

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 13TH September, 2023.

Present:

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

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

35/2023 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllr. M. Jackson and Cllr. A. J. Kelsey.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE gave Members a brief report on Cllr. M. Jackson, who had been absent due to ill health almost since his election onto the Parish Council in May of this year. Cllr. Perry was delighted to report that Cllr. Jackson's surgery had been completely successful and that he would not need further treatment.

Everyone agreed that this was indeed excellent news and Members were looking forward to welcoming Councillor Jackson back into the fold at the next meeting of the Parish Council in October. The Clerk was requested to send a Get Well card to Cllr. Jackson with the Parish Council's very best wishes for his speedy recovery.

36/2022 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE had 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. D. Norris asked for an explanation with regard to the clear meaning of Locality 3. Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE explained to Cllr. Norris that she had only represented Great Wyrley Parish Council on the Planning Committee since May of this year and for clarification Great Wyrley Parish Council is within Locality 3. Cllr. Norris thanked Cllr. Mrs. Perry for her explanation.

37/2023 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

It was proposed by Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood and seconded by Cllr. D. Norris that the Chairman be requested to accept, approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5th July, 2023. It was carried.

38/2023 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman advised the meeting that he had no specific announcements to make on this occasion and in view of the number of items on the agenda for determination he felt no time should be wasted. This was noted by Members.

39/2023 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 asked the Chairman if he yet had an answer to the questions he had posed at the previous meeting. The Chairman responded with the fact that when the answers became available, he would respond to the questions. The same resident laboured the point that he had asked one of these questions in writing over 14 weeks ago. The Chairman repeated his original response.

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

40/2023 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.

41/2023 CLERK'S REPORTS

(a) Annual Guy Fawkes Night Event

Members had agreed at the last meeting of the Parish Council that it would like to investigate the possibility of holding a standalone Aerial only Fireworks Display without a public Bonfire.

This could be achieved by staging a display in the same place as usual, which would enable the whole village to view the fireworks display but not all gather together on the Star Ground to watch the fireworks be set off. This would allow residents to have an opportunity to view the spectacle from their own homes and to arrange their own family parties.

Arrangement of an event of this nature would mean that the village would still have the experience of a brilliant fireworks display from their own homes/gardens but avoid the many risks associated with the original format of the event.

Members were already aware that Staffordshire Police Service advised very much against the Parish Council holding the event in its original format as it felt the event had outgrown the management of the Parish Council and was now far too large to control. Staffordshire Police Service was also unable to provide any support for the event whatsoever, and this was not down to financial constraints it was down to lack of resources. This was noted by Members.

Even though the event had been fully patrolled by onsite security procured by the Parish Council it was still not considered to be without risk. The Parish Council was advised by Staffordshire Police a number of years ago that the main root of the anti-social behaviour experienced was due to the fact that the Fair was part of the event. During the last year of the event, before Covid curtailed any such events, the Parish Council had allowed children's rides only on the field. However, should the Parish Council make the decision to allow children's rides on the Star Land at the proposed scaled down event it would still encourage the villagers to come onto the field instead of viewing the fireworks from their own homes. This was noted.

The Fairground Operator was anxious to be at any event the Parish Council organised, even if it was only rides for small children. However, this in itself would not only encourage people onto the field, which will be uncontrollable in the main, but would also seriously compromise the condition of the field. It needed to be recognised that the Fairground Operator had not honoured his pledge to return to the Star Land following the last event to chain harrow the field. Chain harrowing was essential to return the surface of the field to its original condition which of

itself created an expense to the Parish Council as it was impossible to mow the field without causing damage to its own mowers due to it deeply rutted surface. This was noted by Members.

The Chairman advised the meeting that should the Parish Council decide to allow the fairground to be part of the event, whether it was the entire fair or just children's rides, it would also need to add the cost of security onto the figure quoted for the Fireworks Display. At current prices security services was likely to be in the region of £3000 and only cover the entrance and exit. This was noted.

The Clerk advised the meeting that at the present time Jubilee Fireworks were holding a slot for Great Wyrley Parish Council and could provide a Fireworks Display on Saturday 4th November, 2023 for the sum of £3,250.00.

Cllr. D. F. W Norris asked the Parish Council whether the event had had the benefit of security in the past and was advised by the Chairman that it had. This was noted.

There were conflicting views on this proposal, which included the view that the money would be better spent on improving play areas; the display could be staged from a different location thus avoiding issues relating to the gathering of villagers all in one place along with how disappointing it will be to the residents of the village to have nothing on Bonfire Night.

Concern was also expressed that the Parish Council would be disadvantaging the Carnival Committee which normally made at least £1000 from the event. It was also noted that £3000 was a great deal of money to spend on 40 minutes of fireworks. This was noted.

Cllr. J. C. Jones advised the meeting that there needed to be a balance here as some people love this event and some people do not. This was noted.

In Councillor Jones' view the money was available and that the Parish Council should have one more try to stage this event. Should it be unsuccessful then at least the Parish Council will have tried.

Following in depth discussion of this matter and taking into account the views of each Member the following proposal was made:

It was proposed by Cllr. J. C. Jones and seconded by Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE that the Parish Council agreed to hold an aerial Fireworks event with no Bonfire and no Fairground. This would entail the closure of the Star Land on the night of the event which would need to be properly managed by signage etc. This was noted.

This issue was then put to a vote and the **motion was carried** by five votes to four. Accordingly, the Clerk was instructed to advise Jubilee Fireworks that it wished to go ahead with the Fireworks Display on 4th November with the location for their launch point to be confirmed at a later date. This was noted.

(b) SUPPORT STANCHIONS TO RAILINGS AT GREAT WYRLEY CEMETERY

Members recalled that this matter had been considered by the Parish Council on two occasions. Since the last time this issue had been discussed (when the Parish Council resolved to employ a Civil Engineer to give a professional assessment of any risk involved to the stability of the fence) the owner of the property in question had taken the matter into his own hands and the stanchions had now been severed.

The stanchions were in fact merely sticking out from the railings and not making any contact with the ground. In short, they were totally ineffective and redundant.

This action had clearly compromised the stability of the fence. This had been confirmed by two Parish Councillors who had taken a video of the railings being moved backwards and forwards, with ease, following the action taken by the owners of the neighbouring property.

The Clerk advised the meeting that she was in the process of trying to establish whether in, legal terms, the property owner's action actually constituted criminal damage. However in the meantime she had requested the Parish Council's permission to write to the owner of the property concerned advising them that the Parish Council would accept no responsibility, whatsoever, for any damage which may be caused to surrounding property due to the action taken by them which had compromised the stability of the railings in the Parish Council's ownership.

The Clerk also explained that she was presently attempting to secure a copy of the location plan which would be held by South Staffordshire Water. It is envisaged that this plan will show the position of the original hedge which denoted the boundary between the property in question and the driveway to the Cemetery.

The Clerk advised the meeting that John Webb, a local builder, had kindly offered to carry out remedial works to the fence as a gesture of goodwill to the community, however, the Parish Council would insist on paying for any materials required. This was noted.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE reminded the Parish Council that should it take responsibility for the repairs to the fence it would in effect be an acceptance of liability and that it was imperative to ensure that the disclaimer was issued to the property owner prior to any repairs being carried out.

Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved to** agree to the Clerk sending the disclaimer to the property owner.

The Clerk then advised the meeting that this agenda item actually encompassed two questions one being consent to make the property owners aware of the Parish Council's disclaimer but also to ask for authorisation to reinstate the retainer for legal advice with Southern Staffordshire Legal Services.

The Clerk explained that should the Parish Council choose to reinstate the retainer it would also cover the matter of an encroachment into Cemetery Land by the owner of one of the properties in Park Close. The Clerk had been experiencing difficulties moving forward with this particular matter due to the backlog of registrations at the Land Registry. This was noted.

The Parish Council **resolved** to reinstate the retainer for legal services from Southern Staffordshire Legal Services.

Cllr. D. F. W. Norris also suggested that Staffordshire Police needed to be asked to provide a Crime Reference Number relating to this incident. This was noted.

(c) CRESSWELL WANDERERS - REQUEST TO USE RECREATION GROUND FOR FOOTBALL TRAINING

The Clerk advised the meeting that over the summer period the Chairman had received a communication from one of the Managers of Cresswell Wanderers stating that he had contacted the Parish Council at the beginning of July to establish what he would need to do to look at helping the multiple teams that use

the pitches in Jones Lane and to see if they could have the pitch marked out to facilitate training sessions. Unfortunately, there was an element of disparity between the recollections of the people who it was thought may have held this conversation. This was noted.

The Chairman accordingly, suspended standing Orders in order to allow the representative of Cresswell Wanderers to address the Parish Council and at this point the Parish Council was given a full report on the reasons why Cresswell Wanderers wished to use the Recreation Ground as its training facility.

There were a number of conflicting views relating to this issue, however, the main bone of contention was the problems which this use created in terms of vehicle parking. These issues had already been subject of discussion at the two previous meetings.

The main reason for the Cresswell Wanderers Manager to be present on this occasion was to request official permission from the Parish Council to use Jones Lane Recreation Ground as its training facility on two nights per week. This cycle of events was to take place from March through to August. Cresswell Wanderers also agreed to ensure that every car associated with the team was parked safely, and within the law. Cresswell Wanderers also agreed that where necessary to ensure that Jones Lane remained passable for through traffic to advise people to park their cars in different locations and then walk to Jones Lane.

A pledge was also made that the field would always be left rubbish free and that the team would ensure that anyone associated with the team were respectful to the wider public and neighbours of the field.

The Parish Council **resolved** to investigate the use of the field by other teams at which time contact would be made and those teams requested to follow the same procedure as that imposed on Cresswell Wanderers.

The Chairman requested that the Parish Council take a vote on this matter in terms of should the Parish Council receive a written request for permission for this use from Cresswell Wanderers would the Parish Council allow the training to take place.

This issue was then put to a vote and the **motion was carried** by six votes with two abstentions.

The Clerk was to await a request in writing at which point she would respond with the relevant permission.

(d) OVERHANGING TREE AT LEACROFT LANE/ROMAN VIEW

The Parish Council had received a request to carry out works to a large tree which the property owner felt was overhanging his property at Leacroft Lane, Churchbridge.

There were conflicting views on this issue in terms of nuisance and the Parish Council also needed to factor in to any decision the fact that it does not depart from its policy not to carry out works to healthy trees.

Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** to allow the resident who wished tree works to take place to provide the Parish Council with an assessment of the extent of the works envisaged prior to making any formal decision on this matter.

(e) TREES ENCROACHING INTO POWER LINES AT LANDYWOOD GREEN

The Parish Council had been approached by a resident who lived in the area known as Landywood Green with a request that the Parish Council carry out works to trees which were alleged to be encroaching into the power lines. It should be noted that the original agenda item had referred to this area as Brown's Corner. This anomaly had been corrected during the meeting.

Following discussion the Parish Council instructed the Clerk to contact the Electricity Regulator and request the matter to be investigated.

(f) CONCLUSION OF EXTERNAL AUDIT AND SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The Parish Council had now received its confirmation of the conclusion of the Annual External Audit for 2023. The Clerk advised the meeting that she was extremely pleased with this result, which was owed in its entirety to the Parish Council Administrator, who had taken on the administration of the Scribe system from a standing start last year and mastered it very quickly. The Clerk was, however, frustrated by the fact that had Mazars flagged up the fact that one report had been superseded during the lengthy period of time between submission and certification the Parish Council would have had a perfect record.

Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood requested that the Clerk pass on the thanks of the Parish Council to the Parish Administrator for all the hard work she had put into this process on behalf of the Parish Council. The Clerk was more than happy to pass on such well deserved praise.

(g) APPOINTMENT OF NEW INTERNAL AUDITOR

The Clerk reminded the Parish Council that Mr. P. A. Cooper who had been the Parish Council's Internal Auditor since 2015 had now retired. Mr. Cooper, was the Director of Finance at South Staffordshire Council for in excess of 20 years and his contribution to Great Wyrley Parish Council had been much appreciated.

The Clerk then advised the Parish Council that, in line with the decision made at the meeting which took place in June, the Parish Council had now engaged the services of a new Internal Auditor. The Clerk was very pleased to advise the Parish Council that Mr. S. Johnson, Senior Accountant at South Staffordshire Council had agreed to carry out this function for the Parish Council and was likely to be paying his first visit to the Parish Council in October.

For Members information Mr. Johnson had been trained by Phil Cooper and had worked in South Staffordshire Council's Finance Department for very many years having begun his career in accountancy as a trainee in the 1990's. This was noted by Members.

(h) DAMAGED FENCE BETWEEN TUDOR CLOSE AND GREAT WYRLEY CEMETERY

Members were already aware that the situation referred to above had been a bone of contention for some time. The Clerk explained that by way of background for new Members, the fence between Tudor Close and Great Wyrley Cemetery did not belong to either Great Wyrley Parish Council or Cheslyn Hay Parish Council. However, due to the constant lobbying of the residents of Tudor Close, Great Wyrley Parish Council and Cheslyn Hay Parish Council had pooled their resources in terms of manpower and worked together to make an attempt to repair the damaged fence.

However, it had not proved possible to repair the fence because it had been so

badly damaged by the contractors when they removed the Willow trees next to the fence. The fence was not of a standard size and accordingly needed to be custom made to effect repairs properly. This was noted by Members.

Members recognised at this point that the work which was carried out to the trees by Cheslyn Hay Parish Council was an act of neighbourliness as it had no responsibility for this work whatsoever. This was noted by Members.

Due to the fact that the repairs could not be carried as expected both Parish Council's needed to revisit this situation and fortunately, due to the ministrations of Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE all the materials required to carry out the works had been donated by Treeway Fencing Limited.

The residents of Tudor Close were absolutely delighted with this turn of events and expressed their gratitude to Cllr. Mrs. Perry MBE in person shortly afterwards.

The Clerk advised the meeting that at the present time the Parish Council had received an invoice in the sum of £165.00 from the contractor who carried out the labour element of the work and the Clerk was pleased to advise that this sum was to be divided between Great Wyrley and Cheslyn Hay Parish Councils in the spirit of joint working practices.

Cllr. J. C. Jones advised the meeting that sincere thanks was due to Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE for managing to resolve a very long standing problem and expressed his gratitude on behalf of the Parish Council for a job well done. Cllr. Mrs. Perry thanked Cllr. Jones for his kind words and suggested that the Clerk be instructed to write to Treeway Fencing formally thanking them for their kindness and generosity. This was noted by Members.

(i) FESTIVE LIGHTING 2023

Members were already aware that the Parish Council had been able to fund the provision of Festive Lighting in the village since 2021. Hopefully, this was something that the Parish Council would be able to provide again this year, however, at the present time there was an element of limbo influencing the situation.

The contractor who had provided and installed the Christmas lights since 2021 was well known within the village, however, at the present time the Parish Council was still awaiting confirmation that the contractor was now in possession of Highway Electrical Registration Scheme membership. This was not a membership that the contractor had had the benefit of in the past; however, it was now a compulsory requirement.

The Parish Council had been assured that the Contractor was in the process of procuring this Membership in line with the new regulations which dictated that all organisations operating within the highway electrical sector must be registered to the Highway Electrical Registration Scheme (HERS). The scheme operated to ensure that all contractors operating within the sector were fully compliant with NHSS8.

The Parish Council's festive lighting was only achievable last year due to the co-operation of a neighbouring Contractor who allowed the works to be carried out under his company's HERS qualification. This was not an option for the forthcoming year and accordingly, the Clerk had continued to press the Parish Council's existing contractor for sight of the Membership Certificate. It needed to be recognised at this point that the Parish Council would not be able to apply for the permission to install the lights without this Membership document. This was noted.

The Clerk advised the meeting that, in the meantime the Parish Council had been approached by an alternative contractor offering to quote for the works required; however, there was a massive difference between the amount of cost involved. The Clerk had circulated to all Members a summary of a quotation for lights by another provider which appeared to offer 10 lighting column ornaments for £3,500.00. The Parish Council had, in the past, had about 60 decorations in place in Walsall Road and paid in the region of £1,500.00.

The Clerk advised the meeting that unfortunately, this was not the whole of the story, if the Parish Council wished to provide the village with Christmas Lights again this year it would need to have each lighting column stress tested as the current test certificates were now out of date. This process alone incurs a cost in the region of £800. The Clerk requested Members to make a decision on whether it was prepared to commit £800 of public money to this project should the idea Festive Lighting turn out to be too expensive to pursue.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that she had provided the Clerk with a number of alternative suppliers for the lights and it was hoped that there may still be a way to provide the Festive Lights as they were clearly much appreciated in the village. This was noted by Members.

The Parish Council **resolved** to defer this matter until the next meeting of the Parish Council by which time additional information was expected to be available. It was carried.

(j) D DAY CELEBRATIONS – JUNE 2024

Members were already aware that the Parish Council had been contacted by the Pageant Master of Buckingham Palace to be part of the Beacon Lighting Ceremony to commemorate the Centenary of the D Day Landings.

Following making contact with Great Wyrley Community Band the Clerk had confirmed that the Band was delighted to be part of this event and had expressed a wish to work closely with the Parish Council to make this event as memorable as possible for the village.

On this basis the Parish Council **resolved to** authorise the Clerk to respond to the Pageant Master to the effect that it was honoured to be part of this Ceremony and would perform a lighting ceremony of the Commemorative Beacon at the time allocated. It was carried.

(k) CLIMATE CHANGE FUNDING

The Parish Council had recently received an invitation to apply for funding under the Climate Change fund or to pass on the information to any organizations within the village who it was felt could benefit from such funding.

Staffordshire County Council had committed to reducing greenhouse gases which were contributing to climate change and recognised the need to adapt to the changing climate. The County Council felt that working with others to reduce the climate change impact across all of Staffordshire was very important and had made it a priority. This was noted by Members.

This climate change action fund offered funding assistance to local communities to build resilience and reduce Staffordshire's contributions to climate change.

The funding was open to properly constituted, not-for profit organisations,

including charities, societies, voluntary and community groups, Parish Councils and schools. The County Council was not able to fund individuals.

The Parish Council **resolved** to note the offer and to ensure that the facility was cascaded down to any other organisations within the Parish.

(I) BASIC FIRST AID COURSE FOR THE HOME

Members recalled that at the July meeting of the Parish Council Members gave permission for an approach to be made to Mr. Chad Bott of Midland Health and Safety Consultancy to provide a First Aid Course to be free to residents of the Village who may wish to take part.

Mr. Bott had very kindly offered to create a tailor made course to cover most elements of First Aid in the home to present to Parishioners free of charge. The only recognition Mr. Bott required for this service was as much publicity as possible which could be achieved by being posted on the Parish Council Notice Boards, the Parish Council website and by asking Cllr. Mrs. O. Brazier to also post it on the Great Wyrley and Cheslyn Hay Community Group social media platforms.

Accordingly, 16th September, 2023 was the date which had been selected but unfortunately, there were very few people who had committed to attend.

On this basis the Chairman suggested that the event be deferred until such time as more interest could be garnered in order to ensure that Mr. Bott's much appreciated offer was not wasted.

Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved to defer** the event until further notice. It was carried.

(m) LAND SOUTH OF LANDYWOOD LANE – DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

The Parish Council had recently received a request from the Planning Agent for Cameron Homes, Mr. Neil Cox, advising members that he was looking to arrange another informal meeting with Councillors at the Parish Council to discuss further planning proposals for land south of Landywood Lane, including the small area of land remaining within the current housing allocation (horse paddock) and Phase 2 to the south of the homes currently being constructed. The Phase 2 scheme included the remainder of the Country Park and the allotments off Streets Lane.

Members recalled that the Parish Council had attended a meeting with Cameron Homes and Evolve Planning before the existing development had commenced in Landywood Lane which was held at the Senior Citizens Centre at Broadmeadow Lane.

On the basis that the meeting referred to above had proved useful and informative to all Members the Parish Council **resolved** to invite Mr. Steve Cassie and Mr. Neil Cox to attend the Parish Council meeting to be held on 4th October, 2023. It was carried.

(n) APPLICATION FOR FUNDING FROM WYRLEY JUNIORS FC

The Parish Council had received a request for funding from Wyrley Juniors Football Club. The Clerk had circulated a copy of the request to all Members of the Council for their information.

Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** to make a donation of £100 to Great Wyrley Juniors from its general fund. It was carried.

(o) PARKING WARDENS – SHARED SCHEME WITH CHESLYN HAY

The Clerk advised the meeting that Cheslyn Hay Parish Council was presently looking at a proposal whereby it would like to employ the services of a Parking Warden to try to resolve the constant issues being faced due to inconsiderate/illegal parking of motor vehicles.

The Clerk went on to say that it was possible that Cheslyn Hay Parish Council may be prepared to share this service with Great Wyrley Parish Council particularly as Great Wyrley suffers from exactly the same problems.

Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** that this was a project it would like to investigate further and the Clerk was instructed to approach the Clerk to Cheslyn Hay Parish Council to garner the finer detail and clarify exactly how this would be workable. It was carried.

(p) NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN FOR GREAT WYRLEY

Members were already aware that many Parish Councils across the UK had embarked on producing a Neighbourhood Plan for their area. In fact more than 2,400 communities across England had already started neighbourhood planning as it was a new way for communities to have a say in the future of the places where they live and work. It gave people the power to produce a plan with real legal weight that directs development in your local area. It helps you:

- choose where you want new homes, shops and offices to be built
- have your say on what those new buildings should look like
- grant planning permission for the new buildings you want to see go ahead

The Clerk advised the meeting that at the present time groups could get tailored advice, support and grants to develop their neighbourhood plans.

The Clerk also explained to Members that in reality the Neighbourhood Plan had now superseded the original Parish Plan and was now alleged to yield far more power than that of the original. However, a considerable amount of commitment was required to produce such a document, not to mention a considerable amount of financial outlay; however, grants were available to assist with this and should Members be minded to support this course of action the Clerk could research in more detail.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE had requested that this matter be placed on the agenda for discussion and took this opportunity to explain why it was felt to be relevant that consideration took place. The Clerk had also prepared a document giving a précis of the progress made in terms of the existing Parish Plan which was compiled in 2011. This was noted by Members.

Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** to call a dedicated meeting to discuss this matter, in particular, as any decision made to produce one would need to be placed before the Audit and Governance Committee to be included in the budget for the forthcoming financial year. This was noted by Members.

(q) DISSOLUTION OF THE FRIENDS OF THE MEMORIAL GARDEN

The Parish Council had now been advised that the group of volunteers collectively known as FROGS, who had been very active in turning Great Wyrley Memorial Gardens into a Community Garden had now reached stages in their lives where they no longer felt that they could continue with the works they had been able to carry out in the past.

The Parish Council had also been advised by the Chairman of FROGS (past Cllr. Ron Myatt) that funds still remained in the FROGS' account which was administered through the Senior Citizens Centre. Mr. Myatt had advised the Parish Council that he wished the residue of the account to be passed back to the Parish Council. Mr. Myatt had thought that this windfall could be placed in the budget under the heading Grant Aid and be cascaded out to worthy causes within the village. However, in hindsight it was agreed that it may well be that as this money was fund raised under the banner of going towards a Community Garden it should be kept in reserve and used purely for the maintenance of the Memorial Gardens.

Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** to instruct the Clerk to write a letter of thanks to FROGS, both for their tremendous hard work at the Memorial Garden but also for the donation of the remainder of their funds to the Parish Council. This windfall was indeed very much appreciated particularly as the Parish Council had recently received a copy of the assessment of trees in the Parish Council's ownership which had revealed that significant work was needed to trees within the Memorial Garden and the residual funds would be put to very good use in terms of maintenance.

(r) REQUEST FOR BUS SHELTER IN STREETS LANE

The Parish Council had been requested to consider the possibility of providing a bus shelter to be positioned in Streets Lane, close to its junction with Weston Drive.

There was already a staged bus stop in this position, however, it was constantly open to the elements and it was extremely well used.

The Clerk advised the meeting that the cost of a cantilever bus shelter would cost in the region of £3-£4000.00

Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** to place the matter of providing a bus shelter at the stage bus stop in Streets Lane be added to the agenda for the Annual; Audit and Governance Committee for inclusion in the budget for the forthcoming financial year.

(s) REQUEST FOR TREE WORKS IN MEMORIAL GARDEN

The Parish Council had received a request to carry out works to two trees located in the Memorial Garden which were allegedly overshadowing a property in Saxon Close. Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** to instruct the Clerk to establish whether the trees in question correlated to the trees which had been flagged up as requiring works in the Memorial Garden tree assessment to see if they were the same trees which should they be, would resolve the situation. The Clerk reminded the Parish Council that this matter would need to be determined whilst observing the Parish Council's policy not to carry out works to healthy trees. This was noted by Members.

(t) REQUEST FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO LANDYWOOD PLAY AREA

The Clerk advised the meeting that the Parish Council had received a request to consider making improvements to the Play Area at Landywood Lane. The Clerk had circulated a hard copy of the request to all Councillors for consideration.

The resident was of the view that the play area was in a very poor state and required updating to align with the population of the local area and he was unaware there were any other parks in the Parish which were within walking distance.

Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** that this matter needed to be referred to the Annual Audit and Governance Committee at which a decision could be made in terms of budgeting not only for the play area on Landywood Lane but also for the other three play areas within the Parish.

42/2023 **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that she did not have a great deal to report due to the fact that Staffordshire County Council had been in recess for the summer. Cllr. Mrs. Perry did, however, advise the meeting that the much awaited double yellow lines in Bentons Lane had now been installed. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry also explained that unfortunately the Catherine Care Organisation was no longer able to run Great Wyrley Library and volunteer organisations were again being searched for by Staffordshire County Council. This was noted by Members.

43/2023 **DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the Parish Council that she did not have a great deal to report in terms of District Council activity due to the Summer Recess. However, Cllr. Mrs. Perry explained that in her capacity as Portfolio Holder for Community Services she had become involved in a situation relating to maintenance of closed churchyards which had been successful and had also resulted in the creation of a sink fund for such purposes.

This action had led Cllr. Mrs. Perry to believe that it may be a course of action which Parish Councils may wish to consider, bearing in mind the fact that there are a number of unusual land marks in Great Wyrley Parish which could at some point benefit from additional maintenance. This was noted by Members.

44/2023 **REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS**

Cllr. Mrs. O. Brazier advised the meeting that she had had rather a lot of communication on the subject of the actual address of the Wood Heath Development in Landywood Lane. A number of social media users were convinced that Wood Heath was in Cheslyn Hay. This is completely incorrect as the development is definitely in Great Wyrley. This was noted by Members.

45/2023 **REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES**

There were no reports from outside bodies on this occasion.

46/2023 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

23/00711/FUL - NEW FRONT BAY WINDOW, PORCH AND SINGLE STOREY SIDE EXTENSION AT 36 CHESTNUT DRIVE, GREAT WYRLEY – THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS APPLICATION BUT RESERVED THE RIGHT TO SUPPORT NEIGHBOUR OBJECTIONS SHOULD THIS BE REQUIRED.

THE FOLLOWING PLANNING APPLICATIONS HAD BEEN RESPONDED TO OVER THE SUMMER RECESS

23/00263/FUL - ERECTION OF TWO DETACHED DORMER BUNGALOWS WITH ASSOCIATED LANDSCAPING AND ACCESS AT 17 HUT HILL LANE GREAT WYRLEY – THE PARISH COUNCIL STRONGLY OBJECTED TO THIS APPLICATION ON HIGHWAY GROUNDS AND OVERDEVELOPMENT.

23/00612/COU – CHANGE OF USE OF EXISTING SEMI-DETACHED DWELLING TO CREATE A CHILD CARE HOME – 17 HUT HILL LANE, GREAT WYRLEY - THE PARISH COUNCIL STRONGLY OBJECTED TO THIS APPLICATION ON HIGHWAY GROUNDS AND UNSUITABILITY OF LOCATION AND CHOSE TO SUPPORT ALL OF THE OBJECTIONS SUBMITTED BY PARTIES CONSIDERED TO BE AFFECTED BY THIS PROPOSAL.

23/00600/FUL – CHANGE OF USE FROM GARDEN AND BUILDERS SUPPLY CENTRE (CLASS E- COMMERCIAL) TO A VEHICLE DEPOT/YARD (SUI GENERIS) AT FISHERS FARM GARDENING CENTRE AND BUILDING SUPPLIES LIMITED, UPPER LANDYWOOD LANE, CHESLYN HAY. THE PARISH COUNCIL AGREED TO BE GUIDED BY THE OFFICERS ON THIS PROPOSAL BUT PLEDGED TO SUPPORT THE OBJECTIONS OF THOSE PARTIES CONSIDERED TO BE AFFECTED BY THIS PROPOSAL.

23/00212/FUL DEMOLITION OF EXISTING HOUSE AND ERECTION OF TWO 3 BEDROOMED DETACHED HOUSES AND TWO 2 BEDROOMED DETACHED BUNGALOWS AT 90 NORTON LANE, GREAT WYRLEY. THE PARISH COUNCIL OBJECTED TO THIS APPLICATION ON GROUNDS OF OVERDEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORTED ALL OBJECTIONS FROM PARTIES CONSIDERED TO BE AFFECTED BY THIS PROPOSAL

47/2023 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.

48/2023 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.

49/2023 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

The Parish Council noted the request which had been under discussion and **resolved** to agree to the request and impose a fee of £200 which broken down represented an administration fee of £15.00 at out the outset and a fee equivalent to interment of ashes should consent be forthcoming from the Ministry of Justice.

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

The meeting closed at 9.48 p.m.

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