



Welcome from the Chairman

This year has been busy for the Council and it has been difficult to get out and about to talk to Parishioners; I hope that next year will bring us all some respite from The Pandemic. I would urge you to take heed of scientific advice regarding yours and others health and safety. We all have personal responsibility to look after our fellow residents as well ourselves. I would like to thank the small army of residents who have helped others this year, with everything from shopping for others to maintaining the Greensward.

I wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Safe, Healthy, Happy New Year.

Councillor Dee Nix

Christmas Waste Schedules

Waste and recycling collection dates will not change over the Christmas and New Year period, as waste collection crews will be working as normal on Bank Holidays Monday 27 December, Tuesday 28 December 2021, and Monday 3 January 2022.

Garden waste collections will stop for two weeks over the festive period. The last collections will take place on Friday 24 December, and they will restart on Monday 10 January 2022.

Household recycling centre (HRC) opening times and dates will change over the Christmas and New Year period and residents are advised to check online at

<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/household-recycling-centres>

before visiting one of the centres.

Landowners' Responsibilities

Once again, the Parish Council would like to remind landowners of the importance of keeping ditches and gullies clear; the Parish Council regularly requests Wiltshire Highways to deal with those for which Wiltshire Council is responsible. Similarly, the Parish Council acts as a mediator with Highways over public rights of way but a well-maintained footpath network is only possible if landowners do their bit too!

Parish Council Meetings

The Parish Council meets about every eight weeks and a meeting agenda is published at least three days beforehand. This is available to view at <http://wilcotandhuish-pc.gov.uk/> and hard copies are placed on the noticeboards.

If you ever require clarification about any item on a meeting agenda - or about anything else - please feel free to contact the Clerk in the first instance.

Wiltshire Highways Devolution

Wiltshire Council currently has a contract with [Idverde](#) for much of its routine maintenance work. This contract ends in November 2022 and parish councils will be expected to make their own arrangements instead. For small parishes like ours, this will not mean much more than paying for the communal litter bins to be emptied and some verge cutting.

Wiltshire Highways will continue to do what it is legally obliged to do, which will include keeping the splays at road junctions mown.

At present it is unclear exactly how much work the Parish Council will need to fund but a small allowance will need to be made in the budget for next year, since the part of the Council tax that residents pay to Wiltshire Council for this work will NOT be devolved to Parish Councils.

Planning Applications

As the planning authority for this parish, Wiltshire Council is legally obliged to invite the Parish Council to comment on planning applications. The Parish Council is always glad to hear from parishioners about planning applications and reflect their concerns in its responses. However, as any responses the Parish Council may submit to Wiltshire Council carry no more weight than those submitted by individual parishioners, it is important that, if possible, parishioners do take the time to submit their own comments. This is easy to do on the Wiltshire Planning Portal <https://development.wiltshire.gov.uk/pr/s/> where you can search for applications by keyword or address.

Do ask the Clerk if you have any questions about using the portal.

Forthcoming roadworks

Dates are provisional, subject to weather conditions:

The A345 in Oare will be closed on 4th January for urgent cutting back of dying ash trees between Pound Lane and Latenbury.

The C8 will be closed at Alton Priors for three days from 12th January for Openreach work between 9.30am and 3.30pm.

The C8 Wilcot Road will be closed between Cross Hayes and the West Stowell turning for three days from 24th January for surfacing works between 8.00am and 6.00pm.

Additional information about roadworks

Wiltshire Council is now publicising road works and road closures on <https://one.network/> where anybody can search for planned road closures.

CIL – Community Infrastructure Levy

As a consequence of the planning permission granted for the new house built at Draycott in 2017/2018, the parish is in receipt of a one-off windfall of £3155.62. The Parish Council will need to account for how this is spent on improving the local infrastructure and the Parish Council would be glad of suggestions! Please send any suggestions for consideration to the Clerk in the first instance.

Community Speedwatch

Anybody interested in joining the teams of volunteers in either Wilcot or Oare should contact the Clerk for more information and so that training can be arranged.

Covid-19 support contacts

Wilcot: If anybody has stepped in already, or would like to take the lead in Wilcot, please contact the Clerk.

Oare: Jon Ford – 01672 564964

jon.ford@me.com

Huish: Dawn Wilson – 01672 563917

dawn.wilson@wilcotandhuish-pc.gov.uk

Vacancies

There are two vacant seats on the Parish Council; if anybody is interested in joining the council, please contact the Clerk in the first instance. The council meets approximately seven times a year, usually on a Tuesday at 7.30pm, either in Wilcot or Oare.

Your Parish Council

Chair: Dee Nix

Vice Chair: Dawn Wilson

Any communication should be addressed to the

Clerk: Ruth Kinderman

clerk@wilcotandhuish-pc.gov.uk

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