

WILCOT, HUISH and OARE PARISH COUNCIL

Local Government Act 1972

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held in Oare Village Hall on Tuesday 5th May 2026,
following the annual parish meeting at 7.00pm

Present: Parish Councillors Jamie Ede (Chair), Richard Fleet, Nicky Fleet, Jon Thompson, Richard Lewis, and Neil Ridgway
Clerk Ruth Kinderman

26/22	<p>To receive apologies for absence Unitary Councillor Paul Oatway</p>	
26/23	<p>To elect a chairman for 2026/2027 Clerk invited nominations to the chair for the forthcoming year. Cllr NR proposed that Cllr JE be re-elected; seconded by Cllr NF with no objections. Cllr JE took the chair with thanks.</p>	
26/24	<p>To elect a vice-chairman for 2026/2027 Cllr RF proposed that Cllr NR be re-elected; seconded by Cllr RL with no objections, and accepted with thanks by Cllr NR.</p>	
26/25	<p>To receive declarations of interest Cllr JE – item 29 – PL/2026/02882</p>	
26/26	<p>To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 10th March 2026 Cllr RF proposed that these be approved as an accurate record of the meeting; seconded by Cllr JT with no objections and signed accordingly by Cllr JE.</p>	
26/27	<p>Public question time No residents were present and no matters had been raised other than those discussed in the preceding annual parish meeting.</p>	
26/28	<p>Finance</p> <p>28.1 To Receive the Budget and monitoring report 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>28.2 To approve invoices due It was noted that an invoice has not yet been received for reinstating the fence and gate at the Greensward; Cllr NR will remind the contractor. An invoice to Wessex Print will be due once the summer parish newsletter has been prepared. The invoice of £360.00 (£300.00 including delivery, plus £60.00VAT) for the new defibrillator battery at West Stowell is awaited.</p> <p>28.3 To receive insurance quotes The renewal price from Community First has not yet been received; the policy expires on 9th June. A decision will be taken by email once a renewal price is received.</p> <p>28.4 To consider quote for cleaning and re-lettering war memorial Further to previous complaints and subsequent discussion by the parish council about restoring the lettering on the Wilcot war memorial, a quote had been obtained and passed to the Wiltshire Conservation Officer for comment. The quote of £974.00 was for cleaning and lettering, with the lettering component of the quote priced at £299.00.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">NR</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RK/all</p>

WILCOT, HUISH and OARE PARISH COUNCIL

	<p>Clerk reported that the Conservation Officer had expressed concern at the memorial being cleaned again so soon after the 2019 restoration work and advised that at least three quotes should be obtained, with samples of work viewed prior to a final order being placed. The Conservation Officer had specifically referred to the recent re-inscription on the Pewsey King Alfred statue, which had been deemed of an unsatisfactory standard. It was noted that the Conservation Officer had not responded to requests for advice about the lettering when approached by the Clerk in 2024. It was agreed that further advice about reinstating the memorial lettering should be sought from Historic England and the War Memorials Trust.</p> <p>28.5 To note internal audit report/progress Further to item 26/17 on 10th March, Cllr NF reported that Doug Bradshaw is willing to complete the internal audit and will do so shortly, for presentation to a meeting of the parish council to be held in June. Cllr NF will invite all councillors to access the Dropbox folder of invoices she has prepared for the audit. It was noted that the only matter raised during the Internal Audit for 2024/2025 was the relatively high amount of reserve funds held. It should be clear from meeting minutes that funds were held for A345 safety improvements and the Sunnyhill bus stop, and in readiness for defibrillator replacement and Greensward maintenance.</p> <p>28.6 To approve 2025/2026 Certificate of Exemption (AGAR page 3) Cllr NF noted that as both income and expenditure for 2025/2026 were below the threshold of £25,000.00, the parish council may exempt itself from Limited Assurance Review by PKF Littlejohn, who hold the contract for smaller authority audits at present. Clerk reminded the meeting that the parish council may choose to undergo a Limited Assurance Review if they wish, the fee for which is £210.00. Cllr RL proposed that this council exempt itself from Review; seconded by Cllr RF with no objections.</p> <p>28.7 To approve AGAR 2025/2026 Section 1 Governance Statement Cllr NF read each statement to the meeting, noting especially the new Assertion 10 relating to Digital and Data Compliance. Cllr NR proposed that the Statement be approved, with all assertions answered positively. Seconded by Cllr JT with no objections.</p> <p>28.8 To approve AGAR 2025/2026 Section 2 Accounting Statements This item will be postponed until the meeting to be held in June; Cllr NF and Clerk to ensure the Asset Register is up to date.</p>	<p>RK</p> <p>NF</p> <p>RK</p> <p>RK</p> <p>NF/RK</p>
26/29	<p>Planning Applications and Enforcement To note progress of planning applications previously considered:</p> <p>29.1 PL/2024/09344 - Huish Down Farm, Oare - Demolition of existing buildings; erection of replacement dwelling etc; change of use of land from agricultural to residential. Clerk reported that the Planning Officer had advised that revised plans uploaded to the planning portal on 19th February were in response to Wiltshire Council's request for revisions with regard to the scale of the proposed replacement dwelling. The Planning Officer intends to carry out a further re-consultation once the agent for the applicant has submitted some further ecological information. <i>(Post-meeting note – this application has been withdrawn by the applicant.)</i></p> <p>29.2 PL/2026/00194 - Astra Cottage, Oare - Demolition of existing dwelling and associated outbuildings and erection of a replacement dwelling; with associated parking, landscaping, private amenity space and access arrangements.</p>	<p>RK</p>

WILCOT, HUISH and OARE PARISH COUNCIL

	<p>Continued liaison between the Drainage and Ecology teams and the Planning Officer means that Wiltshire Council is now due to publish a decision on 4th June.</p> <p>29.3 PL/2026/00826 - Rainscombe Park, Oare - Listed building consent (Alt/Ext) - repair and replacement of existing windows. This application has been approved by Wiltshire Council since the last meeting.</p> <p>29.4 PL/2026/00830 - Rainscombe Park, Oare - Listed building consent (Alt/Ext) - replacement cupola This application has been approved by Wiltshire Council since the last meeting.</p> <p>29.5 PL/2026/01423 – 6 Portway, Oare – fell conifer This application has been approved by Wiltshire Council since the last meeting.</p> <p>To review and provide feedback on new planning applications from Wiltshire Council (Town and Country Planning Act 1980, schedule 1, para 8)</p> <p>29.6 PL/2026/02217 - West Stowell House, West Stowell, Marlborough, SN8 4JU Proposal - Installation of a freestanding Greenhouse to replace an existing Greenhouse. Comments by 12th May. It was agreed to submit no objection.</p> <p>Planning Applications and Notices received since publication of the agenda were:</p> <p>PL/2026/02882 - HOLY CROSS CHURCH, WILCOT, SN9 5NS Proposal - Cypress tree – fell It was agreed to submit no objection.</p> <p>PL/2026/02869 - OARE HOUSE, RUDGE LANE, OARE, SN8 4JQ and 1 NEW STOCK COTTAGES, OARE, SN8 4JA Proposal: Oare House stable yard - Prunus tree (dead) - fell Oare House Walled Garden - Irish Yew tree (diseased) – fell. 1 New Stock Cottages - unspecified tree - reduce crown to where previously pruned to free BT cables. A decision notice had been received from Wiltshire Council advising that these works related to dead and dangerous trees and were not open to consultation. Replacement planting has been requested by the Planning Officer.</p> <p>PL/2026/02521 - Section 37 Notification - Overhead Lines Electricity Act Site Location: End House, Oare, Marlborough, SN8 4JA Proposal: This scheme includes alterations to the high voltage (HV) overhead lines at End House, Oare, including the removal of several overhead spans and their replacement with underground cables.</p>	<p>RK</p> <p>RK</p>
26/30	<p>Project updates</p> <p>30.1 LHFIG - A345 safety – request for priority system It was noted that the project is likely to be on hold until further details of the LHFIG budget for 2026/2027 are available. Mark Stansby, Senior Highways Engineer will arrange a site visit in due course. Cllr JT noted that residents are more sympathetic to precept increases when there is a definite target; Cllr NR noted that the precept had been raised for 2025/2026, and held at this level for 2026/2027, in order to address safety matters along the A345. It was agreed that the parish should be open-minded about the possibility that a higher-than-expected contribution will be required from the parish to complete a priority system, and that a bid may be required to the Sustainable Highways Scheme Fund.</p>	

WILCOT, HUISH and OARE PARISH COUNCIL

<p>30.2 LHFIG - to consider request from parishioners for pedestrian crossing between Wilcot Village Hall and Green The site visit from Mark Stansby will be arranged in due course. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to the Wilcot Cricket Club, reminding them of the need to consider residents and pedestrians when parking along the road. It was noted that the parking is worse when the Village Hall is in use; it was agreed that the Cricket Club should be asked to book the Hall for its sessions, to ensure sole use of the car park.</p>	<p><i>RK</i></p>
<p>30.3 LHFIG – new SID pole for Alton Road The w3w reference of the proposed location has been passed to Mark Stansby and will be discussed further at the LHFIG meeting to take place on 13th May.</p>	
<p>30.4 Greensward update – request for communal vegetable growing PCAP is asking parishes whether there are any suitable sites for community vegetable growing groups; it was agreed that the Greensward is too shady and impractical, with no parking or suitable access for the gardeners, and no water supply other than the pond.</p>	<p><i>RK</i></p>
<p>30.5 Emergency Plan Cllr JE and Clerk had met to consider the template plan agreed on at the previous meeting of the parish council. Cllr JE noted that the parish council has no statutory duty to have a Plan. Cllr JE and the Clerk had agreed to submit a question to the Resilience Team at Wiltshire Council about liability for volunteers and the parish council in the event a plan has been formally approved; a response has not yet been received. Clerk advised that new guidance relating to community emergency planning has been recently released by the Cabinet Office and that circulating the draft plan should be deferred until the guidance has been reviewed for anything relevant to this parish. Cllr JE suggested that the most likely emergency for action at parish level would be a prolonged power outage, in which the Village Halls could be used as hubs to provide light and warmth for those residents affected, on the assumption that each site had a generator.</p>	
<p>It was agreed to advertise the project in the forthcoming summer parish newsletter and ask residents to consider volunteering for inclusion in the plan any skills and assets they may be willing to contribute in the event of an emergency.</p>	<p><i>RK</i></p>
<p>30.6 Footpath audit A fallen tree across WIHU9 at Huish had been reported. Cllr NR to follow this up with the landowner; Clerk to contact the landowner should the path remain blocked.</p>	<p><i>NR/RK</i></p>
<p>30.7 Defibrillators New electrode pads had been received and inserted into the defibrillators at Huish, Oare and Wilcot. A new battery has been ordered for the West Stowell defibrillator.</p>	
<p>30.8 Wilcot noticeboard It was agreed to defer making an application to the Area Board for a grant towards a new board until a further attempt at repairing the hinges as been made. Cllr RF to ask a local resident who may be able to assist.</p>	<p><i>RF</i></p>
<p>30.9 Wiltshire Project Gigabit Cllr RF reported that this project is open for applications until the end of August. The project is to enable more properties to benefit from Fibre to the Premises (FTP) than are</p>	

WILCOT, HUISH and OARE PARISH COUNCIL

	<p>currently included in the Openreach schedules. Provided sufficient 'out of scope' households within a certain area commit to signing up for fibre once it is installed, the government will offer vouchers to those households to enable fibre providers to proceed with the installation. Cllr RF advised that the scheme is similar to that which expedited the installation of Fibre to the Cabinets (FTC) a few years ago. It was agreed that the scheme should be advertised in the forthcoming summer parish newsletter and relevant information uploaded to the website.</p>	RK
26/31	<p>Review Standing Orders and Financial Regulations Current Orders and Regulations had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. It was agreed that no amendments were necessary.</p>	RK
26/32	<p>Clerk's Report</p> <p>32.1 Parish Steward It is hoped that following many months of deployment to gritting and pot hole filling duties, the steward schedule will resume in June, once all employees have completed the visibility splay strimming during May. It was noted that the previous steward for this parish has left the contracting company; details of his replacement are not yet known, but parishes are requested by Highways to submit full location information including w3w references for all tasks while the new steward familiarises himself with the area.</p> <p>32.2 Parking at Wilcot canal bridge Following complaints from residents about dangerous parking over the canal bridge, Clerk had referred the matter to the police, who had recalled the previous occurrences two years ago. The police will conduct patrols when opportunity allows, to prevent the problem escalating as last time.</p> <p>32.3 Police report The police report for January to March had been circulated to all councillors and uploaded to the website.</p> <p>32.4 Forth-coming road closures Friday 15th May – Ladybird Lane closed for surface works for up to three days Tuesday 26th – Friday 29th May – A345 through Oare variously closed or subject to traffic control due to Wessex Water and Openreach works. Clerk has advised Highways and Streetworks of the need to ensure HGVs are diverted off the A345 well before they reach Rudge Lane, to prevent the chaos which ensued last time the A345 was closed at this location.</p> <p>32.5 Post box at Sunnyhill Lane Residents had met with Dave Jones, Royal Mail Collections Manager, who had taken several photographs and agreed with residents that the new post box is not in an ideal location, and would be better sited on the east side of the A345 by the Sunnyhill Lane junction. He will report back to residents once he has held further discussions with his colleagues.</p>	
26/33	<p>Exchange of information Wednesday 13th May – LHFIG meeting 2pm online – Cllr JT to attend Monday 8th June – Area Board 7pm – Great Bedwyn Thursday 16th July – PCAP 7pm – Shalbourne Village Hall</p> <p>Clerk reported that PCAP is currently corresponding with Highways, Waste and Flood teams at Wiltshire Council to address matters of concern in the Pewsey Area.</p>	

