED THAT THIS PRACTICE WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO THE AMENITY OF NEARBY RESIDENTS.

20/00358/FUL – DEMOLITION OF EXISTING BUNGALOW AND CONSTRUCTION OF 3 BED DORMER BUNGALOW AT 12 STREETS LANE, CHESLYN HAY - THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTIONS TO THIS PROPOSAL.

20/00435/FUL – PROPOSED GARDEN STUDIO AT 38 POPLAR ROAD, GREAT WYRLEY. MEMBERS OBJECTED TO THIS APPLICATION ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT WAS DETRIMENTAL TO THE AMENITY OF ADJOINING PROPERTY.

20/00288/COU – RETENTION OF STORAGE FACILITY AND CHANGE OF USE TO B8 ON LAND ADJACENT TO LANDYWOOD FARM HOUSE, LANDYWOOD LANE, CHESLYN HAY. MEMBERS OBJECTED TO THIS APPLICATION ON GROUNDS THAT THERE WAS INADEQUATE ACCESS TO THE SITE AND IT WAS UNSUITABLE FOR HEAVY GOODS VEHICLES.

135/2020 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.

A vote of thanks was proposed to Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE and Cllr. R. J. Perry for taking on the task of signing all the cheques on behalf of the Parish Council during the period of lockdown.

136/2020 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.

137/2020 TRANSFER OF BURIAL DEED

The Parish Council received the report which had been prepared by the Parish Administrator and **resolved** not to accede to the request contained therein.

138/2020 LETTER OF CLAIM

The Parish Council received the report of the Parish Clerk and noted its content.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and concluded the business before the Council.

The meeting closed at 8.52p.m.

Chairman

