

## **GREAT WYRLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GREAT WYRLEY PARISH COUNCIL held at the Senior Citizens Centre, Broadmeadow Lane, Great Wyrley which commenced at 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday 1<sup>ST</sup> December, 2021.**

**Present:**

**(Chairman)  
Cllr. A. Newell**

Cllr. M. Dabbs Cllr. A. J. Kelsey Cllr. M. McKenzie Cllr. A. Pearson	Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE Cllr. R. J. Perry Cllr. Mrs. S. Toddington
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### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was one member of the public present on this occasion who did not wish to address the Parish Council.

### **REPORT BY STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE SERVICE**

The Clerk had circulated a copy of the report by Staffordshire Police Service to each Member of the Council for their information.

### **79/2021 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Mrs. O. Brazier, Cllr. Mrs. J. A. Johnson, Cllr. J. C. Jones, Cllr. R. Myatt, Cllr. A. D. Smith and Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood.

### **80/2021 MINUTES OF THE LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2021 be accepted, approved and signed by the Chairman.

### **81/2021 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Cllr. A. Newell advised the meeting that he did not have any specific announcements to make on this occasion.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry advised the meeting that she wished to propose a vote of thanks to the Parish Council staff.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry went on to say that we were coming close to the end of a year which had been extremely challenging for everyone but particularly for the Community Centre staff. The Clerk and the Parish Administrator who work at the Community Centre on a daily basis had basically set up the Parish Council office in their own homes to enable them to keep the Parish Council functioning whilst the Centre was being used as a Covid Vaccination Centre. This can't have been easy and thankfully both members of staff had risen to the occasion and managed to accomplish everything asked of them.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry paid special thanks to Judy Earp, Bec Johnson and Rose Cranney for always making themselves available to ensure that the Community Centre was cleaned and made ready for purpose whenever required to fit around the Covid Clinic. Cllr. Mrs. Perry also thanked the Grounds Staff, Todd Vaughan, Craig Worrall and Bruce Johnson for always going the extra mile for the Parish Council.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry also paid special thanks to the Clerk, who over the last 18 months had managed to deal with a number of extremely challenging situations with both dignity and efficiency. On behalf of the Parish Council she proposed a vote of thanks to the Clerk for her efforts on behalf of the Parish Council and an expression of Members gratitude that they had her as their Clerk. The Clerk thanked everyone for their kind words which had been very much appreciated as had their unstinting support throughout the year.

## **82/2021 CLERK'S REPORTS TO COUNCIL**

### **(a) SSDC LEGAL RETAINER**

The Clerk advised the Parish Council that it had received a request from South Staffordshire Council Legal Services to the effect that they were presently in the process of reviewing their files with regard to legal services. Accordingly, it now fell to the Parish Council to make a decision regarding whether it would wish to continue the legal retainer for another year. The cost involved was £650.00 per annum. Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** that it would benefit from having legal advice to rely upon for the forthcoming year. It was carried.

### **(b) CODE OF CONDUCT CONSULTATION**

The Clerk explained to the Parish Council that the District Councillors Code of Conduct had been adopted by South Staffordshire District Council, as required by Section 27 of the Localism Act, 2011, at a meeting of the Council held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2019. South Staffordshire Council now had a statutory duty under the Act to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Members (Councillors) and co-opted members of the Council.

To ensure the maintenance of its standards as a Council, South Staffordshire Council was seeking public consultation for its Code of Conduct to ensure that it aligned its standards with those expected of its Members by the public and Central Government.

The Parish Council was requested to complete a brief questionnaire which was expected to assist in the cultivation of a progressive and effective Code of Conduct for the Members of South Staffordshire Council. Responses were required by 4<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

The Clerk explained that the current review may have come about in order to take into account the need to observe the Code of Conduct in Councillors in their online actions; these may not always have been in strict adherence.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that she felt that the world would be a better place if the public observed a Code of Conduct too. It was extremely difficult to maintain good manners when being subjected to uncalled for and often severe rudeness. The ever growing trend of taking to social media to be abusive rather than address the people who were doing their best for the community face to face had now become a very unwelcome part of life. This assertion was fully supported by the Parish Council.

Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** that the Clerk be instructed to respond on the Parish Council's behalf. It was carried.

### **(c) COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUMS**

The Parish Council had recently received an invitation for the Parish Council to become involved in locality discussions about local community safety issues.

From Locality Workshops held at a previous event it was noted that discussion and consultation would be welcomed around Community Safety both with the PCSOs and with the Community Safety Partnership.

South Staffordshire Council, the Chief Inspector and representatives from the former Safer Neighbourhood Panel had invited councillors to attend the newly established Partners Discussion Forums which would be community safety focussed.

This Forum would be on a locality basis, with all Parish Councillors, District Councillors and County Councillors in each locality invited, and would take place twice per year.

The first meeting was to be held in January/February and the second would be held in June/July either in a venue or online via Teams (or both).

However, in the meantime, the Parish Council had been asked to hold a discussion at a Parish Council Meeting regarding the possibility of one, or more, Parish Councillors becoming a "Police Liaison" who would take responsibility for feeding back information from the Parish to the Police and/or Council in relation to community issues. This role was to be discussed in more detail at the forthcoming Partners Discussion Forums.

Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** that in the absence of a number of Councillors on this occasion the Clerk should place this matter on the agenda for the next meeting so that interest in the role could be gauged.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that she had in fact been present at the meeting which had been referred to above and she was pleased to advise the Parish Council that she had raised the matter of the Landywood Halt and the problems which often emanated from gangs of passengers from other areas arriving at the Halt with the specific purpose of vandalism and intimidation.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry had been advised that plain clothes BTP Officers were monitoring the activities of the youths who were using the trains to cross boundaries and that, hopefully, residents could take some comfort from this knowledge. This was noted.

### **(d) HAZELBROOK SITE NAMING**

Members recalled that at the last meeting of the Parish Council Members discussed the new name for the development in Hazel Lane. Unfortunately, the Parish Council was unsuccessful in its endeavour to have the development named Harrison's Spires and the District Council had supported the applicant's suggestion of Hazelbrook. This was noted by Members.

### **(e) ST. MARK'S CHURCH ROOF**

The Parish Council recalled that it had requested that a donation towards the urgent repair works needed to the roof of St. Marks Church in Great Wyrley be placed on the agenda for this meeting.

Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** to make a donation of £3,000

under Section 137 of the Local Government Act towards the repairs required to the roof of St. Marks Church. It was carried.

#### **(f) PATHWAY TO COMMUNITY TRIBUTE TO NHS**

Cllr. A. Newell declared an interest in this agenda item in his capacity as Member of the FROG Group. Cllr. R. Myatt in his capacity as Chairman of FROG had requested that the Parish Council be approached with a request for permission for FROG to fund the construction of a pathway to be laid from the main pathway to the position designated for the Community Tribute to the NHS.

Apparently, FROG was in receipt of funding from a number of sources including the Co-op which it would like to use to fund the construction of the footpath as its contribution towards this Project. It had been suggested that an 8-10m pathway leading to the plaque would be required in order to ensure that people who wished to view the tribute properly would not need to walk across the grassed area.

Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** to agree to the installation of the footpath in the Memorial Gardens in principle on the proviso that it was party to the decision relating to materials to be used and any design and associated health and safety issues. It was carried.

83/2021

#### **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

##### **Landywood Lane Closure**

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that Landywood Lane was scheduled to be temporarily closed from 6<sup>th</sup> December. The closure was being put in place to accommodate patching of the highway. It was envisaged that the closures would be lifted during weekends.

Cllr. Mrs. S. Toddington advised the meeting that the same activity had taken place in Bentons Lane and that it had not been as disruptive as was first envisaged. This was noted by Members.

##### **Sexual Harassment in Schools**

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE also advised the meeting that the Chief Inspector of Ofsted's report had been rather shocking in that it had revealed the level of sexual harassment taking place in Staffordshire Schools. Cllr. Mrs. Perry advised the meeting that a designated taskforce was being set up to investigate sexual harassment in Staffordshire's schools which was expected to explore the extent of the problem locally, whether enough was being done to support the victims, and how school staff were identifying and acting on pupils' concerns. This was noted by Members.

##### **Damaged Footway in Bentons Lane**

Cllr. A. Kelsey advised the meeting that there was some quite severe damage to the surface of the footway in Bentons Lane. Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that the best way to have this situation rectified was to lodge it directly with Staffordshire County Council as it would be dealt with far more quickly if these channels were used. This was noted by Members.

84/2021

#### **DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

##### **Boundary Commission Review**

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE gave the Parish Council meeting a brief report on the recommendations contained in the forthcoming Boundary Review.

Draft recommendations had now been made public and contained a proposal to decrease the number of Councillors representing South Staffordshire District Council from 49 to 42. For this to happen there needed to be a change in ward boundaries to ensure that all residents were still equally represented. In short, a balancing exercise of residents to Councillors to ensure fairness to all. However, the proposal included the relocation (in terms of election rights only) of some properties to a newly created ward of Cheslyn Hay. The same was to happen to certain properties in Broadmeadow Lane which would need to be relocated into a different ward of Great Wyrley. This matter was only in the second stage of consultation and would not be finalised until next year. This was noted by Members.

### **Local Plan Review**

Cllr. Mrs. Perry also advised the meeting that the Local Plan Drop In sessions had been extremely well attended and well worth organising. The second meeting had filled the Chapel at Landywood to capacity and it was hoped that residents were now fully aware of the implications of the Local Plan Review. This was noted by Members.

### **The Old Day Centre, Walsall Road**

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry advised the meeting that contrary to rumour she wished to confirm that no plans had been submitted for the site to the rear of the Landywood Voluntary Help Centre. This was noted by Members.

85/2021

## **REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS**

### **(a) NHS Together Against Abuse**

Cllr. R. Myatt had requested that the Clerk bring to the attention of the Parish Council that it was being called upon to join the NHS campaign against the abuse of Health Care Staff. The main thrust of the campaign was to ensure that all walks of society remembered the importance of patience and consideration for the NHS Staff who were doing everything they could to get back to normal but that it was not easy and that they needed everyone's help to help them help us. This was noted.

### **(b) Request from Support Staffordshire to assist Asylum Seekers**

Cllr. R. Myatt had also requested that the Parish Council be asked to consider whether it would agree with a suggestion which had been put forward by Support Staffordshire. The suggestion related to the suitability of an idea for the Asylum seekers who were presently being accommodated at The Holiday Inn at Cannock to carry out casual duties in the Memorial Gardens (under close supervision) during the period of time taken for each asylum seeker to be assessed. Members fully discussed this suggestion, however, the Parish Council was unable to move the project forward on the grounds that the supervision required would not be readily available. This was noted.

### **(c) Christmas Lunch at Olde Wyrley Hall**

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the Parish Council that the Christmas Lunch was now a complete sell out. Cllr. Mrs. Perry took this opportunity to assure all present that all Covid restrictions would be adhered to and that face coverings would be provided and worn whilst diners were moving around in the venue. Cllr. Mrs. Perry advised the Members present that all volunteers would be meeting at Olde Wyrley Hall at 10.00a.m. on the morning of Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December. There may also be a

surprise from Father Christmas in the offing which was still to be confirmed. The Carnival Committee had very kindly offered to supply wine and crackers for the diners. The lunch would conclude with entertainment by a local singer (Mr. Tim Rooney) and expected to finish by approximately 4.45 p.m. This was noted by Members.

**(d) Christmas Lights on the A34**

Cllr. Mrs. K. M Perry advised the meeting that there was a very slim possibility that the Parish Council would be able to install seasonal decorations onto the A34 Walsall Road. The situation had come about resulting from a conversation between Cllrs. Kath and Ray Perry's son, Ashley, and the contractor who provides Cheslyn Hay's seasonal decorations. Cllr. Mrs. Perry then contacted the contractor who kindly offered to donate the street decorations free of charge. Having been presented with a tremendous opportunity the Parish Council then embarked on the exceptionally onerous task of obtaining all the relevant permissions. Bearing in mind the fact that the closing date for applications to erect seasonal decorations passed on 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2021 the Parish Council was definitely on a wing and prayer, however, having managed to respond to all the bureaucratic requirements which included having stress tests carried out on each lamp post involved it was now in the lap of the gods whether EON would grant a permit. This was noted by Members.

**(e) Queen's Platinum Jubilee**

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE reminded the Parish Council that at a recent meeting they had discussed plans to put on an event to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee. This was expected to take the form of a Street Party for Children and an Afternoon Tea Party for the older generation.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry had a number of ideas which she felt might be utilised to celebrate this event and thought it might be beneficial to call a meeting whereby all the volunteer groups within the village may wish to attend and perhaps a plan could be formed involving all our Local Groups so we could work together on one really great community event. This was noted.

**86/2021 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES**

There were no reports from Outside Bodies on this occasion.

**87/2021 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**21/01139/FUL - PROPOSED DETACHED DWELLING AT 603 WALSALL ROAD, GREAT WYRLEY – THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS PROPOSAL.**

**21/01199/FUL - LOFT CONVERSION WITH HIPPED TO CROPPED GABLE ROOF AT 34 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.**

**21/01209/FUL – PROPOSED DEMOLITION OF EXISTING CONSERVATORY AND CONSTRUCTION OF SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION AT 44 STATION ROAD, GREAT WYRLEY- THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS PROPOSAL BUT RESERVED THE RIGHT TO SUPPORT NEIGHBOUR OBJECTIONS SHOULD THIS BE REQUIRED.**

**21/01518/FUL – PROPOSED LARGE DOUBLE GARAGE FOR TWO VANS AT RADIOWORLD, 263 WALSALL ROAD, GREAT WYRLEY- THE PARISH**

**COUNCIL SRONGLY OBJECTED TO THIS APPLICATION ON THE BASIS THAT IT WOULD BE OUT OF KEEPING WITH THE AREA IN GENERAL AND INCONGRUOUS IN THE STREET SCENE.**

**88/2021 REPORT OF OUTSTANDING ACCOUNTS**

Due to unforeseen circumstances there was no report on the outstanding accounts for authorisation for payment to be presented to Council and it was **resolved** that the report be dealt with via delegated powers as soon as possible following the meeting.

**89/2021 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.

**90/2021 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

Following discussion the Parish Council unanimously **resolved to** support the recommendations included in the Clerk's Confidential Report and noted its content.

The meeting closed at 9.05 p.m.

**Chairman**