

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 3RD September, 2025.

Present:

**(Chairman)
Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE**

Cllr. Mrs. O. Brazier Cllr. R. Fairclough Cllr. J. C. Jones Cllr. A. Kelsey	Cllr. A. Newell 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) and Parish Administrator (Ms. D. May).

37/2025 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllr. M. Jackson and District Councillor J. Hill.

38/2025 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.

39/2025 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 2nd July, 2025. It was carried.

40/2025 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING DATED 3RD SEPTEMBER 2025

The Chairman advised the meeting that the Audit and Governance Committee had held a meeting immediately prior to that of the Parish Council and the Clerk reported the following recommendations to full Council for ratification.

40(a) Quarter One Reconciliation

The Clerk advised the meeting that the Audit and Governance Committee had recommended approval of the Quarter One Reconciliation of the Parish Council Accounts for the year 2025/26; which included a review of the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations in line with Audit regulations.

The Parish Council **resolved** to accept the recommendations of the Audit and Governance Committee. It was carried.

40(b) Proposed new Grant aid Application Form

The Clerk advised the meeting that the Audit and Governance Committee had reviewed and recommended for approval the new version of the Parish Council Grant Aid Application Form.

The Parish Council **resolved** to accept the recommendations of the Audit and Governance Committee and authorised publication of the new Grant Aid Application form on the Parish Council website. It was carried.

40 (c) Cancellation of Outdated Uncashed Cheques

The Clerk advised the meeting that the Audit and Governance Committee had recommended that the number of outdated and uncashed cheques dated back to the 2022/23 Financial Year now be formally cancelled.

The Parish Council **resolved** to accept the recommendations of the Audit and Governance Committee. It was carried.

40(d) Asset Register Project

The Clerk advised the meeting that in line with Audit Regulations for 2025/26 the Asset Register had now been reviewed and the Audit and Governance Committee had recommended that the updated version of the document be authorised by Full Council. The Parish Council resolved to adopt the updated version of the Asset Register and authorised an edited version of the same document to be published on the Parish Council website. The edited version to redact certain information on security grounds. It was carried.

The Clerk advised the meeting that the Parish Council had expected to have received notification from Forvis Mazars that the Annual Audit of the Parish Council Accounts for the year ended 31st March, 2025 had been signed off. The deadline for sign off was 30th September and as yet the Parish Council had not received any communication from the Forvis Mazars whatsoever. The Parish Council chose to treat this as good news. The outcome would be reported to the October meeting of the Parish Council. This was noted by Members.

The Chairman took this opportunity to thank the Parish Administrator, Ms. D. May, for her efficiency and diligence in keeping the Parish Council's financial affairs in Order. Ms. May was given a spontaneous round of applause from the Parish Council. Ms. May thanked all present for their kind words.

41/2025

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hall Lane – Mobile Phone Mast

The Chairman advised the meeting that the Parish Council had received notification that the Mobile Phone Mast at Hall Lane was about to be refurbished and the plans were being displayed with the Planning Applications on the table. The Chairman clarified for all Members that this was a notification of an upgrade and not a Planning Application, as such it was not something that the Parish Council had any control over in terms of resistance. All Members were made aware of the upgrade and its ramifications and accepted the proposals as they stood.

Wyrley Brook

The Chairman gave the Parish Council a full explanation of the situation with regard to the disputed ownership of that part of Wyrley Brook which included the ownership of the land through which the Brook passes in Cheslyn Hay which is owned by South Staffordshire Council. Severn Trent has always owned the Brook but not the land through which it passes. At the present time there was a level of confusion around which organisation actually had responsibility for the clearance and maintenance for free flow of Wyrley Brook.

Following lengthy discussion the Parish Council **resolved** to investigate this matter further. There was an urgent need to clarify the situation on the basis that any such change may affect the ongoing project to realign the configuration

of Wyrley Brook which was now well under way with the Severn Trent and DEFRA.

The Clerk was to advise Members of the situation at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

At this point Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE requested Mr. R. Taylor to look into this matter at South Staffordshire Council and report back with his findings.

Some confusion may also have arisen as South Staffordshire Council's one-off team of maintenance workers had made a wonderful job of clearing the sides of the Brook earlier in the year from Quinton Avenue down to Moat Hall School, however, this did not mean that South Staffordshire Council owned the Brook.

The Chairman asked at this point if members were aware of any areas which were in need of attention by the 12 hour team, as these issues could be reported at the private meeting to be held tomorrow between the Chairman and Mrs. J. Smith, Corporate Director of Communities and Wellbeing at South Staffordshire Council along with the Locality 3 Enabler, Mr. R. Taylor.

Mr. R. Fairclough explained his level of concern that the water was rising steadily and being blocked at the grids and something needed to be done as a matter of urgency.

42/2025

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 only member of the public present on this occasion questioned the fact that it appeared to him that the mileage recorded on the Parish Council's Peugeot Expert Van had risen beyond acceptable numbers for a vehicle which should travel the same distance year on year. The complainant wished to have clarification upon what the van was being used for and who was paying for the additional fuel to power the vehicle.

The Parish Council was able to respond to this question, there and then, in that for some inexplicable reason, the Odometer/Milometer recording had been accidentally switched from miles to kilometres at a previous MOT and there was a need to wait until the following year's MOT to have the matter rectified.

Clearly, as the vehicle had the capability to display this information in either mode due its French origin, it was understandable how this situation had arisen. Both the complainant and the Parish Council were advised that the DVLA website would now be displaying a figure which would imply that the mileage figure had in fact gone backwards. Clearly, this was not the case as explained by the Parish Administrator. This was noted by all present.

43/2025

PRESENTATION BY RYAN TAYLOR, LOCALITY 3 ENABLER – SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE introduced Mr. Ryan Taylor to the Parish Council and Mr. Taylor took the floor for his presentation.

WYRLEY ESSINGTON CANAL

Mr. Taylor thanked the Parish Council for the warm welcome he had received from the Parish Council this evening and proceeded to advise Councillors that he was presently running a mini public consultation via the District Council's Community Engagement platform regarding the Wyrley Essington Canal. Mr. Taylor advised

the meeting that as this site passes through or nearby to a Great Wyrley Ward he felt it important to have the Parish Council on board with this project from the outset.

Mr. Taylor explained that South Staffordshire District Council had utilised its Citizen Engagement Platform to conduct the consultation and its main aim was to gather views on how people use the site, improvements they might like to see, gauge interest in local volunteering opportunities and to see if there are any fishing clubs who may wish to get involved in helping to manage the site.

There were organisations of this nature in the Parish, one of which is connected with Harrisons Sports and Social Club and, of course, everyone was aware that there was always a need for a licence for this activity.

Mr. Taylor explained that the District Council was pushing this survey through its social media channels and how much the District Council would appreciate the Parish sharing this information through its local contacts. At present the survey was to run until the middle of September but that this was not cast in stone, should any organisation show an interest in taking ownership of this project he would be more than pleased to make contact with them.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry advised the meeting that she felt that this would be an excellent project to pursue, as the Canal had the potential to become a very attractive area and create a lovely walk for residents. Cllr. Mrs. Perry explained that this particular area was in the Landywood Ward of Great Wyrley and even though conversations had taken place with other local representatives the fact was this project would be better supported by Great Wyrley residents than either Essington residents or those in Cheslyn Hay because its location was much nearer to Wyrley than either of the two parishes on its boundaries. This was noted.

The main aim of this project was to gain support for development which would meet the criteria of the available financial support. Cllr. Fairclough asked whether the Canal could be reopened at this point and was advised that this was not an option as the Canal itself was capped off in two places rendering this suggestion impossible. This was noted.

Cllr. J. C. Jones advised the meeting that there were some very interesting items of information available about the Old Canal available on utube. This was noted by Members.

ZELLAR CARBON DATA SOFTWARE

Mr. R. Taylor gave Members a brief report on the benefits of Zellar Data collection and offered a free licence to the Parish Council. Mr. Taylor thought it would be great to get as many Parish Councils involved as possible to help gather carbon data regarding our collective buildings, operations and fleet etc across the district. This was noted by Members.

DEAD END FOOTPATH – CHERRINGTON DRIVE/BROOKLANDS AVENUE

Cllr. Fairclough asked Mr. Taylor whether there was any funding available which could be applied to the landscaping of a footpath near Cherrington Drive/Brooklands Avenue. Apparently, past the end of Beauty Bank there was a footpath which just ends dead. The footpath was in need of tidying up badly and could create a really nice area for residents and also stop the dumping of garden rubbish. Mr. Taylor advised Cllr. Fairclough that this may be a task for the additional ground crew and agreed that this would be included in the site meeting with Mrs. Smith. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. J. C. Jones enquired of Mr. Taylor whether he had been part of the major project to reconfigure the alignment of Wyrley Brook. Mr. Taylor advised Cllr. Jones that he hadn't been part of that project. However, the Clerk advised the meeting that the latest update she had received from Mr. Andrew Brett, County Flood Risk Manager that this project was still on target and due to come to fruition at the beginning of 2027. The project had been held back due to the fact that major monies had been invested into dealing with the issue relating to effluent being pumped into the sea and other associated water courses.

Cllr. R. Fairclough then advised the meeting that he was very concerned that the Washbrook had recently been contaminated with effluent believed to have emanated from a Portaloo being used by an unidentified Contractor. Severn Trent had responded to his complaint very quickly but had been unable to determine the culprits in this instance. It was very concerning that this had happened; its evidence clear to see along with a number of lifeless fish. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE thanked Mr. Taylor for his attendance on this occasion. Ryan Taylor advised the meeting that he was always willing to come out to the Parish Council should Members wish him to. This was noted.

44/2025 CLERK'S REPORTS TO COUNCIL

(a) Wyrley Essington Canal Consultation

The Parish Council had received information from South Staffordshire Council advising Members that Mr. R. Taylor was presently running a mini public consultation via its Community Engagement Platform regarding the Wyrley Essington Canal.

This matter had been fully discussed during the agenda item covering the presentation by the Locality 3 Enabler. This was noted.

(b) Deferred Item - Request for Replacement Fencing – Property at Landywood Lane

As Members were already aware, the owners of a property in Landywood Lane had contacted the Parish Council earlier in the year with a complaint that the wooded area between the Millennium Green and their property was compromising the condition of their garden fence. The Parish Council resolved that the woodland area could be pruned back and that an assessment would be made whether any overgrown vegetation/tree growth had any bearing on the condition of the fence in question would be made at the same time.

The required works had now taken place and the Parish Council had been advised by the Independent Arboriculturist contracted to carry out the tree works that, in his opinion, due to significant differences in the ground levels between the two areas of land each side of the fence; added to the fact that the majority of the overgrowth was actually considerably higher than the fence itself it was difficult to agree with the complainants' assertion that the overgrowth had had a detrimental effect on the fence.

This matter was fully discussed and the general consensus of opinion was that the condition of the fence represented normal wear and tear of a fence of its age which largely accorded with the standard guarantee period. On this basis the Parish Council **resolved** not to fund the replacement of the fencing to the property in Landywood Lane. It was carried.

(c) Local Government Reorganisation

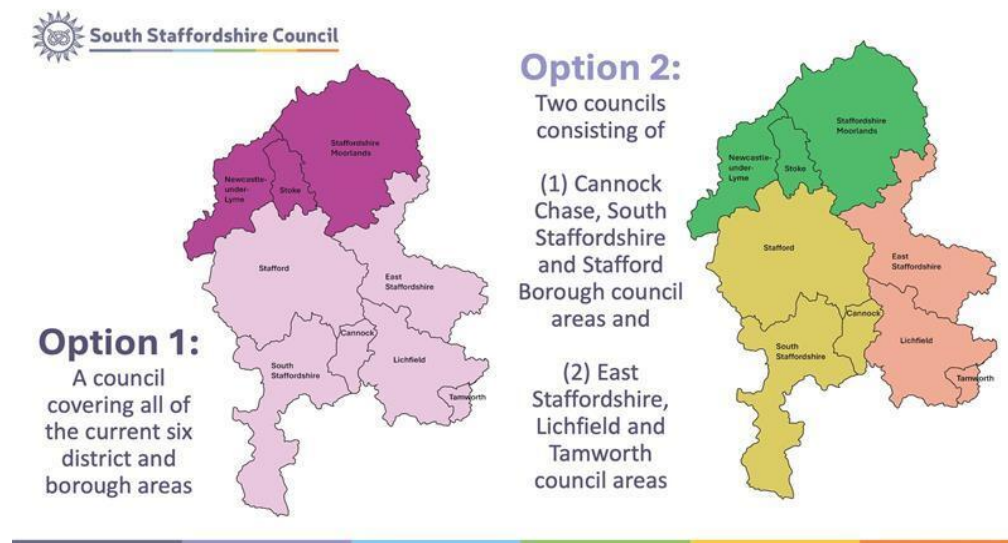
As Members were already aware the Local Government Reorganisation process was now well under way. Members had noted the information provided by Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE in her capacity as Leader of South Staffordshire Council which had given everyone an accurate view of the options presently under discussion.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry explained that as things stood at the moment, everyone had the unique opportunity to influence how local services were delivered across Staffordshire. Together with five neighbouring Councils, South Staffordshire Council was exploring a version of Local Government which would replace the current two-tier system with a single Council responsible for all local services.

The two options being considered are for Southern and Mid Staffordshire:

- One council covering all six areas.
- Two smaller councils covering (1) South Staffordshire, Stafford and Cannock and (2) East Staffordshire, Lichfield and Tamworth.

Please see diagram below for detailed information:



Cllr. Mrs. Perry had made it more than clear that as someone who had lived in South Staffordshire all her life, she cared deeply about its communities, from its villages to the services that supports residents every day so she assures all that she is not just sending this message out as the Leader of the Council but also as a resident and neighbour who wants the very best for the District's future.

All Members had been made aware that the consultation on the above matter closed on 1st September and all Members had been reminded not to miss the opportunity to make their views known. This was noted.

(d) Request from Great Wyrley Carnival Committee for use of Landywood Lane Play Area for its Halloween Experience Event (to coincide with The Community Group's Halloween Walk).

The Clerk advised the Parish Council that she had received a request from Great Wyrley Carnival Committee to be given permission to use the field adjoining the Community Centre to stage its Halloween Experience Event on Saturday 25th October, 2025. Members were aware that this event was to coincide with the

Halloween Walk held by the Great Wyrley and Cheslyn Hay Community Group, which involved a walk all around the village.

Members were aware that both the events were successful last year, however, neither event had been without its own set of problems, one of which was that there was a clear need for a separate WC facility to be put in place on the field.

The Parish Council was also aware that a number of observations had been made regarding the need for marshalling of the Halloween walkers; apparently there were a number of incidences where public safety appeared to have been compromised in terms of traffic management etc. reported on social media. This was not only clear from social media, but also evidenced by the number of telephone calls made to the Parish Council office complaining of the dangerous situation which occurred on the A34 Walsall Road and Hilton Lane for both drivers and pedestrians alike.

The Parish Council, of course, had no objection in principle to this request and wished both organisations every success with their events. However, Members felt that on the basis of the above information any permission given should include the proviso that the organisers provide and arrange their own independent toilet facilities to be available. In addition in order to protect all concerned the Parish Council needed confirmation that all permissions required for Event Management had been sought and granted from both Staffordshire County Council and South Staffordshire Council in terms of licensing and highway safety.

In conclusion, the Parish Council **resolved** that it would also be essential to ensure that no vehicles were allowed access on to the Landywood Playing Field itself because not only does this practice compromise the integrity of the grassed surface it also creates a hazard to public safety.

The Clerk was to write to the Carnival Committee advising them of the Parish Council's view on this matter.

(e) Update on progress with proposed CHAPS Mining Memorial

As Members were already aware the proposed CHAPS Mining Memorial was still progressing in the background, however, the project had been slightly delayed due to circumstances beyond the Parish Council's control.

The Parish Council had recently been advised that the President of CHAPS Mike Mellor BEM would be arranging a follow up meeting shortly. This was noted by Members.

(f) Confirmation of dates for Christmas Market and Senior and Citizens Christmas Lunch

Following on from the success of the Christmas Market and the Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch last year, plans for a repeat of both events had now been put in place and the dates selected were Friday 5th December, 2025 for the Christmas Market and Friday 19th December for the Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch.

The Chairman was delighted to advise the Parish Council that the services of the Chef from the Olive Grove had again been booked and everyone would be entertained by Billy Shannon, who was extremely popular with diners and had kindly agreed to perform on that date.

Cllr. A. Kelsey advised the meeting that the Carnival Committee would again be more than happy to provide the Wine and the Christmas Crackers for the event.

Members noted the dates in their diaries. Cllr. Mrs. C. Whiston-Taylor advised the Parish Council that she would be unable to assist on this occasion as she would be out of the country. This was noted by Members.

(g) Application for Co-option onto Parish Council

As Members were already aware the Parish Council had received a request for Co-option onto the Parish Council from Mrs. Shannon Manderson. Unfortunately, Mrs. Manderson was unable to be present on this occasion as she was already committed to a prior engagement.

Mrs. Manderson's application had been forwarded to all Members for their consideration and following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** to defer this matter until they had a chance to meet Mrs. Manderson in person. which was expected to be at the next meeting of the Parish Council. It was carried.

(h) Freedom of Information Request from Great Wyrley and Cheslyn Hay Community Group.

The Clerk advised the meeting that the Parish Council had received a Freedom of Information Request from the Great Wyrley and Cheslyn Hay Community Group.

The Clerk advised the meeting that she had been somewhat surprised to receive this request as the use of the Freedom of Information Act was normally called upon when it had not been possible to garner a response to a question which had been asked through the normal channels. Moreover, this request had been lodged through a specific website more commonly used by journalists.

In the pursuit of complete accountability the details of the information requested followed by the Parish Council's response is set out below:-

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – 1321962-FA4C5625

Received Friday 8th August, 2025

Lee Murphy, Great Wyrley & Cheslyn Hay Community Group

Request One

"A breakdown of the income and expenditure at Great Wyrley Parish Council for the following financial years; 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25".

Response

The income and expenditure details are available on the website under *Your Parish Council → Finance*. <https://www.greatwyrleyparishcouncil.gov.uk/your-parish-council/finances>

Please note that the 2024/2025 accounts are currently undergoing the annual audit process, which is expected to be completed by the external auditor by 30th September 2025.

This is why the Annual Governance and Accountability Report carries the designation "unaudited".

Although the Exercise of Public Rights period for inspecting the accounts concluded on the 14th July, 2025, you are still welcome to make an appointment if you wish to view the files in more detail. Due to their size and the time required, it is not

possible to send them by email.

Appointments are offered on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Please contact the Clerk's office to verify availability and arrange a suitable time.

Request Two

"During the main Government covid-19 vaccine drive the Community Centre was let to Cornwell's Chemists Limited. What was the total amount of money received by the parish from this company for letting the centre? How was/is this money (being) spent by the parish?"

Response

Report: Room Hire Operations and Financial Summary Period Covered: 8th January, 2021 – 7th April 2022 (454 days)

Operational Overview

- Room Hire: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Session Hours: 8:00 am – 8:00 pm.
- Equipment: Operated and stored continuously (24 hours).
- Hire Rate: £100.00 per day for not-for-profit hire. This rate was mutually agreed as a fair contribution for the centre's running costs, staff salaries, and maintenance. Cornwell's Chemist Ltd confirmed that the clinic would rely primarily on volunteers for day to day operations, with qualified paid staff administering the vaccines. The agreed figure was aligned with the standard NHS hire charge at the time; however, that charge typically applied to a single-day hire of shorter duration and without provision for equipment storage. It was therefore also agreed that any significant increases in running costs would be accounted for separately.

Financial Summary

Income (08/01/2021 – 08/04/2022)

- Paid in 2020/21: £11,300.00
- Paid in 2021/22: £33,778.01 (This includes agreed additional costs for increased telephone charges)
- Paid in 2022/23: £2,252.80 (This amount includes items purchased by GWPC on behalf of Cornwell's Chemist Ltd, and reinstatement of the centre upon handover).

Total Income: £47,330.81

Expenditure - Running costs of Community Centre which includes utilities, maintenance and salaries.

- 2020/21: £6908.82
- 2021/22: £37481.61

Total Expenditure: £44,548.62

Net Position

- Surplus: £47,330.81 – £44,548.62 = **£2782.19**

Summary

Over the 454-day period, the room was hired at a consistent daily rate while equipment ran 24 hours a day. Operated as a not-for-profit let, the operation generated a total income of £47,330.81 and incurred expenses of £44,548.62, resulting in a positive net balance of £2,782.19. This surplus was used to offset the deficit after the departure of the clinic whilst encouraging the return of regular daytime and night time hires to the Community Centre.

Additional Funds Received not in relation to Community Centre hire.

In December 2021, the centre was unavailable for the Parish Council's annual Pensioners' Christmas meal. Consequently, the event was relocated to Olde Wyrley Hall. A donation of £1,000.00 was received from Cornwell's Chemist Ltd in support of the event, supplementing funding provided by Great Wyrley Parish Council. This combined funding ensured that all attending pensioners were provided with a complimentary three course meal and entertainment. The donation has not been included in the financial figures reported herein.

On 24 June 2022, a cheque for £800.00 was received from the Sant Zora Singh Charitable Trust, representing funds donated by Cornwell's COVID-19 Clinic from public donations. The total amount collected from the public was not disclosed to Great Wyrley Parish Council. The £800.00 has been allocated to reserves and will be used once successful funding is secured for any of the four community play areas.

Following discussion Members agreed that it had seemed a little heavy handed to follow the Freedom of Information process, however, the Parish Council was happy to be transparent in this regard and the response had been lodged.

Cllr. Mrs. O. Brazier gave Members her opinion on the issue described above and in particular her disappointment that she had been neither consulted nor advised that the Community Group had taken this action. In fact Cllr. Mrs. Brazier was disaffected to the point where she had resigned from the Community Group with immediate effect. This was noted by Members.

(i) Authorisation to Publish Official Response re: Annual Bonfire Enquiries

The Clerk advised the meeting that the Parish Council was now approaching the period during which it received the majority of enquiries regarding the Great Wyrley Annual Bonfire Event. On this basis the Clerk suggested to Members that they may wish to consider the wisdom of publishing the full explanation of the Parish Council's reasons why the event was no longer held on the Great Wyrley Parish Council website.

To refresh Members' memories the response to the last complainant and to Sir Gavin Williamson MP was as follows:-

"The Parish Council has recently received a copy of your email to all our District Councillors expressing your disappointment that Great Wyrley no longer hosts its own Bonfire Night Event.

Your email has been passed to me to respond directly to you because the annual Wyrley Bonfire

event was actually organised by Great Wyrley Parish Council and, as ever, there are a number of anomalous rumours in the village as to why it is no longer held.

By way of explanation, the Parish Council was advised by Staffordshire Police that it should no longer stage this event on the basis that the event itself had grown to such proportions that it was considered not only unmanageable but also unsafe to continue.

This was further hindered by the fact that Staffordshire Police Service were in a position where it needed to completely withdraw its support for the event. This entailed the withdrawal of traffic management, crowd management and general security.

Over several years The Parish Council attempted a number of different ways to maintain control over the event, including the provision of private security, its own traffic management plan and reduction in Fairground rides to young children's rides only. The Parish Council was also instructed that it had to control the unauthorised sellers directly outside the perimeter of the event ground which proved to be impossible. None of these actions alleviated the issues or the concerns of both Staffordshire Police and Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service.

In addition to the safety issues referred to above, it must not be forgotten that the village was also gridlocked during the run-up, the duration and the conclusion of the event, which also had to be taken into account. Clearly this situation could not be allowed to continue as it was feared that it represented a safety issue should access be needed by emergency services for any resident in the area surrounding the event.

Many residents felt that the Wyrley Bonfire had been, in a way, a victim of its own success. This view was based on the fact that people would come from miles around to attend the event as it was free of charge and an excellent evening. However, in the end Councillors had no choice other than to listen to the advice of Staffordshire Police and just accept the fact that the event had outgrown the Parish Council. For one year a head count of over 5000 people in attendance was recorded by Staffordshire Police and this just could not be ignored.

Please do not imagine for a moment that the decision not to hold the Bonfire Night event was taken lightly. In fairness the Parish Council tried every way it could to keep the event even if it meant having to levy a charge for entrance. However, it soon became clear that this was not feasible as there are so many unofficial access points to the area and completely locking down a site of this scale is impossible and unsustainable for the natural environment. In addition this action would undoubtedly have led to people viewing the event from outside the periphery of the site causing even more congestion in the surrounding area.

The Parish Council recognised that this action was considered to be quite a blow to the residents who had always loved the event and supported it over so many years. Because of this the Parish Council took the decision to provide Christmas Lights along the A34 so that the villagers could, at least, enjoy the festive season.

In conclusion the Parish Council was left with no choice other than to make the safety of the public its priority. To completely ignore Police advice would have amounted to an act of pure negligence. The end of the Bonfire Event was never about the money.

I hope that my explanation has clarified the situation.

kind regards,"

Great Wyrley Parish Council

Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** to authorise the publication of the reasons why the Great Wyrley Annual Bonfire Event was no longer held on the Parish Council website. It was carried.

45/2025 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr. Mrs. M. Woods was not present on this occasion.

46/2025 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that she was to be holding a meeting with the Director of Community Support and Wellbeing, along with the Locality 3 Enabler who had addressed the Parish Council earlier in the meeting on the following morning. This was noted.

Part of the purpose of the meeting was to compile a full list of the issues within the Parish which could be dealt with by the team of operatives from South Staffordshire Council whose purpose was to provide an additional 12 hours per year of ground works. The meeting was to include a site visit to the various sites mentioned earlier so that a full explanation of the requirements could be clarified.

One of the issues which had already made the list was the overgrown vegetation which was obscuring visibility from Streets Lane for vehicles attempting to turn into Landywood Lane.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry was advised that there was a section of footpath also in Streets Lane where the verges had now severely overgrown the pavement to the point where the path had become unusable. Cllr. Mrs. Perry was to add this issue to the list of works.

Cllr. R. Fairclough also reminded Cllr. Mrs. Perry that the issues he had mentioned earlier regarding both the condition of the Washbrook and the need to clear footpath between Brooklands Avenue and Cherrington Drive should be added to the list and that he would be happy to be at any site visit. This was noted.

Cllr. Fairclough also asked whether there was any chance that the area where the Washbrook met Wyrley Brook could be properly landscaped. Cllr. Mrs. Perry explained that there were other landowners involved in this particular location but that she would add it to the list for discussion. This was noted.

Cllr. J. C. Jones advised the meeting that he had heard that road repairs had been halted by Staffordshire County Council whilst the highways maintenance delivery was under review. The Clerk advised the meeting that non-urgent repairs had been halted according to the County Council website.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry explained that in fairness a considerable amount of work had been carried out since the change in County Council control, however, it had to be factored in that these works may well have been programmed for some time. This was noted by Members.

47/2025 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS

QUINTON REDUNDANT TELEPHONE BOX

Cllr. J. C. Jones advised the meeting that the condition of Wyrley Brook was deteriorating yet again and needed to be dealt with as a matter of urgency.

Cllr. Jones also requested that the Parish Council contact BT Openreach with a request that they remove the dilapidated non operational telephone Box at The Quinton Centre. Cllr. Mrs. Perry suggested that perhaps it may be beneficial to ask for the Telephone Box to be relocated to a position where it may be re-purposed. The suggestion was also put forward that the telephone box itself could be raffled off to raise funds for the Carnival Committee.

REDUNDANT BUS SHELTERS

Cllr. J. C. Jones suggested to the Parish Council that it should explore the possibility of taking down the redundant bus shelters and utilisation of them in other areas.

Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood advised the meeting that it would have to be looked into properly as she felt that it was quite likely that the shelters would disintegrate if removed. This was noted.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry suggested that the Clerk ask the Local Builder, John Webb, to look into this matter and give the Parish Council his professional opinion. This was noted.

Cllr. A. Newell advised the meeting that the Parish Council needed to take into account the fact that the Bus Service may be reinstated. Cllr. Jones advised the meeting at the present time they were needing maintenance for no good reason. This was noted by Members.

PARISH COUNCIL NOTICEBOARDS

Cllr. J. C. Jones advised the meeting that the Parish Council notice boards were in dire need of a refurbish and general clean. The Clerk was to ensure that this took place as a matter of urgency.

BLOCKED DRAINS

Cllr. J. C. Jones advised the meeting that the drain in the highway on Landywood Lane outside the Community Centre and the drain outside Wesley Chapel which had a tree growing out of it were desperately in need of clearance. The Clerk was asked to request general drain clearance to take place. The Clerk advised the meeting that she was having a meeting with a Highways Operative on the following Tuesday and she was more than happy to raise this matter. This was noted.

MOAT LANE/BROADMEADOW LANE

Cllr. A. Newell advised the Parish Council that there was a parcel of land which had been empty for years and the hedge surrounding the property had now not only overgrown the footpath but it was actually encroaching into the road.

Cllr. Mrs. O. Brazier gave the Parish Council the history of this property. The Clerk was to report this matter to the Enforcement Team at South Staffordshire Council with a request for a Section 215 Notice. This was noted by Members.

WARDLES LANE PLANNING APPLICATION

Cllr. J. C. Jones asked the meeting if they could clarify the situation relating to the planning application for the corner of Wardles Lane and Kempton Drive.

The Clerk explained that the plans relating to this proposal had been slightly misleading and in reality the boundary treatment would not compromise the visibility for either motorists or pedestrians. This was noted by Members.

4 DARGES LANE – SECTION 215 NOTICE

Cllr. R. Fairclough advised the meeting that a property in Darges Lane, Great Wyrley was in desperate need of a tidy-up on the basis that its appearance was detrimental to the amenity of nearby residents. The Clerk was to report this matter to the Enforcement Officer at South Staffordshire Council with a request for a Section 215 Notice. This was noted.

OPEN MEETING AT ST. MARK'S CHURCH

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that St. Mark's Church was having a gathering of interested parties to discuss the reopening of the Church Hall on Saturday 6th September at 11.00p.m. It would be interesting to hear the outcome of the meeting and Cllr. Mrs. Perry would report back to Members at the next meeting of the Parish Council. This was noted by Members.

48/2025 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no reports from outside bodies on this occasion.

49/2025 REPORT FROM STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE

The Clerk had circulated a copy of the Police Report to all Members of the Parish Council and Cllr. R. Perry advised the meeting that Staffordshire Police was looking for volunteers to form a speedwatch campaign. This was noted.

Cllr. R. Fairclough advised the meeting that he had been unsuccessful in reporting a suspected crime recently, however, the report appeared to identify the location where the alleged incident was taking place so, hopefully, this matter had now been resolved.

50/2025 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

25/00553/FULHH – GARDEN STORAGE ROOM OUTBUILDING AT 34 HOLLY 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.

25/00647/TREE – TPO16/1975 4NO. ASH (G1) – TO BE DISMANTLED AND REMOVED. 4 TREES TO PLANTED TO REPLACE THEM AT 90 WALSALL ROAD, GREAT WYRLEY. PROVIDED THAT THE TREES WERE BEING REPLACED DUE TO DISEASE OR FAILURE THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS PROPOSAL.

25/0000568/FULHH –REMOVAL OF 2 VELUX WINDOWS AND REPLACEMENT 1 DORMA WINDOW AT LIVORNO, HOLLY LANE, 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.

25/00673/FUL – 3 BED DORMER BUNGALOW WITH AN INTEGRAL SINGLE BAY GARAGE ON LAND BETWEEN 45 AND 49 STATION STREET, 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 – ERECTION OF 49 DWELLINGS, PUBLIC OPEN SPACE, LANDSCAPING, ACCESS OFF POOL VIEW AND ASSOCIATED WORKS ON LAND NORTH OF POOL VIEW, GREAT WYRLEY. THE PARISH COUNCIL CONTINUES TO STRONGLY OBJECT TO THIS PROPOSAL AND DOES NOT CONSIDER THAT THE AMENDMENTS TO THE APPLICATION HAVE ADDRESSED ANY OF THE ISSUES WHICH FORMED THE BASIS OF ITS PREVIOUS CONCERNS. STRONGLY REQUEST REFUSAL OF CONSENT.

51/2025 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 closed the meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.26p.m.

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