WILCOT, HUISH and OARE PARISH COUNCIL

Local Government Act 1972
Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in Oare Village Hall on
Tuesday 8th September 2026 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors Neil Ridgway (Chair), Nicky Fleet, Richard Fleet and Richard Lewis.
Unitary Councillor Paul Oatway from 7.25pm
Clerk Ruth Kinderman

26/45	**To receive apologies for absence** Parish Councillors Jamie Ede and Jon Thompson	
26/46	**To receive declarations of interest** None.	
26/47	**To approve and sign the minutes of the parish council meeting held on 23rd June 2026** Cllr RF proposed that these be approved as an accurate record of the meeting. Seconded by Cllr NF with no objections and signed accordingly by Cllr NR.	
26/48	**Public question time** No residents were present.	
26/49	**Update from Wiltshire Council** Cllr Oatway reported that since his last report to this parish council in May, a decision by Wiltshire Council to reduce LHFIG budgets by 50% has been reversed after much opposition from unitary councillors. Cllr Oatway noted that the reinstatement of the white lines at Cross Hayes (*cf* items 26/33 and 26/44) had now taken place, but that the team had omitted to refresh the SLOW and other markings designating the approach to this dangerous junction. Cllr Oatway has met Mark Stansby, Senior Highways Engineer, on site, who has agreed to consider an additional 'Give Way' sign on the right-hand side of the southbound approach to the junction, with nothing further to be done on the northbound approach, where there are already four signs in place. Cllr Oatway noted that Mark continues to advise that this junction does not qualify for STOP signs. Cllr RF noted that the visibility for southbound traffic is hindered by the dip in the road; it was noted that digging out the verges on the corners could improve visibility for all drivers, those waiting on the C52 to 'give way', and those passing through the junction with right of way along the C8. Cllr Oatway had contacted Highways officers about the recent white lining at Draycott crossroads, where the team had done one side only of the junction. Clerk noted that this location has been reported regularly for refreshed lining since at least January 2019. Cllr NR noted that the painting team had reinstated road markings at Ladybird Lane on a Sunday, shortly after the surfacing works in the summer, but had not visited Cross Hayes or Draycott whilst in the area, despite the long-standing omission of those locations. Cllr Oatway reported that the new pilot booking system for Devizes Household Recycling Centre and other selected HRC's in the county goes live today. Clerk noted that Wiltshire Council has identified a potential site south of Royal Wootton Bassett for a new HRC to replace the proposed closures at Purton and Compton Bassett.	
26/50	**Finance** 50.1 To Receive the Budget and monitoring report Cllr NF had circulated the report to all councillors prior to the meeting. With regards to the pending payment for Clerk's salary, it was noted that Lloyds bank has reformatted the business banking website; Cllrs NF and RL to liaise about clarifying where on the new layout signatories should click, to authorise payments which have been set up. There were no further questions and the report is attached as an appendix to these minutes.	*NF/RL*

	50.2 To approve invoices due Cllr NR will remind Andy Martin to submit an invoice for reinstating the Greensward fence. An invoice is expected from Highways for the installation of the SID pole at the west end of Alton Road. Clerk noted that Colin Gale of Rushall has accepted an extended warranty for the newest SID; an invoice to Manningford Parish Council, who manage the SID funds, is expected in January 2027. Further to item 26/40.2, the meeting heard with thanks a report from the Clerk that resident 'Bob' had greatly appreciated receiving the letter but had declined to invoice the parish council for expenses relating to repair of the noticeboard, having been glad of the opportunity to contribute to the village in this way. Clerk reported that the Smaller Authority Proper Practices Panel (SAPPP) is preparing to digitalise the AGAR for 2026/2027 reporting, with voluntary participation by parishes until 2028/2029 when it is expected to be mandatory. Clerk advised that NALC has recently published updated salary scales for 2026/2027. Clerk to send SAPPP and NALC information to Cllr NF.	*NR* *RK/NF*
26/51	**Planning Applications and Enforcement** **To note progress of planning applications previously considered:** 51.1 PL/2026/00826 - Rainscombe Park, Oare - Listed building consent (Alt/Ext) - repair and replacement of existing windows. Wiltshire Council is yet to publish a decision. 51.2 PL/2026/02882 – Holy Cross Church - Fell Cypress tree Approved by Wiltshire Council since the last meeting. 51.3 PL/2026/03195 - The Lodge, Oare - formation of a new vehicular access and driveway serving the existing property. A comment had been submitted as agreed under item 26/41.6. It was noted that Wiltshire Highways officers have submitted no further comments to the Planning Portal since their original objection. Wiltshire Council is yet to publish a decision. 51.4 PL/2026/03643 - Field to the west of Pumping station, Alton Road - Erection of two adjoining polytunnels forming a single agricultural structure A comment had been submitted as agreed under item 26/41. It was noted that Wiltshire Highways had requested several conditions prior to any permission being granted. Wiltshire Council is yet to publish a decision. 51.5 PL/2026/04636 **-** West Stowell House - Replace thatched roof on Outbuilding with roofing slate This application had been received since the last meeting and circulated by email to councillors for consideration; no objection had been submitted to the Portal. Wiltshire Council is yet to publish a decision. PL/2026/04345 – Cold Blow Cottage – reduce crown of apple tree This application had been received since the last meeting and circulated by email to councillors for consideration; no objection had been submitted to the Portal and Wiltshire Council has approved the works. **To review and provide feedback on new planning applications from Wiltshire Council (Town and Country Planning Act 1980, schedule 1, para 8)** 51.6 PL/2026/05346 - COLD BLOW COTTAGE, OARE, SN8 4JL Proposal: T1 Lime tree - Reduce by 25% T2 Beech trees (x3) - Reduce the trees by 20%-25% and crown raise to 3m-5m Comments by 16th September	

	It was agreed to submit no objection. 51.7 PL/2026/05476 - 13, WILCOT, PEWSEY, SN9 5NN Proposal: T1 - Cherry tree – fell; T2 - Norway Spruce tree – fell Comments by 26th September It was noted that the trees are diseased and dying; it was agreed to submit no objection.	*RK* *RK*
26/52	**Project updates** 52.1 LHFIG - A345 safety – request for priority system Clerk reported attending a site visit in Oare on 7th August with Cllr JT and Mark Stansby, Senior Highways Engineer. Mark considered that the junction with Huish Lane was unsuitable for a priority system and would be unlikely to be approved by a safety audit. Mark would be willing to consider a priority working arrangement in the other narrow section, south of Rudge Lane, with a view to creating an on-carriageway footpath and will produce an outline drawing for the purposes of a Stage 1 Road Safety Audit to determine the merit of such a proposal. Subject to a positive report from the Safety Audit, he will produce an estimate for consideration by the LHFIG. The main challenge for the design team will be to accommodate a feature(s) without compromising access to and from private access points. The speeding problem through the 30mph Oare limit was acknowledged by Mark and discussed at the site meeting. It was noted that the monthly half hour police speed enforcement sessions regularly sanction at least ten vehicles, with the most recent session recording a speed of 55mph. Mark had suggested that other calming measures north of this location, on the approach to the Huish Lane junction, could include a new SID site. Subsequent to the site meeting, Clerk had conveyed this idea to Colin Gale of Rushall, who noted that the SID is already occasionally sited near the junction as part of the cooperative rota; further to inspection, Colin had advised that there is nowhere else with suitable access for him to attach and remove a SID on a regular basis. 52.2 LHFIG – to receive outcome of site visit to consider request from parishioners for pedestrian crossing between Wilcot Village Hall and Green Cllr RF reported a site visit on 8th August with Mark Stansby, with Cllr JE and Clerk also in attendance. Mark had agreed that a suitable solution could be found, which would not be too urban, and will produce a preliminary design and estimate for consideration by the LHFIG at the next meeting scheduled for 7th October. It was agreed at the site meeting that the preliminary design will consider the provision of a hard standing area with kerbs; consider drainage, as the ditch will need to be piped; consider the provision of "wood effect" bollards to highlight the crossing point; and consider the provision of a buff-coloured strip at the crossing point. In discussion, it was noted that the Wilcot crossing is likely to come to fruition before any further progress is made with safety improvements in Oare; it was noted that, although disappointing, this is inevitable due to the greater challenges presented by the A345 which require more consideration and thought. It was noted that Wiltshire Council has begun a consultation on its Freight Strategy; Clerk advised that the strategy assumes that no heavy traffic will be using the A345, with published maps showing the A346 as the intended route for lorries to reach Marlborough; it was noted that although the A346 leads directly to the trading estate in Marlborough, and Cadley is less populated than Oare, it is not ideal for heavy traffic with the tight bridge at the end of the Burbage bypass, and the steep hill on the approach to Marlborough. It was agreed to submit a response to the consultation, requesting information as to how Wiltshire Council intends to enact the strategy and prevent heavy traffic using the A345, other than relying on the railway bridge at Pewsey to deter through traffic from proceeding northwards at the King Alfred statue. (Post-	*RK/all*

	meeting correction – the published maps show only the Marlborough end of the A346 to be used, with HGVs expected to travel along the A4 from Beckhampton and Devizes.)	*RK*
	52.3 LHFIG – new SID pole for Alton Road Cllr RF reported that the new pole has been installed; Clerk to advise Colin Gale accordingly, so that this location can be added to the cooperative rota.	
	52.4 Wilcot bus stop Cllr JE had reported that complaints had been received about the risks to bus stop users posed by cars parked opposite. In discussion, it was noted that the bus stop was formalised in its present position so that younger passengers did not sit on the rails and hang over the ditch, besides being exposed to the traffic hazards associated with the junction near The Golden Swan. It was agreed that the cars creating risks at the present bus stop should be dealt with as part of the ongoing attempts to address irresponsible parking at the bridge (item 53.2), rather than considering them a reason to find an alternative location for the bus stop. Clerk reminded the meeting that future improvements to the bus stop are expected once the new bus stop team at Wiltshire Council is ready to process applications, the one for Wilcot hopefully being top of the list.	*NF/JT*
	52.5 Parish Strategy Item deferred until next meeting, when any proposals which may be presented can be discussed alongside the budget for 2027/2028.	*RF*
	52.6 Greensward update Cllr RF will visit the site to check for any works which may need doing.	
	52.7 Emergency Plan Further to items 26/30.5 and 26/42.6, the Plan had been publicised in the summer parish newsletter; no residents had come forwards to volunteer any resources or expertise. Clerk noted that the only relevant advice from the recent Cabinet Office guidance is to include reference to the national emergency alert service within parish plans.	*JE/RK*
	52.8 Footpath audit There have been no reported problems with rights of way. Cllr NR confirmed that the burst effluent pipe at Draycott is being addressed.	*RK*
	52.9 Defibrillators It was agreed to find out when the Stowell defibrillator had been purchased and consider repair, rather than replacement. All other defibrillators are operational.	
26/53	**Clerk's Report** 53.1 Parish Steward Clerk noted that the parish is currently being covered by a two-man team, with a new named allocated steward due to start in October. Tasks to be requested for the visit at the end of September include sweeping out the Oare bus stops and pavement, and clearing any vegetation from signs, washing where necessary.	
	53.2 Parking at Wilcot canal bridge Further to item 52.4, it was noted that obstructive parking has become somewhat of a problem once again. It was agreed that PCSO Mills should be asked to resume his patrols.	*RK*

	53.3 Police report The second quarter report is expected at the end of September, when it will be uploaded to the website and appended to these minutes. 53.4 Forth-coming road closures The C8 near Black Barn in Wilcot will be closed on 2nd October for surface works. The A345 at Clench Common will be closed for surface works on 3rd November. 53.5 Post box at Sunnyhill Lane There is no further update since item 26/43.5; it was noted that utility checks can take some time. 53.6 Road surface on C8 near Black Barn Clerk had reported this several times following complaints received; Highways will be closing the road on 2nd October to carry out surface repairs. Clerk will re-report the road surface at the western end of Alton Road near the new SID pole.	*RK* *RK*
26/54	**Exchange of information** An autumn newsletter will be prepared to remind residents about the litter picks on 17th/18th October; the ongoing problem of wet wipes in the sewers at the southern end of Oare; and the responsibilities of riparian owners, which have been summarised by PCAP and uploaded to the parish website. Cllr RF reported that six residents had responded to the Project Gigabit article in the summer newsletter, to register their interest. Cllr RF had liaised with Wiltshire Council, who had advised that due to low uptake from residents county-wide and little interest from suppliers in delivering the scheme, the project was not progressing. Cllr RF reported that Openreach has since expanded its rollout program, and the entire parish is now included for upgrade to fibre within the next few years. Clerk reported that resident Chris Nightall is reviewing and adding to his previous research into the names of the fallen on the Wilcot war memorial and will be willing to make the information available via the parish website in due course, for which gesture all present expressed great pleasure. Wednesday 30th September – WALC AGM – 6.30pm at Devizes Tuesday 6th October – WALC annual conference – all day at Swindon Wednesday 7th October – LHFIG – 2pm online – Cllr RF to attend Thursday 22nd October – PCAP – 7pm at Rushall Monday 2nd November – Area Board – 7pm at Woodborough Social Club Due to unforeseen circumstances, it was agreed to change the date of the January parish council meeting from Tuesday 12th to Monday 11th January 2027(*post-meeting note – the meeting date has been changed again, to Tuesday 5th January.)*	*RK* *RF* *RL* *NR* *RK/all*

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 2026/2027:

Monday 9th November 2026 - budget	Wilcot
Tuesday 5th January 2027 – precept (NB not Tuesday 12th)	Oare
Tuesday 9th March 2027	Wilcot
Tuesday11th May 2027 – annual meetings	Wilcot

Meeting closed at 8.00 pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Transaction Date	Transaction Type	Transaction Description	Debit Amount	Credit Amount	Balance @ bank	Income	Hire of halls	Grants (S137)	Community expenditure	Newsletter	Salary	Accountancy	Auditing	Admin	Subs	Transfers
Balance at 1 April 2026					1181.31											
01/04/2025	FPO	Clerk's salary (Mar)	255.28		926.03						255.28					
07/04/2025	PAY	Bank service charge	4.25		921.78									4.25		
21/04/2026	BGC	Wilts Council (precept) 1st inst.		7062.50	7984.28	7062.50										
24/04/2026	DD	Charlton Baker (accountancy)	18.00		7966.28							18.00				
05/05/2026	FPO	Heartbeat Trust (defib)	360.00		7606.28				360.00							
05/05/2026	FPO	Clerk's salary (Apr)	255.48		7350.80						255.48					
05/05/2026	FPO	Manningford PC (SID)	300.00		7050.80				300.00							
05/05/2026	FPO	Oare Village Hall (hire)	120.00		6930.80		120.00									
05/05/2026	FPO	WALC (subscription)	242.69		6688.11										242.69	
05/05/2026	PAY	Bank service charge	4.25		6683.86									4.25		
26/05/2026	DD	Charlton Baker (accountancy)	20.00		6663.86							20.00				
02/06/2026	PAY	Bank service charge	4.25		6659.61									4.25		
04/06/2026	TFR	To savings	4953.95		1705.66											-4953.95
08/06/2026	FPO	Community First (insurance)	472.46		1233.20									472.46		
08/06/2026	FPO	Clerk's salary (May)	255.28		977.92						255.28					
24/06/2026	DD	Charlton Baker (accountancy)	20.00		957.92							20.00				
29/06/2026	TFR	From savings		1000.00	1957.92											1000.00
06/07/2026	FPO	HMRC - tax/NI	4.60		1953.32						4.60					
06/07/2026	FPO	Clerk's salary (Jun)	255.28		1698.04						255.28					
06/07/2026	FPO	PCAP - grant	300.00		1398.04			300.00								
06/07/2026	PAY	Bank service charge	4.25		1393.79									4.25		
24/07/2026	DD	ICO	47.00		1346.79									47.00		
27/07/2026	DD	Charlton Baker (accountancy)	20.00		1326.79							20.00				
27/07/2026	FPO	CJ Bartlett - website hosting	132.00		1194.79									132.00		
27/07/2026	FPO	Wessex Print - newsletter	55.00		1139.79					55.00						
03/08/2026	PAY	Bank service charge	4.25		1135.54									4.25		
11/08/2026	FPO	Clerk's salary (Jul)	255.28		880.26						255.28					
24/08/2026	DD	Charlton Baker (accountancy)	20.00		860.26							20.00				
01/09/2026	PAY	Bank service charge	4.25		856.01											
Pending	FPO	Clerk's salary (Aug)	255.48		600.53						255.48					
Total			8643.28	8062.50		7062.50	120.00	300.00	660.00	55.00	1536.68	98.00	0.00	672.71	242.69	-3953.95

WILTSHIRE POLICE PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Wilcot, Huish and Oare

Quarter 3 2026

Crimes and incidents

Wiltshire Police record crimes and incidents in accordance with the National Crime and incident recording standards. Not all incidents that one would consider a crime are necessarily classified as a crime for recording purposes.

NB- The below statistics do not account for incidents that police respond to but do not need any formal follow-up. (Road traffic incidents, minor incidents of anti-social behaviour)

From **1st July 2026 – 30th September 2026**

1 crime and **3** incidents have been recorded in the Wilcot, Huish and Oare parish area.

Speed enforcement

The Speed Watch Enforcement Team have conducted at least **16** pro-active checks across the **Pewsey** sector over the last quarter including targeted activity at areas previously identified as a concern such as at various points on the A345 and A342 including Rushall, Upavon and Oare. As a result of this activity;

- **43** drivers have been offered to complete a speed awareness course.
- **11** drivers have been issued with a fine and points on their licence for excess speed.
- **1** driver has been summonsed directly to court.

Recent updates

- The summer period has been an extremely busy one for Wiltshire Police as a whole. Although the summer is typically our busiest period, alongside forces across the country, we have experienced significantly higher levels of demand than we would ordinarily expect or anticipate. In June this year, we recorded over 12,000 incident logs across Wiltshire - a 7.4% increase compared to the previous year and a 9.1% increase on 999 call volumes. During **Saturday 27th June 2026**, we experienced 578 calls to 999 – this is the highest volume of emergency calls in a 24-hour period we have ever recorded. The unprecedented levels of demand have also been felt by our emergency service colleagues at Dorset and Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service and the South West Ambulance Service, which has likely been exacerbated by the extremely hot weather conditions.

- Following third party concerns being raised in Marlborough, the team have been working with a local retailer and the licensing department to ensure that retail thefts that were previously going unreported to Police are now being correctly reported to allow for investigations to take place. We have since made several arrests in relation to juveniles being involved in the theft of items such as alcohol and the Youth Justice Service are currently assisting with specialist interventions to support the young persons involved. In addition, on 03/09/2026 a 57-year-old male was arrested in relation to a theft of alcohol from Waitrose, Marlborough on 22/08/2026 and for 3 x Fail to appear warrants relating to previous retail offences in Marlborough. The suspect was issued a 40-week custodial sentence, suspended for 12 months.

- In September, Wiltshire Police supported the national 'Rural Crime Week of Action' with a programme of targeted enforcement, prevention and community engagement activity designed to protect rural communities, disrupt organised criminality and prevent acris across the county. The force have now embedded dedicated officers trained in wildlife and heritage crimes within local policing teams. Over the past two years, Wiltshire Police have;

- Made 44 arrests linked to rural crime offences
- Charged 38 offenders with various offences
- Seized 19 vehicles linked to rural crime activity
- Increased arrests/charges and vehicle seizures relating to rural crime by more than 500% over the past four years.

- Local Neighbourhood Police Officers from the **Devizes Area Neighbourhood Team** have also attended key local events such as the **Devizes**, **Aldbourne** and **Pewsey Carnivals**. All were extremely well attended, and we would like to thank our communities for their efforts in arranging and supporting such important community events. Officers will also be in attendance at events happening in the near future including the **Marlborough Mop Fayres** and **Remembrance Sunday Parades** across our area.

Community consultations

Further community engagements happening in the local area will be advertised in due course. If you are aware of any other local community events in the area, please let us know via our email address- **devizesareanpt@wiltshire.police.uk**

The **Devizes Area Neighbourhood Team** are next due to have use of the **Mobile Police Station Vehicle** from the week commencing **Monday 19th October 2026**. Throughout the week the vehicle will be utilised across the **Devizes, Marlborough and Pewsey** areas and

details regarding the timings and locations will be shared on our Facebook and Community Messenger sites in due course.