

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 6th May, 2026.

Present:

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

Cllr. Mrs. O. Brazier Cllr. J. C. Jones Cllr. A. J. Kelsey Cllr. P. Kruskonjic Cllr. Mrs. S. Manderson	Cllr. D. Norris Cllr. R. J. Perry Cllr. Mrs. C. Whiston-Taylor Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood
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County Councillor Mrs. M. Woods was also in attendance.

148/2026 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllr. A. Newell, Cllr. D. F. W. Norris and Cllr. M. Jackson.

149/2026 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. Cllr. Jackson was not in attendance on this occasion.

150/2026 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Following discussion, the Parish Council **resolved** that following any amendments which needed to be made (in terms of possible misspelt road names etc.) to accept, approve and sign the summary of the meeting of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1st April, 2026 which had kindly been provided by Cllr. P. Kruskonjic. It was carried.

151/2026 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

ROYAL TRIBUTES ON GATES TO THE MEMORIAL GARDENS

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that the tributes to both the late Queen Elizabeth II and the Ascension to the Throne of King Charles III had now been appended to the gates of the Memorial Gardens. Cllr. Mrs. Perry advised the meeting that it would be appropriate for the new tributes to be the subject of a Dedication Service. The Parish Council **resolved** that a dedication should indeed be held and agreed to set a date going forward.

152/2026 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

SHAWS LANE WEIGHT RESTRICTION GROUP

The meeting was addressed by Mrs. G. Russon, spokesperson for the Shaws Lane Weight Restriction Campaign Group. Mrs. Russon expressed the Group's disappointment that, although the campaign to introduce a weight restriction on Shaws Lane had commenced in October 2023 and a Cabinet Decision in March 2025 had been made in its favour, she had now been informed that, following the

consultation process, the proposal had been expanded to include Wharwell Lane and Bentons Lane.

The Group continued to feel that it was extremely unfair that the widening of the scheme's scope was delaying implementation of the Shaws Lane restriction, and requested clarification as to why the Shaws Lane proposal should be delayed when no other parties had originally been involved.

At this point, Cllr. Mrs Perry advised members of the public present that Cllr Mrs. M. Woods was in attendance and would be able to respond to the questions being raised with the Parish Council.

Cllr Mrs. Woods informed the meeting that she had recently met with Mr. M. Keeling, who advised her that, as the project now included two additional residential streets within Great Wyrley, the estimated costs had increased from approximately £15,000 to between £35,000 and £50,000. Cllr. Mrs. Woods further explained that the delay had been caused by the requirement for significant additional funding in order to complete the project.

The Shaws Lane Weight Restriction Group did not consider this response acceptable and requested that Shaws Lane be treated as Phase 1 of any proposed action, as it had initiated the project in the first instance and had also been promised action. Following lengthy discussion, the Parish Council agreed that the Shaws Lane Weight Restriction Group was fully justified in holding this view and resolved to write to Mr. M. Keeling of Staffordshire County Council Highways in support of the Group's position.

It was also suggested that Cllr Mrs. Woods' DHP Funding allocation could potentially be used towards the increased budget requirement for Shaws Lane; however, it was noted that this funding had already been allocated to the Streets Lane Double Yellow Lines Project.

Cllr Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE further advised members of the public present that she had received assurances from Mr. M. Keeling of Staffordshire County Council Highways Department that the signs on Shaws Lane which had disappeared would be replaced as soon as possible. This was noted.

In the absence of any further questions from the Public Gallery, the Chairman reinstated Standing Orders and returned to the items of business to be transacted by the Parish Council, as detailed on the Agenda for the meeting.

153/2026 PRESENTATION BY MRS. L. MCGOWAN OF GREAT WYRLEY SCOUT AND GUIDE CENTRE – CHAIRMAN OF GREAT WYRLEY SCOUTS

The Chairman welcomed Laura McGowan to the meeting and invited her to address the Parish Council.

Mrs McGowan provided the Parish Council with a full and comprehensive overview of the situation currently facing the organisation, explaining that any assistance the Parish Council could provide would be greatly appreciated. She advised that the organisation was making every possible effort in terms of fundraising and believed that, as the Great Wyrley Scout and Guide Centre was a valuable community asset, there was a strong need for collaborative working to help ensure its continued operation.

Mrs McGowan explained that the Scout and Guides Centre in Great Wyrley was a flexible and affordable community venue available for children's parties, classes, meetings, workshops and family events. The hall was fully accessible, easy to book,

and ideally suited for use by local families, groups and organisations. Located in the heart of Great Wyrley, the Scout and Guide Centre provides a modern and welcoming space available for private hire at excellent value. However, Mrs. McGowan advised that the Scout and Guide Centre was now in need of investment, specifically the replacement of the boiler, in order to ensure that it could continue delivering significant social benefits to future generations.

Mrs McGowan concluded by stating that any support from the Parish Council, whether financial assistance, advice or guidance, would be very gratefully received.

The Chairman thanked Mrs McGowan for attending the meeting and suggested that, should she be available to attend the Annual Parish Assembly on 20th May, she would have the opportunity to address a number of organisations within the village, which could prove beneficial to the cause.

Mrs McGowan thanked the Chairman for allowing her to address the Parish Council.

154/2026 CLERK'S REPORT TO COUNCIL

(a) LEANDER CLOSE PLAY AREA BOUNDARY FENCING

The Parish Council had received an email on Tuesday 31st March regarding the Leander Close Play Area and further damage to its boundary fencing.

Following investigation, it could not be confirmed that the fencing between the adjoining property owners and the Play Area was the responsibility of the Parish Council. Indeed, all available documentation appeared to indicate that responsibility did not rest with the Parish Council.

Historically, the Parish Council had undertaken repairs to the fence as a goodwill gesture in order to ensure the safety of children using the Play Area. The Parish Council had once again ensured that the area was made safe and secure following the latest incident. However, Members **resolved** that the issue of ownership should now be formally clarified in order to safeguard the Parish Council in the event of any similar incidents arising in the future. The resolution was carried.

(b) REVIEW OF CEMETERY FEES

The Parish Administrator had provided the Parish Council with a comprehensive report, prior to the meeting, in order to allow Members to make an informed decision on the best way forward in order to avoid a potential pitfall in terms of the premature saturation of the ashes plots at Great Wyrley Cemetery. This situation had arisen due to the fact that an adjoining Parish Council had now applied a significant increase to the cost of its purchase of Ashes plots at its own Cemetery. Inevitably this decision would lead to a keen interest in exploring other avenues. As Great Wyrley Cemetery is situated in the Parish concerned Great Wyrley Cemetery would be the obvious choice, clearly allowing all the available ashes plots to be allocated elsewhere which would be unfair on residents of Great Wyrley itself.

As Councillors were already aware the Cemetery Fees for the 2026/27 financial year were approved at the Budget Meeting held in January. However, since that decision was made, the new information referred to above has presented the Parish Council with an opportunity to review its Cemetery Fee resolution.

Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** to agree to Option 1 which was quoted in the Parish Administrator's Report. Please see below:-

Option 1: Review of Exclusive Right of Burial Fee

The Parish Council was advised that one potential option was a targeted review of the Exclusive Right of Burial fee only. This approach would allow the Council to address the disparity in the cost of new plots between the two parishes, while avoiding any increase in fees for families who already hold plots or may require future interments within them.

For illustration purposes only, and based on the financial year 2026/27:

- The current Exclusive Right of Burial fee for a Cheslyn Hay resident is £301.00.
- If this were increased to £1,220.00, the total cost of a new ashes plot and first interment for a Cheslyn Hay resident would be £1,660.00, equivalent to the current charge in Cheslyn Hay Parish Council Cemetery.
- A second interment would remain at £440.00 in Great Wyrley, compared with £1,500.00 in Cheslyn Hay.

On this basis the Parish Council **resolved** to revisit the Exclusive Right of Burial fee for Cheslyn Hay residents to a level higher than that illustrated above which would be appropriate in order to maintain parity and manage demand. The degree of increase in percentage terms to be agreed at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

(c) DONATION REQUEST FROM STAFFORDSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE

The Parish Council had received a request from the Staffordshire Fire and Rescue. Please see below for details:-

Dear Parish Council,

Staffordshire Search & Rescue Team – Donation Request

I am writing on behalf of Staffordshire Search and Rescue Team, a volunteer-led charity working alongside the emergency services to locate missing and vulnerable people across our county.

Every day, our dedicated volunteers give their time and expertise to bring loved ones home safely and provide reassurance to families in times of distress.

As you can imagine, the speed and efficiency of our searches can make all the difference. We are currently raising funds for a specialist drone that will allow us to cover larger areas across the county more quickly, reach difficult terrain, and spot people who might otherwise go unseen. This equipment could quite literally mean the difference between life and death for someone in need.

Our fundraising target is £13,000 and as our operations are entirely funded through donations from the public and local businesses, we are now reaching out to all the Parish Councils in Staffordshire to ask for your support. A contribution, however small, towards this vital piece of equipment would directly help us continue saving lives in Staffordshire as well as assisting with searches for neighbouring Search and Rescue Teams.

In recognition of your support, we would be delighted to acknowledge your Parish Council publicly through our social media, website, and community events.

We have currently raised over £7,500 towards the target but now need further support to achieve our target at the earliest opportunity.

Your donation, no matter the size, will make a real difference. Together, we can ensure that vulnerable members of our county and local parish communities are never left without hope.

If the Parish Council are able to donate, then please use the link below to our JustGiving page for the Drone Team. Alternatively, if you wish to donate using another method, please contact me at the details below.

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/ssardrone>

We appreciate you considering our request for a donation and if you would like to know more on what we do, please do not hesitate to contact me.

*Thank you for your time in reading this letter.
Regards*

*Mike Wilcock
Drone Section Lead
Staffordshire Search & Rescue Team
Tel: 07798 908203*

Following discussion the Parish Council **RESOLVED** to make a donation of £250 to the Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service. It was carried.

(d) REVIEW OF TELEPHONE CONTRACT – COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Parish Council had been advised that the term of the contract for the telephone system at the Community Centre had now reached its conclusion. Unfortunately, due to changes in the method of service provision, specifically the transition from copper wiring to fibre, the current provider had sought to substantially increase the cost of the telephone system. Following the taking of professional advice, it had become apparent that this represented an attempt to take advantage of both the changing circumstances and existing customers.

The Clerk advised the Parish Council that she had attended a meeting with CEB Consultants. For Members' information, CEB Limited specialised in providing guidance to Local Authorities and had played a significant role in the South Staffordshire Council Good Life Scheme. As previously promised, the consultant had provided a highly acceptable proposal, a copy of which had been circulated to Members in order to facilitate an informed decision.

Following discussion, the Parish Council **resolved** to accept the quotation provided by CEB for the installation of a new telephone system, which was anticipated to achieve a saving of approximately £250 per month.

(e) GREAT WYRLEY CARNIVAL COMMITTEE FAMILY COLOUR RUN

Members recalled that this matter had been discussed at the last meeting of the Parish Council and the Clerk was pleased to report that all the licences and permissions were now in place and the Parish Council wished the Carnival Committee all the best with the event. Cllr. A. J. Kelsey declared an interest in this issue as a member of Great Wyrley Carnival Committee. This was noted.

(g) UPDATE ON GREAT WYRLEY MINING MEMORIAL

The Parish Council was advised that the person in charge of the provision of the Great Wyrley Mining Memorial had provided her reasons along with an apology for the fact that the project had paused for the moment.

Mrs. Mellor had, however, confirmed that the project was still to come to fruition and that she would be happy to attend the Annual Parish Meeting in order to reassure the public that everything was still on target. The Parish Council **resolved** to invite Mrs. Mellor to the Annual Parish Meeting.

(g) PROPOSED DRAINAGE WORKS AT HAZEL LANE

The Parish Council had received the following request from the Highways Department of Staffordshire County Council. Please see the following e-mail:-

Extract from email dated 30th April, 2026

I am writing to request the Parish's agreement in principle to proposed drainage works associated with historical flooding on Hazel Lane.

As you will be aware, Hazel Lane has a history of flooding issues that will require capital-funded works to help resolve. I have recently been advised that funding may become available, and I met this morning with the relevant Technical Review Officers and Cheryl to discuss potential options.

The proposed works would be located on Parish-owned land. In outline, this would involve excavating a trench of approximately 100 metres or more (to be accurately measured at a later stage) and installing a new pipe to convey surface water from Hazel Lane, behind the football ground, and into the brook. Subject to feasibility, we would also propose installing one or two additional manholes on Parish land to enable future access for inspection, maintenance, and cleansing of the system. We would of course, reinstate the ground once completed. If permission is granted, these works should help to significantly alleviate the flooding issues currently experienced in the area.

As a broad, indicative guide, the area in which we would be looking to carry out the works is shown below:



I would be grateful if you could clarify whether the Parish would agree to:

- a) Us accessing and carrying out works on the land to deliver the scheme
- b) Allowing future access, as required, to maintain the pipe via the proposed manholes.

Subject to confirmation of funding, there is a possibility that these works could be delivered within the current financial year, which would be of significant benefit to the area.

Following discussion it was agreed by the Parish Council that the plan accompanying the email was inaccurate and misleading. On this basis the Parish Clerk was to request a site visit with Mr. L. Bellamy at his earliest convenience. This was noted by Members.

155/2026 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Mrs. M. Woods advised the Parish Council that she was due to meet with Mr. M. Keeling of Staffordshire County Council Highways Department regarding both the Streets Lane Double Yellow Lines request and the Shaws Lane Weight Restriction scheme. Cllr. Mrs. Woods informed the meeting that she would continue to keep the Parish Council updated on progress relating to both matters.

Cllr. Mrs. Woods further advised the meeting that, as previously promised, she had investigated the situation concerning the defective drain on Bentons Lane. She explained that underlying issues had been identified when the drain was jetted in August 2024, which accounted for the persistence of the problem.

Cllr. Mrs. Woods also informed the meeting that footpath improvement works were scheduled up to three years in advance, which in practical terms meant that footpaths within Great Wyrley were unlikely to receive attention until 2029. Cllr. Woods further advised that the additional £15 million funding allocated by Staffordshire County Council was to be directed towards pothole repairs and surface dressing works. Cllr. Mrs. Woods commented that Great Wyrley had not fared too poorly in this respect, as several roads within the village had already benefited from such treatment.

Finally, Cllr. Mrs. Woods advised the meeting that there was a possibility that the Streets Lane Double Yellow Lines scheme could be implemented by the Autumn. This was noted by all present.

156/2026 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that there would be no further news regarding Local Government Reorganisation until July. She further informed Members that the Local Plan was currently undergoing its Examination for Soundness and remained on target for approval. A new Five-Year Plan was also due to commence immediately, which would, in due course, lead to a formal call for sites.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry further advised the meeting that she was pleased to announce that several new funding streams were expected to become available following the closure of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). Cllr. Mrs. Perry explained that these funding opportunities had arisen as a result of the District Council's diligent financial management over many years, together with its decision that South Staffordshire Council wished to leave a lasting legacy for the residents it had represented since 1974. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry advised the meeting that all the relevant information would be available on South Staffordshire Council's website in due course. This was noted.

157/2026 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS

WYRLEY BROOK, DARGES LANE

Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood advised the meeting that she was pleased to see that one of the flood gates had already been positioned and that a second floodgate had been measured in order to carry out a second replacement. This was noted.

BUS SHELTER AT HILTON LANE – OBSCURED VIEW FOR PASSENGERS

Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood advised the meeting that passengers waiting for the bus at Hilton Lane were unable to remain seated whilst waiting for the Bus as an overgrown hedge was obscuring the view of its arrival. Cllr. Mrs. M. Woods was requested to look into this matter as it was possible that it came under the jurisdiction of Staffordshire County Council Highways.

SHANKS BRIDGE NEW CAR PARK

Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood 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 it would more than likely remain unused. This was noted.

UNFINISHED WORKS TO FOOTPATH AT WARDLES LANE

Cllr. J. C. Jones requested Cllr. Mrs. M. Woods to investigate when the works, which had been partially carried out, in Wardles Lane some time ago would be completed. Works had been carried out, however, cones still remained in place which needed to be removed. Cllr. Woods was to investigate this matter and report back to the next meeting. This was noted by Members.

NEWBURY CLOSE DISCARDED BARRIERS

Cllr. J. C. Jones also asked Cllr. Mrs. Woods if she was aware of which organisation held responsibility for the barriers which still remained on site following works required to a collapsed drain near to The Brook. Cllr. Woods kindly offered to look into this matter, however, it was a possibility that this issue may be related to Severn Trent. This was noted by Members.

FLY TIPPED DIVAN – SHANKS BRIDGE

Cllr. Mrs. S. Manderson advised the meeting that the fly tipped divan was still in position to the side of Shank's Bridge. The Clerk was to raise this issue again with South Staffordshire Council. This was noted by Members.

158/2026 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no reports from outside bodies on this occasion.

159/2026 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

26/00366/TTREE – ST. MARKS SCHOOL HOUSE, STATION ROAD, GREAT WYRLEY – T1 SYCAMORE -CROWN LIFT TO 6 METRES ABOVE GROUND LEVEL AND POLLARD AND T2 - HORNBEAM -CROWN LIFT TO 6 METRES ABOVE GROUND LEVEL AND POLLARD. THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THE PROPOSED WORKS.

26/00323/FULHH – PART TWO STOREY, PART SINGLE STOREY SIDE EXTENSION AT 36 HILTON LANE, GREAT WYRLEY – THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS PROPOSAL IN PRINCIPLE BUT RESERVED THE RIGHT TO SUPPORT NEIGHBOUR OBJECTIONS SHOULD THIS PROVE NECESSARY.

26/00263/FULHH –PROPOSED CHANGE OF USE OF EXISTING OFFICE AND BUILDINGS INTO A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING INCLUDING HYDROTHERAPY ANNEXE ON LAND ADJACENT TO SOUTH CANNOCK FARM, JACOBS HALL LANE, GREAT WYRLEY – THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS PROPOSAL IN PRINCIPLE BUT RESERVED THE RIGHT TO SUPPORT NEIGHBOUR OBJECTIONS SHOULD THIS PROVE NECESSARY.

160/2026 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.

161/2026 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.

There were a number of matters discussed during the Confidential Session of the Parish Council Meeting regarding which a set of confidential minutes will be produced for Councillors information.

The Chairman thanked Members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.03p.m.

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