

# WILCOT, HUIISH and OARE PARISH COUNCIL

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## Local Government Act 1972

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Wilcot Village Hall on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 7.00 pm

**Present:** Parish Councillors Jamie Ede (Chair), Neil Ridgway, Richard Fleet, and Nicky Fleet.

Unitary Councillor Paul Oatway

Clerk Ruth Kinderman

Residents Jonathan Thompson, Kenelm Cornwall-Leigh, and Kate Ledigo-Ainsworth.

26/11	<p><b>To receive apologies for absence</b> Cllr Richard Lewis.</p>	
26/12	<p><b>To receive declarations of interest</b> None.</p>	
26/13	<p><b>To agree the minutes of the parish council meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026</b> Cllr RF proposed that the minutes be accepted as an accurate record, seconded by Cllr NF and signed accordingly by Cllr JE.</p>	
26/14	<p><b>To co-opt Jonathan Thompson to council</b> A short biography had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. Cllr NR proposed that Jonathan Thompson be co-opted to the council; seconded by Cllr RF with all in favour. Cllr JE invited Cllr Thompson to the table and thanked him for coming forwards to ensure Oare is represented as fully as possible during council deliberations. Cllr Thompson signed his declaration of acceptance and submitted a request for dispensation to take part in budget and precept discussions.</p>	
26/15	<p><b>Public question time</b> Cllr JE invited questions and comments from the floor. With regards to item 19.5, Kate Ledigo-Ainsworth expressed hope that the parish council would support residents in their request for Wiltshire Highways to consider installing a dedicated pedestrian crossing, to link the green and village hall, both of which are well used by local children and visitors, whether hiring the hall for events such as parties or whilst in the village for family members to attend the cricket club. It was noted that the road is straight and narrow, with good sight lines, but the hope was expressed that a dedicated crossing might enhance child safety and independence, and also contribute to reducing vehicular speeds. Concerns were raised about the number of vehicles belonging to cricketers and anglers parked along the roadside at weekends, with reduced sight lines and increased hazards for children trying to cross the road between parked vehicles. In discussion, it was agreed that urban infrastructure, such as zebra crossings with Belisha beacons and a considerable quantity of signage, should not be permitted in a village, but that a hardstanding with a dropped kerb either side of the road would be acceptable. Cllr RF noted that any decision will be influenced by Highways' criteria and available budget. Although Cllr JE noted that there are no recorded 'near-miss' incidents, it was</p>	

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	<p>agreed with the floor that a reactive project to improve safety in response to an accident should be avoided if possible.</p> <p>Cllr NF noted that, as the village hall and the green are managed as a single entity by the Hut and Green Committee, a physical link between the two facilities would be appropriate.</p> <p>It was agreed that a 20mph speed limit would be desirable; Clerk advised that parish contributions to a speed limit review conducted by LHFIG are currently £1350.00. Cllr NR noted that the precept had been held from 2025/26 to 2026/27 and that it had been previously agreed to focus on improving safety along the A345 through Oare. It was agreed that Clerk should ask Highways the likely outcome of a speed limit review in Wilcot before a decision is taken whether to pursue this option.</p> <p>Cllr Oatway suggested that a 'Slow – Children Crossing' sign could be considered as an option, which he would support through LHFIG.</p> <p>Cllr Oatway will arrange a site meeting with Mark Stansby, Senior Highways Engineer, to review the complete situation. Councillors and residents to send photographs of weekend parking to Clerk to pass to Highways, to illustrate the request for a visit.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">RK</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RK/PO/all</p>
<p>26/16</p>	<p><b>To receive update from Wiltshire Council</b></p> <p>Cllr Oatway expressed disappointment at the ongoing poor condition of Alton Road, in the light of which it is unclear why Highways had recently resurfaced Canal Close.</p> <p>Cllr Oatway reported that Wiltshire Council has postponed the closure of Purton and Compton Bassett Household Recycling Centres, which will remain open for at least another year. Wiltshire Council is intending to implement three-weekly household waste collections (black wheelie bins) and collections of food waste as part of a revised schedule commencing in 2027.</p> <p>Cllr Oatway reported that Wiltshire Council is coming under pressure to reconsider its decision to withdraw funding from LINK and the community 'combine' buses, both of which provide services beyond that provided by the Connect 2 buses, such as door-to-door medical appointments and day shopping trips to Salisbury.</p> <p>Cllr Oatway reported that the Area Board and LHFIG (Local Highway and Footpath Improvement Group, previously CATG, Community Area Transport Group) structures are currently under review, with proposed name changes for both, and a reduced budget for LHFIGs.</p> <p>Cllr Oatway expressed disappointment at the recent Wiltshire Council budgetary decision to reduce foster carers' allowances by £260.00 per month per child.</p>	
<p>26/17</p>	<p><b>Finance</b></p> <p>17.1 To Receive the Budget and monitoring report</p> <p>Cllr NF had circulated the report to all councillors prior to the meeting. There were no questions and the report is attached as an appendix to these minutes.</p> <p>17.2 To approve invoices due</p> <p>It was noted that the payment of £238.74 for new defibrillator pads at Hush, Oare and Wilcot should have cleared the bank today.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">NF</p>

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	<p>It was agreed to retain Doug Bradshaw as internal auditor for 2025/2026, subject to his willingness to continue.</p>	
26/18	<p><b>Planning Applications and Enforcement</b>  <b>To note progress of planning applications previously considered:</b></p> <p><b>18.1 PL/2024/09344 - Huish Down Farm, Oare</b> - Demolition of existing buildings; erection of replacement dwelling etc; change of use of land from agricultural to residential.  It was noted that a revised site plan and design scheme had been uploaded to the planning portal on 19<sup>th</sup> February. Wiltshire Council was due to publish a decision on 31<sup>st</sup> January. It was agreed that Clerk should ask the Planning Officer for an update.</p> <p><b>18.2 PL/2026/00194 - Astra Cottage, Oare</b> - Demolition of existing dwelling and associated outbuildings and erection of a replacement dwelling; with associated parking, landscaping, private amenity space and access arrangements.  Plans had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting and no comment had been submitted to the planning portal.  It was noted that Drainage, Ecology and Footpaths officers had requested more details relating to bats; a drainage strategy; and conditions relating to maintenance of right of way WIHU1 and the new gate access on to the footpath, respectively. Wiltshire Council is due to publish a decision on 27<sup>th</sup> March.</p> <p><b>To review and provide feedback on new planning applications from Wiltshire Council (Town and Country Planning Act 1980, schedule 1, para 8)</b></p> <p><b>18.3 PL/2026/00826 - Rainscombe Park, Oare Hill, Oare</b> - Listed building consent (Alt/Ext)  Proposal: Repair and replacement of existing windows.  Comments by 12<sup>th</sup> March  It was agreed to submit no objection.</p> <p><b>18.4 PL/2026/00830 - Rainscombe Park, Oare Hill, Oare</b> - Listed building consent (Alt/Ext)  Proposal: Replacement cupola  Comments by 11<sup>th</sup> March  It was agreed to submit no objection.</p> <p><b>PL/2026/01423 – 6 Portway, Oare</b> – proposal to fell conifer due to proximity to house and blocking of light had been received since publication of the agenda. It was agreed to submit no objection.</p> <p><b>PL/2026/01398 - Wilcot Manor Farm</b> – prior notification of a new agricultural building, had been received since publication of the agenda. It was noted that this is not open to usual consultation and will be decided according to national criteria for agricultural structures. It was agreed that there were no concerns raised by the notification.</p>	<p>RK</p> <p>RK</p> <p>RK</p> <p>RK</p>
26/19	<p><b>Project updates</b>  19.1 LHFIG - A345 safety – request for priority system</p>	

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<p>Cllr RF explained the proposal to create a priority system near the A345/Huish Lane junction in Oare, to slow traffic and avoid to vehicles having to pass in the narrow section of the A345. LHFFIG had received the proposal and Mark Stansby, Senior Highways Engineer, will meet with Cllr Oatway on site to discuss feasibility. Cllr JT agreed to attend the site meeting and to represent Oare at the online LHFFIG meetings.</p> <p>19.2 To discuss report – ‘A Road between us’ The report had been circulated again to all councillors prior to the meeting. It was noted that the concept of taking measures to slow traffic on an A-road ties in with the proposal made under item 19.1. It was noted that the report includes many good ideas, mostly for larger villages, and will be revisited once item 19.1 has been pursued to its full extent.</p> <p>19.3 LHFFIG – new SID pole for Alton Road Cllr RF reported that LHFFIG had received the proposal for a new SID pole at the western end of Alton Road, opposite number 9; Cllr RF had submitted a w3w reference to Mark Stansby for accurate positioning of the new pole.</p> <p>19.4 Bus stop request for Wilcot Clerk advised that the new bus stop improvement team is in the process of formulating its procedures and criteria for assessing requests. Clerk had advised the team that the Wilcot site had already been visited by Mark Stansby for assessment before the new bus stop fund had been implemented; it is hoped that this prior assessment will lead to Wilcot being fairly near the top of the list.</p> <p>19.5 LHFFIG - to consider request from parishioners for pedestrian crossing between Wilcot Village Hall and Green Further to discussion under item 15, it was agreed that Clerk should annotate the request submitted by residents, with the parish council’s comments in support of a crossing place in principle and to start the process of further investigation by LHFFIG.</p> <p>19.6 Greensward update The reinstatement of the fence and gate is awaited.</p> <p>19.7 Footpath audit Clerk advised that all rights of way in the parish have been renamed with the abbreviation WIHU to reflect the parish boundary changes made in 2017. It was noted that the parish was unwarded in 2021. (<i>post-meeting note</i> – it is assumed that the change in 2017 refers to the retrospective formal merger of Wilcot and Huish parishes, which oversight came to light during the 2020/2021 governance review.)</p> <p>19.8 Post box at Sunnyhill Lane Clerk advised that the Royal Mail Collections Customer Operations Manager has now contacted residents to arrange a site meeting for discussions about siting the special collection box.</p>	<p>PO/RF/ JT/NR</p> <p>RK</p>
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	<p>19.9 Defibrillators Further to item 17.2, it was noted that replacement pads had been ordered in January but, due to a new policy at Community Heartbeat Trust (CHT), orders are no longer despatched prior to payment being made. An additional delay had been caused by the invoice being sent to former councillor Dawn Wilson; CHT had amended delivery details to the Clerk, but had overlooked amending the billing details.</p> <p>19.10 Emergency Plan Clerk had located the old parish plan and had advised that many contact details contained in it are now obsolete or otherwise inappropriate to hold; it was agreed that a fresh start should be made. A variety of templates issued by Wiltshire Council had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. It was agreed to proceed with the non-colourful one as most appropriate to this parish. Cllr JE will take the lead.</p>	<i>JE/RK</i>
26/20	<p><b>Clerk's Report</b></p> <p>20.1 Parish Steward Clerk advised that all stewards are currently deployed to pot hole filling duties and the regular schedule is on hold until further notice. It was noted that the Wiltshire Council 2026/2027 budget is likely to mean less funding for the steward scheme in future. It was noted that the verge over-runs in Church Lane, the pot holes in Hare Street and the white lines at Draycott are all in need of urgent attention; Clerk to add notes to the relevant reports on MyWilts.</p> <p>20.2 Police report A report is expected at the end of March and will be uploaded to the website on receipt, and attached as an appendix to these minutes. There will be a police community drop-in session at the Royal Oak, Wootton Rivers, on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March between 1100hrs and 1200hrs.</p> <p>20.3 Forth-coming road closures The A345 through Oare, north of Hatfield Farm, will be closed for four days from 30<sup>th</sup> March to enable SSE to dig a trench. The A345 at Pewsey Wharf will be closed for two nights from 7<sup>th</sup> May for works by Wessex Water. Clerk to post details on the parish website; councillors to share details through other informal village communications.</p> <p>20.4 Wilcot noticeboard Clerk advised that the supplier has not responded to further emails and telephone messages. It was noted with thanks that unknown persons had voluntarily repaired the right-hand-side as far as possible. Cllr Oatway advised that the Area Board may support an application for a new community noticeboard; Clerk to liaise with the Hut and Green Committee to submit an application in time for the Area Board meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> June.</p> <p>Clerk reported that a question had been received about the possibility of a Blue Plaque on The Old Oxyard in Oare, to commemorate the authors Mona</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>RK</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>RK/all</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>RK/RF/NF</i></p>

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	<p>Wilson and G M Young who lived there in the past. Clerk advised that since this question had last been discussed by the parish council, the Levelling Up White Paper of 2023 had allowed for the Blue Plaque scheme to expand beyond London and that The Old Oxyard may now apply to Historic England to be considered for one of the seven new plaques to be issued during 2026/2027. Clerk had advised the Old Oxyard residents that Devizes and Marlborough run their own plaque schemes which would not extend to Oare. It was agreed to consider setting up a parish scheme if The Old Oxyard is unsuccessful with its application; knowledge of other famous historic parishioners would be useful when deciding whether a local scheme would be worthwhile.</p>	
26/21	<p><b>Exchange of information</b>          Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March – 11am – Pewsey Area Board – short meeting postponed from 9<sup>th</sup> March. Limited attendee space.          Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April – 7pm - PCAP – venue to be confirmed          Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April – 7pm – Burbage Village Hall – launch of Green Vale, a new project to be run by Great Green Bedwyn and PCAP          Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May – 2pm online – LHFIG – Cllrs RF and JT to attend          Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June – Pewsey Area Board – 7pm – tentative venue of Great Bedwyn to be confirmed</p> <p>Further discussion ensued relating to parking matters raised under item 15. It was noted with appreciation that the Stowell Estate permits cricketers to park on an adjacent field but that this option is restricted to 30 days in a calendar year which is the maximum permitted alternative use of agricultural land. It was noted that parking reduces the road through the village to a single-width carriageway for up to eight hours, which impedes the progress of agricultural traffic as well as creating hazards for other road users, and resulting in damaged verges; in addition, the canal bridge itself becomes particularly dangerous, as it is already narrow. It was agreed that although nothing illegal takes place, more consideration from visitors to the village should be expected and would be appreciated.</p> <p>The problem is exacerbated if the Village Hall has been booked for an event and it was noted that this could be prevented if the cricket club and the angling society were to book the hall, and consequent unimpeded use of the car park, which use is currently taken for granted. It was noted that the Hut and Green Committee would be open to pricing negotiation, as the hall itself would not be used.</p> <p>It was noted that previous approaches to the angling society had been rejected as incurring additional cost and walking distance for members. It was agreed that Clerk should renew the dialogue, as many members are obliged to walk even further if parked towards the pub. It was noted that Duke of Edinburgh Award groups and other walking clubs make use of the pub car park and campsite to access the canal.</p> <p>Further to item 15, Cllr Oatway will review the situation with Mark Stansby.</p> <p>Cllr NR requested the Cllr Oatway include Bristow’s Bridge verge deterioration in his tour with Mark Stansby. Clerk to draw up a list for the site visit to take in all Highways matters in Oare and Wilcot.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">RF/JT</p> <p style="text-align: right;">RK</p> <p style="text-align: right;">RK/PO</p>

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Planning Committee meetings will be held as required. All meetings will start at 19.00hrs unless otherwise advertised.

Provisional dates and times of next meetings 2025/2026:

Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2026 – annual meetings	Oare
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Meeting closed at 8.45 pm

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Transaction Date	Transaction Type	Transaction Description	Debit Amount	Credit Amount	Balance @ bank	Income	Hire of halls	Grants (\$137)	Community expenditure	Newsletter	Salary	Accountancy	Auditing	Admin	Subscriptions	Transfers
Balance at 1 April 2025					3888.12											
01/04/2025	PAY	Bank service charge	4.25		3883.87									4.25		
07/04/2025	FPO	Wilts Council (payment)	370.00		3513.87				370.00							
07/04/2025	FPO	Wilcot Village Hall - Grant	1000.00		2513.87			1000.00								
07/04/2025	FPO	Wessex Print - newsletter	50.00		2463.87					50.00						
07/04/2025	FPO	P Emery - repair to sign	160.00		2303.87				160.00							
07/04/2025	FPO	Clerk's salary (Mar)	369.03		1934.84						369.03					
07/04/2025	FPO	HMRC (PAYE)	61.40		1873.44						61.40					
23/04/2025	BGC	Wilts Council (precept) 1st inst.		7062.50	8935.94	7062.50										
24/04/2025	DD	Charlton Baker (accountancy)	16.50		8919.44							16.50				
06/05/2025	PAY	Bank service charge	4.25		8915.19									4.25		
12/05/2025	FPO	R Harriman (defib power)	50.00		8865.19				50.00							
12/05/2025	FPO	Clerk's salary (Apr)	235.11		8630.08						235.11					
12/05/2025	FPO	WALC subscription	244.30		8385.78										244.30	
12/05/2025	FPO	Manningford PC - contribution to SID	300.00		8085.78				300.00							
27/05/2025	FPO	Clerk's expenses - defib	346.80		7738.98				346.80							
27/05/2025	DD	Charlton Baker (accountancy)	18.00		7720.98							18.00				
03/06/2025	PAY	Bank service charge	4.25		7716.73									4.25		
09/06/2025	FPO	Andy Sexton -	85.18		7631.55				85.18							
09/06/2025	FPO	Clerk's salary (May)	234.91		7396.64						234.91					
24/06/2025	DD	Charlton Baker (accountancy)	18.00		7378.64							18.00				
04/07/2025	PAY	Bank service charge	4.25		7374.39									4.25		
10/07/2025	FPO	Community First (insurance)	443.78		6930.61									443.78		
10/07/2025	FPO	HMRC (PAYE)	41.80		6888.81						41.80					
10/07/2025	FPO	Clerk's salary (June)	234.91		6653.90						234.91					
10/07/2025	FPO	Clerk's expenses	73.36		6580.54									73.36		
25/07/2025	DD	Charlton Baker (accountancy)	18.00		6562.54							18.00				
25/07/2025	DD	ICO (subscription)	47.00		6515.54										47.00	
04/08/2025	FPO	Clerk's salary (July)	234.91		6280.63						234.91					
04/08/2025	FPO	Wilts Council - signage Oare	1437.79		4842.84				1437.79							
04/08/2025	PAY	Bank service charge	4.25		4838.59									4.25		
25/08/2025	DD	Charlton Baker (accountancy)	18.00		4820.59							18.00				
27/08/2025	TFR	From savings acct		2221.85	7042.44											2221.85
28/08/2025	FPO	Bawden Contracting	4789.03		2253.41				4789.03							
28/08/2025	FPO	Clerk's salary (Aug)	234.91		2018.50						234.91					
02/09/2025	PAY	Bank service charge	4.25		2014.25									4.25		
24/09/2025	DD	Charlton Baker (accountancy)	18.00		1996.25							18.00				
25/09/2025	BGC	Wilts Council (precept) 2nd inst.		7062.50	9058.75	7062.50										
01/10/2025	TFR	To savings acct	5988.29		3070.46											-5988.29
01/10/2025	FPO	Clerk's salary (Sept)	318.71		2751.75						318.71					
06/10/2025	PAY	Bank service charge	4.25		2747.50									4.25		
27/10/2025	DD	Charlton Baker (accountancy)	18.00		2729.50							18.00				
03/11/2025	PAY	Bank service charge	4.25		2725.25									4.25		
05/11/2025	FPO	Clerk's salary (Oct)	248.91		2476.34						248.91					
05/11/2025	FPO	Wilts Council - election exps	250.00		2226.34									250.00		
24/11/2025	DD	Charlton Baker (accountancy)	18.00		2208.34							18.00				
02/12/2025	PAY	Bank service charge	4.25		2204.09									4.25		
05/12/2025	FPO	Clerk's salary (Nov)	248.91		1955.18						248.91					
05/12/2025	FPO	Wessex Print - newsletter	50.00		1905.18					50.00						
29/12/2025	DD	Charlton Baker (accountancy)	18.00		1887.18							18.00				
05/01/2026	PAY	Bank service charge	4.25		1882.93									4.25		
07/01/2026	TFR	From savings acct		6036.84	7919.77											6036.84
08/01/2026	FPO	Clerk's salary (Dec)	248.91		7670.86						248.91					
08/01/2026	FPO	Wilts Council - Oare bus stop	6284.26		1386.60				6284.26							
19/01/2026	FPO	Clerk's expenses	35.56		1351.04									35.56		
19/01/2026	FPO	PCAP grant	300.00		1051.04			300.00								
26/01/2026	DD	Charlton Baker (accountancy)	18.00		1033.04							18.00				
03/02/2026	PAY	Bank service charge	4.25		1028.79									4.25		
05/02/2026	FPO	Clerk's salary (Jan)	248.91		779.88						248.91					
24/02/2026	DD	Charlton Baker (accountancy)	18.00		761.88							18.00				
04/03/2026	TFR	From savings acct		1000.00	1761.88											1000.00
06/03/2026	PAY	Bank service charge	4.25		1757.63									4.25		
Pending	FPO	Clerk's salary (Feb)	319.58													
Pending	FPO	Community Heartbeat (defibs)	238.74													
<b>Total</b>			26072.50	23383.69	1757.63	14125.00	0.00	1300.00	13823.06	100.00	2961.33	196.50	0.00	853.40	291.30	3270.40