

WILCOT and HUIISH (with OARE) PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
Wilcot Village Hall, Tuesday 13 January 2014, at 19.30.

Present:

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

In attendance:

Cllr Paul Oatway, Wiltshire Council (part meeting)
5 members of the public.

Actions

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Oatway late arrival due to attendance at another Parish Council meeting.

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

Cllr R Fleet – item 8.4, Cllr Wilson – item 10.

Additional planning application received subsequent to publishing the Agenda for which Cllr Smith has a declaration of interest.

3. Report from the Police

PC Richard Barratt sent apologies but his report was read in full by the Clerk and subsequently made available on the website.

Cllr Wilson added further that the police intend to hold more intensive days on speeding. 35 officers from neighbourhood police teams, traffic and Thames Valley Police were involved in the Road Safety Day on 26 November 2014. There is also a priority in reducing thefts from cars at beauty spots and she reminded residents to not leave valuables in vehicles and to call 101 to report any suspicious activity. The Chairman commented that it was good to hear that a significant level of resources was used, demonstrating that concerns were taken seriously. She added that the level of crime in the area remained low compared to other places.

4. Minutes of the last meeting – 18 November 2014

Clerk's action report circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting and made available to the public by request.

The Chairman updated item 8.3, that an initial meeting had been held between the Chairman, Cllr Paul Oatway and a Wilcot resident. A subsequent meeting was scheduled with the Chairman, Cllr Oatway, the landlord of the Golden Swan, the brewery and a representative of the Wiltshire Planning Department. Unfortunately the Planner was unable to attend and so the meeting is to be rescheduled.

Resolution: That the minutes be adopted as a true record of the meeting without amendment.

Proposed: Cllr R Fleet **Seconded:** Cllr Wilson All in favour.

The Chairman asked that the Council take time to read the minutes to ensure they are an accurate representation of a historical and legal record.

5. Budget and Monitoring

- 5.1 The Budget and Monitoring Report was circulated with the Agenda. All spend is as expected and within budget.
The Clerk gave three additional notes:

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The grant to Wilcot PCC had mistakenly been posted against Oare PCC on the budget sheet. This error will be corrected.

Clerk

The Wilcot bus stop project (line item 5.2) showed a spend of £300, which was not yet incurred but was a commitment to spend.

The lines of the defibrillator project costs (line item 5.1) were misleading in that they gave the total amounts that had been processed through the bank but this didn't reflect the contribution made to the project by the Parish Council. The Parish Council contributed £180 for Red Cross training for Oare School, and £400 which was the terms of the grant from British Heart Foundation. This will be amended.

Resolution: That, with a caveat to the above changes, the Budget and Monitoring Report be adopted.

Proposed: Cllr Bartlett **Seconded:** Cllr Lawson All in favour.

5.2 Precept

Last year the precept was increased by 22.2% which sounds a high percentage but did not equal a high monetary value. There were concerns about future capping and that a number of functions may be devolved from County in the future, for example verge grass cutting, mobile speed devices (SID) and the prospect of care of the elderly in the community. The Council budget and the cost of democracy is under control – thanks in part to the Clerk for additional hours and the village halls for keeping costs low. The Chair encouraged debate about increasing the precept. Potential future projects were discussed. The majority of Councillors felt that an increase of 10% was a practical preparation for the future.

Resolution: That the precept be increased by 10% to £6050.

Proposed: Cllr Wilson **Seconded:** Cllr Lawson. **Against:** Cllr Bouch All other Councillors in favour.

Clerk to complete the forms and return them to County.

Clerk

5.3 Review of Grant to Wilcot PCC

Mr Andrew Rae from the Wilcot PCC had made a submission, circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting, and also tabled additional documents. He explained that, thanks to the Living Churchyards and Cemeteries Project the costs for grass cutting had been considerably reduced this year, however he felt that next year's costs will be a more accurate reflection.

Council discussed whether the PCC should return the surplus or whether the grant for next year be the difference between the surplus and the costs for last year. Council were against the principle of creating a percentage formula as has previously happened, but were in favour of the PCC making a representation each year based on the previous year's costs at which stage the Council would discuss the value of the next grant.

Resolution: That a grant of £95 be made to the Wilcot PCC for 2015/16 as the difference between £275 surplus of the previous grant and £370 actual cost of grass cutting in 2014/15.

Proposed: Cllr Wilson **Seconded:** Cllr N Fleet All in favour

The PCC were congratulated on reducing the costs of grass cutting at the cemetery.

6. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman noted the closure of the French Horn, another local pub to close in recent months. It is rumoured that an independent owner may be sought to reopen it. She added that the recent article about the White Hart in the Gazette and Herald should have had a photograph of the previous landlords but was

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unfortunately timed. A complaint had been received about the satellite dish recently erected on the front of the building. Although it isn't listed, it is in a conservation area. The Chairman also wondered if change of use would need to be sought to a domestic dwelling.

Oare School has now achieved academy status. This brings mixed feelings; although it is good news for the school and may attract more pupils it will bring increased traffic. It is now a feeder school for St John's, which is good for pupils but may also be to the detriment of Pewsey School.

March 7 is the proposed date for village clean up day. Volunteers are sought and the Clerk will arrange to get litter picking equipment from Wiltshire Council. The Clerk to also explore the cost of buying some litter picking equipment for the parish.

Clerk

7. Public Question Time

There were no questions from the floor.

8. Current Parish Issues and Updates

8.1 Kennet and Avon Canal, Wilcot

CRT sent information about Quiet Zones and suggested Council make recommendations as to where they would like this implemented.

Council suggested that, as noise travels, it should extend to 100m past the houses on the canal. Council further suggested 2 visitor mooring

spaces be created. Clerk to inform CRT and PCAP so that a coordinated response be made. Meetings organised by CRT are ongoing and attended by some Councillors and the Clerk. Initial meetings were closed, but as they have become open meetings Clerk to advertise dates on the parish noticeboards.

Clerk

Clerk

8.2 Cross Hayes crossroads

The 'Give Way' sign has now been replaced and is at a lower height than previously, making it easier to see from car height driving uphill. The Chairman expressed thanks to Cllr Oatway for pursuing this issue through CATG.

8.3 Broadband and phone signal

Oare has been visited by the Vodafone survey team who are looking at two sites, the school and QED framing. A further visit to the school is planned to discuss further detail. In Wilcot 5 potential sites are suggested including the village hall and the church. A further visit is planned. A Rural Opensure Signal relay box, which acts like a mast for approximately 500m, will be placed on buildings, but it is noted this is for Vodafone signal only. This is making progress and thanks to Cllrs Lawson and Bartlett for pursuing this. Cllr R Fleet will raise this with Wilcot Hut and Green to see if they would approve a unit on the village hall.

Cllr CB

Cllr BL

Cllr RF

Roadworks at Oare and Wilcot mean that BT infinity is coming to the villages soon. When new cabinets appear at the roadside the connection will be imminent.

8.4 Lane to the rear of the village green, Wilcot

A letter was received from a resident, which was read out, however some content was disputed by attendees.

It was confirmed by Cllr Smith that, although the ditch appeared to have been filled in it would collect water and divert to a soakaway if the camber of the road worked.

The definitive map was consulted which showed that the lane is marked

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- as a footpath, implying that County are responsible for maintaining it. Cllr Wilson offered to follow this up and potentially seek funding from CATG for repairs. A similar footpath near Milton Lilbourne has recently been repaired although Cllr Oatway advised that the Parish Council contributed to the funding. One resident from the opposite (road) side of the green commented that the appearance of the lane is important to residents on this side of the green and to the whole village and that funds should be found to maintain it. Cllr DW
- 'No through road' signage still needs to be sited at the entrance to the lane.
- 8.5 Huish Streetlights
Cllr Bartlett applied before Christmas to have the Huish streetlights turned back on overnight. This hasn't happened yet and he has chased. This is as a result of suspicious activity early one morning. Cllr CB
- 8.6 Village Gateways
Information was received from a company which supplies village gateways. Clerk to research the costs. Clerk
- 8.7 Centenary Fields Programme
Information received about this programme which secures memorial parks, playgrounds and other spaces in perpetuity. Wilcot village green is already covered, the only other potential site may be the pond in Oare. The Chairman will talk to Mr Bob King about this, otherwise this programme was felt to not be applicable to the parish.
- 8.8 Wilcot War Memorial
The Clerk has chased a company she approached to quote for repairs. If nothing is heard she will source an alternative company. Clerk
- 9. Projects**
- 9.1 School bus stop, Wilcot
The Council have given their commitment to funding to Wiltshire, and await the work to be carried out. Cllr RF
- 10. To review and provide feedback on new planning applications from Wiltshire Council**
(Town & Country Planning Act 1980, sched 1, para 8)
- One application was received after the agenda was published.
- 10.1 Cllr Wilson declared an interest in this item and took no part in the discussion.
14/11544/FUL – Replacement and enlargement of existing garage and replacement of two ground floor windows to front elevation of dwelling. Porch Cottage, Huish.
There were no objections to this application.
- 10.2 Cllr Smith declared an interest in this item and took no part in the discussion.
15/00021/LBC – Demolition of rear conservatory and construction of rear single storey extension. 48 Wilcot Green, Wilcot.
There were no objections to this application.
- 11. Correspondence**
Clerk's correspondence report was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting, and will be made available to members of the public by request.
- Cllr Lawson commented that Mr Gavin Davies had been pleased to receive the

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thanks of the Council (item 6 of previous minutes).

12. Exchange of Information

- 12.1 Date of the Annual Parish Meeting. (Must be held between 1 March and 1 June). To be Thursday 23 April at Wilcot village hall.
- 12.2 Cllr R Fleet said that most of the new play equipment at Wilcot had been delivered and installed; this is in progress. He extended thanks to the Area Board who helped secure funding.
- 12.3 Parish Walk. A date to be agreed for another parish walk. Invite Mr Gavin Davies to walk. Suggestion to walk the footpaths in Rainscombe in order to familiarise Councillors with footpaths where issues exist (originally arising from complaints by Oare residents). The Chairman offered to arrange a date.

Cllr DN

13. Proposed additional items for next agenda

- 13.1 New play equipment, Wilcot – report.
- 13.2 Wilcot bus stop project – report.
- 13.3 Lane to the rear of the village green, Wilcot.
- 13.4 Parish walks.
- 13.5 Councillor CPD.
- 13.6 Budget.

14. Date and time of next meetings

Tuesday 17 March 2015 – Oare School

Tuesday 19 May 2015 – AGM – Oare Village Hall

Annual Parish Meeting – Thursday 23 April 2015 – Wilcot Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 21.45

Additional diary dates:

Village Clean Up Day – Saturday 7 March 2015

Chairman:

Date: