

WILCOT and HUISSH (with OARE) PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council
Oare Village Hall, Wednesday 11 December 2013, at 19.30.

Present:

Councillors: Dr J C Bouch, Mr L Giddings, Mrs D Nix (Chair), Mrs N Fleet, Mr R Fleet, Mrs A May (Clerk), Mrs P Smith and Ms D Wilson.

In attendance:

Councillor Paul Oatway, Wiltshire Council, 7 members of the public.

Actions

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr C Bartlett

2. Declarations of Interest on any agenda item to be discussed

Every Councillor has a declaration of interest in the precept.

3. Chairman's Announcements

Parish Councillors enjoyed a visit to Sharcott Pennings dairy, in line with their commitment to engage with the community. Councillors had a tour of the dairy and discussed Rights of Way on Stowell land, explaining their proposed method of dealing with issues as they arise, and in consultation with all parties, rather than complaints to County. With reference to item 8.1 in the previous minutes, Gavin Davies confirmed that the total number of journeys by farm vehicles through Wilcot has reduced since the dairy opened. The dairy will be open to the public as part of the Open Farm Weekend in June and the farm manager is keen to attract as many visitors as possible. They have also entertained visits from schools and groups (e.g. Scouts) and would be pleased to hear from any other groups who would like to visit. Council expressed thanks to Gavin Davies for his hospitality.

4. Public question time

The members of the public were in attendance for specific items on the agenda and therefore no additional questions were raised.

5. Minutes of the meetings of 19 November 2013, and action reports

There were no action reports from the meeting of 19 November and the minutes were adopted as a true record of the meeting without amendment.

Proposed: Cllr R Fleet **Seconded:** Cllr D Wilson

6. Rights of Way

- 6.1 The Chairman and Clerk had a meeting with Mr Hiscox of Rainscombe Park on 26 November as a number of complaints had been received; some gates have been replaced with styles and are not accessible by dogs or those with reduced ability, signposting is overbearing and not in keeping with an AONB, estate staff have been intimidating.

Mr Hiscox, the Chair and Clerk toured the estate looking at the footpaths in question and were in agreement that some routes were possibly obsolete. Mr Hiscox was prepared to hear suggestions from residents and to accept alternatives where all agree.

Mr Hiscox was informed of reports of negative behaviour by Rainscombe staff. The Chairman reminded the meeting that the police 101 system is

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for reporting issues or concerns; the police can't act if they aren't aware of a situation. If anyone feels threatened or is worried about their safety, the 999 service should be used.

The meeting consulted the current ROW map and a number of suggestions were made. Clerk to arrange a meeting with the ROW officer to progress discussions. Clerk/
Chair

The meeting agreed that they would like to arrange a walk around these footpaths as it is particularly pleasing countryside.

7. Budget and Monitoring

- 7.1 Cllr N Fleet distributed copies of the financial status up to 4 November. The accounts are currently showing all the contributions for the defibrillators which will be reversed out once they are purchased. Cllr Fleet will hand over to the new Clerk following this meeting.
- 7.1.1 Cllr Wilson mentioned that defibrillators should be sited on community owned buildings (e.g. Village halls) rather than private buildings.
- 7.2 The meeting discussed whether to increase the precept. The Council expressed concern that little had been done for the parish in recent years and felt that an increase in precept would allow projects to go ahead that would demonstrate value for money for residents. There is good indication that precepts will be capped in 3 years and Parish Councils have been strongly advised to increase precepts this year.
Resolution: that the precept be increased by £1,000 to £5,500.
Proposed: Cllr D Wilson **Seconded:** Cllr P Smith **Abstained:** Cllr C Bouch, all remaining Councillors in favour.
The precept has to be returned to Wiltshire by 21 January 2014 Clerk
- 7.3 Budget for 2014 will be deferred to next meeting, allowing Cllr N Fleet to work on the new figures. Cllr NF
- 7.4 The Clerk had tried to contact County regarding the legal responsibilities of the Parish Council for the cemetery at Wilcot, but had been unable to get a response; this investigation will continue. Clerk unable to find any agreement with the PCC in past minutes. The Council were concerned about the amount of money granted to Wilcot PCC compared to the PCCs at Oare and Huish. Mr Andrew Rae from Wilcot PCC was in attendance and explained a decision in December 1999 when the Parish Council agreed to fund 60% of the cost of cutting the cemetery grass. As this is a variable figure and out of control of the Council it was agreed that a percentage figure would be unwise. Following discussion the Council agreed to create a separate budget item for grounds maintenance to the value of £1500. This will cover grants to all three PCCs plus any additional projects that may be raised in the future. Awards made from this pot will be variable dependent on the number of applicants in any year. Clerk
- 7.5 Councillors made further suggestions for the project fund, including: hardstanding for children waiting for the school bus in Wilcot, flowers for the war memorial, work to the Oare village pond, a village pond for the green at Wilcot. All Councillors suggestions for projects to be forwarded to the Clerk for collation, with costings if possible. All Cllrs
- 7.6 Item carried forward to next meeting.
- 7.7 Item resolved at the last meeting and should not have been included in the agenda.

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8. Exchange of Information

- 8.1 Cllr Paul Oatway recommended that an Area Board grant be sought for the hardstanding for the school children, and he will support it. Cllr RF
- 8.2 Cllr N Fleet has left a message for Jane Lee from the Canal & River Trust inviting her to attend the next meeting. Cllr NF
- 8.3 Cllr C Bouch mentioned that some of the canal bank has fallen away near Cannings Cottage and he was recommended to report it. Cllr CB

9. Proposed items for next agenda

- 9.1 Letter from AES Europe Ltd re village ponds. Chairman to talk to Bob King. Chair
- 9.2 Parking on Wilcot bridge. Cllr Wilson to attend CATG for information. Cllr DW
- 9.3 A request from the floor to put camping and boating in Wilcot on the agenda, particularly in light of Wilcot being a conservation area. Clerk
- 9.4 Council considered that it was worth reviewing the Conservation Statement for each area. Clerk

10. Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 18 February 2014 at 19.30, Oare village hall.

The meeting ended at 21.25.

Additional diary dates:
Possible Christmas walk
Wilcot walk in January

Chairman:

Date: