

WILCOT and HUIISH (with OARE) PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council
Oare Village Hall, Tuesday 26 May 2015, at 19.30.

Present:

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

In attendance:

Councillor Paul Oatway, Wiltshire Council, 5 members of the public.

Actions

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr C Bouch, Cllr L Giddings.

2. Election of Chairman

The Clerk took the Chair. Nominations had been received for Cllr Dee Nix to be re-elected as Chairman.

Resolution: That Cllr Nix be appointed as Chairman.

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

Cllr Nix signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, then took the Chair.

3. Election of Vice Chairman

The Clerk informed the meeting that Cllr Colin Bouch has tendered his resignation. The Chairman read out his letter. She commented that Cllr Bouch had served for 20 years and been an exemplary Councillor and she will write to him with a vote of thanks. Cllr R Fleet added that Cllr Bouch had always acted fairly, sometimes under intense pressure, and with integrity. His good humour and incisive comments were very much appreciated.

One application had been received for the position and the Clerk for any other applications and none were forthcoming. The Clerk invited Cllr Wilson to be elected as Vice Chairman.

Resolution: That Cllr Wilson be appointed as Vice Chairman.

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

Cllr Wilson signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

4. Allocation of Councillor Responsibilities

Remuneration Committee: Cllr Nix, Cllr Wilson, Cllr Bartlett.

Rights of Way and Footpaths: Cllr Giddings

Canal & River Trust Liaison: Cllr N Fleet

Rural Broadband & Mobile Phone Signal: Cllr Lawson

School Bus Stop Project, Wilcot: Cllr R Fleet

Emergency Planning, including flood response plans: Cllr Wilson, Cllr Giddings

School Liaison: Cllr Wilson

PCCs and Village Halls: Cllr Nix (Oare)

Lighting: Cllr Bartlett

Website: Cllr Bartlett, Cllr Wilson

Transport & Highways: Cllr R Fleet

Railway: Cllr Lawson

Planning: Cllr Smith

Neighbourhood Development Committee: Cllr Smith, Cllr Bartlett. Wiltshire

Core Strategy agreed but not received – Clerk to chase

Parish Steward Liaison: Clerk

Area Board/PCAP Liaison: Cllr Wilson, Cllr Nix

Speedwatch: Cllr R Fleet

Road Safety: Clerk

Clerk

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Wilcot Hut and Green Liaison: Dr Colin Bouch
Police Liaison: Clerk

There was a further suggestion of a responsibility for Tourism. This to be a future agenda item.

Clerk

5. Declarations of Interest on any agenda item to be discussed

None.

6. Minutes of the last meeting – 17 March 2015

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

Item 8.2 – Faster broadband – there are now 2 cabinets in place. Sure Signal – in Wilcot waiting for power socket in the village hall, in Oare waiting for faster broadband at the school.

Item 8.4 – Clerk to chase.

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

Proposed: Cllr Bartlett **Seconded:** Cllr Wilson All in favour.

Minutes of the Budget Meeting – 1 April 2015

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

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

Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting – 6 May 2015

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

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

7. Budget and Monitoring Report

7.1 Budget and Monitoring Report

The Budget and Monitoring Report was circulated with the Agenda. The Clerk has made slight changes to the layout, to accommodate requests from the Budget Meeting and the internal auditor; however none of the figures have changed. The reserves at the end of the financial year 2014/15 were £2583.97, which is available to be used on projects. The reserves have increased over the last 3 financial years. The internal audit is continuing.

Resolution: That the Budget and Monitoring Report be adopted.

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

7.2 Annual Return

The Annual Return is required by the external auditors, some of which should be completed by the Clerk and some at a Parish Council meeting. Section 2 – Annual Governance Statement 2014/15 was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting and the Chair then went through each item and the form was completed. Some areas could be tightened up and the Chair requested that the Clerk add these questions to the annual Quality Audit document. An old Financial Risk Assessment is in place and this should be reviewed. The Annual Return was approved by the Council.

Clerk
Clerk

8. Chairman's Announcements

8.1 Report of the work of the Parish Council 2014-2015

The Chairman once again recognised the commitment of Councillor Bouch and reported that she has received the resignation of the Clerk, due to

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family commitments. The Clerk's letter of resignation was read to the meeting. She acknowledged the Clerk's contribution for the last two years, and Cllr R Fleet also voiced his thanks.

The Chairman gave a brief report of the previous year; as a similar report was given at the Annual Parish Meeting. She commented on the wonderful part of the country in which we live. Two village halls are both active, and she mentioned the wish for fundraising for the new cricket pavilion. She thanked Cllr Wilson for her effort in fundraising for defibrillators and the ongoing work in maintaining them. The C8 and the C246 have been resurfaced this year, and she thanked Cllr Paul Oatway for progressing this with Highways. She thanked the speedwatch team and mentioned the police target day last November, resulting in a high profile for speeding through Oare. The streetlights in Oare were adjusted several times, to meet the requirements of Oare residents, demonstrating the flexibility shown by Highways. There had been increased liaison with Oare School with a first aid session for children as part of the defibrillator campaign, and a Parish Council meeting held at school. There has been continued liaison with Rainscombe Estate over rights of way, and thanks were extended to Manor Farm in Wilcot who have granted a permissive path. Footpath walks have taken place, and more are planned. This is both exercise for the participants and an opportunity to keep an eye on footpaths to alleviate potential issues. Services commemorating WW1 were attended by Councillors, and there was a recent service in Wilcot to receive a number of 'poppies from the tower'. Wilcot entered the best kept village competition again. 27 planning applications were reviewed and one site visit carried out. The Chair encouraged residents to let the Council know their views on applications so that all views may be fairly represented. Recently, the Council has heard of a reduction in service of mobile libraries and she encouraged residents to let Council have their opinion about this.

8.2 Parish Council Quality Audit

The Quality Audit is undertaken annually at the Council's own behest, as good practice. The Chairman reported that she considered the Council were not doing a bad job. The quality audit will be posted on the website, and the Chairman thanked her fellow Councillors who taken their roles seriously and make things happen within the community.

Clerk
Cllr CB

8.3 Future thoughts on Devolution

Following the news of business rates and powers being devolved to Manchester and Bristol the Chair posed the question what will happen eventually to rural communities? If business funds are devolved there will be nothing remaining for grants and funding in the future and this could have ramifications for the way Parish Councils operate in future years.

9. Public Question Time

No items were raised.

10. Current Parish Issues and Updates

- 10.1 Kennet and Avon Canal, Wilcot
Council members have attended meetings organised by Canal and River Trust, the most recent was a few weeks ago. These have become more positive meetings as trust is built up between attendees. Pewsey Angling Club was represented at the last meeting. The main complaint was about cyclists on the towpath. CRT are in the process of putting notices on bridges with a code of conduct for the towpath. CRT propose that residents 'adopt' a section of the canal, with a commitment of 12 days per year to tidy

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and maintain the area. CRT will provide a days training with no commitment at that stage. The Chair felt this could be beneficial and a good community building project and asked interested parties to contact her, and to spread the word.

10.2 Rights of Way

The recent parish walk covered footpaths on the Rainscombe Estate in Oare and the group were pleased to be joined by Mr Hiscox and his gamekeeper who spoke about planned projects, including wild flower meadows and a number of beehives. It is hoped that some styles may be replaced by gates and Mr Hiscox may be willing to redirect the footpath that currently goes through the copse. The Chairman and Clerk to pursue discussions with Mr Hiscox and inform the Rights of Way Officer.

10.3 Camp Site at the Golden Swan, Wilcot

Cllr Paul Oatway informed the meeting that he had met with some parishioners in order to clear up ambiguity and move things forward. He continues to communicate with all parties and has received a considerable amount of correspondence including an important email showing considerable activity in the restricted area. He has passed this to the Enforcement Officer with his concern about ongoing breaches. He expressed his disappointment about this, particularly following a meeting at the pub. He has asked that Enforcement send a directive letter to the landlord making the position clear – what the regulations and legislation says, and asking that it be enforced. He felt that it would be helpful if the Parish Council would also write to the Enforcement Officer supporting this request. All parties would like to see the site operated as it used to be under the previous tenants. Cllr R Fleet asked what involvement Wadworths have, as they are the owners of the property. He has personally checked the site on 8 occasions and only once was it compliant. Cllr Wilson asked if the development of paddocks meant that the pub will now offer camping with equine facilities. She further commented that the campsite at Sunnyside in Oare experienced none of these problems, even when full. The Council expressed thanks to Cllr Oatway for his support of this issue and his ongoing actions.

10.4 Lane to the rear of the village green, Wilcot

The lane has now been resurfaced. Residents will liaise to agree whether signage is required and what format signs should take.

10.5 Change of use of White Hart; Satellite Dish

Cllr Oatway informed the meeting that he has contacted the Enforcement Officer regarding the change of use from licensed to residential, and the installation of a satellite dish on the front of the building in a conservation area. He is aware of people who would be interested in running it as a pub and felt there is no need to lose this community asset. If change of use were applied for he would oppose it and would be prepared to take it to committee. Cllr Wilson gave an overview of the residential support, which dwindled as the issues dragged on. Cllr R Fleet proposed that the Parish Council support Cllr Oatway in trying to maintain the pub.

10.6 Pound Lane Enforcement

Cllr Oatway informed the meeting that this has now been passed to Highways Enforcement. The workload on Kristian Price following Stephen Matthews departure was considerable and he had not dealt with it until now. The Chairman expressed thanks to Cllr Oatway for

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supporting this, and the above mentioned issues.

11. Projects

11.1 School Bus Stop, Wilcot

This is now largely in place and thanks were expressed to the Area Board for their support. Cllr Oatway asked the Council to consider if they would like a bench on the site, as per the original plan and, if so, to apply to the Area Board for a grant for this.

Cllr RF

11.2 Village Gateways

An Oare resident has offered to provide this and the Council agreed to approach him for a quotation and clarification of the cost. The top (Marlborough) end of Oare is the priority as there was a recent accident there. The Council felt that it would be good to have a project to benefit Oare.

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

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

12.1 15/04424/TCA – Prune back Catalpa tree to previous cut points (approx 40% crown reduction).

There were no objections to this application.

13. Correspondence

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

14. Exchange of Information

14.1 There was no police report as PC Barrett had been off sick, but this will be posted on the website when it is received.

14.2 Cllr Wilson mentioned the spate of burglaries that have been reported recently and suggested the Homeowners Pack from Smartwater as a solution for marking household belongings.

15. Proposed additional items for next agenda

15.1 Tourism Statement.

15.2 Mobile Library – put email questionnaire on website.

15.3 Clerks replacement – a meeting of the Remuneration Committee was arranged.

16. Date and time of next meetings

16.1 Council set meeting dates for the forthcoming year:

Wednesday 5 August 2015 – Wilcot Village Hall

Tuesday 10 November 2015 – Oare Village Hall

Wednesday 2 March 2016 – Wilcot Village Hall

Wednesday 11 May 2016 – AGM – Wilcot Village Hall

Annual Parish Meeting - Thursday 14 April 2016 Oare Village Hall.

Planning Committee Meetings will be held as required.

The meeting ended at 21.30

Chairman:

Date: