



Welcome to the first newsletter of the parish year 2026/2027. Thank you to Councillor Jon Thompson who has joined us recently; we still have three vacant seats and if you would like to consider serving, please do contact myself or the Clerk, or any other councillor to discuss the role and find out what we do. I hope you all have a good summer.

Councillor Jamie Ede

Wilcot, Huish and Oare Parish Council

Police alert – heating oil theft

Wiltshire Police are urging residents to secure heating oil tanks due to rising theft risks, particularly in rural areas. Thieves target tanks, often cutting pipes for siphoning, causing significant environmental damage and financial loss. Police advise regular checks, improved lighting, alarms, and reporting suspicious vehicles to 101 or 999.

Wiltshire Project Gigabit

The parish council has been advised that the government is expediting the roll-out of fibre broadband with a voucher scheme, designed to assist suppliers with installing fibre-to--properties in less accessible rural areas where there is proven demand.

Households who are willing to commit to signing a contract for fibre once it has been installed are eligible for vouchers; at least two properties within an area must sign up for that area to be considered for the scheme.

The parish council has been advised that many properties within this parish are not currently included in the Openreach fibre roll-out schedule and therefore may benefit from the scheme, which may deliver fibre to them much sooner than otherwise possible.

Please contact the Clerk, or Councillor Richard Fleet, for further information, or visit <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/digital-wiltshire>

Forthcoming Road and footpath closures

27th-28th August – the A345 at Pewsey Wharf will be closed for Wessex Water works.

21st September–2nd October – the C38 from Alton crossroads to Lockeridge will be closed for Openreach works.

Check <https://one.network/> for details of these and any other road closures in the area.

Emergency Plan

Wiltshire Council has asked all parish councils to prepare an up-to-date emergency plan, outlining how residents could be supported in the event of unforeseen crises such as extended power outages and severe winter weather.

Residents who have any skills or resources, such as medical expertise and four-wheel drive vehicles, for example, which they would be willing to voluntarily contribute to a local emergency response, are invited to contact the Clerk to share details of what could be included in the Plan for this parish.

Autumn Litter pick

Everybody is invited to pick litter in their villages during the weekend **17th/18th October.**

If you would like to take part, please collect equipment from the village halls and then leave sacks of litter at the village halls to be collected by Wiltshire Council.

Landowner responsibilities; ditches & footpaths

Landowners are reminded that they are responsible for maintaining public rights of way and keeping ditches clear.

If landowners require support from the parish council with addressing any matters that may arise, please do contact the Clerk, who is always willing to liaise with Wiltshire Highways and Rights of Way Officers.

Pewsey Vale Tourism Partnership

The new website is now live
<https://www.visitpewseyvale.co.uk/>

Parish Council Vacancies

There are three vacant seats and the parish council is particularly keen to increase representation from Oare, Huish and Draycott. The council is currently served by three members from Wilcot, two from Stowell and one from Oare.

As with any voluntary role, serving as a parish councillor can be as simple or as onerous as one makes it! The parish council is the lowest level of government and can use its local knowledge to liaise with Wiltshire Council officers, especially in the Planning and Highways departments.

The parish council meets for two hours, six or seven times a year, in either of the village halls (Oare and Wilcot), with a few hours reading in between; checking email notification from the Clerk once a week should be sufficient to fulfil requirements.

If you would like to discuss the role further, please do contact the Clerk, or speak to any of the parish councillors. Past councillors may also be a useful source of information!

Wessex Water Drop-in sessions

Do you have a query about your water bill, how to save water and prevent blockages, or your water and sewerage services?

@wessexwater will be holding a drop-in sessions to answer all water related questions in Pewsey Library, Aston Cl, Pewsey SN9 5EQ on Thursday 23rd July from 10-12 and in Devizes Library, Sheep Street, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 1DL on Tuesday 8th September, Tuesday 27th October & Tuesday 15th December at 10-12 & 1-2

To find out more, visit:
<https://www.wessexwater.co.uk/community-drop-ins>

Parish Council Meeting Dates 2026/2027

Provisional dates – to be confirmed

All meetings start at 7.00pm

Tuesday 8th September 2026 - Oare

Monday 9th November 2026 – Wilcot - 2027/2028 budget discussions

Tuesday 12th January 2027 – Oare - to finalise precept for 2027/2028

Tuesday 9th March 2027 - Wilcot

Tuesday 11th May 2027 – Wilcot - annual meetings – please do take the opportunity to hear what has been achieved during the year and to meet councillors informally over some drinks and nibbles.

Parish Website

A reminder that all parish council meeting minutes are published in accordance with the Transparency Code on the website
<https://wilcotandhuish-pc.gov.uk>

Wilcot, Huish & Oare Parish Council

Chairman – Councillor Jamie Ede

Vice-Chairman - Councillor Neil Ridgway

Clerk: Ruth Kinderman

clerk@wilcotandhuish-pc.gov.uk

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