

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 2nd September, 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. A. Newell	Cllr. D. Norris Cllr. R. J. Perry Cllr. Mrs. C. Whiston-Taylor. Cllr. Mrs. S. M. Wood
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35/2026 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllr. Mrs. S. Manderson and Cllr. D. F. W. Norris.

36/2026 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest on this occasion.

37/2026 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The Parish Council **resolved** to accept, approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1st July, 2026. It was carried.

38/2026 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE welcomed all Councillors back following the Summer recess and expressed her hope that everyone had enjoyed the break.

On another matter the Chairman advised the meeting that she was very sorry to say that she had today received the resignation of Cllr. Matthew Jackson from his role of Parish Councillor. Cllr. Mrs. Perry explained that this decision had been influenced by his increased work commitments and that the Parish Council would miss his contribution to the Parish. Cllr. Jackson was to retain his role as District Councillor for South Staffordshire Council and we would all no doubt cross paths again in the future. This was noted by Members. The Clerk was to write to Matthew Jackson expressing the Parish Council's gratitude for his contribution to the Parish Council and wishing him all the very best for the future.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that it seemed that South Staffs Water was currently executing a compulsory water meter installation programme across Great Wyrley and the wider region. This rollout was mandatory because the local region had been officially designated by the Government as an area of "serious water stress". Under the Water Industry Act 1991, this legal designation had granted South Staffs Water the right to enforce meter installations on all properties that did not already have one. Cllr. Mrs. Perry was not impressed with this proposal but felt sure that there was nothing which could be done to prevent it happening. This was noted by Members. Cllr. Mrs. Perry had been given a variety of leaflets explaining that this action was mandatory which the Clerk was to reproduce to assist should the Parish Council be questioned on this subject. The leaflets included how to obtain a free water efficiency check.

The meeting was then reminded that it was no different with the situation relating

to the installation of unsightly telegraph poles to support the broadband proposals. This was also noted by Members.

39/2026 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

A resident of Great Wyrley drew members attention to the fact that there was an unacceptable amount of laughing gas canisters being discarded in the hedges and the general area in Landywood. This was noted by Members and the resident was advised to make this known to the Staffordshire Police Service.

The Chairman reinstated Standing orders and the meeting continued.

40/2026 CLERK'S REPORT TO COUNCIL

(a) Application for Co-option onto Parish Council

The Parish Council noted that an application for co-option onto the Council had been received over the summer recess. While the candidate's background details were highlighted for consideration, it was noted that the Council was presently reviewing its Co-option Policy. Furthermore, with the next scheduled elections only months away, it was suggested that deferring the matter might be the most suitable option at that moment in time.

Members were reminded that two vacancies currently existed on the Parish Council. It was reported that these vacancies had been duly publicised within the Parish, resulting in one formal expression of interest being received.

It was noted that where a casual vacancy was to be filled by co-option, the Council was required to follow both the appropriate statutory process and its own adopted co-option procedure. The statutory vacancy process had provided local electors with the opportunity to request an election; however, as no election had been called, the Parish Council was permitted to proceed with filling the vacancy via co-option.

It was reported that the Council had prepared a new Co-option of Parish Councillors Policy and Procedure. This document was designed to provide a clear, consistent, and transparent framework for managing all future co-option applications.

Members were, therefore, asked to consider the candidate's application in accordance with that procedure.

Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** to invite the candidate to the next meeting of the Parish Council in order to allow him to introduce himself to Councillors prior to making any firm commitment.

(b) Funding bid for Outdoor Gym Equipment

The Clerk was very pleased to advise the Parish Council that South Staffordshire Council had now accepted the Parish Council's expression of interest in achieving funding for a suite of Outdoor Gym Equipment to be installed at the side of the pathway through the Landywood Lane Play Area. This was noted by Members.

(c) Great Wyrley Mining Memorial

The Parish Councillors agreed that the CHAPS Mining Memorial Project was transitioning into a new phase following a period of unavoidable delay. However,

the Clerk also advised the meeting that she had hoped to have a great deal more information to report to the Parish Council this evening, however, this had not been the case.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE was extremely disappointed that the Parish Council was no further forward with this project after two years and that she feared that the residents of Great Wyrley would lose interest in this project altogether unless something was done to speed things up immediately. Cllr. Mrs. Perry was to contact Mr. A. Ansell and request an update as a matter of urgency.

(d) Boundary Treatment and Stained Glass Window - Great Wyrley Cemetery Memorial Wall

The Parish Council was now approaching the final stages of completing the new Memorial Wall at Great Wyrley Cemetery. To finalise the project, a Cemetery Working Party meeting was to be scheduled to agree on the border fencing treatment adjacent to the neighbouring properties.

Whilst railway sleepers had originally been considered, they were now deemed too severe in appearance; the current proposal was for a privacy fence featuring wooden slats with small gaps in a neutral colour, finished with a decorative fleur-de-lys top.

Additionally, the Council was progressing with the procurement of a stained-glass window panel to complete the wall's structure.

Following a formal tender process with limited external response, negotiations were successfully ongoing with a local stonemason to provide the individual granite plaques for the memorial. This was noted by Members.

(e) Review of Parish Council Mobile Phone Provision

The Parish Council now needed to consider entering into a new era in terms of mobile phone provision for the Head Groundsman. Approval of this agenda item would allow Todd Vaughan to actually assist greatly with spotting issues within the village and make the necessary reports straight away.

So that Councillors could make an informed decision on this matter the Parish Administrator had prepared a comprehensive report for Members' information.

Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** to enter into the proposed agreement as set out in the report. It was carried.

(f) Memory Cafe Request

The Parish Council noted a recent request from a local organisation seeking assistance to establish a Memory Café. The request specifically sought the free use of the Community Centre for two hours per week to support individuals living with Dementia and Alzheimer's.

Following a discussion, the Council determined that approving the request would breach existing council policies. It was agreed that waiving the policy on this occasion would be inequitable to other local organisations whose similar requests had previously been declined. Additionally, it was noted that the Community Centre's current regular users already account for the vast majority of the venue's availability. Consequently, the request was declined.

The Clerk was also to suggest that the organisation in question approach the local Churches with the same request as their support would be much valued. This was noted.

(g) Update on Wyrley Brook

Unfortunately, there was not a great deal to report on this matter, however, Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE had recently attended a Ward Walk with four Officers of South Staffordshire Council including an Environmentalist.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry was still set on holding a site visit with Cllr. A. Mynors, of Staffordshire County Council. Cllr. Mrs. Perry was very disappointed that this project was no further forward than it was 18 months ago. However, Cllr. Mrs. Perry had managed to secure the services of South Staffordshire Council to clear the sides of the brook and clear up the area in general. It was noted that these works were supposed to take place before the end of the summer holidays. The Clerk was also instructed to contact Mr. Andrew Brett to assess the present situation. This was noted by Members.

41/2026 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr. Mrs. M. Woods was unable to be present on this occasion.

42/2026 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry MBE advised the meeting that the deadline for submission of Expressions of Interest in Community Funding had now expired.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry also advised the meeting that whilst she had been on a Ward Walk she had requested that all the fly posting was taken off the railings opposite the Tesco garage and to clean up the state of the Station Road Car Park. Cllr. Perry had also requested more dog fouling signs around the Parish. Cllr. Mrs. Perry was also disappointed that the railings had not been repaired or replaced yet near to the Station Road car park as it is making the area look extremely unkempt.

Cllr. Mrs. K. M. Perry also advised the meeting that the West Midlands Interchange developers had applied for a non-material amendment to the planning consent applied to the West Midlands Interchange. The Clerk advised the meeting that this matter had been fully investigated and a submission had been compiled by Hatherton and Shareshill Parish Councils and Great Wyrley Parish Council had been invited to support the submission by being part of the Collective of Parish Councils.

The Parish Council **resolved** to support the submission as prepared by the neighbouring Parish Councils. It was carried.

43/2026 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS

REFURBISHMENT OF BUS SHELTERS

Cllr. J. C. Jones advised the meeting that he would like to thank the Parish Council Groundsmen for the brilliant job they had done with the refurbishment of the bus shelters.

GRAFFITI PLANS FOR SHANTS BRIDGE – NETWORK RAIL

The meeting was advised that plans were afoot to have a version of Street Art applied to Shants Bridge. Apparently, Network Rail was actively investigating the condition of the railway bridge at Landywood Lane, but a formal plan to introduce a public street art mural has not been officially greenlit or scheduled yet. Members

agreed that this was not something which should be agreed prior to any consultation taking place with local residents. This was noted by Members.

44/2026 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no reports from outside bodies on this occasion.

45/2026 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

26/00627 –EXTENSION TO EXISTING SWIMMING POOL OUTBUILDING AT DUNELM, HAZEL LANE, GREAT WYRLEY. THE PARISH COUNCIL HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS PROPOSAL.

26/00465/FUL – CHANGE OF USE OF ST. MARK’S CHURCH HALL FOR CLASS E (CHILDCARE) STATION ROAD, GREAT WYRLEY- THE PARISH COUNCIL STRONGLY OBJECTED TO THIS PROPOSAL ON SEVERAL GROUNDS. THE CLERK WAS TO COMPILE A SUBMISSION TO THE DISTRICT COUNCIL POINTING OUT THE ISSUES OF CONCERN WHICH RELATED MAINLY TO HIGHWAY CONCERNS AND THAT OF THE CONFLICT OF THE PROPOSED USE WITH ONE PRIMARILY OF WORSHIP.

46/2026 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.

47/2026 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.

Following discussion the Parish Council **resolved** to agree with the proposals in the Clerk’s Confidential Report.

The Chairman thanked Members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.35p.m.

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