

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 5TH November, 2025.

Present:

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

Cllr. M. Jackson Cllr. J. C. Jones Cllr. A. Kelsey Cllr. Mrs. S. Manderson Cllr. D. Norris	Cllr. A. Newell Cllr. R. J. Perry Cllr. Mrs. C. Whiston-Taylor Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood
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Also in attendance County Councillor Mrs. M. Woods and District Councillor J. Hill.

69/2025 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllr. Mrs. O. Brazier and Cllr. D. F. W. Norris.

70/2025 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.

71/2025 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 1st October, 2025 and the minutes of the Confidential Urgent Extra-Ordinary meeting held on 22nd October, 2025. It was carried.

72/2025 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

HALLOWEEN EVENTS

The Chairman took this opportunity to congratulate the Carnival Committee on its amazing success with its recent Halloween Experience. The event which had been held on Saturday 25th October, had originally been planned to take place on The Landywood Lane Playing Field, however, the weather had certainly put paid to that and the event had been relocated to Great Wyrley Community Centre at the last minute.

The event had raised around the sum of £4000 which was a brilliant amount of money to be put toward next year's carnival. This was noted.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry explained that it had been impossible to even secure the Gazebos on the field and in the end there had been no choice other than to relocate and the Parish Council was pleased that it had been able to help on this occasion.

Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood advised the meeting that the Halloween Walk organised by the Great Wyrley and Cheslyn Hay Community Group event had been run in conjunction with the Carnival Committee's event and had also been very successful indeed and having the road closed had made a considerable difference even though it had eaten into their fund raising. This was noted by Members.

STREETS LANE PARKING ISSUES

The Chairman advised the meeting that there had been a number of issues in relating to Streets Lane concerning what can only be described as inconsiderate parking.

A resident of Streets Lane had alerted the Parish Council to the main incident who was present in the Public Gallery. This was noted.

Prior to discussion taking place on this issue the Chairman advised the Parish Council that the Clerk had already requested the local PCSOs to ticket all of the cars parked so inconsiderately in Streets Lane and do so on a regular basis. However, the tickets referred to could only advise those motorists that they could be liable to be prosecuted. There was no actual power behind the notices. This was noted.

For clarification this is because those people were not breaking any laws and if they had it needed to be proven which car was parked there first.

This haphazard parking was only an offence if it was:-

- wholly on the pavement,
- on double yellow lines,
- on zig zags,
- over a dropped kerb,
- too close to a junction
- or parked on the opposite side of a vehicle already parked on a narrow road.

Nevertheless Staffordshire Police PCSOs had assured the Parish Council that these tickets had now been put on all cars. This was noted.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry went on to say that, in addition to the hurdle referred to above, there was no point in requesting the Parking Wardens to attend on site either because there were no Regulatory Lines or Signs denoted restricted parking and accordingly, the Wardens had no power to act. This was noted by Members.

The Chairman advised the meeting that she was sharing this specific information with the Parish Council to enable everyone to understand that the Parish Council really does not have any jurisdiction over the parking situation in Streets Lane. This was noted by Members.

BENTONS LANE DRAIN PROBLEM

It was recalled by all Members that the Bentons Lane drain issue had been discussed at length at the last meeting of the Parish Council. Accordingly, the Chairman was delighted to share the information that the drainage problem at the Bentons Lane Junction with the A34 had now been raised to an urgent priority. Cllr. Mrs. Perry was sure that this action would please Councillor Mrs. Sue Wood. This was noted by members.

73/2025 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.

Two residents of Great Wyrley were present in the Public Gallery on this occasion. Accordingly, The Chairman asked the residents if they would like to take this

opportunity to address the Parish Council regarding the parking issues in Streets Lane. The residents present both addressed the meeting, the main thrust of which was their opinion on the need for Double Yellow Line Restrictions from the Shanks Bridge side of Streets Lane.

The Chairman advised the residents present in the Public Gallery that this matter was due to be discussed later in the Agenda and that they would not be allowed to take part in the discussion one Standing orders had been reinstated. This was accepted.

The Chairman then reinstated Standing Orders and progressed to the business on the Agenda for the meeting.

74/2025 CLERK'S REPORT TO COUNCIL

(a) ACCEPTANCE OF THE CONCLUSION OF THE AUDIT 31ST MARCH, 2025

Members were already aware that Forvis Mazars had now concluded the Audit of Great Parish Council's Accounts for the financial year ended 31st March, 2025. However, the Chairman was extremely proud to announce that with grateful thanks to the Parish Council Administrator, the Auditors had been unable to even find any scope for minor improvements.

However, in order to ensure that the Audit Guidelines had been adhered to it now fell to the Parish Council to officially accept the conclusion of the Audit. The Parish Council accepted the Conclusion of the Audit as requested. It was carried.

(b) SIGN-OFF QUARTER 2 - RECONCILIATION OF ACCOUNTS

It had now fallen to the Parish Council to sign off the second quarter of the Reconciliation of Accounts for the Financial Year 2025/26. The interim figures had been made available at the meeting for public scrutiny and the documents, along with the relevant working papers had been circulated to all Members prior to the meeting in order to allow sufficient time for full consideration. This was noted.

Following scrutiny by all Members present the Parish Council **RESOLVED** that the interim figures for the second quarter of the 2025/26 Parish Council Accounts be approved. It was carried.

(c) DEFERRED ITEM – FUNDING APPLICATION FOR CHILL-OUT CLUBS

Members recalled that this matter had been discussed at the last meeting of the Parish Council following which the matter was deferred for further investigation. Members had been divided regarding this issue. However, following discussion, the majority of Members upheld the view that it would not be possible to clarify whether this grant funding would be put to a purpose which could be fully evidenced.

Concerns were also raised that it would not be possible to establish whether any of the grant monies would be specifically spent in Great Wyrley. Following further discussion, for the reasons stated above, the Parish Council **resolved** not to make the award of Grant Funding to this project. This issue was then put to a vote which resulted in 7 for and 2 against the resolution to refuse the request. Accordingly, the resolution was carried. The application did not receive consent.

(d) PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER REVIEW

Members were, of course, aware that in August 2022 a Public Space Protection Order had been imposed on Landywood Lane Play Area and parts of the surrounding area. The Order was made primarily on the following grounds:-

Actual Wording of the Order

"because youths had been gathering on the playing fields and the skate park and were acting in an anti-social manner by drinking alcohol, using drugs, causing nuisance to other users of the field, causing nuisance to customers and staff at the Co-op store and alienating local young people who regularly use the skate park and other facilities. Also young people gathering in large numbers who had travelled into Great Wyrley by train and behaving in an intimidating manner to residents."

The Parish Council fully understood that the Public Space Protection order gave the authorities the power to impose £100 Fixed Penalty Notice or provided the possibility of prosecution and a fine of up to £1000 on any individuals who were gathering in these areas for no good reason without needing to go to Court beforehand.

However, when the Public Space Protection Order was imposed the Parish Council had not been made aware that the order was a temporary measure and the Parish Council, having now been requested to provide support for whether the Order should continue in to the future, strongly supported its continuance.

The Clerk was instructed to inform South Staffordshire Council that it wished the Order to remain in position for the future. This was noted.

(e) DEMOLITION OF GORSEY LANE BUS SHELTER

As Members were already aware the bus shelter at Gorsey Lane had, for the second time, been demolished. It had been mooted at first that the impact to the shelter was due to a delivery vehicle from Iceland visiting a property at the Flats. However, responsibility for this incident had now been categorically denied by Iceland and had been evidenced by the onboard vehicle tracker. On this basis Iceland's Insurers were not prepared to accept responsibility for its replacement as it completely refutes the claim. This was noted by Members.

Unfortunately, the Parish Council's did not have a reliable witness to this incident as he/she had not actually witnessed the impact. This was noted by Members.

The Clerk advised the Parish Council that, as was the norm for Parish Councils, the Bus Shelter was not specifically insured. This practice is adopted on the basis that any damage done to a Bus Shelter was either from an act of God or impact from a vehicle, accordingly, it was not considered to be value for money to inflate the annual insurance premium when the fault would always be with a third party. The Clerk had explained to an earlier meeting that in these circumstances it would now be time to contact Staffordshire Police for any CCTV evidence which may be available. However, the Clerk had already been advised by PCSO Karen Terry that she had already visited all households in the region and confirmed that there had been no witness to the incident or any record captured on Ring Doorbell footage. PCSO Terry had also confirmed that there were no CCTV cameras in operation in this area. This was noted.

On this basis the Clerk requested that Members consider funding the replacement of the bus shelter from Parish Funds. Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood advised the meeting that, despite the fact she was a bus user herself, she felt that replacing the bus shelter for the third time, without researching whether there could be a different design or position adopted, may be yet another waste of money. This was noted.

Following discussion, the Clerk was instructed to obtain a quotation for a replacement bus shelter of a more robust design. This was noted.

(f) PROPOSED WEIGHT RESTRICTION FOR SHAWS LANE

The Parish Council had now received notification from Staffordshire County Council that it was intending to impose a much campaigned for, weight restriction on Shaws Lane.

As all Members were already aware, this restriction had been campaigned for over a very long period and the Parish Council had indeed supported it. However, whilst doing so the Parish Council had always maintained the position that there was a need to impose restrictions on the other tributary roads as they too would inevitably bear the brunt of any such restriction being imposed on Shaws Lane alone.

However, despite the fact that the Parish Council had supported the Weight Restriction request in principle, the fact that there was an intention to utilise Holly Lane as part of an alternative route was wholly unacceptable due to the close proximity of the School.

Additionally, in terms of consistency the Parish Council had relied heavily on the unsuitability of Holly Lane in its quest to resist a recent planning application; lack of consistency could often lead to lack of credibility, which should be avoided at all costs if the Parish Council's views were to be taken into account without prejudice.

Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** that an objection should be lodged against the proposed diversion route and that Holly Lane should be deleted in favour of Hilton Lane and Gorsey Lane. It was carried.

(g) CHANGE IN HOURS OF DUTY FOR PCSO

The Parish Council had recently been informed by South Staffordshire Council that there would be a change in the hours worked by the Police Community Support Officers going forward.

The following was a letter from Chief Superintendent Emily Clarke of Staffordshire Police giving an explanation of the situation.

Letter from Staffordshire Police dated 20th October, 2025

To all Parish Councils

I wanted to update you on some ongoing work to make sure we continue to deliver the very best possible service to our communities.

We are currently reviewing how we deploy our PCSOs so that our people are working where and when they are needed the most. This is a data-driven review, designed to make sure resources match community demand at different times of day and across different areas.

I want to reassure you that this review is not about reducing service. There are no reductions to staff numbers or overall hours and our commitment to maintaining a visible, responsive presence in every community remains unchanged.

As part of this, we are proposing a small change to some of our PCSOs shift patterns, moving the end time from 10pm to 9pm. This is an evidence-based step to align our resources to the needs of our communities.

Policing remains a 24/7 service and our teams continue to be available and ready to respond at any time of the day or night, should our communities need us.

This work is about being smarter and more effective, using evidence and problem-solving to serve our public more efficiently while maintaining the high standards you expect from us. As plans progress, we will share further information with you and your communities. In the meantime, please be assured that our focus is firmly on keeping communities safe and our focus remains on

delivering a local police service that cares.

We will also be arranging a face-to-face briefing at our HQ for councillors and key stakeholders and will share the details as soon as these are confirmed.

Our priority remains maintaining the high quality, visible service that the public expects and deserves.

I look forward to continuing to work closely with you and please do not hesitate to contact me if you'd like to discuss this further.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours Sincerely,



Chief Superintendent, Emily Clarke

This was noted by Members.

(h) LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION - UPDATE

The Chairman advised the Parish Council that the Business Plan being put forward by Staffordshire County Council relating to Local Government Reorganisation had now become available to the public. Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that a report on what option would be considered to be the best fit for Staffordshire would be going to the Council in the coming week. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. J. C. Jones asked Cllr. Mrs. Perry whether the Government would have the choice of whether it accepted the proposal or not. Cllr. Mrs. Perry explained that, in fact, should the Government not accept the proposal then yes it would have the power to impose whichever option it felt suited. This was noted by Members.

(i) ROUGH SLEEPER SURVEY 2025

The Parish Council had received a request from South Staffordshire Council that Members assist with its Annual Survey of Rough Sleepers in the District. The information needed to be specifically dated i.e. the night time span between 6th and 7th November, 2025. There was a specific link which the Clerk would email out to all Members on 6th November. This was when the consultation actually opened – it could not be opened prior to that date. This was noted by Members.

(j) BUS SHELTER ON LANDYWOOD LANE

All Members recalled that there had been discussions recently regarding the relevancy of the Bus Shelter immediately adjacent to the Landywood Lane Play Area. The Clerk advised the meeting that she had now been advised by a resident that it was incorrect to say that there was no Bus Service utilising this shelter. The shelter was in fact servicing the Select Bus Service No. 803 which ran from Pelsall to Rodbaston College.

Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** to allow the Landywood Lane Bus Shelter to remain in situ. It was carried.

(k) PARKING ISSUES – STREETS LANE

Members recalled the situation at Streets Lane with regard to inconsiderate parking as it had been discussed in depth earlier in the meeting. The earlier conversation had included a contribution from Cllr. Mrs. M. Woods which had included that she would take this matter forward with Staffordshire County Council in terms of a double yellow line enquiry. This was noted by Members.

Councillors were already aware that there were conflicting views on requesting the imposition of double yellow lines in this location, however, Cllr. Mrs. Woods was to research the matter further. This was noted by Members.

77/2025 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr. Mrs. M. Woods advised the meeting that she had already held a number of discussions with residents of Streets Lane and she had already requested both a traffic and speed survey to be carried out in the area. Cllr. Mrs. Woods had also made attempts to contact Cameron Homes to clarify the situation relating to the new car park, however, she had been unable to make contact. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. Mrs. Woods also advised the meeting that a number surface dressing issues had been addressed in Great Wyrley of late, one of which was the cul-de-sac off Walsall Road. This was noted.

In conclusion Cllr. Mrs. Woods advised the meeting that Landywood Voluntary Help Centre needed a new volunteer to drive the minibus. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. Mrs. Woods also advised the meeting that an application for Double Yellow Lines on the corner of Love Lane and Walsall Road had not been approved. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE requested Cllr. Mrs. Woods to look into the timing of the traffic light sequence on Walsall Road which was causing chaos on the A34 as the sequence was holding traffic back for far too long. This was noted.

Cllr. J. C. Jones asked of Cllr. Mrs. Woods when the footpaths in the Parish would be addressed in terms resurfacing. Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry advised the meeting that it was her recollection that there had been an embargo placed on the resurfacing of footpaths until the County Highways were further forward with the repairs necessary to the highways. Cllr. Mrs. Woods was requested to establish whether this embargo had now been lifted.

78/2025 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

The Chairman invited District Councillor J. Hill to make a report on behalf of the District Council.

District Councillor Hill advised the meeting that the Wyrley Fun Day held in support of Andy's Man Club, was a huge success. The event had raised £560 and was supported by many residents and businesses. Cllr. Hill took this opportunity to thank everyone who had attended and contributed. This was noted.

Cllr. Hill also advised the meeting of an amazing performance from the Great Wyrley Concert Band as it had celebrated 25 years of making music together. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. Hill advised the meeting that it had been a pleasure to have been invited to watch Concert Band's Autumn Concert, and that a Christmas Concert was already planned. This was noted by Members who had not been made aware of this event.

Cllr. Hill also advised the meeting that the Hilton Lane Halloween Walk had been a very successful event and run smoothly. This was noted.

Cllr. Hill also advised the meeting that many residents continued to request upgrades to local play areas. This was noted.

Cllr. J. C. Jones advised Cllr. Hill that the Play Areas continued to cost considerable amounts of money in ongoing repairs. Cllr. Hill was also advised that there were a number of issues in the fire at the present time in terms of funding for replacement play areas, however, there were a number of factors involved with this process. This was noted.

Cllr. Mrs. S. Manderson advised the meeting that she was very keen for the Parish Council to look at improvements to the Play Areas as they really were in need of refurbishment. Cllr. Mrs. Manderson was advised that the Parish Council was very keen on making sure that its play areas were inclusive for children of all abilities.

Cllr. Hill advised the meeting that he had been made aware of the following resident concerns, he had attempted to resolve issues relating to the following:-

- Hedges trimmed at 134-144 Gorsey Lane
- Overgrown hedges along The Spindles cut back
- Tree survey completed with further work scheduled for the new year
- Blocked drain issues ongoing
- A riddance programme had been agreed to address rat issues
- Ivy affecting homes on Frobisher Close and Norfolk Grove remained under review.

Cllr. Hill was also feeding suggested priority areas to the Street Scene Team to the following areas:-

Most reported areas included:

- The Hilton Lane - Lea Lane Alleyway
- Area by Ash Lane flats
- Trees near the railway bridge narrowing the footpath.

These have been forwarded to the street scene team.

Cllr. Hill advised the meeting that residents at Oak House had raised concerns about safely crossing Gorsey Lane. Cllr. Hill was to arrange a meeting with Cllr. Michelle Woods to explore possible improvements. This was noted by Members.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Hill for his report to the Parish Council and advised him that it was always useful for local agencies to be working together.

Cllr. Perry explained to Cllr. Hill that the Parish Council sits here year on year listening to the suggestions of residents and it will be useful for him to come to the meetings and be made aware of what the Parish Council is working on so that we can all work together. This was noted by Members.

79/2025 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS

Cllr. A. Kelsey advised the meeting that he had been extremely grateful to the Parish Council for saving the day on 25th October and how delighted he was that such a huge amount of money had resulted from the event itself.

Following on from the huge success of the event Cllr. Kelsey enquired as to whether the Parish Council would be prepared to allow the Carnival Committee to use the Community Centre for the Event planned for 2026. The Parish Council **resolved** that it would be more than happy to allow the Centre to be used for the event next year. Cllr. A. J. Kelsey declared an interest in this matter and did not take part in the decision making process.

Cllr. A. J. Kelsey also advised the meeting that he had received a telephone call from a gentleman from Lilac Grove who claimed that work was going on in

Alpha Way and asking what the Parish Council could do about the fact that the builders had left rubbish from the works on the front of his garden. The Clerk advised Cllr Kelsey that the same gentleman had telephoned the office the day before and he had been directed to the Enforcement Team of South Staffordshire Council because this issue would come under the conditions attached to any planning consent for the works. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. J. C. Jones advised the meeting that he was delighted with the works that had been carried out to The Brook and that it was looking so much better. The Clerk was to write to the Street Scene operatives to thank them for the brilliant job they had done to make it so much improved. It was carried.

80/2025 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that the Parish Council had held a meeting for the public regarding the Mining Memorial which had been attended by Mr. A. Ansell of the National Arboretum. Cllr. Mrs. Perry explained that the original instigator of this project had sadly passed away on the morning of the meeting.

In this regard the meeting was advised that the Chairman would be hosting a Fashion Show on Thursday 13th November at Olde Wyrley Hall, the proceeds of which was to be put towards the funding of the Mining Memorial. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that there was to be a Tree Festival at St. Mark's Church to celebrate its 180th Anniversary and the Parish Council was sponsoring one of the 22 Christmas Trees in the Church. The Parish Council's tree would bear the Parish Council's shield atop the tree and individual baubles bearing a label representing the name of each road/street in Great Wyrley. This was noted by Members who were pleased to be part of the Anniversary Celebrations.

The Chairman also reminded everyone present that the Christmas Market would be held on Friday 5th December with the Cheslyn Hay Community Choir, Santa's Grotto, and various stalls. The "switch on" of the Christmas Tree lights was also to take place at the event. This was noted by Members.

The Chairman reminded all present that, of course, the Market would take place the following week by the Senior Citizens Christmas lunches. The Carnival Committee kindly offered to supply the wine and the crackers for the diners. The event would take place on Friday 19th December commencing at 1.00 p.m. The Chairman asked whoever was able to help to feel free to come along. This was noted by all present.

The Chairman also reminded all present that there would be a Remembrance Day Service held at the Memorial Gardens on Sunday 9th November. This was noted.

Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood took this opportunity to thank everyone who was part of the Hilton Lane Halloween Walk which had been very successful indeed and the road closure had contributed to the relaxed atmosphere of the evening and the fact that adults had dressed up too had really made the event a family one. Cllr. Mrs. Wood felt that they should be thanked for making such a lovely event for the village. It was carried. The Clerk was to advise Cllr. Mrs. O. Brazier of the Parish Council's view on her return. This was noted.

81/2025 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

25/00912/FULHH – PROPOSED FRONT PORCH, SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION AND FRONT BOUNDARY WALL/GATE AT 13 HUT HILL LANE, GREAT WYRLEY – THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS APPLICATION.

25/00871/FULHH – FRONT EXTENSION TO EXISTING FIRST FLOOR TO ALLOW FOR AN EXPANDED BATHROOM AT 143 WALSALL ROAD, GREAT WYRLEY. THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS APPLICATION.

25/00800/FULHH – PROPOSED SINGLE STOREY REAR/SIDE EXTENSION TO 57 BROADMEADOW LANE, GREAT WYRLEY. THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS APPLICATION.

25/00689/FULHH – GARAGE CONVERSION AT 23 PLANT VALLEY GLADE, CHESLYN HAY. THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS APPLICATION.

82/2025 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.

83/2025 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

Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** to await further information in due course and authorised the Clerk to take the appropriate action.

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

The meeting closed at 9.26p.m.

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