



Minutes of the Wilcot, Huish and Oare Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 17th May 2022 at 7.00 pm in Oare Village Hall

Present:

Parish Councillors Dee Nix (Chair), Dawn Wilson, Richard Fleet, Nicky Fleet, Prue Smith, Jamie Ede, Kathryn Richardson and Richard Lewis
Unitary Councillor Paul Oatway
Clerk Ruth Kinderman
Resident Neil Ridgway

1. To receive apologies for absence

None.

2. Introduction and Welcome

Dee Nix welcomed everyone to the meeting and drew attention to the global situation, requesting all present to take a moment to reflect on populations being displaced and affected by the several current war zones.

3. To sign minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 18th May 2021

All present agreed that these were an accurate record of last year's meeting; they were signed accordingly by Dee Nix.

4. Annual Report to parishioners by the Chairman of the Parish Council

Dee Nix presented her report which is attached as an appendix to these minutes, and will be available to view on the website. She expressed her appreciation for Unitary Councillor Paul Oatway's support throughout the year, which was heartily seconded by all present.

There were no questions from the floor.

5. Report from Wiltshire Unitary Councillor Paul Oatway

Cllr Oatway focused on highway improvements, citing the various ongoing roadworks and diversions within the Pewsey Vale as evidence of the work that has been taking place during the last few months.

Cllr Oatway is due to attend a strategic meeting at Trowbridge with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Senior Highways engineers to discuss solutions to the heavy usage of the C52 and the accidents at the two crossroads along it, at Seven Wells and Cross Hayes. Discussions will not take account of funding, which will only be considered once a possible solution has been agreed.



The Community Area Transport Group (CATG) has been superseded by the Local Highways and Footpaths Improvement Group (LHFIG), with a renewed focus on footpaths and an increased annual budget of £500,000 which is double the previous £250,000.

Cllr Oatway reported that the Community Speedwatch (CSW) Team has recruited two further enforcement officers to join Scott Garcia. Cllr Oatway has advised the Police and Crime Commissioner that the expansion of the front line needs to be reinforced with additional back-office staff to avoid a backlog with processing local CSW group reports.

Cllr Oatway reported that the review of the National Model Code of Conduct is almost complete, with the Standards Committee (of which he is Chairman) ready to present its recommendations to full council. Whether Wiltshire Council will approve those recommendations and adopt the more stringent code remains to be seen; however, it is hoped that once Wiltshire Council has a new Code in place, it will be adopted by parish councils throughout the county to ensure consistency for all councillors, at both unitary and parish level.

Cllr Oatway noted that Covid-19 had cost Wiltshire Council several million pounds; he had personally ensured that every hospitality business in his division had not missed out on the £6000 grants available for that sector.

Richard Fleet said that the Wilcot Village Hall Committee was very grateful for the village hall grants received; Dee Nix knows that Oare Village Hall Committee were equally grateful.

Cllr Oatway said that Wiltshire Council had managed to balance its books after receipt of a £13million grant from central government. Expenditure this year will include £11m for adult and children's services with a further £20m pending; £308m on infrastructure, including projects arranged through CATGs/LHFIGs; £2m on Trowbridge High Street; £27m on council house improvements; and £46m on education and skills.

As Vice-Chairman of Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service (DWFRS), Cllr Oatway reported that annual precept increases are limited to 1.99%, with DWFRS on course to run out of money within two years. Initial savings will be made by reducing the number of engines within each station; fire station closures will have to be considered after five years, unless central government recognises the seriousness of the situation and allows Fire Services greater flexibility with their precept increases, in line with the uncapped precept powers already enjoyed by Police Commissioners.

Dawn Wilson will raise this matter at the next PCAP meeting.

Dee Nix thanked Cllr Oatway for his report.



6. To discuss CIL monies as previously publicised in newsletters

Dee Nix noted that this item has been widely publicised already, with little feedback; however, it is still important to discuss options with residents prior to making a final decision. It was unanimously agreed that the money should not be spent on things which are the responsibility of Wiltshire Council. It was agreed that a list of ideas already suggested, as recorded in parish council meeting minutes and in the newsletter, should be re-publicised and opinions sought on those options.

7. To discuss 'going green'

Dee Nix had been alerted to the possible downsides of the move to 'green' options by learning that an air source heat pump would not be sufficient to meet the needs of her household, especially in very cold weather. She had also learned that the local infrastructure would not be able to support every resident having an electric car, as the grid will not cope. It was agreed that SSE should be asked about any plans it may have to address an increase in the number of electric cars in this area. It was also agreed that surveys could be conducted among residents to find out how many are intending to 'go green', whether with electric cars, heat pumps, or solar panels. It was noted that solar panels are not possible on thatched homes, though wind turbines could be considered as an alternative.

Jamie Ede noted that listed buildings are not currently allowed to replace single glazing with double, which would be an obvious way to improve energy efficiency for these buildings. It was noted that insulation schemes are not practical for many smaller homes due to the reduced floorspace after installation.

It was noted with disappointment that the former proposal to provide hot water to Pewsey School from Sharcott Dairy had failed due to the railway in between the locations. Dawn Wilson said that the Pewsey Community Land Trust is now exploring the feasibility of solar panels for the school and leisure centre.

Clerk drew attention to a new Solar Collective being promoted by Wiltshire Council.

8. Forum for parishioners to raise any other matters of interest

No matters were raised, or questions asked.

9. Refreshments

Attendees enjoyed drinks before the Annual Parish Council meeting commenced at 8pm.