

# WILCOT and HUIISH (with OARE) PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council  
Oare Village Hall, Tuesday 18 November 2014, at 19.30.

## Present:

Councillors: Mr L Giddings, Mrs B Lawson, Mrs N Fleet, Mr R Fleet, Mrs A May (Clerk), Dr D Nix (Chair), Mrs P Smith and Ms D Wilson.

## In attendance:

Cllr Paul Oatway, Wiltshire Council  
9 members of the public.

## Actions

### 1. Apologies for absence

Cllr C Bartlett

### 2. Declarations of Interest on any agenda item to be discussed

Cllr Nix – item 10.

### 3. Report from the Police

PC Richard Barratt was unable to attend the meeting, but submitted an electronic copy of his report which was read in précis by the Clerk and subsequently made available on the website.

### 4. Minutes of the last meeting – 16 September 2014

Clerk's action report circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting and made available to the public by request.

**Resolution:** That the minutes be adopted as a true record of the meeting without amendment.

**Proposed:** Cllr R Fleet **Seconded:** Cllr Lawson All in favour.

### Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting – 15 October 2014

**Resolution:** That the minutes be adopted as a true record of the meeting without amendment.

**Proposed:** Cllr Wilson **Seconded:** Cllr N Fleet All in favour.

Information had been received from the Arboricultural and Landscape Officer at Wiltshire Council explaining why they had over-ruled Parish Council comments on one of the applications heard at this meeting regarding work to a tree in a conservation area. This was useful feedback and was circulated to Council.

### 5. Budget and Monitoring

5.1 The Budget and Monitoring Report was circulated with the Agenda. All spend is as expected and within budget.

There had been no communication from Community First regarding the subscription, even though it is a budgeted item. Communication was probably sent to the previous Clerk in error. Clerk contacted them with new details and the subscription will follow.

The last payment was made for the defibrillator project (to AED for supply of the cabinet for Huish). Following that, a sum of £303 will be transferred from the savings account which, added to the £92 in the defibrillator account, will bring the fund for that project back to zero. Total income and expenditure for this project is £5015.

The transfer of funds from the savings account for the defibrillator project would already have happened, except that Clerk used Cllr Bartlett as a signatory for the withdrawal and the paperwork was

Clerk

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returned as he isn't on the list of signatories. The Clerk felt that a third signatory would be appropriate and the Council were in agreement.

**Resolution:** That Cllr Dee Nix, Cllr Dawn Wilson and Cllr Belinda Lawson be signatories of the said NS&I Savings Account.

**Proposed:** Cllr R Fleet **Seconded:** Cllr Smith. All in favour.

The Chairman signed the NS&I Copy of Resolution Appointing Signatories and the witnesses were Cllr R Fleet, Cllr N Fleet and Cllr Smith.

Clerk

**Resolution:** That the Budget and Monitoring Report be adopted.

**Proposed:** Cllr Giddings **Seconded:** Cllr Lawson All in favour.

## 5.2 Clerk's Remuneration

This item was deferred to a later date by Clerk's request.

## 5.3 Request from Community First for a donation to Wiltshire's Good Neighbour Coordinators

Council considered that, although it was a good scheme, there is a lot of funding available for services to the elderly and Council would prefer to maintain its commitment to reserve support for local needs.

## 6. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman extended thanks to Mr Tom Maidment of Manor Farm, Wilcot, for noticeably reducing the speed of farm vehicles through Wilcot. Improvements to Cocklebury Lane reduced the number of trips through the village during maize harvest, which was completed in 2 days. The Chairman appreciated him showing consideration as a good neighbour. Clerk to pass on thanks to Mr Maidment.

Clerk

Thanks were also extended to the Stowell Farm estate for acting so promptly when it was brought to their attention that a tree was leaning over the C264. The tree was removed within days. Clerk to pass on thanks to Mr Gavin Davies.

Clerk

The Chairman represented the Parish Council at a Remembrance Day service at Pewsey Vale School. She found it a very moving service and commended the school for the behaviour of the pupils who, she felt, were very much in tune with what they were taking part in. She considered it a privilege to have attended. Clerk to pass on congratulations to the school.

Clerk

The Chairman represented the Parish Council on a visit to the Houses of Parliament and QandA session in Westminster, at the invitation of Claire Perry MP. The visit was for a group of 45 local Councillors and they listened to a debate about pubs closing. Attendees will be sent a transcription of the debate.

## 7. Public Question Time

There were no questions from the floor.

## 8. Current Parish Issues and Updates

### 8.1 The White Hart, Oare

The Chairman marked the passing of the White Hart pub in Oare. It is not sure whether the site is to be sold or not. The Chairman expressed her hope that it may remain in the community in one form or another, but noted it was a sad loss.

### 8.2 Kennet and Avon Canal, Wilcot

The Parish Council continue to receive reports of anti-social behaviour on the canal in Wilcot. Meetings organised by the Canal and River Trust are ongoing and attended by some Councillors and the Clerk. The last meeting was not as constructive, and did not deal with as many issues as it may have done. The Chair has offered help and requested that the

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meeting be formally opened to the public. The Parish Council will make people aware of the dates of meetings. CRT are keen to offer their support but have limited powers. The Chairman reminded the meeting that if anyone suffers anti-social behaviour or obstruction of the towpath to use the police 101 system to record it. The police continue to inform that there have been no official complaints of anti social behaviour. CRT have sent information about Quiet Zones and suggested that the Parish Council make recommendations as to where they would like this implemented. Council suggested that, as noise travels, it should extend to 100m past the houses on the canal. Cllr Wilson recommended that PCAP be kept informed so that a coordinated response be made.

**Resolution:** That the Parish Council carry out a consultation with canal side residents in Wilcot regarding the possible implementation of a Quiet Zone.

**Proposed:** Cllr R Fleet **Seconded:** Cllr Giddings All in favour.

The consultation should be completed by the second week in January. Working party will be Cllr Bartlett and Cllr Lawson, in conjunction with the Clerk.

Cllr CB  
Cllr BL  
Clerk

### 8.3 Camping in Wilcot

An initial meeting has taken place with the Chair and Cllr Oatway. A further meeting with the publican and the brewery is planned.

### 8.4 Highways

#### 8.4.1 C264 Resurfacing completed

Repairs to the C264 have now been carried out. Thanks were extended to Councillors who pursued this through to completion and thanks to the Highways team at Wiltshire who eventually listened.

#### 8.4.2 Cross Hayes crossroads

This junction is now in a pending phase following completion of work by Highways, however there has been a further accident here. A meeting is scheduled between the Clerk and residents of Cross Hayes House to see if they are in agreement to rumble strips being installed. Cllr Oatway informed the meeting that he is pursuing that prosecutions should follow where people have not obeyed road signs and caused accidents.

Clerk

### 8.5 Broadband and phone signal

Cllrs Lawson and Bartlett are pursuing this. They plan a small survey to see if companies are telling the truth. Suppliers say that the signal is good in this area when in fact it isn't. Wiltshire should be online in spring, which will be an improvement. Cllr Lawson is pursuing the Rural Opensure Signal and has applied for 2, one in Oare and one in Wilcot. Initially this will benefit Vodafone users. The Government are putting pressure on all companies to combine. Claire Perry MP was asked about rural broadband and has stated that by spring 2016 91% of the country should have it.

Cllr BL  
Cllr CB

### 8.6 Lane to the rear of the village green, Wilcot

There has been a further incident on this lane when a dust cart was unable to get down the lane to empty bins. Following a complaint a small vehicle was sent to empty the bins. The landowner who owns a number of properties along the lane has declined to make repairs as his houses have alternative access. He has suggested writing to all the residents asking if they would be willing to contribute. Highways were asked to look at water runoff from the road onto the lane and had cleared the drain but the water is bypassing the drain. Cllr Smith has

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sent Highways information about where the 'no right of way' sign currently is, and where it should be. Cllr Oatway offered to pursue this issue with Highways on behalf of the Council.

## 8.7 Farm vehicle traffic

8.7.1 Driving through the villages  
As mentioned at 6 above.

8.7.2 Unescorted wide loads  
A slurry sprayer taking up one and a half carriageways was observed driving through Oare, in a close convoy with two tractors and trailers. The Councillor tried to report this using the police 101 system but was unable to, partly due to poor mobile signal. Council felt that this convoy should have had an escort, advising oncoming vehicles of the wide load.  
Clerk to inform Stowell Farm estate of this issue.

Clerk

## 8.8 Ditches and Watercourses

The Clerk has sent letters to local landowners asking them to ensure ditches and watercourses are clear of debris and silt before the winter sets in. Clerk to also send information about local flooding hotspots.

Clerk

## 9. Projects

### 9.1 School bus stop, Wilcot

Initially it was anticipated that the work would be carried out by volunteers, however Highways now would like to complete all the works. This has increased the cost but the plan is now substantially better than the original. CATG support has provided the bulk of the funding, with a contribution of £300 required from the Parish Council. This is a project with long term benefits, both to local school children and to walkers.

Cllr RF

**Resolution:** That £300 be used from the savings account to contribute to the bus waiting area in Wilcot.

**Proposed:** Cllr R Fleet **Seconded:** Cllr Wilson All in favour.

Cllr DW

Thanks were expressed to Cllr Oatway for his support, to CATG, and to the Stowell Estate for replacing the gate. The Chairman also thanked Cllr R Fleet for pursuing this project.

Clerk

### 9.2 Defibrillator appeal

The Huish defibrillator has now been installed and this project is now complete. Thanks extended to the Huish resident who has the unit on his house wall. All units are registered with the ambulance service and Cllr Wilson carries out weekly checks on each unit. The Chairman thanked Cllr Wilson for her sterling work with this project and for raising such a large sum, and also for carrying out the weekly checks.

## 10. To review and provide feedback on new planning applications from Wiltshire Council

(Town & Country Planning Act 1980, sched 1, para 8)

One application was received after the agenda was published. Cllr Nix declared an interest and Cllr Fleet took the Chair for this item.

14/09852/FUL 14/09879/LBC – Erection of new dwelling within the listed curtilage of Parsonage House, Oare, along with car port and associated ancillary works.

Cllr Oatway asked to be included in reviewing the application. One written objection had been made to the Clerk, two verbal objections had been made to Councillors, and a number of residents asked to speak at the meeting detailing

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their objections. Council listened to the comments from the floor and considered the application. The Chairman told the meeting that he had taken on board the concerns of residents and felt that a site visit was required to better consider the proposal and the impact on neighbours. A visit to neighbouring properties to look at the site was scheduled for Saturday 22 November, with an additional visit for one Councillor arranged for Wednesday 19 November. Clerk to inform Cllr Oatway of the application number and the case officer, also the decision of the Council following the site visit.

Clerk

## 11. Correspondence

Clerk's correspondence report was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting, and will be made available to members of the public by request.

- 11.1 Request for Council to join CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) The meeting felt that there would be no additional benefit to membership of this organisation as Community First is paid to support Parish Councils. Cllr Wilson offered to investigate further before a decision is made. The Clerk advised that there would be sufficient funds for membership, should Council wish to.

## 12. Policies

A number of policies were scheduled for annual review. The Clerk checks WLC and NALC communications for updates to policies and the Chairman considered it good practice to maintain an annual review. As part of the discussion the Chairman expressed thanks to Councillors who, she felt, worked well together and were making a visible difference for the benefit of the public. She reminded Council to remain familiar with the Standing Orders.

**Resolution:** That the Disciplinary Policy, Equal Opportunities Policy, Expenses Policy, Grievance Policy and Sickness and Absence Policy be adopted.

**Proposed:** Cllr R Fleet **Seconded:** Cllr Wilson All in favour.  
The Chairman signed the policies.

## 13. Exchange of Information

- 13.1 Cllr Lawson gave feedback on the NALC conference she attended.
- 13.2 Cllr Smith gave feedback on the Planning seminar she attended.
- 13.3 A parish walk in Oare was arranged. All those wishing to join in to meet at the White Hart, Oare, at 10.00am on Sunday 30 November and the walk will incorporate some of the footpaths in the Rainscombe estate.
- 13.4 Highways will be deploying a high pressure tanker to clear gullies in the area on 26 and 27 November. They will work on Hare Street, Wilcot; Alton Road to Canal Bridge, Wilcot; Huish Lane – Old Rectory – Manor Cottages. Additional requests for attention to C264 Huish Crossroads, and North Stowell West. Clerk to forward to Highways. Clerk
- 13.5 An email was received from PCAP about ceasing use of SIDS unless parishes made a contribution. Deadline for expression of interest is 30 November. Following discussion about speeding through Oare, Clerk to reply expressing interest. Cllr R Fleet advised that Oare speedwatch programme was operational again. Clerk
- 13.6 An email was received from PCAP regarding a target day on speeding in the area and asking for suggestions for key areas in the parish to focus on. Clerk replied giving Cross Hayes crossroads, the A345 through Oare, Wilcot village.
- 13.7 Cllr R Fleet advised that the play area in Wilcot will get new equipment early in January.
- 13.8 Clerk to ask Stowell Estate if they would consider putting their

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roadsweeper down the canal side road in Wilcot.

## 14. Proposed additional items for next agenda

Village gateways. Information received from company. Consider if Highways will support this and how valuable they feel they are.

The Centenary Fields programme – campaign to secure war memorial parks, playgrounds and other memorial spaces in perpetuity.

Grant to Wilcot PCC. Clerk to inform Mr Andrew Rae.

Clerk

Precept. Deadline for submissions to Wiltshire is 23 January 2015.

Wilcot war memorial. Clerk has been in contact with a stonemason again. Clerk

## 15. Date and time of next meetings

Tuesday 13 January 2015 – Wilcot Village Hall

Tuesday 17 March 2015 – Oare Village Hall

Tuesday 19 May 2015 – AGM – Oare Village Hall

Annual Parish Meeting to be held April 2015 in Wilcot Village Hall, date to be arranged.

The meeting ended at 22.15

Additional diary dates:

Chairman: .....

Date: .....