

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 6TH March, 2024.

Present:

(Chairman)
Cllr. J. C. Jones

Cllr. O. Brazier Cllr. A. J. Kelsey 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 Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood
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Also in attendance was Parish Clerk (Mrs. S. McGlue)

119/2024 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllr. M. Jackson.

120/2024 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.

121/2024 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE for chairing the Parish Council whilst he had been absent due to ill health and invited Councillors to accept or reject the minutes. Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** to accept, approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th February, 2024. It was carried.

122/2024 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman advised the meeting that he did not have a great deal to report on this occasion other than to share the fact that he was extremely concerned that there were no potential Councillors coming forward to join the Parish Council. Normally there are 15 Councillors and at the present time there are four vacancies.

It had been highlighted by last month's situation when the Parish Council had been barely quorate that the future of the Parish Council itself could be in jeopardy unless more people put themselves forward. The Parish desperately needs a mixture of both fresh blood and experience on the Council as a matter of urgency. This was noted by Members.

123/2024 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were two members of the public present in the gallery on this occasion, however, there was no desire expressed to address the Parish Council as the main reason for their attendance was to keep up to date with the activities within the village. This was noted.

(a) RECOMMENDATIONS FROM AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Members recalled that due to the large number of Councillors unable to be present at the February meeting of the Parish Council the recommendations made by the Annual Audit and Governance Committee were deferred until this meeting in order to ensure that all Members were party to the decision making process.

Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood advised the Parish Council that one of the decisions contained in the minutes of the Audit and Governance Committee referred to not holding the Annual Bonfire Event.

Cllr. Mrs. Wood advised the meeting that the decision which had been made regarding the Bonfire should be announced officially in the Chase Chronicle and on the Village Notice Boards explaining that it was a security issue before the social media in the Village was able to put its rumours about and cause a great deal of flack.

Cllr. J. C. Jones explained that the decision had been made for security reasons and the fact that the event itself had become too big for the Parish Council to control. Other formats had been explored and also discarded because they would all still need security.

Cllr. A. Kelsey advised the meeting that as one of the organisations which had benefitted from the Annual Bonfire Event, he wished to ensure that all were aware that as the Carnival Committee had found the event quite challenging in recent years he was not entirely sorry that the event would no longer go ahead. Cllr. Kelsey also assured all present that the Carnival Committee had now found a way of raising funds in a different way.

Cllr. Kelsey felt that it was a shame that the event had outgrown the Parish Council, but it had and the Parish Council was taking the only action open to it. This was noted.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that this decision had been made officially and once that decision had been ratified this evening then notices should be placed on the local notice boards and the Parish Council website. However, as far as contacting the newspapers Cllr. Mrs. Perry felt that the Parish Council should let sleeping dogs lie as it had been almost three years since the last event. Cllr. Mrs. Perry felt that ensuring that the people in the Parish realised that the money not spent on the Annual Bonfire Event was being put towards the Christmas Lights for the Parish (which would last a lot longer than the fire works) then she felt sure that residents would understand. This was noted.

It was proposed by Cllr. D. Norris and seconded by Cllr. Mrs. C. Whiston-Taylor that the decisions made by the Audit and Governance Committee on 30th January, 2024 be accepted and approved by the Parish Council. It was carried.

(b) REQUEST FOR FUNDING FROM LANDYWOOD VOLUNTARY HELP CENTRE

The Parish Council had recently received a request for assistance with the procurement of a new minibus for the Landywood Voluntary Help Centre. Members recalled that this was something which had been mentioned by Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE at the last meeting of the Parish Council, when it became apparent that there was no substance to the rumours that there was a mystery local benefactor who was all set to buy a new minibus for the Centre.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry proposed that the Parish Council donate the sum of £500 to the Landywood Voluntary Help Centre towards the procurement of a new vehicle. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood. It was carried.

Cllr. Mrs. O. Brazier advised the meeting that she felt it would have been prudent to establish the amounts of money which were already being donated in order to gauge whatever shortfall may be accruing. Cllr. Mrs. Brazier was advised that the financial situation of the Landywood Voluntary Help Centre did not come under the Parish Council's remit and accordingly, would not support this course of action.

Cllr. A. Newell declared a personal interest in this matter as a driver for the Voluntary Help Centre.

Cllr. D. Norris advised the meeting that he felt the question should be asked whether the Help Centre was intending to have adequate insurance cover for any new vehicle. Cllr. Norris was advised that the Parish Council did not have authority to ask any such questions. This was noted.

Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** to make a donation of £500 to the Landywood Voluntary Help Centre to assist with the purchase of a new vehicle. It was carried.

(c) GREAT WYRLEY PARISH COUNCIL PLAY AREAS

Members recalled that discussion had taken place during the latter end of last year regarding whether the Parish Council wished to repair/replace some of the equipment in the local play areas or to look at providing new schemes within the village. The amount required to bring the existing Play Areas back to the more varied facilities they once were, (prior to some of the items of equipment being no longer usable or stolen), amounted to around £2,700.00.

The Parish Council had been asked whether it wished to spend this amount of money on repairs or whether they would prefer to place this amount towards the consideration of renewal.

The Chairman advised the meeting that in the past the Parish Council had discussed a number of options with regard to the play areas.

In this instance the Chairman felt that the figure under discussion at this time needed to be spent to bring the facilities up to scratch. Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood advised the meeting that she agreed with this suggestion but was concerned that we may lose the money if we then went for an upgrade through one of the other funding streams. This was noted.

Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** that as the Parish Council had the responsibility to repair and maintain the existing equipment that these works should be carried out and that the matter be placed on a future agenda so that a long term strategy could be adopted. It was carried.

(d) DEFECTIVE LIGHTING ON SKATE PARK

Members recalled that one of the issues the Parish Council had been dealing with over the last few months had been the defective skate park lights. The Clerk advised the Parish Council that she had now managed to have the skate park lights assessed by a reputable company which had now explained the issues and provided the Parish Council with a quotation to replace the four broken lamp heads with LED Lights.

The main reason for the damage had been vandalism which was always difficult to

accept and the quotation amounted to £2,350 exclusive of VAT. Councillors were of one mind that having to spend so much money on equipment because it had been vandalised was totally unacceptable but all understood that it had to be done.

Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** to instruct the Clerk to accept the quotation from Simax Ltd. to repair the lights to the Skate Park. It was carried.

(e) REQUEST FOR FUNDING FOR DEFIBRILLATOR BATTERIES/PADS

The Parish Council had recently received a request from past Councillor R. Myatt to consider providing ongoing funding towards the maintenance of the defibrillators located in Great Wyrley.

Cllr. J. C. Jones advised the meeting that as far as he was aware the Parish Council had never been advised that the maintenance of these devices for the future would rest with the Parish Council. The Clerk advised the meeting that the Parish Council had been approached with a request to take on the responsibility for the device at the Community Centre and the Parish Council had declined on the basis that this was not the Parish Council's device or responsibility.

Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood advised the meeting that she had been involved in the Wyrley Defibs when it was set up at the outset. As far as she was aware the maintenance of these devices would be funded by ongoing fund raising, however, at some point the sum of £3000 was handed over to the Community Heartbeat Trust. It had not been possible to establish where the £3000 which had been handed over to the Community Heartbeat Trust had actually been spent. Cllr. Mrs. Wood felt that additional research was required prior to making any decision on this matter.

Cllr. A. Kelsey advised the meeting that the Moat Hall Defib had now been taken over by Moat Hall School which had solved one mystery. This was noted.

The Chairman encapsulated the situation and advised Members that they needed to make a decision on whether they wished to support the continuance of these devices or whether the Parish Council would prefer to investigate the matter further.

Cllr. Mrs K. M. Perry advised the meeting that in her view a letter should be written to the Community Heartbeat Trust asking them if they intend to take responsibility for the public devices or whether they will be contacting the specific locations where the devices are fitted asking what their plans are to maintain and accordingly retain the device in the village.

Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** that the Clerk research this matter further and report back to the next meeting of the Parish Council.

(f) 2024 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The Clerk had made the Parish Council aware, that this year, the Parish Council used a different supplier to provide its Festive Lighting. Members also recalled that some residents felt that there needed to be extra lights to have the best possible effect. Members also recalled that as last year's decorations were provided at very short notice indeed Turnock Ltd. had done their very best for the Parish Council whilst using the only stock they had left having completed all their regular contracts.

Accordingly, Turnocks had agreed to consult the Parish Council on its requirements for 2024. The Clerk had now received a report and a quotation from Turnock Limited setting out three different options for consideration.

Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved to go with option C in terms of lighting requirements for the coming year.**

(g) PARKING NUISANCE - STATION STREET, CHESLYN HAY

Members had been made aware that in recent months the Parish Council had received a number of complaints from both undertakers and mourners alike that the parking of a Grey Series 1 BMW in Station Street had been causing severe difficulties. The parking of the vehicle which was overhanging the drive to the Cemetery had been making it very difficult for vehicles to safely manoeuvre the turn into the Cemetery Drive. Clearly, this was quite distressing for funeral corteges as it was necessary to almost drive onto the wrong side of the carriageway in order to straighten up enough to make the turn; given the length of the hearses and accompanying mourners' cars. After making a number of enquiries it now appeared that along with the assistance of the householder who had been most affected by this issue, and reported this matter on several occasions himself, that we may have been successful in dealing with this issue. This was noted by Members.

(h) OVERSPILL CAR PARK – GREAT WYRLEY CEMETERY

As Members were aware there was a small overspill car park at Great Wyrley Cemetery which was only used when there was a very large funeral. This area also houses the container owned by the Parish Council. Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood advised the meeting that the area had been shut off in the past to stop residents of Station Street, Cheslyn Hay from parking there on a permanent basis.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that no other complaints had been made regarding the parking of the vehicle and accordingly, this matter should be left in abeyance for the moment.

(i) 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY LANDINGS – 6TH JUNE, 2024

As Members are all already aware it will be the 80th Anniversary of the D Day Landings on 6th June this year and the Parish Council is already included in the programme to light our Beacon on Millennium Green as part of the national commemoration.

The Parish Council already secured the services of the Great Wyrley Community Band in the evening and Councillors felt that there needed to be some involvement from St. Andrews Church in terms of making the appropriate arrangements.

Cllr. J. C. Jones suggested that the Parish Council should make the British Legion aware of the fact that it was to hold this event and, of course, invite them to be part of it should they wish to.

Cllr. D. Norris (Jnr.) also suggested that an approach should be made to the local squadron of cadets and The Scouts and Guides Association to ensure that everyone was aware that the Parish Council had plans to commemorate this event. This was noted.

125/2024 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr. Mrs. K.M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that the County Council has launched its activities for children for Easter.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry also advised the meeting that elections would be taking place in

May for the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner. This was noted.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry also explained that she had attended a meeting yesterday which had revealed that extra funding would be made available for the never ending problem of potholes in our highways. Cllr. Mrs. Perry had expressed her disappointment at County Level as to the quality of the remedial works which had been carried out in Station Road (near Olde Hall Lane) as it had not been finished properly and needed to be completed.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry also advised the meeting that repair work was shortly to be carried out from Bentons Lane up to Alpha Way and that she had requested dates and timescales for this programme of works which she would share with all concerned in due course.

Cllr. J. C. Jones advised Cllr. Mrs. Perry that there was a pothole outside the Snooker Club which had been repaired at least four times in the last twelve months and the repairs never lasted more than eight weeks. Cllr. Mrs. Perry reminded all concerned that they all need to report these matters via the app as this was the best way to achieve action. This was noted.

126/2024 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr. Mrs. Perry advised the meeting that an appraisal had been carried out of village centres and Cllr. Mrs. Perry had been awaiting the results. Cllr. Mrs. Perry had explained that the Quinton Centre was a private concern and not under the jurisdiction of any other organisation. The results of the appraisal would be made public shortly.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry advised the meeting that there were a number of funding streams which had been launched and Cllr. Mrs. Perry felt that the Parish Council should get in early to beat the rush. This was noted.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry explained that the Local Plan would be finalised in the near future.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry also explained that the Environment Agency was now promoting the segregation of food waste but that there would be community engagement on this matter beforehand. This was noted by Members.

127/2024 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS

There were no reports from Parish Councillors.

128/2024 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no reports from outside bodies on this occasion.

129/2024 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

24/00121/FULHH – SINGLE STOREY SIDE EXTENSION TO MAIN ROOF TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FIRST FLOOR ACCOMMODATION AT 4 LAMBOURNE CLOSE, 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.

24/00131/FULM – PLANNING APPLICATION FOR THE ERECTION OF 17 DWELLINGS WITH ACCESS VIA LANDYWOOD LANE, DRAINAGE, GREEN AND BLUE INFRASTRUCTURE , GROUND MODELLING AND ANCILLARY INFRASTRUCTURE ON LAND SOUTH OF LANDYWOOD LANE, GREAT

WYRLEY, THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS APPLICATION.

130/2024 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 of the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.

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