

## **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 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2022.**

**Present:**

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

Cllr. M. Dabbs Cllr. Mrs. J. A. Johnson Cllr. M. McKenzie Cllr. A. Newell	Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE Cllr. R. J. Perry Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood
--	--

Also in attendance were the Parish Clerk (Mrs. S. McGlue) and the Parish Administrator (Ms. D. May).

**64/2022     APOLOGIES**

Apologies had been received from Cllr. Mrs. O. Brazier, Cllr. A. J, Kelsey, Cllr. R. Myatt, Cllr. A. Pearson, Cllr. A. Smith, Cllr. Mrs. S. Toddington and Cllr. Mrs. C. Whiston-Taylor.

**65/2022     DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Parish Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE declared 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. Cllr. Mrs. Perry may remain at the meeting and any views she may have expressed were based on the information before her at that time. Those views may change in the light of further information or debate at a future South Staffordshire Council's Planning Committee meeting.

**66/2022     MINUTES OF PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2022 be accepted, approved and signed by the Chairman.

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Interim Annual Governance and Audit Committee meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2022 be accepted, the contents ratified and the decisions recorded in the minutes approved and adopted by the Parish Council.

**67/2022     CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised Members that he did not have any specific announcements to make on this occasion other than to share a highway status report which he had received from Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE in her capacity as County Councillor, with the remainder of the Parish Council.

**68/2022     PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no representations from the public present on this occasion.

**PRESENTATION ON OPERATION OF GREAT WYRLEY LIBRARY**

Mr. A. Medway, the Libraries Area Manager for Staffordshire County Council gave Members a comprehensive report on the way in which Great Wyrley Library was presently being operated. However, the purpose of Mr. Medway's visit to the Parish Council was to gauge whether or not the Parish Council would have any interest in taking over the management of the Library itself.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE requested Mr. Medway to clarify what exactly he was looking for a management group to take responsibility for. Mr. Medway explained that basically there was a need for a Management Group to take responsibility for the day to day running of the Library in terms of organising volunteers and general management.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry also enquired whether an approach had yet been made to any other organisations, such as the Management Group which presently operated Cheslyn Hay Library. Mr. Medway's response to this question was that no approach had been made as yet. Advertisements had been placed but the consultation was in the early stages. This was noted.

Cllr. Mrs. J. A. Johnson asked Mr. Medway whether it was envisaged that the Library would remain in its present location. Mr. Medway explained that, at the present time, the lease of the unit within the Quinton Court Shopping Centre, was being held over until such time as the future operation of the library could be secured. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. M. McKenzie asked Mr. Medway whether there would be a financial implication for the Parish Council should it decide to enter into any such arrangement. Mr. Medway explained that there would be insurances etc. which may have to be entered into, however, the County Council was trying to offset this by offering whoever was engaged to manage the library an opportunity to use its premises outside library working hours; this was expected to incur additional cost in terms of utilities and may balance the situation in financial terms.

Cllr. J. C. Jones advised Mr. Medway that there were a number of issues which the Parish Council would need to consider, prior to making any decision on such a project. Mr. Medway accepted this assertion.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry asked Mr. Medway to give the Parish Council some idea of timescales involved with this project. As Catherine Care had now decided that it was no longer able to run the Library there was concern that if no one came forward to take over the function what would be the future of the library? Mr. Medway confirmed that the County Council would build a bridge to ensure continuity and ensure the safety of the facility. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. J. C. Jones asked if Great Wyrley was unique in this respect and Mr. Medway explained that there were a number of community managed libraries which were thriving well. This was noted.

Cllr. J. C. Jones thanked Mr. Medway for attending the meeting and for his explanation of the situation to the Parish Council. Cllr. Jones wished Mr. Medway all the very best for the future and thanked him for all the work involved to keep our local libraries open. Mr. Medway then left the meeting.

**70/2022 GULLY WAY HILTON LANE**

Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood advised the Parish Council that she would like to refer Members back to the last meeting, with particular regard to the location where there had been quite a serious accident in the recent past. Cllr. Mrs. Perry had advised a previous meeting that there may be a possibility of placing a safety

barrier at the exit from the gully on the Hilton Lane end.

Cllr. Mrs. Wood advised the meeting that she did not consider this to be the answer; it was more about education on safe riding. Cllr. Mrs. Wood had now been given information from PCSO Karen Terry that she was planning to hold Cycling Proficiency Tests. Cllr. Mrs. Wood advised the Parish Council that a lot of people do not actually realise that cyclists can be sued for unsafe riding. This was noted.

## **71/2022 CLERK'S REPORTS TO COUNCIL**

### **(a) Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch and Friday Lunches**

Members recalled that the Parish Council had agreed to place this matter on the agenda for the October meeting of Council in order to make a decision on a way forward with the Christmas Lunch for the Senior Citizens this year.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the Parish Council that 16<sup>th</sup> December had been selected as the date for the Christmas Lunch. Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry had now managed to secure a suitable caterer for the event and the finer detail would be confirmed shortly. This was noted by Members.

### **(b) Refurbishment of BMX Track Landywood Lane**

Members recalled that at the last meeting, the Parish Council was advised that there was a possibility that CPC Civils, the company which was carrying out all the works at Churchbridge at the moment, were interested in refurbishing the BMX Track as part of its Community Payback Scheme. Unfortunately, this offer had now been rescinded and it now fell to the Parish Council to make a decision whether it wished to hold this matter in abeyance until such time as the budget had been set for the forthcoming financial year. The Parish Council **resolved** that the matter should be held in abeyance for the time being. It was carried.

### **(c) Public Art – Landywood New Skate Park**

The Parish Council had recently been approached by a resident of Great Wyrley with a request that it consider allowing the artist, who had already used part of the concrete of the Skate Park as a canvass to produce an image of his choice, to install more public art on the remainder of the skate park structure.

The resident the Clerk was referring to was known locally as "Running Rick" and was well known to many of the youngsters who used the park on a regular basis.

Running Rick had advised the Clerk that he had already approached the artist responsible for the art work with a request that he produce additional images on the remainder of the skate park. Running Rick was of the view that Landywood Playing Field was very dull and needed brightening up and brought up to date and made a more modern facility for the youngsters of the Parish.

Cllr. J. C. Jones advised the Parish Council that in some cases the installation of public art had been known to instil a sense of protection and ownership into local young people. This theory had been proven during the recent Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. However, Cllr. Jones felt that there were certain aspects of the art work which had already been produced were slightly concerning.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE did not disagree with the theory being put forward by Cllr. Jones but questioned how this would promote ownership in anyone other than the artist who had produced it. Cllr. Mrs. Perry also advised the Parish Council that she did not have anything against public art per se, but that there was a place for everything. Cllr. Mrs. Perry reminded the Parish Council that there had been a container placed on the playing field at one time, which had very quickly turned into

an absolute eyesore and had eventually been extremely difficult to have removed. This was noted by Members.

The Clerk advised the meeting that she was unaware of the contact details for Running Rick, as he had chosen not to identify himself to her in any way other than a face to face visit at which he requested the Parish Council's contact details should be given to pursue this matter. The Clerk had agreed to request that this item be placed on the agenda for discussion and had expected the gentleman to make contact, however, he had not done so.

Should the Clerk be able to establish contact with the gentlemen concerned, she was instructed to request that he attend a Parish Council Meeting and also invite the artist concerned to accompany him so that more detailed consideration could be given to this project. This was noted.

#### **(d) Chill Out Youth Clubs**

The Clerk advised the meeting that the Parish Council had recently been approached by the organiser of a new project launched to run Chill Out Clubs for local youths. Initially the first club was to open in Cheslyn Hay with a view to opening another in Great Wyrley in due course.

South Staffordshire District Council had provided start up funding for this project and the organiser had now approached the Parish Council for a grant of £500 towards this purpose. Apparently, young people already got the first session free to see if they liked the clubs. A donation of £500 from the Parish Council would provide an additional 125 vouchers so that the youths who wished to could continue to attend free of charge, whilst also allowing the Chill Out Club to cover its running costs.

The first event was planned to take place at Glenthorne Community Primary School and was expected to open in November 2022. This would then progress towards Phase 2 which included looking at opening another Club in Great Wyrley.

Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood advised the Parish Council that in her view, children would not walk from Great Wyrley to Cheslyn Hay to attend a Chill Out Club. Cllr. Mrs. Wood would also prefer to wait until the Cheslyn Hay Club was established prior to donating any amount of money towards this scheme. Cllr. Mrs. Wood feared that any donation made may go to children of Cheslyn Hay and never actually benefit children from Great Wyrley. This was noted by Members.

The Parish Council **resolved** to invite the organiser of the club to attend the Parish Council meeting scheduled for February of next year, when more information would be available to assist the Parish Council in making an informed decision. It was carried.

#### **(e) Update on meeting with Chief Inspector Chris Cotton**

As Members were aware from the last meeting of the Parish Council, Chief Inspector Chris Cotton of South Staffordshire Local Policing Team had visited Great Wyrley Parish Council on 25<sup>th</sup> October. Chief Inspector Cotton met with Cllr. J. C. Jones and Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE in order to create an opportunity to talk through the many issues Great Wyrley was facing at the present time.

Cllr. J. C. Jones advised the meeting that Great Wyrley now had a dedicated Sergeant by the name of Aaron Evans, who the Parish Council was free to contact whenever it needed assistance. The Local Policing team now had 5 response teams, each team had 1 Sergeant and 6 Constables. The Parish Council also had a neighbourhood crew and Harm Reduction Hub. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry felt that the meeting was a very positive one and a really refreshing change. Chief Inspector Cotton advised Cllr. Mrs. Perry and Cllr. Jones that the response time for an emergency responses was now 13 minutes. Obviously the time scales were different for a Grade 2 situation, which was much lower priority, and accordingly could range from within the hour to two days.

Cllr. Jones advised the meeting that, at the present time there was a possibility that a CCTV Camera may be positioned near to the skate park; this would be monitored by Staffordshire Police. The Clerk had not received confirmation of this as yet, however, it would be very beneficial should it come to fruition. This was noted by Members.

#### **(f) Code of Conduct Adopted by South Staffordshire Council**

The Clerk advised the Parish Council that South Staffordshire Council had recently adopted a new Code of Conduct which took into account enhanced social media regulations.

Cllr. J. C. Jones advised the meeting that in view of the fact that most Parish Councils come under attack via social media, these days it was his belief that it would be beneficial to the Council to ensure that everyone had a full understanding of what was expected from the behaviour of Councillors in this regard.

It was proposed by Cllr. Mrs. J. A. Johnson and seconded by Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE that the Parish Council adopt the Code of Conduct with immediate effect. It was carried.

#### **72 /2022 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the Parish Council that she did not have a great deal to bring to Members' attention on this occasion.

However, she was very pleased to report that footway clearance had now taken place on the A34 Stafford Road between Holly Lane and Long Lane, the workforce had scraped the footways and channels to remove all overgrowth and weeds.

Clearance of tree bases in Hilton Lane had also been carried out including around the pedestrian guard rail. There had also been quite a lot of moss removed in Station Street by the Railway Bridge along with clearance of the weeds around the pedestrian guard rail and removal of overgrown ivy over footway.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry also advised the meeting that she had liaised with the Highways Officer of Staffordshire County Council regarding the barrier at the end of the alleyway which goes directly onto Hilton Lane and unfortunately, it is not possible in practical terms to install any barrier in this location as there were two manhole covers immediately beneath where these would need to be installed. This was noted by Members.

#### **73/2022 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

Cllr. Mrs. J. A. Johnson advised the Parish Council that the Local Plan Review would shortly be out for consultation as its final stage prior to submission to the Secretary of State. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. Mrs. J. A. Johnson also advised the meeting that there would be a funding stream available to Parish Councils from South Staffordshire Council and other organisations under the banner of Best Medicine for Communities. This was noted by Members.

The other subject which had been covered related to climate change and Cllr. Mrs. Perry was concerned that in the current economic climate this was merely adding additional pressure on already stretched financial resources. Cllr. Mrs. Johnson also advised the Parish Council that there was to be a Community Bulb Planting Event at Strawberry Lane on 21<sup>st</sup> November and the South Staffs Resident Survey coming out in the near future.

Cllr. Mrs. Johnson also advised the meeting that Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry and herself had been taken on a site visit to view a number of the developments which had been built by Macc properties. Macc Properties was the organisation presently constructing the new shared ownership and care facility at Walsall Road.

Cllr. Mrs. Johnson was very impressed with the properties which they viewed and assured the Parish Council that the actual bedroom sizes were not as limited as they appeared to be on the plan for the A34 development.

Cllr. J. C. Jones asked Cllr. Mrs. Johnson to clarify whether the properties they had seen were an accurate reflection of the properties which would be on offer at the A34 Development. Cllr. Mrs. Johnson responded that one of the areas visited was far superior to that planned for the Walsall Road Development and were correspondingly priced.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE agreed that some of the developments were very beautiful, however, everyone's view is different.

Cllr. Mrs. J. A. Johnson also advised the meeting that there would be a Bistro at the A34 Development which would also be available to the public. This was noted by Members.

The Planning Application was due to be considered by the Planning Committee of South Staffordshire Council shortly.

## **74 /2022 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS**

### **GRANT AID SCHEME**

Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood advised the meeting that she would like clarification of whether the Parish Council still operated a Grant Aid Scheme. The Clerk advised the meeting that a new policy was agreed in 2019. This was noted by Members.

### **LOCAL BUS SERVICE**

Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood shared her level of disenchantment with the Great Wyrley Bus Service for a number of reasons. In Cllr. Mrs. Wood's view the X51 Service cannot be relied at the moment. In addition the Chaserider Service was now isolating Great Wyrley completely and she required an explanation why this was being allowed to happen. The Clerk provided Cllr. Mrs. Wood with the contact details for the relevant Bus Operator in order to allow her to take this matter up directly. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that Mr. Ryan Taylor the Parish Council's Locality Enabler, had been taking this matter forward for some time and was not progressing particularly well. However, as none of the layers of Local Government had any jurisdiction over any of the bus services operating in the District, there was not a great deal of hope that there could be any improvement to the situation. In short it was a "use it or lose it" situation. This was noted by Members.

**75/2022 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES**

There were no reports from outside bodies.

**76/2022 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**22/00905/FUL – PROPOSED DETACHED GARAGE/WORKSHOP TO REAR GARDEN AND NEW PITCHED ROOF TO SIDE OF MAIN HOUSE TO REPLACE FLAT ROOF AT 58 SHAWS LANE, GREAT WYRLEY. THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTIONS TO THIS PROPOSAL.**

**22/00915/FUL – RETENTION OF EXISTING MULTI USE GAMES AREA (MUGA) WITH ASSOCIATED PERIMETER FENCING ON SITE OF A FORMER HARD COURT FACILITY AND THE PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF A NEW SPORTS LIGHTING SYSTEM AT GREAT WYRLEY PERFORMING ARTS HIGH SCHOOL, HALL LANE GREAT WYRLEY. THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS PROPOSAL.**

**22/00987/TTREE – TPO NO. 255/2012 - LIRIODENDRON SPP(TULIP TREE) CROWN REDUCTION OF UP TO 50% AT 49 BENTONS LANE, GREAT WYRLEY. THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THESE TREE WORKS.**

**22/00983/VAR – VARIATION OF CONDITION NUMBER 2 (APPROVED DRAWINGS) OF PLANNING PERMISSION REF: 21/00631/FUL - TO ACCOMMODATE INTERNAL REARRANGEMENTS INCLUDING THE REALIGNMENT AND FORM OF STREET 3 AND THE REORIENTATION OF PLOTS WITHIN THE SOUTH EASTERN EXTENT OF THE SITE. LAND AT LANDYWOOD LANE, CHESLYN HAY. THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS PROPOSAL.**

**22/00976/FUL - INSTALLATION OF TWO RAPID ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS WITH ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT AT QUINTON COURT, WARDLES LANE GREAT WYRLEY. THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS PROPOSAL.**

**77/2022 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.

**78/2022 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.

**79/2022 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

Following discussion the Parish Council unanimously **resolved to** support the recommendations made under this item.

The meeting closed at 8.21 p.m.

**Chairman**