

GREAT WYRLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GREAT WYRLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY 4th SEPTEMBER, 2019 AT GREAT WYRLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE, LANDYWOOD LANE, GREAT WYRLEY.

PRESENT:

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

Cllr. M. McKenzie Cllr. R. Myatt Cllr. A. Newell Cllr. A. Pearson	Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry Cllr. R. J. Perry Cllr. Mrs. S. Toddington Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood
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33/2019 ONE MINUTE'S SILENCE IN MEMORY OF BOB LEA

The Chairman advised the meeting that the Parish Council had recently lost a much valued member of staff following a short but virulent illness and invited all Members to mark his passing with one minute's silence.

Following the commemorative silence Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry advised the meeting that Bob Lea had worked for the Parish Council for a very long time and that he had always gone above and beyond the call of duty. He would be very sorely missed and advised the meeting that the Parish Council would not be able to find another Bob Lea. Everyone concurred with Cllr. Mrs. Perry's tribute and requested the Clerk to ensure that an appropriate tribute was sent to Mr. Lea's family. The Chairman advised the meeting that this matter would be discussed following the meeting.

34/2019 CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLORS

The Chairman advised the meeting that the Parish Council had received applications for co-option as Councillors from Mr. Mark Dabbs and Mrs. Olwen Brazier. Members **resolved** to co-opt Mr. M. Dabbs and Mrs. O. Brazier with immediate effect. Unfortunately, Mrs. Brazier was on holiday at the present time and would be signing her Declaration of Acceptance of Office and undertaking to observe the Code of Conduct on her return. Mr. M. Dabbs signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and agreement to observe the Code of Conduct which was expected of Members of Great Wyrley Parish Council. Cllr. Dabbs joined his fellow Councillors at the table and the meeting proceeded.

35/2019 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr. Mrs. J. Johnson, Cllr. J. C. Jones and Cllr. A. J. Kelsey.

36/2019 MINUTES OF LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17th July, 2019 be accepted, approved and signed by the Chairman.

37/2019 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman advised the meeting that South Staffordshire Council would be hosting a Code of Conduct Training Session at Great Wyrley Community Centre on Thursday 19th September, 2019. The training session may be particularly useful to new Councillors. This was noted by Members.

38/2019 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A member of the public present in the gallery advised the meeting that it had come to his notice that Wyrley Brook smells and that there was a brown substance discharging into it. In addition there were also rats around it and a tree growing in it. The Chairman advised the resident that she agreed with what he was saying, the response to which was the question why had the Parish Council done nothing about it. The Chairman explained that the Parish Council did not have any jurisdiction over Wyrley Brook and that it was the responsibility of Severn Trent Water, South Staffordshire Council and in part South Staffordshire Housing Association.

The Chairman explained that the Parish Council was trying to get something done about the situation but that there was no easy fix. Councillors had worked hard and long in the past in an attempt to resolve this problem, however, each time it appeared that a solution had been found the management of the various agencies involved would change and no further action would be taken. The Parish Council was taking every step it could to secure action and at the present time plans were afoot to recommence this project.

The resident then asked the Parish Council why it did not do anything about cleaning out the drains to assist with the flooding being experienced in the village. The Chairman explained that the Parish Council itself and the County Councillor had placed monies in various budgets to be dedicated to the clearance of gullies and that this was in progress at the moment.

39/2019 **REPORT BY STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE**

There were no Officers of Staffordshire Police Service able to be present on this occasion, however, a written report had been submitted to the Parish Council and circulated to all Members. A copy of the report was attached at **Appendix A**.

40/2019 **CLERK'S REPORTS**

(a) **REQUEST FOR NEW BURIAL PLOT IN GREAT WYRLEY CEMETERY**

The Parish Council had received a request to purchase a new burial plot in Great Wyrley Cemetery. Following discussion on this matter the Parish Council **resolved** to reject the request to purchase on the basis that the party involved had lived outside Great Wyrley Parish for a far greater length of time than he had lived within it. It was carried.

(b) **POLICY: REMAINING BURIAL PLOTS**

Following consideration of the Clerk's report on the above, the Parish Council **resolved** to reserve the remaining burial capacity in Great Wyrley Cemetery for parishioners of Great Wyrley Parish only. The Parish Council also agreed to reserve the right to decide individual applications for burial within the Cemetery as and when necessary. It was carried.

(c) **PLANNING ENFORCEMENT APPEALS**
SOUTH CANNOCK FARM, JACOBS HALL LANE, GREAT WYRLEY

The Clerk advised the meeting that she had received confirmation that the Planning Inspectorate had now made a decision on both appeals relating to the above site and that both appeals had been dismissed. This was noted by Members.

(d) TRAVELLERS – THE RECREATION GROUND, JONES LANE

The Chairman advised the meeting that the Clerk's report on this matter had given an accurate reflection of the situation with regard to the above and that in an attempt to avoid this situation the Parish Council had doubled its security on all the land in its ownership to make it impossible to enter on to the land without breaking and entering. The act of breaking and entering immediately placed this matter in the hands of the Police who had the right to move the Travellers on without recourse to the District Council or the Court procedure.

In conclusion, the Chairman took the opportunity to reiterate the Parish Councils mantra to all organisations it was associated with, that it was crucial to always lock the gates following visits made to any land in Parish Council ownership. This ethos applied particularly to the Memorial Gardens in view of the fact that a number of other organisations possessed keys. This was noted.

Members agreed to a security audit taking place on all land in the Parish Council's ownership in order to ensure that all sites were secure and that any ageing or failing gates/locks be replaced. Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry also suggested that for Yemscroft in particular the Parish Council should look into providing a height restriction barrier. This was noted by Members.

In conclusion the meeting was advised that the residents of Great Wyrley had been very impressed with how quickly this matter had been dealt with by all parties. All agencies involved pulled out all the stops, Staffordshire Police, South Staffordshire Council and all the staff in general did amazingly well to deal with this matter so quickly and efficiently. Thanks had also been sent to the young lady who had taken it upon herself to clear the area of litter/detritus following the site being left by the travellers. This was noted by Members.

(e) LANDYWOOD PLAY AREA – CONTAINER

The Clerk advised the meeting that the unsightly Container which had been sited on Landywood Play area had now been removed. This was noted by Members.

(f) PLANTERS FOR LANDYWOOD STATION

Members were already aware that the Great Wyrley and Cheslyn Hay Community Group had been awarded funding by an organisation by the name of ACORPS. Members were also aware from the minutes of the last meeting that the Group had plans in place to construct and position a number of planters on the Landywood Station Car Park. However, at the present time the Clerk did not have any further information other than the fact that she understood that permission was being sought from South Staffordshire Council as to whether it was in agreement with the positioning of the planters as the car park was in its ownership. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry advised the meeting that the Parish Council should be aware that there was a risk of the Parish Council could find itself saddled with the responsibility for the maintenance of the planters on the Station car park in the future.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry also advised the meeting that the Parish Council needed to be kept in the loop with regard to any resurfacing works taking place on the Station car park. Particularly, as there are vital drains on that car park which were unearthed at a Flood Protection meeting the previous week which should not be covered over. This was noted.

(g) INCREASE IN CATERING CHARGES – PLYVINE LIMITED

The Clerk advised the Parish Council that she had received notification that Plyvine Limited was intending to increase its prices for the Friday lunches as from October, 2019. It was clear how this had come about, particularly, as there had been no less than two increases in the living wage in the last twelve months which had had a massive impact on the catering trade. Fortunately, the Clerk had managed to persuade Plyvine not to put a minimum number on the Friday lunch event, as they were proposing to raise the bar to 50 which in effect would mean that unless the event had 50 plus residents wishing to attend the Friday lunch they would not be prepared to take the booking. This would have an extremely negative impact on the event, however, they eventually agreed to continue with the present limit of 40.

It now fell to the Parish Council to reach a decision as to how it would wish to absorb this increase. Members agreed to consult the attendees of the Friday lunch event and work out a way forward for the future which would be acceptable to all parties. Everyone agreed that the Friday Lunches was a much valued event in the village and it was felt very important that the Parish Council should continue to hold the event.

(h) AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDERS

Members recalled that the Parish Council had resolved to review its Standing Orders following the changes to the General Data Protection Act and a copy of the draft document had been circulated to all Members for their perusal, prior to discussion at the meeting. Members agreed to bring this item back to the next meeting of the Parish Council for ratification.

(i) REVISION OF GRANT AID SCHEME

Members recalled that the Parish Council resolved during last year to review its Grant Aid Scheme in order to make it more user friendly and a copy of the draft document had been circulated to all Members for their information. Following a correction on bullet point 3 the Parish Council **resolved** to accept the new Grant Aid Scheme.

(j) UPDATE ON FLOOD PROTECTION MEASURES

The Clerk advised the meeting that during the August recess a number of meetings had taken place with Mr. Andrew Brett (Flood Risk Officer for Staffordshire County Council). In addition to Mr. Brett, Mr. John Webb and Mr. Andrew Young of Young Technical Services had also attended meetings with Councillors in an attempt to forge a way forward with the flooding issues experienced in the Parish in general.

By way of clarification Mr. J. Webb was the builder who had been contracted to carry out various building operations both at The Centre and at Great Wyrley Cemetery and Mr. A. Young was a sewerage Engineer who had kindly assessed the situation in conjunction with Mr. Webb and had possibly come up with a way forward.

At the present time there was a possibility that Great Wyrley Parish along with certain residents of the Parish may be eligible for funding from DEFRA towards resolving some of its flooding issues. It was too early to say at the present time as there were other factors which needed to be properly researched, however, there would appear to be light at the end of the tunnel with regard to this issue.

(k) WEST MIDLANDS INTERCHANGE

The Clerk advised the Parish Council meeting that the Inquiry into the West Midlands Interchange had now closed and that a decision on this matter was not expected until the end of the year. This was noted by Members.

41/2019 COMMEMORATION OF CLLR. BRIAN WOOD AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood reminded Councillors that a member of the public had approached the Parish Council meeting two meetings ago with a request for additional benches on Landywood Playing Field. Cllr. Mrs. Wood then advised the Parish Council that when her husband, Cllr. Brian Wood had passed away in 2011, the Parish Council had expressed a wish to commemorate his life, however, at that time she was unsure what of what type of commemoration to choose. Cllr. Mrs. Wood had now come to a decision on this matter and would appreciate the Parish Council's considering the following suggestion.

Cllr. Mrs. Wood would like to purchase a bench in memory of Cllr. Brian Wood thus giving the Parish Council the opportunity to purchase the plaque to be attached to the bench. The bench would be placed on the Landywood Playing Field. The Parish Council had no objection to this taking place, however, the Chairman suggested that the Parish Council hold this matter in abeyance until the flooding measures had been put in place on Landywood Playing Field.

The Community Partnership had also expressed a wish to purchase a bench to be placed on the Millennium Green and also wished to fund the purchase of a new sign to be placed on the Millennium Green which would denote the fact that it was the Millennium Green and show the Community Partnership's involvement in this matter.

The Parish Council had no objection to any of the issues which had been raised by Cllr. Mrs. Wood.

42/2019 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry advised the meeting that she was very disappointed that not all of the works she had requested under her designated 20K highway funding had been carried out. Cllr. Mrs. Perry explained that the District Council's Street scene had been requested to carry out these works and she had advised the District Council of her view on the lack of progress. Cllr. Mrs. Perry was now looking forward to the works actually being carried out.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry also pointed out that the scheduled works to be undertaken by the County Council was now progressing and a number of areas were now under repair, but particularly the footway alongside Landywood Lane. This was noted.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry advised the Parish Council that it was her understanding that there were to be visits made by the Working Together Team which would explain the benefits which could be gained from all three tiers of Local Government working together. This was noted.

43/2019 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr. Mrs. Perry explained that there had been an issue relating to the planning application relating to 283 Walsall Road. Unfortunately, the application had been approved prior to any opportunity being given to Councillors to consider the application at Committee. This situation had arisen as the District Council was employing outside agencies to determine some planning applications due to increasing numbers. Cllr. Mrs. Perry's advice to the Parish Council was to ask any District Councillor present at the meeting to call-in any application which

was felt needed additional consideration.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry also explained that should Members observe any works being carried out in Hazel Lane, Great Wyrley it is likely to relate to the laying of a new pipe by Severn Trent. This was noted by Members.

44/2019

REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS
GREAT WYRLEY CEMETERY DRIVE

The Chairman advised the Parish Council that over the summer recess she had been called down to Great Wyrley Cemetery to investigate a problem relating to the extremely slippery surface of the Cemetery Drive. This matter had been reported by a Parishioner who had not only slipped but also damaged her footwear. On investigation the Chairman experienced the situation herself to the point whereupon her car skidded about 3ft when she tried to stop.

The Chairman had compiled a number of notices to ensure that everyone was made aware that they were at risk from the slippery surface and then returned to the Cemetery to put up the notices and set about clearance of the path so that people could still visit the Cemetery over the weekend.

The Chairman advised the meeting that she had started to clear the driveway when Mr. and Mrs. Norris joined her in the clear up and that they all worked together for well over an hour. The Chairman wished to make it clear to the Parish Council that she would not have been able to accomplish this task without their help and wanted to thank them both very much indeed for their assistance.

Members all agreed that they had never known this to happen in the past and that hopefully it was an isolated incident; however, the Parish Council was to ensure that the situation was monitored closely. This was noted by Members.

DERELICT PROPERTY – HALL LANE

Cllr. A. Smith advised the meeting that he had been made aware that there was a derelict property in Hall Lane which was now causing something of a health hazard to surrounding properties. The Clerk was to investigate this matter further with a view to having a Section 215 Notice served by South Staffordshire Council and if necessary to take direct action to remove the hazard. This was noted by Members.

MEMORIAL GARDEN

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry advised the meeting that she had received notification from a resident that there had been a person sleeping rough/acting strangely around the Memorial Garden. This matter had been reported to the Parish Council Office and the District Council had also looked into the matter and the area was now clear.

45/2019

REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no reports from outside bodies.

46/2019

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

19/00540/FUL - REAR SINGLE STOREY EXTENSION AT 580 WALSALL ROAD, GREAT WYRLEY - MEMBERS HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS PROPOSAL BUT RESERVED THE RIGHT TO SUPPORT NEIGHBOUR OBJECTIONS.

19/00581/FUL – DEMOLITION OF EXISTING GARAGE AND REPLACEMENT WITH 2 STOREY EXTENSION ON THE SAME FOOTPRINT AT 64 STREETS LANE, GREAT WYRLEY – MEMBERS

HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS PROPOSAL BUT RESERVED THE RIGHT TO SUPPORT NEIGHBOUR OBJECTIONS.

19/0662/TREE - APPLICATION TO FELL A CHERRY TREE COVERED BY A TREE PRESERVATION ORDER AT WESTON DRIVE, GREAT WYRLEY - MEMBERS HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS PROPOSAL.

47/2019 **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 8.35p.m.

Chairman





PARISH COUNCIL MEETING CRIME REPORT 17/07/19 – 02/09/19

Public bodies can only disclose information if they have the power to do so. Section 115 of the Crime and Disorder Act provides a power to exchange information where disclosure is necessary to support the local Crime Reduction Strategy and Partnership in achieving the aims of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy and objectives outlined within it.

The degree of disclosure that takes place must be proportionate and relevant to the level of social ill or criminality it is intended to counter or prevent.

The information is only to be processed in relation to crime and disorder purposes. Information will be handled in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998, the Human Rights Act 1998 and any other relevant legislation governing disclosures and will ultimately be disposed of in a secure manner.

- ASB 15 reports of ASB this month:
- 7 personal ASB issues – **Colinwood CI, PCSO's and Officers have spoken with involved parties.** Alpha Way – Housing informed, dealt with. **Walsall Rd – Loud music being played – unable to resource – suitable advice given.** Fair Oaks Dr – Neighbour dispute. **Beech Ct – Noise Nuisance – SSHA.** Field Lane – Noise Nuisance – Housing are dealing with. **The Crescent – Neighbour dispute – PCSO dealt with.**
- 8 ASB community – **Anson CI, youths making noise late at night – Placed on PCSO ASB hotspot list.** Wharwell Lane – Youths screaming and shouting late at night – added to ASB Hotspot list. **Dunston CI – Motorbikes racing up and down – different offenders than previous issue.** Broadmeadow Lane – officers – officers attended. **The Crescent – smoking drugs – Added to ASB hotspot list, offender left whilst report was coming in.** Co-op – Youths being verbally abusive to staff and causing damage to store – enquiries ongoing. **Great Wyrley – Methodist Church – Youths doing doughnuts on gravel. Added to Hotspot list.** Walsall Rd – youths smoking drugs – added to ASB Hotspot list.
- 1 Burglary related – Jacobs Hall Lane – Garage break in – SOCO attended.
- 2 Attempted Burglary – Kempton Ave – Enquiries ongoing. Beaumont Close – Enquiries ongoing.
- 4 Vehicle Crime – Jacob Halls Lane – Work tools stolen – SOCO attended. Manor Avenue – Theft from motor vehicle – SOCO attended. Quinton Ave – Vehicle stolen (Keyless) – Enquiries ongoing. Station Road- tools stolen from van whilst owner was working on a nearby property.
- 1 attempt theft from vehicle —Neighbour disturbed a group of males attempting to gain entry to a van in Cherrington Drive.
- 5 Criminal Damage. – Yemscroft x2, Walsall Rd, Jones Lane– Travellers trying to gain entry. Officers dealt with issue. Bentons Lane – Tyres slashed.

- Local PCSO's will be holding Police surgeries at Co-op on 10/09/19 and Post office on 30/09/19. These will be advertised on Twitter, Facebook and Smart alert

PCSO 8852 Terry & PCSO 26358 Timmins