

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 4TH October, 2023.

Present:

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

Cllr. Mrs. O. Brazier	Cllr. D.W.F. Norris
Cllr. M. Jackson	Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE
Cllr. A. J. Kelsey	Cllr. R. J. Perry
Cllr. A. Newell	Cllr. Mrs. C. Whiston-Taylor
Cllr. D. Norris	Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood

Also in attendance was Parish Clerk (Mrs. S. McGlue).

50/2023 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies to be reported on this occasion.

51/2022 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.

52/2023 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

It was proposed by Cllr. A. Newell and seconded by Cllr. Mrs. O. Brazier that the Chairman be requested to accept, approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13th September, 2023. It was carried.

53/2023 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman advised the meeting that the Parish Council had received a letter of thanks from Wyrley Juniors who were most grateful for the donation of £100 which it had recently received from the Parish Council. This was noted.

The Chairman also took this opportunity to welcome Cllr. Matthew Jackson back following his recent illness. Cllr. Jackson thanked Cllr. Jones for his kind words and thanked the Members of the Council for the Get Well card he had received in his absence.

In conclusion the Chairman advised the meeting that it would be much appreciated if Members would agree to the change in the date of the next meeting of the Parish Council from 1st November to 8th November, 2023 as he was unable to attend on 1st November. Cllr. Mrs. O. Brazier gave her apologies for the meeting on 8th November as she would be unavailable on the revised date. These were noted.

54/2023 STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE SERVICE

PCSO Karen Terry gave Members a full report on the crime situation within Great Wyrley for the period between 6th September and 1st October, 2023. A copy of the report was to be appended to the minutes for Members information. The report was noted by Members and PCSO Terry was requested to keep up the good work.

55/2023 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.

Following a report from the resident of the Parish who was present in the public gallery giving the background to his question, the Chairman was asked what the Parish Council intended to do about the drainage system surrounding the Community Centre.

Following discussion the member of the public was advised that this matter may be placed on the agenda for a future meeting once the Parish Council had had an opportunity to make a decision to that effect.

The same member of the public then attempted to single out and discredit a sitting Great Wyrley Councillor with a verbal attack which took the form of delivery in what can only be described as an egregious lack of respect. The member of the public concerned was advised that his behaviour was unacceptable; and that the nature of his questions should not be addressed to the Parish Council. Accordingly, those questions have not been recorded in these minutes.

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

56/2023 CLERK'S REPORTS

(a) Festive Lights

Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** to defer this matter until the next meeting of the Parish Council.

(b) Parking Wardens – Shared Scheme with Cheslyn Hay Parish Council

The Clerk advised the meeting that she had now had an opportunity to discuss this project with Cheslyn Hay Parish Council and advised Members that Cheslyn Hay Parish Council was looking at the employment of a Parking Warden on an ad hoc basis, which at the time the Clerk wrote the report, was expected to incur a cost in the region of £35.00 per hour.

Cllr. D. Norris requested clarification whether the hourly rate would be split between the two Parish Councils. The Clerk explained that that the £35.00 hourly rate would be paid in full by whichever Parish the hours had been spent at. This was noted.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry advised the meeting that Enforcement Wardens would not be able to ticket anyone unless the legislation was in place to do so i.e. in the form of double yellow lines or accepted restrictions included in The Highway Code.

Members fully understood that the employment of Parking Enforcement Officers would not deal with the issue of cars parked half on and half off the footpath. This was because if there was sufficient space for the negotiation of a wheelchair or pushchair this behaviour was not considered to be an offence and was, therefore, unenforceable. This was noted by Members.

The Clerk was to continue to liaise with Cheslyn Hay Parish Council.

(c) Annual Guy Fawkes Event

As Members were already aware the Parish Council had managed to secure the services of Jubilee Fireworks who were prepared to stage the display, however, they were not prepared to do so without the appropriate security.

This was due to the fact that Jubilee Fireworks could not operate such an activity where there was a possibility that random members of the public could gain access to the site; it would contravene Health and Safety guidelines. This was not a task which could be allocated in house and it would have to be given to a professional security company.

The Clerk explained that in addition to the requirement for physical security there was also a need for the site to be completely fenced off to a considerable radius in order to ensure the set up was secured from dogs and dog walkers.

In the past this had caused quite a problem, in that, some dog walkers had been adamant that the Star Land was Public Open Space and they would walk their dogs wherever they chose to. This was noted by Members.

The Clerk went on to say that the cordoning off and lighting of the fireworks area would also need to be carried out; this was not something which could be done in advance as the fencing would undoubtedly be either removed or damaged and the lighting compromised. More importantly, the fact that both these activities were being carried out would automatically flag up the fact that the fireworks were going to be staged there and encourage the public to visit the site. This would be the worst possible outcome for the Parish Council as it would have no way of exercising any control whatsoever in a potentially dangerous situation. This was noted by Members.

Following discussion most Members agreed that this situation puts a completely different complexion on this event as security comes at a premium, in this case in the region of £1800.00.

As the Fireworks alone were going to cost £3,500.00, unfortunately, the savings the Parish Council thought it would be able to make by scaling down the event would not now be realised as Security Services will need to be procured anyway; this brought the total to £5,300 which did not include any of the incidentals such as the necessary fencing and lighting.

Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** that in view of the fact that the Parish Council would need to expend virtually the same amount of money to stage what in effect was only a third of the usual event that it needed to be mindful of the fact that to continue with the event under the present terms may not be looked upon as good value for public money. On this basis the Parish Council made the decision not to go ahead with the Guy Fawkes Night event this year. This decision was carried.

Cllr. A. Newell voted against the resolution on the basis that in his view the Parish Council was letting down the Community. This was noted.

(d) Date for Audit and Governance Committee

The Clerk requested Members to set a date for the Audit and Governance Meeting. The Clerk was requested to provide a number of dates to allow for a date to be selected which would be suitable for all Members of that Committee.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that she did have a couple of things to report to the Parish Council, one of which was the fact that the Cabinet Member for Communities was intending to spread the net wider in terms of consultation with the community in order to gauge a better understanding of what issues needed County Council support.

Cllr Mrs. Perry had no further details on this matter at this time but would provide any further information to the Clerk who would then cascade it out to Members. This was noted.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry also explained that she had received numerous representations from the residents of Shaws Lane regarding its use by Heavy Goods Vehicles. Cllr. Mrs. Perry was now in possession of a petition which had been compiled by the residents of Shaws Lane. The petition was to be presented to the County Council shortly. Cllr. Mrs. Perry assured Members that a survey had been carried out and the situation was still being monitored by the County Council. Cllr. Mrs. Perry also advised the meeting that her main concern was that none of the lanes off the A34 were suitable for such traffic and she would be interested to see what the solution would be. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry advised the meeting that from now on, everyone should be vigilant in terms of works being carried out to the highways and footpaths as it was now essential that any works taking place indicated who the works were being carried for; should there be no indication of the agency involved it must be reported to Staffordshire County Council. This action is being taken as Staffordshire County Council was constantly being blamed for the disruption caused by works being carried out when they were not the agency involved and in future all signs would bear a contact number for complaints to be directed to the relevant place.

Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood advised the meeting that she accepted that this was a problem but the vehicles needed to access the Business Parks and, so they would have to come through these lanes. Cllr. Mrs. Perry explained that, yes, that was correct, however, she would be reporting this matter to the Freight Forum at its next meeting. All Freight Operators should have a Traffic Management Plan. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood asked Cllr. Mrs. Perry MBE if she had any information on the Staffordshire County Council Boundary Review. Cllr. Mrs. Perry explained that each area needed to be of the same size in order to facilitate fairness in terms of representation. On this basis Great Wyrley had not been affiliated with Cheslyn Hay as the two areas were too big to form one Ward instead Great Wyrley had been affiliated with Essington. Should any member wish to comment on this they would need to do so by 16th October, 2023. This was noted by Members

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the Parish Council that she was very pleased to report that the Old School site on Walsall Road (which had fallen into a very dilapidated condition and had been reported to South Staffordshire Council as an issue of concern) had now been properly secured and left in a much more acceptable state. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry also advised the meeting that South Staffordshire Council's Street Scene team had been granted a prestigious National Award. They were named Service Team of the Year: Street Cleansing and Street Scene Service (Public Realm) by the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) at the awards which took place at the Belfast Titanic Museum. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry MBE reminded all present that there would be a Parish Summit held on 19th October. Cllr. J. C. Jones advised the meeting that he would be in attendance.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry MBE also requested Members to cast their minds back to a planning application relating to part of the Enterprise Park in Gorse Lane. Had this application received consent it would have led to 2 heavy goods vehicle movements every 15 minutes on a 24 hour and seven day per week basis.

Unfortunately, the applicant had now taken this decision to the Planning Inspectorate on appeal and Cllr. Mrs. Perry MBE urged all Members to inform the Clerk if anyone had any new evidence which could be used to resist this appeal. Cllr. Mrs. Perry MBE had received a number of photographs from the Head Teacher of Landywood Primary School. The photographs clearly showed the severity of the problem already being experienced in this area by the continued inconsiderate parking of parents. Cllr. Mrs. Perry MBE had now instigated a site visit by both Staffordshire Police and Highways to visit the site together to discuss the problem. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry MBE also advised the meeting that a development which is still in the planning stage (but already included in the approved Local Plan) was quite an important factor in the refusal of this application at the outset. Accordingly, it was hoped that this development would receive consent prior to the appeal dates being set as this development would be very badly affected by the appeal being allowed. This was noted by Members.

In conclusion Cllr. Mrs. Perry MBE had approached the Cabinet Members for Highways with a request that it review its decision not to object to this application. This was noted by Members.

59/2023 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.

60/2023 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr. D. Norris advised the meeting that he had been asked by a member of the community what the position was in relation to the encroachment onto land at Great Wyrley Cemetery by an adjoining property in Park Close. The Clerk explained to Cllr Norris that this matter was now in the hands of the Southern Staffordshire Shared Legal Partnership.

Cllr. Norris then asked the Clerk what was happening about the garage. The Clerk was unclear which garage Cllr. Norris was referring to and following clarification explained that this matter was not on the agenda for discussion.

Cllr. Norris continued with his questions regarding the subject which was not on the agenda and a free and frank exchange of views took place.

Cllr. Norris then requested that the Parish Council arrange a meeting to discuss this matter The Clerk's response to which was in the negative. The Clerk was subsequently reminded of her status and the discussion continued.

Following discussion the Parish Council agreed to a meeting with Cllr. Norris to discuss the matter. This decision was made against the advice of The Clerk to the Parish Council.

61/2023 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

23/00763/FULHH PROPOSED FIRST FLOOR SIDE EXTENSION, NEW WINDOWS TO FRONTAGE AND NEW MONO PITCHED ROOFS TO FRONT AND REAR AT 5 POOL VIEW, GREAT WYRLEY THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS APPLICATION BUT RESERVED THE RIGHT TO SUPPORT NEIGHBOUR OBJECTIONS SHOULD THIS BE REQUIRED

23/00784/FUL - PROPOSED GARAGE CONVERSION INTO RESIDENTIAL BEDROOM WITH ENSUITE AND NEW DOUBLE GARAGE, THE HAVEN, 200 WALSALL ROAD, GREAT WYRLEY – THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS APPLICATION BUT RESERVED THE RIGHT TO SUPPORT NEIGHBOUR OBJECTIONS SHOULD THIS BE REQUIRED.

23/00704/TTREE TPO No. 109/1991 - ALNUS SPP (ALDER) DISMANTLE AND REMOVE BETULA SPP QUERCUS SPP (OAK) – 40% CROWN REDUCTION AT 10 HIGHFIELDS GRANGE CHESLYN HAY. MEMBERS WERE OF THE VIEW THAT THE DISTRICT COUNCIL NEEDED TO SUPPLY A DETAILED MAP WITH THESE CONSULTATIONS FOR THE FUTURE BUT IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE TREES HAD THE BENEFIT OF A TREE PRESERVATION ORDER IT WOULD BE GUIDED BY THE ARBORICULTURAL OFFICER.

23/00705/TTREE TPO No. 109/1991 - T2 ALNUS SPP (ALDER) DISMANTLE AND REMOVE AT 12 HIGHFIELDS GRANGE CHESLYN HAY. MEMBERS WERE OF THE VIEW THAT THE DISTRICT COUNCIL NEEDED TO SUPPLY A DETAILED MAP WITH THESE CONSULTATIONS FOR THE FUTURE BUT IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE TREES HAD THE BENEFIT OF A TREE PRESERVATION ORDER IT WOULD BE GUIDED BY THE ARBORICULTURAL OFFICER

23/00212/FUL – 90 NORTON LANE, GREAT WYRLEY - DEMOLITION OF EXISTING HOUSE AND ERECTION OF TWO 3 BEDROOMED SEMI-DETACHED HOUSES AND A 3 BEDROOMED DETACHED BUNGALOW EXISTING HEDGEROW TO BE REMOVED AND PLANTED WITH A NEW BEECH HEDGE. THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD OBJECTED TO THIS DEVELOPMENT IN ITS ORIGINAL FORM AND STILL FELT THAT THE AMENDED PROPOSAL REPRESENTED OVER-DEVELOPMENT.

23/00783/FUL - TWO STOREY SIDE EXTENSION AT 16 TOWER VIEW ROAD, GREAT WYRLEY – THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS APPLICATION BUT RESERVED THE RIGHT TO SUPPORT NEIGHBOUR OBJECTIONS SHOULD THIS BE REQUIRED.

23/00760/FUL – RETENTION OF HARDSTANDING AND ACCESS TRACK AT SUTHERLAND FARM, 38 JACOBS HALL LANE, GREAT WYRLEY - THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS APPLICATION BUT RESERVED THE RIGHT TO SUPPORT NEIGHBOUR OBJECTIONS SHOULD THIS BE REQUIRED.

62/2023 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.

63 /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.

64/2023 **CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

The Parish Council noted the contents of the report and instructed the Clerk to investigate the suggestion put forward by Cllr. J. C. Jones and agreed that this matter could be dealt with prior to the next meeting of the Parish Council in order to meet the prescribed deadlines.

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

The meeting closed at 9.48 p.m.

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