



Minutes of the Wilcot, Huish and Oare Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 5th May 2026 at 7.00 pm in Oare Village Hall

Present: Parish Councillors Jamie Ede (Chair), Richard Fleet, Nicky Fleet, Jon Thompson, Richard Lewis, and Neil Ridgway
Unitary Councillor Paul Oatway
Clerk Ruth Kinderman
Resident Kate Weir

1. To receive apologies for absence

Wiltshire Police – PC Jason Steele and PCSO Jonathan Mills

2. Introduction and Welcome

Jamie Ede welcomed everybody to the meeting with a reminder that the Annual Parish Meeting is the legally-constituted opportunity for residents to raise any matters of concern or interest; it is distinct from a meeting of the parish council.

3. To review minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 29th April 2025

The minutes had been reviewed and were available for perusal at the meeting. There were no outstanding matters to be addressed.

4. Annual Report to parishioners by the Chairman of the Parish Council

Jamie Ede presented his report to the meeting and it is attached as an appendix to these minutes. Three matters in particular were noted: lorries continuing to use Hare Street; the need for enhanced road markings at Cross Hayes for southbound traffic, with northbound signage considered to be adequate; and the ongoing expense of maintaining the Greensward relative to its use.

5. Report from Wiltshire Unitary Councillor Paul Oatway

CLlr Oatway reported that the recently approved 2026/2027 budget for Wiltshire Council has made cuts to funding in several departments. On the other hand, central government is making finance available to local councils nationwide to assist those on benefits, or otherwise in need, with food and heating oil costs; Wiltshire Council is in receipt of £100million from central government for its Crisis Allocation Fund. CLlr Oatway noted that there is no indication from government as to where these funds are coming from.

Recent changes by Wiltshire Council which will impact residents of this parish include: a 25% increase in car parking charges, with chargeable hours expanding to 7am until 7pm, with the addition of Sundays; the introduction of weekly food waste and three weekly residual waste collections in 2027; the cancellation of the PEAS scheme whereby parishes could collect sand bags, gel sacks, and additional grit; online booking for use of Household Recycling Centres; and the intention to install wind turbines in the county.



Cllr Oatway reported that the Area Board system has been reviewed and will move to three meetings per year, rather than the current four; LHFIFG meeting frequency will be reduced likewise. The LHFIFG budget has been reduced by 50%; Cllr Oatway advised that, as a result, most projects will only be able to progress by way of the Substantive Highway Scheme Fund. It is unclear to what extent the parish steward scheme will be impacted by the budget cuts; it was noted that the stewards are tasked to drive the grit lorries during winter and are therefore indispensable.

Cllr Oatway reported that the devolution agenda is progressing and that by the end of the year there should be a clearer picture as to the outcome of the proposals for the Heart of Wessex Mayoral Strategic Authority, incorporating Wiltshire, Dorset, North Somerset, and Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole.

In his role as Chairman of the Dorset and Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service (DWFRS), Cllr Oatway reported that the proposals to close eight fire stations (four in each county), including Ramsbury, are currently open to public consultation. Cllr Oatway noted that DWFRS has had its Rural Services Grant removed by central government, resulting in a budget cut for DWFRS of £1.5million.

Jamie Ede thanked Cllr Oatway for his report and for all his efforts supporting this parish during the last year.

6. Forum for parishioners to raise any other matters of interest

Introducing herself as a long-term parishioner of twenty years, Kate Weir noted that mementoes left in the Wilcot cemetery can be blown around by the wind, and also become tatty with the passage of time. All agreed that it is important to keep the cemetery tidy, whilst respecting the needs of the bereaved; as Wilcot Churchwarden, Jamie Ede advised that this matter needs to be addressed by the Parochial Church Council. Kate agreed to refer the matter accordingly.

Kate drew attention to the poor state of the C8 Wilcot Road by Black Barn; it was noted that these pot holes have been reported several times.

As a keen voluntary litter-picker, Kate expressed concern about the high speed of traffic in the parish; it was noted that this is an ongoing matter being addressed by the parish council. It was noted that a litter pick had not been held this spring; it was agreed that a village litter pick should be held in the autumn and that temporary signs advising drivers of the presence of litter-pickers should be used to alleviate the speed problem.

7. Refreshments

Jamie Ede thanked everybody for coming to the meeting and all enjoyed a variety of drinks and nibbles provided by the parish councillors.



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