

WILCOT and HUIISH (with OARE) PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council
Wilcot Village Hall, Wednesday 5 August 2015, at 19.30.

Present:

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

In attendance:

Councillor Paul Oatway, Wiltshire Council, 3 members of the public.

Actions

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr P Smith apologised for late arrival.

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

Cllr Wilson 5.2.

3. Report from the Police – PC Richard Barratt

A report was not received from the police but will be made available on the web site when it is available. The Clerk informed the meeting of two scams that were notified; one selling fish in Wilcot, and one telephone scam in Pewsey.

4. Minutes of the last meeting – 26 May 2015

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

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

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

5. Budget and Monitoring Report

5.1 Budget and Monitoring Report

The Budget and Monitoring Report was circulated with the Agenda. All spend is to budget and as agreed. The internal audit has been completed for the last two financial years, and that is reflected in the figures. The Clerk suggested that, as it is a lot of work for the auditor, the Council consider increasing the amount paid when the next budget is discussed. The Annual Return was submitted and the external auditors had indicated that it would be approved with a few notes. SLCC membership was not renewed as it will be applicable to the new Clerk. A VAT claim has been submitted but nothing has been heard yet.

Resolution: That the Budget and Monitoring Report be adopted.

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

5.2 Application from PCAP for Funding

The Chairman read out an application from the Chairman of the Pewsey Community Area Partnership for funding to support them with their work for the community. The Council asked Cllr Wilson for further information regarding the set up of PCAP but she took no part in the discussion. As the Pewsey Area Board has now withdrawn funding, all parishes in the Pewsey Vale are being approached and one commitment had been received. The Council agreed that it would be appropriate to support PCAP. The Clerk informed the Council that £1250 remains from the precept after all budgeted items are accounted for, but that this sum would normally go to the project fund.

Resolution: That the sum of £150 be made to the Pewsey Community

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Area Partnership and that this be reviewed annually.

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

Cllr Wilson thanked the Council on behalf of PCAP. Clerk to make payment and adjust the budget sheet accordingly.

Clerk

6. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman reported that there had been an attempt to intimidate one of the Councillors acting on Council business. She considered that this was unacceptable and that a zero tolerance policy should be drawn up to protect Councillors, who are effectively volunteers supporting the community and are entitled to be treated with respect. On her recommendation the Councillor has reported the incident to the police and it is being progressed. The Council discussed the issue and, as a result, Cllr Oatway will make a request to Wiltshire Council that they take over the maintenance of the area around the new bus stop in Wilcot.

Cllr PO

The Chairman reported that Wilcot has won the first round of the Best Kept Village Competition and has come first in the eastern area. It will now be entered against the winners of the other three regions for the final of the county competition.

7. Additional Councillor Responsibilities

As Parish Council duties include the consideration of the impact of decisions on reducing crime and disorder in their area, and having regard to the protection of biodiversity in carrying out their functions, the Council considered that additional Councillor responsibilities be allocated.

7.1 Police and Crime Liaison

As Cllr Wilson attends PACCS meetings, she be appointed.

The Chairman questioned the increase of council tax for policing with regard to the reduction in the neighbourhood police team by the loss of the PCSO. Cllr Wilson said that the Police and Crime Commissioner would be attending the next PCAP meeting to answer that question.

7.2 Biodiversity Protection

As Cllr Wilson has PCAP responsibilities, she be appointed.

7.3 Tourism

As Cllr Wilson has involvement with the new Pewsey Vale Tourism Partnership, she be appointed.

Meeting arranged for 19 August to discuss Tourism. The Council should consider that facilities for tourism have a sustainable steady growth that feeds money into the community.

Clerk to update the list of responsibilities for the Transparency Policy.

Clerk

8. Public Question Time

No items were raised extra to agenda items.

9. Current Parish Issues and Updates

9.1 Kennet and Avon Canal, Wilcot

Cllr Bartlett has conducted a survey of boats from Wilcot bridge to the suspension bridge over a period of 17 weeks. Of 144 boats counted, 74 were live-aboard (i.e. not tourist) and of these 5 overstayed the two week period, one of which stayed for 11 weeks. This demonstrated that most boats observed the rules. There was some mess on the towpath but this was usually cleared up when the boats left the area. The Chairman asked that this information be passed to CRT.

9.1.1.1 Adopt a Canal Scheme

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- Volunteers to be sought via the newsletter and training to be arranged. Clerk to contact the Angling club to see if anyone would like to volunteer. Cllr NF
Clerk
- 9.2 Camp Site at the Golden Swan, Wilcot
Cllr R Fleet addressed the meeting with his concerns about the ongoing situation and said it was the view of the residents that the lack of action demonstrated that complaints were not being taken seriously. He has visited the site a number of times to corroborate complaints and on 14 occasions has counted pitches in excess of that stated in the Certificate of Lawfulness. Requests had been made to the Enforcement Officer to investigate but nothing has happened, despite assurance that it would. Camping by exempt bodies is difficult to observe and it had been agreed at the meeting in March that the landlord would provide details of the exempt bodies to the Enforcement Officer who, in turn, would provide them to the Parish Council to facilitate complaints to the individual organisations. No such information has been received.
The Chairman to write to Wiltshire Council Executive Director complaining about the lack of action by the Enforcement Officer and that the complaints of the residents and the Parish Council have not been taken seriously. If Wiltshire Council do not monitor the situation – including Friday and Saturday nights when the nuisance is at its worst, they will be unable to take any enforcement action. A letter also to be sent to the brewery as it owns the land and the Certificate of Lawfulness, and to Natural England.
There were also health and safety concerns about adequate supervision of children following a report of a student who had asked for help from nearby residents during the early hours of the morning, and also the accident in Wilcot which involved a group of young people who had been camping at the site.
Cllr Wilson had been informed that similar businesses in the Pewsey Vale were unhappy with the situation. PCAP to collate any complaints to support the Parish Council.
Resolution: That the Parish Council write in the first instance to the Executive Director of Wiltshire Council to complain about the lack of progress and asking for investigation and enforcement
Proposed: Cllr R Fleet **Seconded:** Cllr Smith All in favour Clerk
Chair
- 9.3 Broadband and Phone Signal
The top end of Oare now has an improved Vodafone signal, working well and reliable and was better than expected. The bottom end of Oare has no improvement. The signal at Wilcot had met with initial difficulty but was now working. Cllr Bartlett commented that Vodafone had been exemplary in his experience of them, including observing safeguarding at Oare School. Vodafone continue their dialogue with Planning departments to permit signal boxes on listed buildings. One resident offered to use his property to house a box for the church end of Wilcot.
Broadband boxes have been installed, and this had resulted in the road in Wilcot being dug up again. Cllr Lawson was not happy with her dealings with BT. The success will be measured when a customer in the village places an order for the service.
- 9.4 Rights of Way
There has been no further dialogue with Rainscombe about the ongoing issues and the Chair will contact the ROW officer. She will also report one of the footpaths in Oare which has become virtually impassable by overgrown hedges. Chair
- 9.4.1.1 The next village walk will take place in Wilcot on Sunday 23

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August at 2.00pm. Meet at the village hall. Clerk to inform Gavin Clerk
Davies.

9.5 Tourism Statement
Carry forward to next meeting, following the separate Tourism meeting.

9.6 Mobile Library
Consultation has now closed. No complaints had been received from residents.

10. Projects

10.1 Village Gateways

A meeting is to be arranged with Mr Newby to look at proposed sites and discuss costs. At present only Oare is being considered for gateways and a consultation with residents will take place once further information is received.

Clerk to inform Highways that the banks at the north end of Oare on the A345 are slipping since the trees have been cut back. Also complain about debris on the road at the Oare corner junction after any heavy downpour, and the lack of sweeping of the Oare footpath. Clerk

10.2 School Bus Stop, Wilcot

An allegation had been received that the bus stop had been built on private land. Clerk to write to the residents asking if they are able to provide evidence for this. If it is correct, to be reported to Highways to move the bus stop and the residents to be sent the ditches and watercourses information to clear the sump and drains. Clerk to also check with the Stowell Estate. Otherwise, this project is complete. Clerk

11. To review and provide feedback on new planning applications from Wiltshire Council

(Town & Country Planning Act 1980, sched 1, para 8)
No planning applications were received.

12. Correspondence

Clerk's correspondence report was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting, and was made available to members of the public by request.

13. Council Vacancies

13.1 Parish Clerk

The closing date had passed and one application was received.
Remuneration Committee to hold interview on Tuesday 11 August at 8.00pm.

13.2 Casual Vacancy for Councillor

An Oare resident would be preferred for this vacancy, and Oare residents will be given first opportunity to apply, following which it will be open to all residents. Clerk to post a notice in the Messenger. Clerk

14. Exchange of Information

14.1 Clerk had received information from a company who supply 30mph stickers for wheely bins. Information forwarded to Cllr Wilson for the attention of PCAP.

14.2 Cllr Bartlett will collect the bags of compost awarded by the Best Kept Village competition and will offer them to the school and the playgroup in the first instance, and any remaining to WAGS, Oare garden club, for use at the war memorial and the pub.

14.3 The new Connect2 bus timetable pilot commences 17 August. Cllr Wilson will be posting notices at the bus stops.

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15. Proposed additional items for next agenda

- 15.1 White Hart, Oare. Following the complaint to Wiltshire Council, the satellite dish had now been removed, and an enforcement notice issued about the change of use.

16. Date and time of next meetings

16.1 Council Meetings:

Tuesday 10 November 2015 – Oare Village Hall

Wednesday 2 March 2016 – Wilcot Village Hall

Wednesday 11 May 2016 – AGM – Wilcot Village Hall

Annual Parish Meeting - Thursday 14 April 2016 Oare Village Hall.

Planning Committee Meetings will be held as required.

Tourism Meeting – Wednesday 19 August 2015

Interview for new Clerk – Tuesday 11 August 2015

The meeting ended at 21.30

Chairman:

Date: