



## **Minutes of the Wilcot, Huish and Oare Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 30th April 2019 7.30 pm at Oare Village Hall**

**Present:** Dee Nix (Chair), Nicky Fleet, Dawn Wilson, Chris Bartlett, Clive de Carle, Anna Scott, Richard Fleet, Prue Smith, Richard Pearce, David Polding, Ruth Kinderman (Clerk to the Parish Council)

### **1. To receive apologies for absence**

Wiltshire Unitary Councillor Paul Oatway, PCSO Paul Whiteside, John Macauslan.

### **2. Introduction and Welcome**

Dee Nix welcomed everybody to the meeting; she explained the purpose of the meeting and how it differs from the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, to be held on 14<sup>th</sup> May.

### **3. Annual Report by the Chairman of the Parish Council**

Dee Nix presented her report, which is attached as an appendix to these minutes. She thanked all the villagers who volunteer in so many ways, several of them serving on more than one committee, and commented that volunteers are very good at getting things done.

Dee Nix drew attention to the My Wiltshire reporting system, via the website or as an App, through which residents can report all manner of highways problems directly to Wiltshire Council. The Clerk should also be notified in order that the Parish Council is aware of problems within the villages.

Volunteers to join the Speedwatch team are always welcome, particularly in Wilcot which currently only has two members. Anybody interested in joining, or even taking the lead, should contact the Clerk.

The village hall committees have worked incredibly hard, in terms of both physical labour and fundraising efforts; all present admired the refurbished surroundings of this evening's venue.

### **4. Update on Sunnyhill Lane road condition**

The road is almost impassable in places and mostly falls within the parish of Pewsey; it is a priority for the Community Area Transport Group. It is not a straightforward road maintenance task due to various drainage issues and the Highways department is working with landowners in order to try and resolve what is a more complex problem than many realise. However, it was noted that the situation is negatively impacted by the lane being used as a diversion route by the police (when accidents occur on any of the surrounding A roads), and by the Highways department during the annual Pewsey Carnival.



## **5. Update Pewsey Vale Historic Sites Project**

This project is now complete, with forty-two historical map and information boards installed in villages throughout the Pewsey Vale. The project was overseen by the Pewsey vale Tourism Partnership, with funding from the Pewsey Area Board. The boards can also be viewed online at <https://www.visitpewseyvale.co.uk/historical-map/>

## **6. Forum for members of the community to raise any matters of interest**

There was some discussion of the state of the path leading from the village hall to Huish Lane. Dee Nix explained that the parish steward had recently swept this path for the first time in four years but acknowledged that further work was needed, to cut back the overgrowing hedges. Reflective verge markers are shortly to be installed to protect the verge at the end of Huish Lane. Unfortunately, this is not possible in Rudge Lane due to the entire erosion of the bank.

Another topic under discussion was the apparent disappearance of insects, noticeable by the lack of bugs covering windscreens and headlights, in contrast to the situation a few decades ago. Several theories were aired as to the possible cause of this decline, such as agricultural chemicals and Wi-Fi, especially as the planned upgrade to a 5G system seems to involve removal of trees. It was noted that there has been a 25% decline in the global biomass of insects, and this has a negative impact on pollination and the available food supply for birds and bats.

Dee Nix thanked everybody for attending and invited them to enjoy refreshments in the new, larger, village hall kitchen.

## **Oare Huish and Wilcot History Projects Update**

Dee Nix explained that the project had been prompted by one of the conditions laid down by the Lottery Heritage grant given to Wilcot village hall. She explained that the work is very time-consuming, as sources have to be processed and copyright-checked before the arduous task of uploading items to the website. However, new items are being added all the time and she encouraged people to visit the website after browsing the many books and pictures on display tonight. This included the 1841 census for Oare and a power-point presentation of Huish since the Bronze Age.