

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 June, 2026.

Present:

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

Cllr. Mrs. O. Brazier	Cllr. D. Norris
Cllr. J. C. Jones	Cllr. D. F. W. Norris
Cllr. A. J. Kelsey	Cllr. R. J. Perry
Cllr. P. Kruskonjic	Cllr. Mrs. C. Whiston-Taylor
Cllr. Mrs. S. Manderson	Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood
Cllr. A. Newell	

County Councillor Mrs. M. Woods was also in attendance.

8/2026 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllr. M. Jackson and Cllr. Mrs. C. Whiston-Taylor.

9/2026 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.

10/2026 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** to accept, approve and sign the amended minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th April, 2026; the minutes of the meeting held on 6th May, 2026; the minutes of the Confidential meeting also held on 6th May, 2026; the minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 20th May, 2026 and the minutes of the Annual General Meeting also held on 20th May, 2026. All of which were carried.

11/2026 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that she had recently attended the first anniversary celebration of the opening of the Wyrley Rose facility on Walsall Road. The event had been most enjoyable and was further enhanced by the pleasant weather. More importantly, it was encouraging to see that so many local residents had settled there and were very happy in their new home. Cllr. Mrs. Perry further advised the meeting that, whilst attending the event, she had been introduced to two members of staff from Lisbeth Nursing Home. She was informed that the home had recently been awarded an "Outstanding" rating for its care provision and a rating of "Good" in all other areas of assessment. This was noted.

12/2026 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 members of the Shaws Lane Weight Restriction Campaign Group, who enquired whether the Parish Council had received any updates regarding the proposed Shaws Lane Weight Restriction.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry advised the Group that the Parish Council had not received any further information beyond that which had already been shared directly with them. At this point, Cllr. Mrs. Perry invited Cllr. Michelle Woods to address the Group with any additional information she may have obtained since the previous meeting.

Members of the Group also expressed the view that the traffic survey findings were misleading.

Cllr. Mrs. Woods explained that officers at Staffordshire County Council were insisting upon pursuing a single Weight Restriction Order covering a wider area, rather than an Order relating solely to Shaws Lane, due to the legal costs associated with the process.

A spokesperson for the Group advised the meeting that this approach was considered unfair and could extend the process by at least two years, taking into account the time required to complete the statutory consultation process. The general view expressed was that "the can was being kicked down the road once again".

Cllr. Mrs. Perry reiterated the Parish Council's commitment to continuing its support for the Group in this matter and suggested that the Group seek the support of the Cabinet Member for Strategic Highways by lobbying for assistance with the proposal.

GREAT WYRLEY MINING MEMORIAL

A member of the public also requested an update regarding the proposed Great Wyrley Mining Memorial. Cllr. Mrs. Perry explained that, as far as the Parish Council was aware, the Mining Memorial project remained very much active, although the individual now leading the project had encountered a number of personal challenges which had affected progress.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry agreed that clarification on the current position should be sought from the Project Manager and that the Parish Council should extend an invitation for her to attend the next meeting of the Council.

Cllr. P. Kruskonjic kindly offered to contact Mrs. Mellor to extend an invitation and obtain an update on the current situation. This was noted.

13/2026 AUDIT REPORT

PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL YEAR END – 31ST MARCH 2026

(a) Annual Internal Audit Report 2025/2026

The Parish Council had received a copy of the Annual Internal Auditor's Report for the year 2025/26 prior to the meeting and its contents was hereby officially noted.

(b) Annual Governance Statement as at 31st March 2026

The Parish Council had received a copy of the Annual Governance

Statement for the year 2025/26 prior to the meeting. Following consideration the Parish Council **resolved** to approve the document accordingly, the statement was signed by both the Chairman and Clerk of the Parish Council.

(c) Accounting Statement as at 31st March, 2026

The Parish Council had received a copy of the Accounting Statement as at 31st March, 2026 which had been certified as a correct record by the Responsible Financial Officer. The Parish Council then considered their content and **resolved** to approve and sign the documents as an accurate reflection of the Parish Council's financial position as at this date.

(d) Exercise of Public Rights Notification Dates

The Parish Council had received a copy of the notification of Exercise of Public Rights and noted that the notice would be posted for the period from Monday 8th June to Friday 17th July, 2026.

(e) Sign Off – Documentation included in documents above.

The Parish Council had received a copy of the documents listed below which represented background evidence of the accuracy of the Annual Governance and Accounting Statement.

- Bank Reconciliation as at 31st March, 2026
- Annual Governance Statement as at 31st March, 2026
- Accounting Statement as at 31st March, 2026

Cllr. Mrs. S. M. wood proposed a vote of thanks to Debra May for her excellent work on the Parish Council accounts. Cllrs. Wood's proposal was fully supported by all Members and the Clerk to the Parish Council.

14/2026 CLERK'S REPORT TO COUNCIL

(a) Request from Cheslyn Hay and Great Wyrley Chit Chat Community for use of Great Wyrley Community Centre

The Parish Council had been made aware that a request had been received from the Cheslyn Hay and Great Wyrley Chit Chat Community to use the Community Centre as a facility to offer free coffee mornings to the community free of charge.

Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** that bearing in mind the fact that there were already a number of facilities offering this service in the Parish this request could not be viewed as an issue carrying sufficient weight to depart from its normal policy of not allowing a free let to any organisation. This ruling was longstanding and put in place in order to be fair and equitable to all organisations in the Parish. It was carried.

(b) Request from Cheslyn Hay and Great Wyrley Chit Chat Community for additional bus shelters and repairs to existing shelters

The Parish Council had received a request from the Cheslyn Hay and Great Wyrley Chit Chat Community asking for additional bus shelters and repairs to some of the existing shelters. The Group had been advised that there were grants available from Staffordshire County Council to facilitate this. The Clerk had researched this information and could find no evidence that it was the

case. The Chairman also enquired of the County Councillor present on this occasion whether she was aware of any such grant funding and Cllr. Woods was in fact unable to confirm that there was. This was noted.

On this basis the Parish Council **resolved** to instruct the Clerk to advise the Chit Chat Community that there was a programme of repairs to the existing bus shelters about to commence but that in the absence of any grant funding from Staffordshire County Council there was insufficient funds available to purchase another bus shelter as it was already committed to replacing the demolished shelter in Gorsey Lane.

In conclusion, Cllr. J. C. Jones advised the meeting that there was a possibility that this question could be revisited in the next financial year. This was noted.

(c) Confirmation of Cemetery Fee Review

Members recalled that, at its previous meeting, the Parish Council had **resolved** to revisit its decision regarding the review of Cemetery Fees at the May meeting. It now remained for the Parish Council to determine the percentage increase to be applied and, to assist Members in this process, the Parish Administrator report had prepared a comprehensive report.

Having considered the information provided by the Parish Administrator, the Parish Council **resolved** to apply a fee increase of **100%** above the corresponding Cheslyn Hay Parish Council fee. This decision was not taken with the intention of generating additional income, but rather to ensure the long-term sustainability and equitable use of burial space within Great Wyrley Cemetery. The increase was considered necessary to maintain fairness, manage future demand, and support the continued availability of burial space for residents. This was noted.

(d) Great Wyrley Parish Council Works Vehicle – Conclusion of Lease

Members were reminded that the Peugeot Expert van used by the Groundsmen had been leased by the Parish Council since 2013. Four years previously, the Parish Council had been approached by LeasePlan regarding the renewal of the existing lease or the commencement of a new lease for a replacement vehicle. At that time, however, the Parish Council had been given the option to continue leasing the existing vehicle at a reduced monthly cost, an arrangement which had remained in place to date.

Consequently, the Clerk was surprised to receive notification from LeasePlan that, due to the age of the Peugeot Expert, the company would no longer permit the vehicle to remain under lease and required its return within five days. The Clerk had subsequently requested that LeasePlan consider selling the vehicle to the Parish Council; however, this was not an option the company was prepared to offer.

Accordingly, the Clerk advised the Parish Council that it was now necessary to determine whether it wished to enter into a new lease agreement or purchase a replacement vehicle outright to meet the operational requirements of the Groundsmen's duties.

Following discussion, the Parish Council **resolved** to enter into a new lease agreement for a replacement van, to include a maintenance contract for the duration of the lease. Members also considered the possibility of leasing an electric vehicle in light of the relatively low annual mileage undertaken. However, it was agreed that the replacement vehicle should remain a diesel model, in line with the existing arrangement.

(e) Request for Tree Works

The Clerk advised the meeting that the Parish Council had recently received an email from a resident whose property was on the boundary of Great Wyrley Cemetery requesting tree works. As Members had already been made aware of this request prior to the meeting a number had already visited the site and agreed that there may be a need for light pruning to take place. The Clerk was instructed to contact the Contractor employed by the Parish Council to look into this matter. This was noted.

(f) Surrender of Exclusive Right of Burial

The Parish Council was advised that a request had been received for a refund of the purchase price of an ashes plot at Great Wyrley Cemetery. Following discussion, and clarification that the individual making the request was not the registered deedholder, Members noted that evidence would be required to confirm the individual's authority to act on behalf of the person who had originally purchased the Exclusive Right of Burial.

Members further noted that a considerable amount of administrative work would be required to process the request and achieve the outcome sought. In addition, given the location of the plot, it was considered unlikely that it would be resold and that the associated administration costs, estimated to be at least £78, would significantly reduce any refund payable. Consequently, there appeared to be little benefit to either the Parish Council or the applicant in pursuing the matter further.

On this basis, the Parish Council **resolved** not to take the matter forward and that the applicant be advised that the request had been unsuccessful.

(g) Donation to Speedwatch

Members recalled that this matter had been discussed at the last meeting of the Parish Council. Cllr. P. Kruskonjic declared an interest in this agenda item on the basis that he was the Project Organiser.

Cllr. Mrs. C. Whiston-Taylor and Cllr. J. C. Jones had both volunteered to be part of the Speedwatch Team. Cllr. Kruskonjic advised the Parish Council that training would be made available and conducted by Michelle Shaker of Staffordshire Police and that all involved would be covered under the relevant insurance for the activity. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. Kruskonjic advised the meeting that the exact amount of the donation would be made clear following the confirmation of the project from Michelle Shaker of Staffordshire Police. This was noted by Members.

15/2026 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

County Councillor Mrs. M. Woods advised the meeting that the consultation process had now commenced in relation to the proposed Double Yellow Lines in Streets Lane. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. Mrs. Woods informed the meeting that Old Landywood Lane had reopened that day following a significantly longer closure than had originally been anticipated. The delay arose after old pipework was discovered beneath the road surface, which required attention before the scheduled works could proceed.

A question was raised as to whether the works undertaken might help alleviate the flooding issues experienced o

in Old Landywood Lane. In response, Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry advised the meeting that this was unlikely. In her view, the flooding problems were primarily attributable to the loss of the roadside ditches and the installation of kerbstones along the highway, which had reduced the areas available for rainwater to drain and collect.

Cllr. Mrs. Woods also advised the meeting that she had no intention of letting the situation go regarding Shaws Lane Weight Restriction. This was noted by Members.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE requested that Cllr. Mrs. Woods make a request to the County Council that the metal railings in Station Road near to St. Marks Church be replaced as they were now significantly damaged and looked very unsightly. In addition Cllr. Mrs. Woods was asked to request that the graffiti which appeared on Shanks Bridge be removed as soon as possible as it was not a very attractive entrance to the village. This was noted.

Cllr. Mrs. Woods also advised the meeting that the potholes in Station Road had only been categorised at Cat 3 and on that basis were not considered to be urgent.

Cllr. J. C. Jones asked Cllr. Mrs. Woods if she would try to ascertain why two bollards were still in position in Wardles Lane twelve weeks after the works had been completed.

Cllr. Mrs. Woods advised the meeting that she had now had an opportunity to look into the programme for works to be carried out to footpaths. Consequently the Parish Council was advised that Great Wyrley was not in the programme for footway repairs for another three years.

However, should a situation arise where, works were required to a footpath as a matter of urgency as they were dangerous, these would be dealt with. This was noted by Members.

Councillor Mrs. Woods was advised that there were several areas in a dangerous state particularly, by the Fish and Chip Shop in Walsall Road heading up Wharwell Lane. This was noted.

16/2026 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry advised the meeting that in terms of Local Government Reorganisation the result was expected in July. At the present time the Federation of Strategic Leaders was working towards an end result, however, this could only be achieved once the combination of Authorities was made known.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry also advised the meeting that the Local Plan had now been signed off and that the new one was in the process of being prepared. In a nutshell 14,000 properties now needed to be built in South Staffordshire and a Call for Sites exercise would be publicised shortly. One of the main factors which needed to be taken into account was that the local infrastructure would not support the amount of development and on this basis the construction of garden villages was also under consideration.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry also advised the meeting of a series of funding opportunities which were to become available shortly. These opportunities come under the umbrella of Community and Business Investment Fund.

These comprise a Community Investment Fund which is Member led and amounts to up to £50,000 per ward. A Community Groups and Local Initiatives Fund which ranges from £1000 to £10,000 per project. A Member Village Enhancement Fund which offers from £100 to £1000 per application. Lastly, the Business Investment Fund which offers £300,000 in funding overall. This was noted by Members.

In total £1.5m is to be invested in local communities to catalyse environmental, economic, social improvements, empowerment of groups and the build of stewardship and pride district wide.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry advised the meeting that these funding opportunities would be decided upon a first come first served basis so there was no time to lose. This was noted by Members.

For Members Information Application Forms are all online based and guidance was also available to assist with completion. Any project funded needed to be completed by January, 2028. This was noted by Members.

17/2026 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS

ENGLAND FLAG REMOVAL

Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood advised the meeting that the village was looking very untidy due to the number of tattered England flags still on show in the Parish and suggested that now would be the time to have them removed. Following discussion the Parish Council made the decision to take no action on this matter at the present time.

LITTER SITUATION ON LANDYWOOD PLAY AREA

Cllr. J. C. Jones advised the meeting that the amount of litter left at the Landywood Lane Play Area following the Bank Holiday weekend had been unacceptable and suggested that consideration be given to writing to local schools to seek their assistance in promoting the importance of taking litter home among young people.

Following discussion, the Parish Council was of the view that responsibility for reinforcing this message rested primarily with parents rather than schools or teaching staff. The Clerk further advised Members that, as the area was covered by a Public Space Protection Order, it may be beneficial to install a series of notices requesting that all litter be taken home and disposed of appropriately.

The Clerk was requested to investigate suitable signage options and proposed wording for consideration by Members. This was noted.

18/2026 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr. A. J. Kelsey advised the meeting that this year was to be the 50th Anniversary of Great Wyrley Carnival and that they had really pushed the boat out in terms of main attractions this year. The attractions included stunt bikes and various other events which he felt sure would be much enjoyed by the village. Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry took this opportunity to wish the Great Wyrley Carnival Committee every success with the event.

Cllr. Kelsey also advised the meeting that the Colour Run, which taken place over the last month, had been a great success. This was noted by Members.

19/2026 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

26/00413/TTREE – ST. MARKS CHURCH, STATION ROAD, GREAT WYRLEY – DISMANTLE AND REMOVE TREE TPO NO. 14/1976 ASH (T1) THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THE PROPOSED WORKS PROVIDED THERE WAS NO OTHER COURSE OF ACTION CONFIRMED BY THE ARBORICULTURAL OFFICER.

26/00388/FULHH – PART SINGLE STOREY, PART TWO STOREY REAR EXTENSION AND GARAGE CONVERSION AT 12 KINGSWOOD DRIVE, 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.

26/00342/FUL –CONVERSION AND EXTENSION OF EXISTING ROOF SPACE AT DENTAL SURGERY AT 171 WALSALL ROAD, GREAT WYRLEY TO CREATE ADDITIONAL ROOMS ON SECOND FLOOR. THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS PROPOSAL IN PRINCIPLE BUT HAD CONCERNS THAT ADDITIONAL WORKING SPACE WOULD LEAD TO ADDITIONAL PATIENT VISITS AND PARKING NEEDED TO BE AVAILABLE.

26/00414/FUL – ERECTION OF TWO STOREY 3 BEDROOMED DETACHED HOUSE WITH PARKING AND LANDSCAPE ON LAND AT OXFORD CLOSE, GREAT WYRLEY- THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS PROPOSAL.

26/00451/FUL – PART TWO STOREY PART SINGLE STOREY AND REAR EXTENSIONS AT 24 WALSALL ROAD, GREAT WYRLEY - THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS PROPOSAL BUT RESERVED THE RIGHT TO SUPPORT NEIGHBOUR OBJECTIONS SHOULD THIS PROVE NECESSARY.

26/00339/FULHH – PROPOSED SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSIONS AND GARAGE CONVERSION AT 1 LILAC LANE, GREAT WYRLEY. THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS PROPOSAL IN PRINCIPLE BUT RESERVE THE RIGHT TO SUPPORT NEIGHBOUR OBJECTIONS SHOULD THIS PROVE NECESSARY.

26/00341/FUL – PROPOSED CHANGE OF USE OF LAND TO A PRIVATE GYPSY AND TRAVELLER CARAVAN SITE COMPRISING 4 PITCHES INCLUDING THE SITING OF 4 MOBILE HOMES WITH ASSOCIATED HARDSTANDING, ACCESS AND INFRASTRUCTURE WORKS (PART RETROSPECTIVE). THE PARISH COUNCIL OBJECTED TO THIS PROPOSAL AND MAINTAINED THE OPINION PREVIOUSLY HELD AND LODGED AGAINST HISTORICAL APPLICATIONS AND ASSOCIATED APPEALS.

20/2026 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.

21/2026 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.....