

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 2nd July, 2025.

Present:

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

Cllr. A. Kelsey Cllr. A. Newell Cllr. R. J. Perry	Cllr. D. Norris Cllr. Mrs. C. Whiston-Taylor Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood
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Also in attendance was Parish Clerk (Mrs. S. McGlue)

23/2025 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllr. Mrs. O. Brazier, Cllr. M. Jackson, Cllr. R. Fairclough, Cllr. D. F. W. Norris and Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE.

24/2025 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. M. Jackson had declared a standing interest in any matters pertaining to Planning Applications in his capacity as a member of the Planning Committee of South Staffordshire Council. Cllr. Jackson was not present on this occasion.

25/2025 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** to accept, approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4th June, 2025. It was carried.

26/2025 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

RETIREMENT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

The Vice-Chairman advised the meeting that the Parish Council had received a Thank You card from past Councillor Mrs. Kathleen Williams; the Thank You was for the bouquet of flowers which had been sent to her by the Parish Council in recognition of her service as a District Councillor for Great Wyrley prior to her recent retirement. This was noted by Members.

LETTER OF THANKS FROM HARRISONS BOWLING CLUB

The Vice-Chairman advised the meeting that the Parish Council had received a letter of thanks from Harrison's Bowling Club for the £500 donation towards its new mower. It was very much appreciated. This was noted by Members.

27/2025 INTRODUCTION OF NEW COUNTY COUNCILLOR

The Vice-Chairman took this opportunity to welcome the County Council's new representative for the Great Wyrley and Essington Division and invited Cllr. Mrs. Woods to give members a brief address by way of introduction.

Cllr. Mrs. Woods advised the meeting that it had been a very busy time since the election in May. There had been many meetings and training sessions and that there was a great deal to be done; however, she was looking forward to working with everyone and that she much preferred face to face interaction rather than by social media.

The Vice-Chairman explained that in the usual course of events there was a dedicated agenda item during which time Cllr. Mrs. Woods would be able to report to the Parish Council, however, should there be occasions when it was not possible for her to attend, the Parish Council would be more than happy to deliver her report to the meeting should she have made one available to the Clerk. This was noted.

Cllr. Woods requested a calendar of meetings from the Parish Clerk and was advised that the Parish Council met on the first Wednesday of each month and that agendas would be emailed to her. The Clerk also advised Cllr. Mrs. Woods that all minutes of previous meetings were available on the Parish Council website which she may find helpful in terms of history etc. This was noted.

28/2025 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman suspended Standing Orders in order to allow the members of the public present in the gallery to address the Parish Council meeting.

The resident of Love Lane who had addressed the June Parish Council meeting regarding speeding motorists enquired whether any action had yet been taken in this regard.

The Vice-Chairman advised the resident that before any such action could be taken the matter would need to garner the support of the County Councillor. As Cllr. Mrs. Woods was present on this occasion it allowed an opportunity for conversation to take place. This was noted by Members.

Councillor Jones then invited the remaining members of the public present in the public gallery to put their questions.

A resident of Wardles Lane addressed the Parish Council regarding a specific planning application which was to be considered later in the agenda.

The resident was extremely concerned that part of the proposal would create a very material hazard for both children and adults using this area of the village and gave an extremely comprehensive report on her reasons for having such views.

The main issue related to lack of visibility for motorists and the negative amenity the proposal would have on nearby residents. Following the resident's address the Vice-Chairman advised the meeting that this matter would be fully discussed at the relevant agenda item and that given the representations received felt confident that the Parish Council would fully support the views of the residents concerned.

Having established that there were no more questions from the public gallery, the Vice-Chairman reinstated Standing Orders and carried on with the business to be transacted at the meeting.

29/2025 CLERK'S REPORTS TO COUNCIL

(a) REQUEST FOR TREE WORKS AT YEMSCROFT

The Clerk had advised the meeting that the Parish Council had received a verbal request to have the trees in its ownership located on the boundary between Yemscroft and no. 576 Walsall Road pruned back. This request had been made on the basis that the trees had very much overgrown the boundary with 576 Walsall Road (a property which was presently on the market for sale). This was noted.

The meeting was advised that the Parish Council Grounds men had visited the property to assess the situation and had confirmed that the trees were seriously

encroaching onto the adjoining property and that works were needed, however, this was not a task within their capabilities in terms of working at height, accordingly, the Parish Council needed to authorise the works to be carried out by the Parish Council's contracted Tree Surgeon.

The Clerk had provided photographic evidence of the encroachment and following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** to authorise the necessary works and instructed the Clerk to contact the Parish Council's contracted Tree surgeon. It was carried.

(b) REQUEST FOR TREE WORKS AND REPLACEMENT FENCING AT 1A LANDYWOOD LANE

The meeting was advised that the Parish Council had received a request to not only have tree works carried out to the trees on the boundary of the Millennium Green and the property referred to above, but also to fund the replacement of the boundary fence to the property.

In order to give the Parish Council an accurate reflection of the situation the Parish Council Grounds Men had now assessed the situation and provided photographic evidence to assist with the decision making process.

Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** to have works carried out to the trees and hedges in question. The Parish Council also **resolved** to review the question relating to the funding of the replacement of the fence until the clearance works had been carried out and the opinion of the Arboriculturist had been sought. It was carried.

(c) REQUEST FOR TREE WORKS AT GREAT WYRLEY CEMETERY

The meeting was advised that the Parish Council had received a request from a resident of Westbourne Avenue, Cheslyn Hay (via the County Councillor for Cheslyn Hay Parish) asking for tree works to be carried out to two large trees on the boundary between his property and Great Wyrley Cemetery. The trees in question were depicted in the photographic evidence which had been gathered by the Parish Council Groundsmen and a copy of the email trail from County Councillor Thomas Baker had been circulated to all Members. This was noted.

The Clerk advised Members that the trees did appear to be higher than the trees which formed the remainder of the border along the boundary with Westbourne Avenue, however, the trees in question are in the corner which reflects the Cemetery's junction with Station Street. The trees had not been flagged up in the assessment of the Cemetery trees as being in need of tree works and, of course, the Parish Council's policy is not to carry out works to trees unless they are either dangerous or diseased. Accordingly, any decision to carry out works to these trees would require a departure from Parish Council policy. This was noted by Members.

The Clerk confirmed to the Parish Council that this matter had been investigated by the Parish Council Grounds men who had reported that the area was now seen to be clear of Ivy. This was noted by Members.

The Parish Council **resolved** to call a meeting of the Cemetery Working Party in order to have an accurate reflection of the situation. It was carried.

(d) UNAUTHORISED SIGNAGE AT ENTRANCE TO GREAT WYRLEY CEMETERY

The Clerk advised the meeting that she had recently been made aware that signs of an unauthorised nature had been placed on the Cemetery Gates and in various other locations of the Cemetery driveway. The signs ask the question "why the

Cemetery Car Park is never open". The person who had provided and displayed the signage had also advised anyone who wanted to know more to phone Sian Carpenter and displayed the Parish Council's telephone number. This was noted.

By way of clarification for new Members of the Council the Car Park in question was for Cemetery use only. This status was to ensure that the Car Park was not used by residents as an overspill Car Park for Station Street residents as the purpose of the Car Park was to serve large funerals at the Cemetery and to house the container which accommodates various items required to facilitate Cemetery works. This was noted by Members.

Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** to take no action on this matter other than to procure a "Private Car Park" sign. It was carried.

(e) LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

The Clerk advised the meeting that as all Members' of the Council were already aware the two tier system for Local Government was presently under review and the District Council had now provided an update on the situation which is set out below:

Tuesday, 24th June 2025

Local Government Reorganisation for Staffordshire

Six district and borough local authorities in Southern and Mid Staffordshire have been collaborating to develop plans for Local Government Reorganisation, exploring the right footprint for single tier government across Staffordshire, as requested by Central Government as part of a national programme. The local authorities working together to develop these plans are Cannock Chase District Council; East Staffordshire Borough Council Lichfield District Council; South Staffordshire District Council; Stafford Borough Council; and Tamworth Borough Council. We believe that any solution should meet local needs and be informed by local views, enabling stronger community engagement and neighbourhood empowerment given the envisaged much larger geographic footprint. It should be capable of securing efficiencies and improving capacity whilst ensuring we are providing high quality and sustainable public services and providing growth opportunities. We submitted an interim plan to Central Government in March 2025, which set out some principles for reorganisation and we have now received our feedback. The plan and feedback can be found on our dedicated Local Government Reorganisation webpage. We are evaluating our preferred option and assessing the benefits that it will deliver, which will inform our final proposal for submission to Central Government. Alongside this we will be commencing resident and wider stakeholder engagement. We recognise it is vital to consider the views of those who live and work across Staffordshire and It is vitally important that our proposal ensures we can continue to work together with shared priorities and joint service delivery – as we currently do today. Over the coming months there will be opportunities to be involved, and we will share more details about our plans in the future. In the meantime, if you would like to discuss this further, we would be happy to meet to discuss any elements of the reorganisation.

Cllr. J. C. Jones advised the meeting that the Parish Council's Chairman, Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE who was also the Leader of South Staffordshire Council had provided a comprehensive update on the situation which had been noted.

(f) TERRORISM (PROTECTION OF PREMISES) ACT 2025 - MARTYN'S LAW

The Clerk advised the Parish Council that she had recently received the following information from South Staffordshire Council which she felt would be of interest to Members. By way of clarification the Clerk advised the Parish Council that this issue had already been incorporated into the Parish Council's Insurance specification. This was noted by Members.

The Clerk had provided a significant amount of background information directly to Members along with their papers for the meeting, however, should any Member wish to look into this matter more fully the Clerk would be able to facilitate this request. This was noted by Members.

(g) STAFFORDSHIRE PARISH COUNCILS' ASSOCIATION – NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS

The Clerk advised the meeting that the Parish Council had received information from the Staffordshire Parish Council's Association following the Government's decision to withdraw funding for the provision of Neighbourhood Plans. The Clerk had circulated the relevant information to all Members with their papers for the meeting in order to allow sufficient time to digest the information.

Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** that it did not wish to follow this particular route at the present time and would prefer to await the outcome of the Secretary of State on the Local Plan which had been prepared for the District of South Staffordshire. This was noted.

(h) COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW 2025

The Clerk advised the Parish Council that South Staffordshire Council had now launched its review into Community Governance and in order to ensure that Members were fully aware of the implications of the review she had already circulated to all Members, copies of the presentation given on this subject at the Parish Summit. The Clerk also offered to circulate to all Members the latest update on this matter. This was noted.

30/2025 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr. Mrs. M. Woods had addressed the Parish Council earlier in the meeting and her views had been recorded earlier in the meeting.

31/2025 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr. R. J. Perry advised the meeting that there was nothing specific to report on this occasion. This was noted.

32/2025 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS

DEAD BRANCHES ON TREE AT JONES LANE RECREATION GROUND

Cllr. A. Newell advised the meeting that he had been approached by the occupier of 22 Saxon Close with a request to have dead branches removed from a tree which she felt was causing a potential danger to her property. The Clerk was to report this matter to the Parish Council Groundsmen. This was noted by Members.

33/2025 CONDITION OF BUS SHELTER AND LANDYWOOD PLAYING FIELD NOTICE BOARD

Cllr. J. C. Jones advised the meeting that he was very concerned at the state of the bus shelter in Landywood Lane and also the condition of the Notice Board on the

playing field which had been set on fire some time ago. Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** to remove the damaged Polycarbonate Panels from the Bus Shelter on the basis that the Bus Shelter was no longer in use and could be repainted and made to look presentable whilst not providing a target for vandalism. This was noted.

VOTE OF THANKS TO CARNIVAL COMMITTEE

Cllr. J. C. Jones took this opportunity to congratulate the Carnival Committee on a fantastic event this year and gave all associated with the event a heartfelt vote of thanks for their dedication to providing such an enjoyable occasion for the village. This was noted.

34/2025 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES **GREAT WYRLEY CARNIVAL COMMITTEE**

Cllr. A. J. Kelsey advised the meeting that the 2025 Carnival had been a really successful day this year and that there had been a number of interesting events taking place including the fact that the Owl which had been booked to give a demonstration to the public decided to withdraw its contribution to the event by flying off rather than performing. The weather had been absolutely perfect and everyone seemed to have had a really great time.

Cllr. Kelsey thanked the Parish Council for its kind words and all its support with the event.

35/2025 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

25/00480/FULHH – SINGLE STOREY FRONT EXTENSION AT 10 ANSON ROAD, GREAT WYRLEY – THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS APPLICATION IN PRINCIPLE BUT RESERVED THE RIGHT TO SUPPORT OBJECTIONS OF NEIGHBOURING RESIDENTS SHOULD THIS BE REQUIRED.

25/00494/FULHH – PROPOSED 2 STOREY SIDE AND REAR EXTENSION AND SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION AT 1 KEMPTON DRIVE, GREAT WYRLEY – THE PARISH COUNCIL STRONGLY OBJECTED TO THIS APPLICATION AND FULLY SUPPORTED THE NEIGHBOUR OBJECTIONS ON ALL GROUNDS INCLUDING DETRIMENTAL AFFECT ON THE AMENITY OF NEARBY PROPERTIES, HIGHWAY SAFETY AND GENERAL OVERDEVELOPMENT.

25/00416/FULHH – SINGLE STOREY FLAT ROOF EXTENSION TO THE REAR ELEVATION OF 47 HILTON LANE, GREAT WYRLEY. THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS APPLICATION IN PRINCIPLE BUT RESERVED THE RIGHT TO SUPPORT OBJECTIONS OF NEIGHBOURING RESIDENTS SHOULD THIS BE REQUIRED.

25/00387/FULHH – GROUND AND FIRST FLOOR REAR EXTENSION AT 129 WALSALL ROAD, GREAT WYRLEY - THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS APPLICATION IN PRINCIPLE BUT RESERVED THE RIGHT TO SUPPORT OBJECTIONS OF NEIGHBOURING RESIDENTS SHOULD THIS BE REQUIRED.

25/00474/FULHH – SINGLE STOREY SIDE/REAR EXTENSION, 3 BELMONT CLOSE, GREAT WYRLEY - THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS APPLICATION IN PRINCIPLE BUT RESERVED THE RIGHT TO SUPPORT OBJECTIONS OF NEIGHBOURING RESIDENTS SHOULD THIS BE REQUIRED.

25/00469/FULHH – SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION AT 4 GILPINS CROFT, CHESLYN HAY - THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS

**APPLICATION IN PRINCIPLE BUT RESERVED THE RIGHT TO SUPPORT
OBJECTIONS OF NEIGHBOURING RESIDENTS SHOULD THIS BE REQUIRED.**

36/2025 REPORT OF OUTSTANDING ACCOUNTS

A report on the outstanding accounts for authorisation for payment was presented to Council and it was **resolved** that the report be accepted, approved and signed by the Chairman.

The Chairman thanked Members for their attendance and wished all a very enjoyable summer recess and closed the meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.50p.m.

Chairman..... **Date.....**