

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 4th March, 2026.

Present:

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

Cllr. Mrs. O. Brazier Cllr. M. Jackson Cllr. J. C. Jones Cllr. A. Kelsey Cllr. P. Kruskonjic	Cllr. Mrs. S. Manderson Cllr. A. Newell Cllr. R. J. Perry Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood
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County Councillor Mrs. M. Woods was also in attendance.

124/2026 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllr. Mrs. C. Whiston-Taylor, Cllr. D. Norris and Cllr. D. F. W. Norris.

125/2026 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.

126/2026 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 February, 2026. It was carried.

127/2025 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOTIFICATION FROM STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE SERVICE

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE informed the meeting that the Parish Council had recently been advised that Staffordshire Police would no longer be providing Police Reports to the Parish Council. Not only would they not be providing Police reports, the PCSO's would no longer be allowed to attend Parish Council meetings or be directly contacted by Parish Councillors.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry went on to say that any communication now needed to come from the Clerk to the Parish Council and would have to be made through the **police.uk** or through the Staffordshire Police website. In addition, in order to speak directly to an Officer there was now a need to quote that Officer's Name and Warrant/Shoulder Number and make a request again through the website.

The Clerk pointed at this juncture that reporting the witnessing of a crime, anti-social behaviour or to provide intelligence would still be acceptable, however, that would, of course, be done by dialling 999 in the traditional manner.

At this point the Clerk advised the meeting that she would, of course, ensure that any report available would be downloaded and cascaded to all Members but that any report would encompass all the Parishes in the relevant Police Catchment Area and that there would not a breakdown of each Parish.

Cllr. P. Kruskonjic advised Members that, in his experience, any information on the

website that Parish Councils were being referred to was often several months behind. This was noted by Members.

The Chairman advised the meeting that this decision had come directly from the Chief Constable; however, there had been a degree of confusion regarding making sure that this message had actually been properly publicised.

On the plus side, Staffordshire Police appeared to have increased its public profile in other ways by holding more Community Surgeries. There was to be a surgery on 10th March at Great Wyrley Library between 11.00am and 12noon and another Community Surgery the following day at Great Wyrley Community Centre between 2.00 and 3.00pm. This was noted by Members.

The Chairman also explained to the Parish Council that as from June 2026 there would be a change in the shift patterns of the Police Community Support Officers in that they would no longer be on duty until 10.00p.m. all shifts would conclude at 9.00p.m. Unfortunately, due to the configuration of the shifts, this would result in the majority of the Officers commencing at 8.00a.m. and concluding their shift at 7.00p.m. which would leave two PCSOs to support the whole of South Staffordshire during the period between 7.00p.m. and 9.00p.m. This was noted by Members.

The Parish Council was extremely sorry to hear this news and felt that it was a massive step backwards in terms of safety of the public. It was clear to all that with the light nights in the offing, anti-social behaviour would undoubtedly increase after 9.00p.m. and there would be no recourse, in terms control, other than to call 999.

Cllr. Mrs. S. Wood advised the meeting that there was a need for the Parish Council to ensure that the public were made fully aware of this situation and it was agreed that the Parish Council would publicise this issue both electronically and on its Parish Noticeboards.

Cllr. J. C. Jones advised the meeting that he was very disappointed that, having developed good communication avenues with Staffordshire Police that this was now being completely abandoned.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE wholeheartedly agreed with Cllr. Jones and the suggestion was made that the Parish Council contact the Crime Commissioner, Mr. Ben Adams, with a request that this decision be reviewed. The Clerk was

REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO USE STAR LAND FOR A FIREWORKS DISPLAY

Cllr. Mrs. Perry advised the meeting that the Parish Council had received a request from a company by the name of Forefront Fireworks to stage a display of fireworks as part of a private gender reveal party to be held at The Star Inn on either the 4th or the 11 of April this year.

Cllr. Perry went on to say that Forefront Fireworks was a local company. The Clerk had placed a copy of the request before each member of the Council to assist with the decision making process.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry advised the meeting that in view of the number of residents in the Public Gallery on this occasion that the Parish Council would discuss this matter later in the meeting in order to allow the Public Participation session of the meeting to commence without delay.

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE COUNCIL FOOD WASTE SERVICE ROADSHOW

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that South Staffordshire Council would soon be hosting a number of roadshows to launch its new Food Waste Collection service. This initiative would involve the provision of two food waste caddies to all households in South Staffordshire: one for indoor use and another for outdoor collection.

The aim of the scheme was to ensure that food waste collected from across South Staffordshire can be processed and converted into energy, fertiliser, and compost once the new recycling service is introduced later this year.

The service will be provided at no additional cost to residents, as South Staffordshire Council has received Government funding to support its implementation.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry further advised the meeting that items suitable for disposal in the food waste caddies would include leftover cooked and raw food; fish, meat, and bones; fruit and vegetables; dairy products; eggs and eggshells; tea and coffee grounds; bread and pastries; and general food preparation waste.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry also informed Members that a roadshow which was open to the public would take place immediately prior to the next meeting of the Parish Council on 1st April. This was noted by Members.

127/2026 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman suspended Standing Orders in order to allow the residents present to address the Parish Council.

SHAWS LANE WEIGHT RESTRICTION

The meeting was addressed by Mrs. G. Russon, spokesperson for the Shaws Lane Weight Restriction campaigners. Mrs. Russon expressed the Group's disappointment that, although the campaign to introduce a weight restriction on Shaws Lane began in October 2023 and a Cabinet Decision in March 2025 had been in favour, she had now been informed that, following the consultation process, the proposal had expanded to include Wharwell Lane and Bentons Lane. She felt it was unfair that this wider scope was delaying the implementation of the Shaws Lane restriction.

Mrs. Russon explained that she had been advised that the delay was due to a review of the data, which suggested that if weight restrictions were warranted, they should also be applied to Wharwell Lane and Bentons Lane.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry reiterated that the Parish Council had given its full support to the campaign from the outset and believed the Weight Restriction on Shaws Lane should proceed and expressed the view that the County Council should honour its previous commitment.

Following discussion, County Councillor Mrs. M. Woods advised the meeting that she had been informed that the Parish Council's objection had caused the delay. Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry clarified that the only objection submitted by the Parish Council related to avoiding the routing of heavy goods vehicles down Holly Lane. Additional objections had also been submitted by residents and the local school.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry brought the discussion to a close and the Parish Council resolved to invite Mr. M. Keeling of Staffordshire County Council to attend the next Parish Council meeting to clarify the matter.

DOUBLE YELLOW LINES – LOVE LANE/WALSALL ROAD

Cllr. Mrs. Perry then invited a resident of Love Lane, present in the public gallery, to address the Parish Council. The resident requested an update regarding his inquiry about Double Yellow Line restrictions on Love Lane and was informed that the Clerk had already provided him with the relevant information immediately prior to the meeting. This was noted.

128/2025 CLERK'S REPORT TO COUNCIL

Agenda Item (a) Replacement Partition Doors at Community Centre

Members recalled that the Parish Council had included, within its earmarked projects, the replacement of the doors separating the Main Hall and the Lounge area.

A quotation for the works had now been received, which was within the budgeted forecast. The Parish Council was therefore required to decide on the choice of materials and colour for the new doors.

The Clerk had provided all Members with a copy of the proposed design, together with a leaflet showing the standard materials and a range of suitable colour options to assist with the decision-making process. Following discussion, the Parish Council resolved to select the Beech option for the replacement doors. The motion was carried.

Agenda Item (b) Update on Shaws Lane Weight Restriction

The Clerk advised the meeting that the Parish Council had now been copied into a communication from Staffordshire County Council to a member of the Shaws Lane Weight Restriction Group which had given an update on the progress being made with the Shaws Lane Weight Restriction.

Basically, the scheme was progressing. However, there had been some delays following the consultation process.

As part of the legal process, the County Council had carried out an informal consultation on the proposal, which included alternative signed access to the Industrial Estate using Holly Lane and Hilton Lane. However, during the consultation the County Council had received significant objections.

Following the consultation, Mr. M. Keeling had met with Engineers to discuss the feedback to try to agree on a way forward. During this meeting, the Officers agreed to undertake a degree of further vehicle surveys along Hilton Lane, Shaws Lane, Bentons Lane, Wharwell Lane and Holly Lane.

This survey information would help Highways to identify the volume of all traffic including speed and classification. From this survey, Highways would be able to identify the potential HGV movements along these roads to access the two Industrial Estates.

The plan was to review this data, and if weight restrictions were deemed necessary, Highways would aim to also provide these on Wharwell Lane, Bentons Lane and Shaws Lane.

The initial proposal Highways consulted on during November 2025 had a signed route through Holly Lane and Hilton Lane for HGVs to access the Industrial Estates, however, taking in to account the significant objections received, the revised

proposal would remove the signed diversion through Holly Lane and only sign the diversion route for HGVs through Hilton Lane.

The surveys were currently in progress and once completed Highways would review the data and decide on the suitable option of whether a weight limit needed to be considered for all three of the roads referred to earlier.

The revised scope would then need to be discussed and agreed upon with the local County Councillor, as Highways thought the residents along Hilton Lane may object to this proposal.

However, once Highways had received confirmation from the County Councillor, they would repeat the informal consultation for the scheme.

Mr. Keeling had apologised that the process was taking a lot longer than expected, however, it was hoped that he would be able to give a more detailed report in due course.

Bearing in mind the fact that this matter had already been fully discussed during the Public Participation session of the meeting; Members felt that there was little more to add at this stage other than to agree their disappointment in what appeared to be the backtracking of Staffordshire County Council at this stage having already agreed that the Shaws Lane Weight Restriction was going to take place.

As stated earlier, the Parish Council was to invite Mr. M. Keeling of Staffordshire County Council Highways Department to attend the next meeting of the Parish Council with a request that he clarify the misinformation presently be mooted that the delay in this project was due to an objection from Great Wyrley Parish Council an assumption which is wholeheartedly refuted. Great Wyrley Parish Council has done nothing other than support the Shaws Lane Weight Restriction Group from the outset.

Agenda Item (b) New Bus Shelter in Gorsey Lane

As Members were already aware, the Parish Council resolved at its last meeting to replace the demolished bus shelter on Gorsey Lane.

Following a further assessment of the site, it was noted that if the Housing Association were willing to trim the hedge at the front of the flats (50–60 Gorsey Lane), additional vehicle impacts could potentially be avoided.

The hedge to the rear of the proposed shelter site appeared to be encroaching significantly onto the footpath. The Clerk believed that the original footpath remained beneath the overgrown hedge, and that excavating approximately 1.5 feet of this strip could make a considerable difference.

On this basis, the Clerk had approached the Housing Association to explore the possibility of collaborating on this project for the benefit of residents and to avoid unnecessary expenditure of Council funds. A response from the Housing Association is currently awaited.

Additionally, the Clerk had requested a quotation from Ace Shelters, who had previously provided excellent value for money for the two new bus shelters installed last year. This was noted by Members.

Agenda Item (d) Requested Replacement of Low Rise Fencing in Gorsey Lane

The Parish Council had received notification that the operator of the *Cheslyn Hay and Great Wyrley Chit Chat* had requested the District Council to consider replacing the low-rise, ranch-style wooden fencing on Gorsey Lane—which protects the green areas in that location from haphazard parking—with wooden bollards.

It was anticipated that a consultation process would be undertaken regarding this matter. However, the Clerk brought the issue to the attention of Councillors to provide an opportunity for them to share their views prior to the launch of any formal consultation.

Having reviewed the photographic evidence of the existing fencing, Members agreed that it required refurbishment but questioned the effectiveness of wooden bollards, as vehicles would likely still park in the gaps between each bollard.

The Parish Council resolved that no action was required on this matter at this stage.

Agenda Item (e) Electricity Supply to Star Land

The Parish Council had received an invoice from YU Energy to provide electricity to the Star Land. The contract details were as follows:-

Contract Details

Supplier: YU Energy

Supply: Star Land Electricity

Standing Charge: £0.00 per day

Unit Rate: 87.728p per kWh

By way of explanation the current contract commenced in November 2025. It was clearly communicated to the supplier that this electricity supply was used only once per year for Carnival Day. On that basis, it was agreed that a zero daily standing charge, with a higher unit rate per kWh, would be the most financially beneficial arrangement for the Parish Council.

However, due to technical difficulties on the supplier's side, meter readings were not correctly registered and were instead estimated. The estimated readings totalled 2,447.30 kWh, which was significantly higher than the expected annual usage of approximately 80 kWh. As a result of this incorrect estimation, a Direct Debit of £2,599.13 was taken from the Parish Council Bank Account.

The Clerk advised the meeting that this issue had been formally raised with YU Energy and logged onto their system. The Parish Council was currently awaiting confirmation and processing of the refund.

The Clerk had advised the meeting that Although the Direct Debit could have been cancelled, this was not pursued as doing so may have negatively impacted on the Parish Council's financial credit rating and could have given the supplier grounds to cancel the contract.

The meeting was advised that further updates would be provided once the refund had been received and the account corrected. Cllr. Mrs. S. Manderson advised the Clerk that should the Parish Administrator need any assistance with this issue that she would be more than happy to bring to the Parish Council her own experience on issues of this nature as it was an area she was very familiar with. This was noted by Members.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs. Manderson for her kind offer.

Agenda Item (f) Olympic Commemoration and Car Park Signage

The Clerk advised the meeting that she was extremely pleased to be able to advise that this matter was now almost resolved and all the works were to take place before the end of March.

The designs agreed by all Members at the last meeting of the Parish Council had now been prepared by Purcell Branding, the organisation producing the relevant signage, and hopefully the predicted lead in time would be met. This was noted by Members.

Agenda Item (g) Expenditure on Existing Play Areas

Members recalled that at the last Parish Council meeting, the need to update play facilities within the Parish had been discussed.

During that discussion, information regarding the costs of maintaining the existing play areas was requested. A breakdown of the relevant figures has since been circulated to all Members for their information. A copy of this document is attached to these minutes at Appendix 1.

Cllr. Mrs. S. Manderson had requested that this information be made available and subsequently proposed to the Parish Council that several funding opportunities could be pursued, provided the Parish Council had no objections to the sources she had identified. The proposed sources were:

- The National Lottery
- Aviva
- Tesco
- Asda
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The Parish Council confirmed that they had no objection to Cllr. Manderson pursuing funding from any of the organisations listed above.

Cllr. Mrs. O. Brazier asked whether it would be appropriate to launch a GoFundMe appeal. Following discussion, Members noted that pursuing funds in this way could potentially attract criticism, as residents might perceive it as effectively paying for a facility twice, given that they already contribute via Council Tax. This was duly noted.

Agenda Item (h) Repairs to Wooden Skatepark

Members recalled that the wooden skatepark on the Landywood Lane Playing Field had been out of use for an extended period. This situation was finally rectified this week.

The delay in completing the repairs had been due to unforeseen difficulties experienced by the Contractor who had originally refurbished the skatepark several years ago, for which he had offered an unreserved apology. The Parish Council found itself in a "cleft stick" situation, as the Contractor was already holding a significant amount of the materials required for the urgent repairs. This arose because Skatelite sheets had to be purchased in full, even when only partially used, with offcuts being stored by the Contractor and utilised as needed for repairs.

The repairs had now been completed, and the Contractor had pledged to ensure that the original quotation for the works was not exceeded, taking full responsibility for the delay. This was noted by Members.

Agenda Item (i) Pest Control Contract – Great Wyrley Cemetery

Members recalled that the Parish Council had entered into a contract with a local Pest Control Service in 2021. The operative had served the Parish well, effectively controlling rodent activity emanating from Great Wyrley Cemetery, an area requiring professional management due to its close proximity to neighbouring properties on all boundaries.

The Parish Council had now been advised that a refund would be issued for the payment made to commence this year's contract, as the operative was unable to fulfil his contractual obligations.

Accordingly, it fell to the Parish Council to procure a new contract to cover this aspect of Cemetery management. Given the number of companies offering this service, including large national organisations with local branches, the Clerk requested that all Members inform the Council if they were aware of any local contractors who might be interested in tendering for this contract.

The Clerk had also informed South Staffordshire Council's Environmental Health Department of the Parish Council's current position and sought its support and guidance regarding a way forward. In the meantime, Parish Council Ground Staff had been checking and rebaiting the bait boxes to minimise the problem. Additionally, the Council had received a complaint from a resident on a boundary property, reporting sightings of very large rats in his garden and requesting immediate action.

Consequently, permission was sought from the Parish Council to secure a new contract as soon as possible. Members were invited to provide details of any suitable local Pest Control Operatives, in line with the Council's policy of supporting local enterprises. Cllr. J. C. Jones indicated that he may be able to assist, as he was aware of a local contractor, and agreed to contact the Clerk once he had obtained the necessary details.

129/2026 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr. Mrs. M. Woods advised the Parish Council that 80% of her time was spent dealing with potholes. Cllr. Mrs. Woods advised the meeting that £15m had now been allocated to deal with potholes over two year period but that there was still not enough funding made available from the Government.

Cllr. Mrs. Woods advised the meeting that the embargo on works to footpaths had now been lifted and works had commenced at Wombourne.

Cllr. Mrs. S. Manderson advised Cllr. Mrs. Woods that there was a need to clear the footpath leading from Shanks Bridge as half of it was covered in mud and leaves which was proving to be quite slippery for pedestrians. Cllr. Mrs. Woods advised Cllr. Mrs. Manderson that this was not a task which would be carried out by Highways as it was considered a seasonal issue. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council Groundsmen may be able to assist with this matter.

Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood advised Cllr. Mrs. Woods that the long standing issue of a damaged drain in Bentons Lane still persisted and at times the area looked like a swimming pool. Cllr. Mrs. Woods was to discuss this matter at her meeting with the Highways Team in the coming week. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. J. C. Jones advised Cllr. Mrs. Woods that in the past he had had sight of a programme for when works would be carried out to footpaths and would appreciate it if she could arrange for a copy to be provided to the Parish Council. This was

noted.

130/2026 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that she had covered the majority of the issues she would have been reporting this evening during earlier items on the agenda such as the Food Waste Roadshows.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry took this opportunity to remind the Parish Council that the Local Government Reorganisation Consultation on line was still live and urged Councillors not to miss their opportunity to have their say.

131/2026 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS

SEVERN TRENT – WYRLEY BROOK UPDATE MEETING

Cllr. J. C. Jones reminded the Parish Council that Severn Trent Water had previously indicated that a meeting regarding the ongoing Wyrley Brook project would be scheduled for February.

As of now, no further information or confirmation of the meeting had been received. Members were invited to note the situation and the Clerk was to advise Councillors as soon as any information was received from Severn Trent Water regarding the scheduling of this meeting. This was noted by Members.

SHANKS BRIDGE NEW CAR PARK

Cllr. J. C. Jones asked the Parish Council whether anyone was aware of any progress being made with the opening of the new car park in Landywood Lane. Many questions were being asked on this subject, however, there was still no news to report. The Parish Council was advised that this issue may well remain unanswerable for a while yet as the area had not been signed off by the Developer and until such time as this took place in would more than likely remain unused. This was noted.

USE OF RECREATION GROUND

Cllr. Mrs. O. Brazier enquired of Members whether they were aware of any specific Football Team using the Recreation Ground in Jones Lane. Cllr. Mrs. Brazier was advised that no permissions had been granted to any organised teams, however, it was a public open space and on that basis it was difficult to stop teams using the area for training, however, in the spirit of open space this would also mean that anyone was entitled to use the Recreation Ground at the same time as any Football Team was using it without any power to stop them. This was noted by Members.

132/2026 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no reports from outside bodies on this occasion.

133/2026 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

26/00018/FUL – CHANGE OF USE FROM RESIDENTIAL DWELLING TO NURSERY (USE CLASS E) AT 52 UPPER LANDYWOOD LANE, CHESLYN HAY. THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS APPLICATION.

134/2026 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.

135/2026 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.

The Clerk advised the meeting that arrangements had now been made to further the proposals mooted at the last meeting of the Parish Council.

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

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