

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 7TH June, 2023.

Present:

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

Cllr. Mrs. O. Brazier Cllr. M. Jackson Cllr. A. J. Kelsey Cllr. A. Newell	Cllr. D. Norris Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE Cllr. R. J. Perry Cllr. Mrs. C. Whiston-Taylor
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Also in attendance was the Parish Clerk (Mrs. S. McGlue).

9/2023 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllr. D. F. W. Norris and Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood.

10/2022 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE has 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.

11/2023 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

It was proposed by Cllr. Mrs. C. Whiston-Taylor and seconded by Cllr. A. Newell that the Chairman be requested to accept, approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3rd May, 2023, the Annual Parish Assembly held on 10th May, 2023 and the Annual General Meeting held on 10th May, 2023 as a true and correct record. It was carried.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that with reference to the minutes of the meeting of 3rd May, 2023 that Cllr. A. J. Kelsey, Cllr. A. Newell and herself had all been in attendance at the funeral of the late Christine Myatt. This was noted.

12/2023 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman advised the meeting that the Parish Council currently had vacancies for four Members of the Council and should anyone be aware of any resident who may be interested in being co-opted onto the Parish Council could they please request that they contact the Clerk who would guide them through the process prior to presenting information to the Parish Council. This was noted.

Cllr. D. Norris asked the Chairman whether these vacancies should have been advertised in the Parish so that everyone could see it, as this is the Law. The Chairman advised Cllr. Norris that with relation to the co-option which had already taken place at the Annual General Meeting, the Parish Council had received a definitive answer from South Staffordshire Council of how the Parish Council could co-opt members onto this Parish Council. Details of the process are all included in a document held by the Clerk and made the suggestion that Cllr. D. Norris read the document referred to and then he would see that the rules and regulations governing co-option had not been distorted or bent in any way. Cllr. D. Norris

advised the meeting that he had read about it and that what had go on was not right – The Chairman asked Cllr. Norris to please read the document. Cllr. Norris agreed to read the document.

RETIREMENT PRESENTATION TO MRS. JUDY EARP

The Chairman advised the meeting that this was both a joyous and a sad occasion and that on behalf of all the Councillors who were present and all the Councillors that Judy had worked with over the years he would like to say thank you for all the work she had done for all the individual Councillors over the years and in particular this Council. The Chairman advised Judy that she will be much missed.

Judy Earp addressed the Council and advised them all that she had been 42 years old when she had started working at the Community Centre and that Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE had been on her interview panel and she had seen something in her and she had been given the job which she had much enjoyed over 27 years. Judy advised the meeting that it had been a wonderful place to work and if asked she would be happy to do it all over again.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE also thanked Judy for always going over and above and that it had been a great pleasure to work with her and thanked for all her hard work and loyalty not only to the Parish Council but also to the community of Great Wyrley.

13/2023 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman suspended Standing Orders to allow the Parish Council to be addressed by Members of the public. There was one member of the public present on this occasion.

The resident of the Parish who was present in the public gallery passed a written question to the Chairman which asked "how much did the farce cost for the Parish Council in the North Ward. Who is going to pay for it?" The Chairman advised the resident that the Parish Council would endeavour to get an answer to him.

The Chairman reinstated Standing Orders and continued with the business of the meeting.

14/2023 STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE SERVICE

In the absence of any Local Police Community Support Officers, the monthly report from Staffordshire Police had been circulated to all Members of the Parish Council
Please see Appendix A

15/2023 CLERK'S REPORTS TO COUNCIL

(a) COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION - REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO INSTALL SIGNAGE

The Parish Council had received a request from the War Graves Commission to install signs indicating that there were war graves in Great Wyrley Cemetery.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission was enquiring whether the Council would be interested in having a sign at the Cemetery to let the public know there are five war graves situated there.

By way of background, the Signs project commenced as part of the Centenary of the First World War and it was hoped that they could erect signs at as many Churchyards, Cemeteries and Burial Grounds as possible which contain war

graves. Apparently the aim of the initiative was to increase awareness of war graves in the UK and to remind the public that they need not travel abroad to find Commonwealth commemorations.

Following discussion both The Chairman and Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE felt that this would be an honour and the Parish Council should agree to this request with no hesitation. The Parish Council **resolved** to agree to the signage.

(b) OVERGROWN HEDGE AT HOLLY LANE/STREETS LANE JUNCTION

Members were already aware that the Parish Council had for many years come under criticism from residents regarding the overgrowth of the hedge at the junction of Holly Lane and Streets Lane.

The Clerk explained that unfortunately, once the hedge grew to a certain point it was almost impossible for pedestrians to use the only footpath available in that area without either being forced into the highway or lacerated by the hedge.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE explained that the Parish Council did not own this hedge, and that there was a long history associated with it in terms of maintenance.

As this situation was clearly a little challenging in terms of having any action taken, the Clerk had contacted Staffordshire County Council and requested that as the overgrown hedge, if allowed to continue to grow at the present rate, would present a clear danger to both pedestrians and motorists - would Highways carry out the works required for safety reasons. The Clerk advised the meeting that, in fairness to the County Council she believed that these works would have been carried out eventually, however, its response had not included any timescale other than to state that it would not be any time soon. This was noted.

As the overgrowth of the hedge was still limited to a scale which would allow a slim chance of cutting back the hedge without needing to close the road to do so, the Parish Council Grounds Staff decided to assess the situation. Following a thorough assessment the Parish Council Ground Staff, as a gesture of goodwill to the Parish, cut back the hedge and resolved the problem.

In conclusion the Clerk had been asked to report that the response from the residents in that location had been really heart warming and that she had been requested to officially thank the Parish Council for taking direct action in this matter and let Members know how grateful they all were. This was noted.

Cllr. A. Newell advised the meeting that he had seen a number of posts regarding the overgrowth on the left hand side of Shanks Bridge. Although these trees are not in Parish Council ownership it may be possible to have the work carried out by the Parish Council staff. Cllr. Mrs. Perry explained that although the Parish Council would wish to be as pro-active as possible in these circumstances it should be mindful that some of these issues really are other organisation's responsibility. This was noted by Members.

The Clerk was also to establish the ownership of the hedge on the right hand side which it was thought to be in the ownership of South Staffordshire Council. The Clerk was to contact Mr. A. Aston for clarification of this situation.

(c) GREAT WYRLEY CEMETERY – FENCING TUDOR CLOSE

The Parish Council had been approached by the new District Councillors for Cheslyn Hay to look into the situation with regard to a damaged gravel board fence at Tudor Close.

The Clerk explained that as Members were already aware the fence in question was not in the ownership of the Parish Council and was not the boundary fence to Great Wyrley Cemetery.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE gave the Parish Council a brief report on the background into this matter, which included the fact that there were several unfounded theories relating to the situation. Cllr. Mrs. Perry explained that she was aware that there had been two Willow trees planted in this location which had much obscured the appearance of the gravel board fence, however, the residents of Tudor Close had campaigned to have these removed on the basis that they felt they were no longer stable and Cheslyn Hay Parish Council had funded their removal. However, to remove the trees, the fencing needed to be removed and during that operation one of the gravel boards had been damaged and had been left discarded on the ground. This was noted.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE also advised the meeting that she may have a resolution to this matter and had already been contact with a local resident who may be able to replace/repair the fence to the satisfaction of the residents. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs. Perry for actions in this matter.

(d) APPLICATION FOR FUNDING FROM RAINBOW CLUB

Members recalled that this request had come before the Parish Council at the April meeting and Members had agreed to defer the matter until the new Council was formed.

It now fell to the Parish Council to review its thoughts on this issue taking into account that it was not a request for funding from the Parish Council's Grant Aid Fund. It was an application for a portion of the funds raised during the Covid Clinic Operation to be allocated to the Rainbow Club an organisation which came under the umbrella of the Landywood District Voluntary Help Centre.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the Parish Council that she did not feel that this request would meet the eligibility required for the Covid Charity Collection. Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** that any application for funding from the Covid Charity Collection Fund would need to be a subject for discussion at a dedicated Finance Meeting.

In conclusion the existing request from the Rainbow Club was still subject to the same due diligence as any other application for Grant Aid and the Clerk was to send a further email advising the applicants of this. Any decision on this subject would be made at a Grant Aid Committee Meeting and considered along with other applications.

(e) MEMORIAL WALL IN GREAT WYRLEY CEMETERY

Members were all aware that the Memorial Wall was now very close to completion and a sketch of the proposed landscape treatment of the structure had been circulated to all Members. Cllr. Mrs. Perry gave the Parish Council a brief description of the next phase of the project all of which were accepted. The Parish Council **resolved** to accept the plan which had been circulated to members and the Clerk was to liaise with the Contractor. Please see **Appendix B for agreed plan.**

Members agreed that once the wall was completed the Parish Council would organise an Opening Ceremony.

Cllr. D. Norris requested clarification from the Parish Council as to how the Memorial Wall would be operated. Cllr. Mrs. Perry explained that the wall would be used to accommodate dedicated plaques yet to be sourced from a local stonemason. This matter was to be discussed at a Cemetery Working Party. This was noted.

16/2023 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

County Councillor Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that she did not have a great deal to report at the present time other than the fact the additional funding for the repair of potholes would be taking effect soon and hopefully all the Parishes would see a difference soon. This was to include Station Road island and various other longstanding issues.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry requested that Members flag up their issues with the Clerk so that she could report these matters for discussion at her scheduled meetings with Mr. M. Keeling, however, it was emphasised how important it was for residents to use the dedicated App for reporting matters on the County Council's website as this action provided a reference number which enabled people to track the complaint if need be which was very useful. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry also gave Members a brief report on the new Start Up funding for business growth whereby any small business up to five years old could get support from the County Council's Get Started and Grow scheme.

The County Council's support packages were delivered by leading industry experts and were completely free of charge and supported businesses based in Staffordshire and under five years old.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry was also extremely concerned at the number of heavy goods vehicles which were going through all areas within the Parish and we do not have the type of roads to accept this weight of traffic. Cllr. Mrs. Perry had requested that this matter be raised at the Freight Forum and if Members could obtain the registration numbers or livery for vehicles it observed within the village it would be very useful and requested that Members feed these through to the Clerk to pass on for reporting purposes.

17/2023 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr. Mrs. Perry MBE advised the meeting that the District Council was presently settling in its 17 new Councillors. Cllr. Mrs. Perry was able to advise the meeting that from the latest statistics she was very sad to say that there had been 22 incidences of fly tipping in Great Wyrley over the last twelve months which basically represented 25% of the total of fly tipping incidences in South Staffordshire.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry also advised the meeting that the Parish Summit would be taking place shortly and outlined the agenda for Members which was to include Code of Conduct, Creating Better Futures, the Local Plan, Homes Plus and Better Health.

Cllr. J. C. Jones requested Cllr. Mrs. Perry to clarify whether there had been any further progress with the situation with regard to Strawberry Lane Cemetery. Cllr. Mrs. Perry did not have a definitive answer on this question, however, Cllr. Mrs. Perry was to investigate this matter and report back to the next meeting of the Parish Council.

Cllr. J. C. Jones also asked Cllr. Mrs. Perry to clarify the situation with regard to overhanging, partly rotten, trees near The Brook on the left hand side of Quinton Avenue. The Clerk was to contact Mr. A. Aston with a request that this matter be

investigated. Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry advised Cllr. Jones that at the present time it appeared that nothing material was taking place with the future of the brook, however, work was continuing in the background in terms of the holding ponds, which was fundamental to the bigger picture prior to the programme of enhancement of the Brook.

Cllr. M. Jackson advised the meeting that work was very often carried out at Brooklands Avenue; Cllr. Mrs. Perry explained that this particular area of The Brook was always the subject of complaint and, therefore, was worked on more regularly. This was noted.

18/2023 **REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS**

VEHICLES PARKED ON WALSALL ROAD FOOTPATHS

Cllr. Mrs. O. Brazier advised the meeting that she was very concerned that a number of vehicles were being parked wholly on the footpath opposite The Wheatsheaf in Walsall Road. Following discussion Members agreed that this was a matter for Staffordshire Police Service and the matter would be reported to the new PCSO Rhys Rockley who would be returning to the Parish shortly following the resignation of PCSO M. Tromans. The Chairman had thanked PCSO Tromans for his service to the Parish.

POLICE LIAISON

Cllr. Mrs. C. Whiston-Taylor advised the meeting that she would like to be put forward for the vacant Police Liaison Role. The Clerk was to process this matter with South Staffordshire Council.

19/2023 **REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES**

GREAT WYRLEY CARNIVAL COMMITTEE

Cllr. A. J. Kelsey advised the meeting that everything was now well on target for the Carnival to take place, but they were still looking for volunteers. The Chairman wished Cllr. Kelsey, on behalf of the Parish Council, lovely weather and very successful day.

20/2023 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

23/00093/OUT DEMOLITION OF EXISTING INDUSTRIAL/COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS AND THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE SITE FOR HOUSING AT LOADES BUSINESS PARK, GORSEY LANE, GREAT WYRLEY – THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS APPLICATION. CLLR. D. NORRIS FELT THAT THIS PROPOSAL WOULD GENERATE ADDITIONAL TRAFFIC. THIS WAS NOTED.

23/00408/FULHH – RETENTION OF BOUNDARY FENCE AT 1 NORFOLK GROVE, GREAT WYRLEY – THE PARISH COUNCIL RESOLVED TO BE GUIDED BY THE OFFICERS WITH REGARD TO THIS APPLICATION.

23/00469/FULHH –DOUBLE STOREY EXTENSION TO SIDE OF DWELLING AT 327 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 PROVE NECESSARY.

23/00319/ADV – SHOPPING CENTRE – NAME/TENANT TOTEM SIGN AT QUINTON COURT, WARDLES LANE, GREAT WYRLEY – THE PARISH COUNCIL OBJECTED TO THIS APPLICATION ON THE BASIS THAT IT WOULD BE A VISUALLY INTRUSIVE INSTALLATION AND DISTRACTION TO MOTORISTS. CLLR. J. C. JONES DECLARED AN INTEREST IN THIS APPLICATION AND DID NOT TAKE ANY PART IN THE DETERMINATION PROCESS.

21/2023 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 8.20 p.m.

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