



Minutes of the Wilcot, Huish and Oare Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 18th May 2021 7.00 pm at Wilcot Village Hall

Present:

Parish Councillors Dee Nix, Dawn Wilson, Richard Fleet, Nicky Fleet, Prue Smith and Jamie Ede
Unitary Councillor Paul Oatway
Clerk Ruth Kinderman

1. To receive apologies for absence

None.

2. Introduction and Welcome

Dee Nix welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Jamie Ede in his new role as a parish councillor.

3. Annual Report by the Chairman

Dee Nix, chairman of the parish council for 2020/2021, presented her report which is attached as an appendix to these minutes.

The report prompted wider discussion with Cllr Oatway about matters of concern, notably the C52/C8 crossroads at Cross Hayes. All agreed with Cllr Oatway that a fatality is inevitable unless further action is taken; all agreed that a fatality is an unacceptable price to pay to ensure action from Highways.

Cllr Oatway has obtained support from Highways officers Richard Dobson and Malcom Beaven for replacing the 'Give Way' signs with 'STOP' signs and will push Senior Engineer Mark Stansby to over-ride the highway criteria which have prevented these previously.

Cllr Oatway believes the best solution would be traffic lights set to green for the C8, only changing to red when vehicles approach the junction along the C52; all agreed with this and Cllr Oatway will persist in asking why the criteria disallow it. He is also asking for red paint road markings. This work will all be dealt with through the Community Area Transport Group (CATG), which should enable quicker results, although the parish will have to contribute financially.

Cllr Oatway confirmed that the A345 through Oare will be receiving a new top dressing and the cats' eyes replaced. He will also follow up the gully at the top of Oare Hill, where the A345 floods regularly; he noted that it needs an engineered solution rather than just cleaning out and will report this to Richard Dobson.

Dee Nix reported that two members of the Oare Community Speedwatch (CSW) team are retiring, leaving only two volunteers, Wilcot CSW being in the same predicament. Cllr Oatway reported that he has recently appointed a CSW Enforcement Officer, with a



deputy to be appointed shortly, who will be responsible for supporting volunteers throughout the county. They will be equipped with a specialist camera to concentrate on notorious hot spots, and thus expedite the process by which offenders are brought to justice.

Cllr Oatway has been contacted directly by a resident of Sunnyhill Lane, concerned about speeding along the lane; he will request a speed survey to ascertain the extent of the problem.

Dee's report about rights of way prompted a discussion about the pressures brought to bear on landowners to comply with the conditions of the stewardship scheme; landowners are held responsible for people walking on land subject to the scheme and face financial penalties if they do not prevent it. It was agreed that residents need to be more informed about this, maybe with an article in the next newsletter.

4. Forum for parishioners to raise any matters of interest.

Dee invited everybody present to raise any other matters as residents, rather than as councillors. She reiterated her thanks to all the volunteers who had come forward to help in any way they could during the past year, and thanked Cllr Oatway for attending the meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.00pm