

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 December, 2025.

Present:

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

Cllr. Mrs. O. Brazier Cllr. D. Norris Cllr. D. F. W. 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 was County Councillor Mrs. M. Woods.

EXPECTED PRESENTATION TO PARISH COUNCIL BY MR. DYLAN PICKIN, TEAM LEADER OF CANNOCK CHASE DISTRICT SCOUTS

The Chairman advised the meeting that the Parish Council had been expecting to receive a presentation from Mr. Dylan Picken of Cannock Chase District Scouts. However, Mr. Picken had not yet arrived. Accordingly, it was agreed by all Members that the Parish Council continue with the business in hand and should Mr. Picken arrive in due course, Standing Orders would be suspended in order to allow Mr. Picken to address the Parish Council. This was noted by Members.

APPLICATION FOR CO-OPTION

The Chairman advised the meeting that Mr. Peter Kruskonjic was present this evening and explained to Members that Mr. Kruskonjic had applied to be considered for co-option on to Great Wyrley Parish Council. With the agreement of the Parish Councillors present the Parish Council **resolved** that in these circumstances the Chairman should exercise her right to add this item to the agenda.

Mr. Kruskonjic had submitted a written application which is attached to these minutes for Members' information.

Mr. Kruskonjic addressed the Parish Council and gave a brief report on his history and his aims and objectives this included his agreement that he strongly believed that Parish Councils should not be a political arena. Mr. Kruskonjic's address was fully considered by all Members. Following which the Parish Council **resolved** to co-opt Mr. Peter Kruskonjic onto Great Wyrley Parish Council with immediate effect. Cllr. Kruskonjic duly took his place at the table and the meeting continued.

All Members congratulated Mr. Kruskonjic on his co-option onto the Parish Council, thanked him for applying for co-option and welcomed him on board.

The Clerk was to arrange for the all the necessary paperwork to be completed in due course. This was noted by Members.

84/2025 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllr. J. C. Jones, Cllr. A. J. Kelsey, Cllr. Mrs. S. Manderson and Cllr. J. Hill.

85/2025 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.

86/2025 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 5th November, 2025. It was carried.

87/2025 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

180TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. MARK'S CHURCH – TREE FESTIVAL

The Chairman advised the meeting that as part of the commemoration of the 180th Anniversary of St. Mark's Church there had been a request that all local organisations place a dedicated Christmas Tree at the Church for display over the Festive period.

There were approximately 20 trees inside the Church and three located outside. Cllr. Mrs. Perry explained that she had put good deal of thought into coming up with a way that the Parish Council could make its tree as easily recognisable as possible for everyone who attended the Church. Cllr. Mrs. Perry advised the meeting that this been achieved by giving each Christmas Bauble a label with the name of every road/street and lane in the Parish, of which there were approximately 180. This was noted by Members.

Councillor Mrs. Perry explained that a good friend of hers had kindly written out all name labels which had then been attached to each Bauble by Tracey Rushton who is the Parish Council's Community Centre Assistant.

The Chairman advised the meeting that with the assistance of Cllr. R. J. Perry they had today decorated the tree and it looked extremely effective. The Parish Council agreed that it was lovely to know that each child who visited the Church would be able to find their road/street on the tree and agreed that it was an excellent idea and thanked Cllr. Mrs. Perry and Cllr. R. J. Perry for their good efforts on the Parish Council's behalf.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry also advised the meeting that there was to be a Service at St. Marks Church on Sunday December 7th at 4.00p.m. During the service all the trees in the Church would be dedicated and there was to be a celebration of the Christmas Tree Festival. All Parish Councillors had been invited to the Service. This was noted by Members.

FASHION SHOW EVENT IN AID OF THE MINING MEMORIAL

Cllr. Mrs. Perry advised the meeting that the Fashion Show in aid of the Great Wyrley Mining Memorial had now been held at Olde Wyrley Hall. Cllr. Mrs. Perry was pleased to advise Members that the show had been a very successful event and over £400 had been raised to go towards the Mining Memorial. This was noted by Members.

CHRISTMAS MARKET AND LIGHT SWITCH ON

Cllr. Mrs. Perry advised the meeting that the Christmas Market was to take place on Friday 5th December and that there was no requirement to make a booking to see Santa this year. The Grotto looked absolutely beautiful. Cllr. Mrs. Perry also advised the meeting that the Christmas Lights were now switched on in the Village and the Christmas Tree at the Community Centre was to be switched on at 5.00pm on the day of the Christmas Market. There would be a variety of stalls, seasonal refreshments along with a performance by the Cheslyn Community Choir who had kindly agreed to take part in the event again this year. This was noted by Members.

SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Cllr. Mrs. Perry reminded all Members that the Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch would be held on Friday 19th December and that any Councillor able to be present to assist with the service would be most welcome. This was noted by Members.

89/2025 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman advised the residents present in the public gallery that now was their opportunity to address the Parish Council. There were no requests to address the Parish Council on this occasion. This was noted by Members.

90/2025 CLERK'S REPORT TO COUNCIL

(a) REPLACEMENT OF DEMOLISHED BUS SHELTER AT GORSEY LANE

Members recalled that the ill-feted bus shelter at Gorsey Lane had again been demolished. Following discussion at the last meeting of the Parish Council, it was **resolved** that funding its replacement should be considered from Parish Council funds. However, Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood was sceptical about this being the right course of action to take, in view of the fact, that the shelter had now been vandalised once and demolished twice. Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood advised the meeting that she felt that this matter should be deferred until the next meeting of the Parish Council.

Following discussion all Members agreed to **resolve** deferment. It was carried.

(b) STAFFORDSHIRE LIBRARIES CONSULTATION

The Chairman advised the meeting that the Parish Council had, yet again, been asked to respond to a consultation offering an opportunity to the public to shape the future of the Library Service.

The Clerk was unsure what the County Council had in its future proposals at the present time, however, the Parish Council would still need to respond to the consultation by 5th January, 2026.

As Members were fully aware, the Parish Council had, twice in the past, embraced the future of Great Wyrley Library in terms of changing both its location and the services it offered only to be disappointed at the 11th hour.

Following discussion, the Parish Council **resolved** to instruct the Clerk to respond in the strongest terms that there is a real need to keep Great Wyrley Library, however, there was a real need for additional space to be available in order to make the facility more of a Community Hub. This was noted by Members.

(c) COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP – SURVEY

The Parish Council had received information from South Staffordshire Council regarding the above. In essence the Parish Council suspected that this consultation may be closely aligned to the number of incidents which had taken place in South Staffordshire in recent months.

The Clerk advised the meeting that in essence the District Council would really appreciate the Parish Council's support in sharing its Community Safety Partnership Survey and the encouragement of residents and businesses to share their thoughts on community safety in their area! The survey was to remain open until **7th December**.

This was noted by Members,

The Clerk had already provided the Parish Council with the relevant internet link. However, should any member wish to receive additional information in this regard the contact point was m.quinn@sstaffs.gov.uk This was noted by Members.

(d) Abolition of Police Crime Commissioners

The Clerk advised the meeting that in a surprise announcement at the end of November, the Government had announced that it intended to abolish the role of Police and Crime Commissioners. The Police Crime Commissioners are the elected local politicians responsible for holding Police Forces to account appointing and sacking Chief Constables and setting strategic direction and priorities for their forces across England.

This decision was expected to ensure a saving to the taxpayer of at least £100 million which would subsequently be used to fund frontline officers to cut crime.

According to the GOV.UK website removal of PCCs would cut the cost of unnecessary bureaucracy, money that could be better spent on restoring neighbourhood policing. At least £20 million was to be reinvested every year as a result of efficiencies in Police Governance, enough for 320 constables. This was noted by Members.

The Parish Council had also received the following message from Ben Adams, the incumbent Commissioner:-

"You may be aware that Government recently confirmed that Police, Fire & Rescue and Crime Commissioners will be replaced in May 2028. There will be appointed Deputy Mayors in areas where elected Strategic Mayors are in place, and Police & Fire Boards in those areas where Mayoral elections are delayed. Keeping Staffordshire safe has always been my priority and for the remainder of my term I will continue to hold Staffordshire Police and Staffordshire Fire & Rescue to account on behalf of our communities.

My team and I will continue to work tirelessly to support victims, reduce offending and enhance community safety.

Through close working with Local Authorities and other partners we aim to deliver a seamless transition to the new arrangements in 2028. We await further detail from Government but please rest assured that we will keep you updated when we receive further information.

*Regards,
Ben.*

Staffordshire Commissioner for Police, Fire & Rescue and Crime Ben Adams"

91/2025 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr. Mrs. M. Woods advised the meeting that the decision had now been made by Staffordshire County Council to impose a double yellow line restriction on part of Streets Lane and to also identify the bus stop areas. Cllr. Mrs. Woods also advised the meeting that she was aware that this action would force the problem to another area. Cllr. Mrs. Woods also mentioned that she had been in contact the developers who had provided the car park as part of the new development as there had been concerns raised that the car park would be used by the adjacent business operators.

Cllr. Mrs. Woods advised the meeting that the imposition of the double yellow lines

would take at least 12 months.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry suggested to Cllr. Mrs. Woods that there was a real need to consult the occupiers of properties in Streets Lane. Cllr. Kruskonjic also mentioned that there appeared to be no provision for parking for the occupiers of the flats in Streets Lane. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry also advised Cllr. Mrs. Woods that there was a real need to establish who was to actually take ownership of the new car park as once the developer had completed the build they would no longer bear any responsibility for it.

Cllr. Mrs. Woods advised the meeting that in relation to the question asked by Cllr. J. C. Jones regarding the condition of the footpaths in Wardles Lane - she had been advised that the embargo had now been lifted however, there were a large number of footpaths in need of repair but that Great Wyrley was on the list somewhere. Cllr. Mrs. Perry suggested that it may be beneficial to make the County Council operatives aware that the age demographic in Great Wyrley was very high and it may well lead to the County Council making Great Wyrley's pavements a priority. This was noted.

Cllr. Mrs. Woods also mentioned that Cllr. Joe Hill had requested a crossing near to Oak House, however, having carried out "on site" research it seemed that there was not a real need for a crossing in this this location. This was noted.

Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood advised Cllr. Mrs. Woods that the request for a crossing was connected with the speed the motorists were driving at and how fast the elderly people can actually safely cross the road. Councillor Mrs. Perry requested Cllr. Mrs. Woods to have an "Elderly People Crossing" sign positioned at the location. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. Mrs. Woods also advised the meeting that the Parcel Lockers located at the Great Wyrley Scouts and Guides Centre were not now causing a highway nuisance as the gates were being left open and there was an easily accessible turning circle. Accordingly, the Highways Department had not lodged an objection to the planning application.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry advised Cllr. Mrs. Woods that, from a Parish Council point of view, it was felt that the positioning of this facility at the Scout and Guide Centre was unsightly and incongruous in the street scene.

Cllr. Mrs. Woods also advised the meeting that she had been attending meetings with residents of Pool View regarding the proposed development at Pool View. Residents of Pool View did not feel that the roads could accommodate the development, however, bin lorries were able to negotiate the road which negated the main complaint.

Cllr. Mrs. O. Brazier asked of Cllr. Mrs. Woods who would actually police the Double Yellow Lines. Cllr. Mrs. Brazier also advised the meeting that there was a rumour in the village that the new car park would be operated by a car parking operator. Cllr. Mrs. Perry explained that whoever took ownership for the car park would be able to operate it in which ever way it saw fit. This was noted.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry thanked Cllr. Mrs. Woods for her report and wished her a very Happy Christmas.

92/2025 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that the District Council's submission to the Government in relation to Local Government Organisation had now been lodged with the Government and it would remain to be seen what the outcome would be.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry advised the meeting that the Parish Summit had been well attended again this year and the Clerk was to forward the presentation slides to all Members for their information.

93/2025 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood advised the meeting that in the absence of Cllr. A. J. Kelsey she did not know whether there was to be a New Year's Day Walk this year and she wished to request any Parish Councillor who liked walking to offer to help Cllr. Kelsey as it was a Parish Event. This was noted.

94/2025 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry advised the meeting that she had received the Police Report and understood that all Members had also received a copy of it.

Following discussion Cllr. Mrs. C. Whiston Taylor asked the Parish Council whether there was ever going to be a PCSO in attendance at any Parish Council meetings in the future. Cllr. Mrs. Perry explained that this was unlikely to happen as there had now been changes to their working hours. This was noted by Members.

95/2025 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

25/00861/FUL – INSTALLATION OF PERIMETER FENCING AROUND THE SCHOOL FIELD AT LANDYWOOD COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL, HOLLY LANE, GREAT WYRLEY – THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS APPLICATION.

25/00961/FULHH – PROPOSED SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION AT 18 JACOBS HALL LANE, GREAT WYRLEY. THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS APPLICATION.

25/00900/FULHH – PROPOSED LOFT CONVERSION AND SIDE DORMER WINDOW AT 11 ELLIOT DRIVE, CHURCHBRIDGE. THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS APPLICATION.

25/00933/FULHH – REAR/SIDE SINGLE AND TWO STOREY EXTENSIONS AND ROOF ALTERATIONS AT 10 HILTON LANE, GREAT WYRLEY. THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS APPLICATION.

APPLICATION FOR MOBILE STREET TRADING CONSENT – ICE CREAM VAN

The Parish Council had received notification that an application had been made for mobile street trading consent for an ice cream van to service the areas of Cheslyn Hay, Great Wyrley and Essington. The Parish Council had no objection to this application.

96/2025 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.

97/2025 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 **unanimously resolved** to support the

recommendation in the Parish Administrator's report itemised at Band 2 for the request for Non-Resident Interment.

The Chairman thanked Members for their attendance and wished all present a happy and Christmas and a healthy and peaceful New Year. The meeting closed at 8.15p.m.

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