

# WILCOT, HUISH and OARE PARISH COUNCIL

## Local Government Act 1972

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Wilcot Village Hall  
on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2024 at 7.00 pm

**Present:** Parish Councillors Dee Nix, Dawn Wilson, Richard Fleet, Nicky Fleet, Prue Smith, Richard Lewis, Jamie Ede (until 8.00pm), Kathryn Richardson, and Neil Ridgway  
Clerk Ruth Kinderman  
Unitary Councillor Paul Oatway  
Police Constable Jason Steele  
Residents Tom Maidment, Richard Landick, Liam Telling, Bev McEnaney, Tessa Inge, Martin Fetherston-Godley, Nicky Sexton, Pam Kefford, Philip Ison, and Anna-Marie Miles.

24/38	<b>To receive apologies for absence</b> None.	
24/39	<b>To receive declarations of interest</b> Item 44.1 – Cllrs JE and PS. Item 46.1 – Cllrs RF and NF	
24/40	<b>To agree the minutes of the annual parish meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024</b> Clerk apologised for not bringing a copy in readiness for signing – item carried over to the next meeting.	RK
24/41	<b>To agree the minutes of the annual meeting of the parish council held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024</b> All agreed that the minutes were an accurate record; signed accordingly by Cllr DW, who had chaired the annual meetings.	
24/42	<b>Public question time</b> Comment from the floor noted that item 46.1 is relevant to many councillors and residents; long-serving residents asked the parish council to consider the matter in perspective, noting that twenty-five years ago there were no cars ever parked along the canal-side road. Residents believe the problem has grown as a direct result of the increase in cruising licences granted by the Canal and Rivers Trust (CRT). Residents appreciated that works by the Stowell Estate had reduced parking along the canal-side road but that the problem had now transferred to the bridge over the canal, where parked cars are restricting sight lines and likely to cause an accident. Residents recently observed eight cars parked on the approach to the bridge, with only two along the canal-side road. Cars have been parked on residents' driveways, impeding access, and residents expressed concern that agricultural vehicles may be unable to cross the bridge due to the obstructive parking. Residents noted that the parking spaces left along the canal-side road are not fit for purpose, due to the mud. Cllr DN reminded the audience that besides boaters/liveaboards there are many other canal users (anglers, walkers, Devizes-Westminster canoeists) who park in this part of Wilcot. Cllr DN noted that the parking associated with the Wilcot Cricket Club can also inconvenience many residents, although councillors noted that the Stowell Estate has attempted to alleviate this by making the field adjacent to the cricket ground available for parking. With regards to the muddy spaces, Cllr DN said that Clerk has recently heard that Wiltshire Highways may have some road planings available for parishes in October and has requested that this location take priority, having been waiting since 2019, including submitting a specific question about it at the Highways Matters Event in November 2023. Residents were unwilling to accept that visitors other than boaters may be parking on the bridge. Residents asked whether the existing white line could be replaced with double yellow lines. It was noted that this possibility has been investigated before and that Highways declined to consider it due to the legal costs involved.	

# WILCOT, HUISH and OARE PARISH COUNCIL

	<p>Cllr Oatway reported that he has discussed the current parking situation with Sergeant Chris Wickham; the police will issue advisory notices to cars parked on the bridge, or otherwise dangerously, followed up by monitoring and then fixed penalty notices (FPN) if necessary. Cllr Oatway will contact the CRT about what he believes may be deliberate dangerous parking, possibly done to inconvenience residents and exact revenge for the reduced parking availability along the canal-side road.</p> <p>PC Steele noted that there is clearly a problem which needs to be addressed but that a long-term solution will only be found with the involvement and cooperation of CRT. PC Steele said that FPN's incur a fine of £30.00 without any licence penalty points, which may not deter and may lead to a continuous cycle, with the problem displaced to alternative locations. PC Steele noted that there is less parking at Bristow's Bridge/Hare Street than some years ago; Cllr DN noted that the space nearest the canal had been filled in, with the remaining space a considerably further walk from vehicle to boat.</p> <p>Cllr NF displayed a copy of the 2002 Kennet District Council Conservation Area map, showing that the canal side road as far as Cannings Cottage is included in the Conservation Area; the parish council therefore has a duty to take care of it. Cllr NF read an extract from the Kennet Local Plan of 1997, which had noted the need for inevitable parking issues to be pre-empted in the event of increased canal use.</p> <p>Residents observed that more people are moving on to the canal, for all sorts of reasons. Cllr RF said that CRT should take responsibility for arranging parking, as a matter of service and courtesy to both their licence holders and residents of riparian villages.</p> <p>Cllr DN said that the parish council had set up a forum about ten years ago to facilitate communication between the CRT, riparian parish councils and all canal users; civil discussion had ensued but the forum had wound up when the CRT representative had been promoted to a new role.</p> <p>Residents asked about the possibility of 'No Parking' notices attached to the bridge; it was agreed that these would not be enforceable without legalities (<i>cf</i> yellow lines) and that parking on a humped bridge is obviously dangerous, so notices should not be required.</p> <p>Tom Maidment reported that Cocklebury Lane has been cleared and that Manor Farm and Wilcot Manor are now able to exercise their historical access rights.</p>	
24/43	<p><b>Finance</b></p> <p><b>43.1 To Receive the Budget and monitoring report</b> Cllr NF had circulated the report to all councillors prior to the meeting; there were no questions and the report is attached as an appendix to these minutes.</p> <p><b>43.2 To approve invoices due</b> Peter Emery had repaired the wooden fingerpost sign at the Draycott crossroads, which had been hit by a passing vehicle. An invoice has not yet been received; councillors agreed that up to £100 could be paid without further authority. (<i>Post-meeting note – an invoice for £50 has been received</i>)</p> <p><b>43.3 To review subscription to Open Spaces</b> Cllr RF proposed that the subscription be renewed; seconded by Cllr PS with all in favour.</p> <p><b>43.4 To receive grant application from Oare School PTA for rain garden.</b> Further to item 24/17.4, a new application had been received and circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. Cllr DN noted that the PTA had acted on the advice and comments made by the parish council in response to the previous proposal. The new design addresses the problem of noise generated by dripping rainwater, fits much better into the small space available and is visually more suitable for the Oare Conservation Area. The revised design replaces the proposed polytunnel with a lean-to greenhouse. It was noted that the PTA has successfully obtained funding from the North Wessex Landscape Trust for site clearance and new fencing, and was now looking for financial support to assist with plants (£624), a small shed (£277), a lean-to greenhouse (£399) and steel troughs to be planted up (£410).</p>	RK/NF

## WILCOT, HUISH and OARE PARISH COUNCIL

	<p>Councillors agreed that the PTA had worked hard to progress the project and noted that there had recently been a lot of successful fund-raising (£6000) by the PTA to assist the school in many ways. Cllr DW proposed that the parish council grant £399.00 for the purchase of the greenhouse. Seconded by Cllr RF with no objections.</p>	RK/NF
24/44	<p><b>Planning Applications and Enforcement</b>  <b>To note progress of planning applications previously considered:</b>  <b>44.1 Application PL/2024/03960 – Pheasant Cottage, Church Lane, Wilcot</b>          Proposal – Solar Panels          The application had been withdrawn by the applicant subsequent to objections raised by the Conservation Officer. Cllr JE said that alternative locations for solar panels may be considered and a new application submitted.</p> <p><b>To review and provide feedback on new planning applications from Wiltshire Council (Town and Country Planning Act 1980, schedule 1, para 8)</b>  <i>None received at time of publication.</i></p> <p><b>44.2 Correspondence – Oare Estate</b>          Cllr DN had been invited by the agent to view and discuss revised proposals for a new horticultural building/glasshouse, prior to a new planning application being submitted following the refusal by Planning Officers of PL/2023/07933 (item 24/19.2) The meeting will be on site on Thursday at 9.00am; Cllrs DN and PS to attend.</p>	DN/PS
24/45	<p><b>Project updates</b>  <b>45.1 SIDs – LHFIG</b>          Requests for poles had been submitted and are on the agenda for the LHFIG meeting tomorrow.          Cllr KR proposed that the new pole at Oare, estimated cost of £600 to be funded by the Oare Village Hall, be supported; seconded by Cllr JE with no objections.          Cllr JE proposed that a new SID pole at Wilcot be ordered, to replace the existing one which has almost rusted through; seconded by Cllr Rf with no objections.          Cllr NR proposed that new signage at Cross Hayes by supported; seconded by Cllr RF with no objections.          Cllr DW to attend LHFIG meetings and progress these items.</p> <p><b>45.2 To receive the A345 safety/signage review – LHFIG</b>          The review had been completed and a map and plan of proposed new signs, costing £3920.00, had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. Clerk advised that parish councils are now requested to contribute 40% of LHFIG project costs, which would be £1568.00.          Cllr DN referred to the results of the recent police speed enforcement session as evidence of the need to take any possible action to address the ongoing excessive speeding through Oare; the fastest vehicle caught by police had been travelling at 45mph in the 30mph limit, six drivers will be offered a speed awareness course and two will drivers will be fined £100 fine and get three points on their licences.          Cllr RF proposed that the cost is accepted and that the full review be implemented; seconded by Cllr KR with no objections.          It was noted that as some existing poles are rusty and in need of replacement anyway, some of this work is necessary highway maintenance; it was agreed that LHFIG should be asked to consider reimbursing the parish where appropriate.          Cllr DN noted that the headteacher of Oare School had suggested the possibility of flashing ‘school’ signs at peak drop-off and pick-up times. It was noted that this had been</p>	DW

## WILCOT, HUISH and OARE PARISH COUNCIL

	<p>investigated previously but rejected by Highways as the school is too far from the A345 to permit their installation.</p> <p><b>45.3 To receive preliminary design and costing for bus stop at Sunnyhill Lane – LHFIG</b>  The design and costing had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. Mark Stansby, Senior Highways Engineer, had advised that the total cost of £25,300 could be met by a bid to the Substantive Highways Schemes Fund. An additional cost of £800 had been incurred for asbestos testing on the northbound bus shelter, refurbishment of which is included in the total cost for the project.  It was agreed that the quoted cost of £6000 for a new bus shelter for the southbound side seemed higher than necessary and that alternative products could be investigated in due course,  It was noted that no further progress with the project could be made without a topographical survey, costing £1500. It was noted that there is £1370 remaining CIL money, which could be used for this purpose. Cllr RF proposed that LHFIG be asked to proceed with the topographical survey; seconded by Cllr KR with no objections.</p> <p><b>45.4 Bus shelter at Wilcot</b>  It was agreed that Clerk should arrange a site meeting with Mark Stansby and Cllr NR to discuss the field access and blocked drain, prior to progressing the project.</p> <p><b>45.5 Greensward update</b>  The pond dredging should take place shortly; Bawden has been waiting for dry weather. Cllr DN reported that Oare School is interested in using the Greensward; further discussions about facilitating access at the western end would be useful.  Cllr NR noted that the Stowell Estate has provided an area for the school to use for Forest School activities.  Cllr DN said that, with a bit of maintenance work, the old Oare bench could be re-sited in the Greensward; a long trailer will be needed to transport it. The bench is currently in the Village Hall car park, with thanks to the Committee.</p> <p><b>45.6 Footpath audit</b>  Further to item 34.7, Clerk had not yet received a response to the request for assistance with ALTO1/WILC41.</p> <p><b>45.7 Defibrillators</b>  Wilcot, Oare and Huish defibrillators are up to date on The Circuit. Cllr NR to review Stowell with Cllr DW. The Sunnyhill machine has been in error state since it was replaced after being taken for use as a precautionary measure. Cllr DN passed the instruction manual to Cllr KR who will have a further attempt at resolving the error before contact is made with London Hearts for a replacement.</p>	<p><i>DW</i></p> <p><i>RK/NR</i></p> <p><i>RK</i></p> <p><i>RK/KR</i></p>
<p>24/46</p>	<p><b>Clerk's Report</b></p> <p><b>46.1 Parking in Wilcot, including relevant correspondence</b>  Copies of emails received had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting, with a summary of verbal comments made to the Clerk. The matter had been addressed under item 42. Cllr PO confirmed that he would contact CRT to arrange a meeting, to which he would invite Seargent Wickham. Cllr PO will consider raising the matter as an agenda item for a future Area Board meeting, with CRT invited to attend and explain their licence policing methods.</p> <p><b>46.2 Parish Steward</b></p>	<p><i>PO</i></p>

# WILCOT, HUISH and OARE PARISH COUNCIL

<p>The steward is due to visit on Thursday. Tasks to be requested are: cutting back of overgrowth around speed limit roundels on both north and south A345 entrances to Oare; straighten and wash the STOP sign at Huish Lane/A345 junction; straighten chevrons at Donkey Corner/C8 Alton Road; dig out ditch/drains at Huish; sweep pavement of masonry bits by White Hart; strim verges along the Alton Road to improve bus sighting for passengers waiting in Wilcot.</p>	RK
<p><b>46.3 Highways - PCAP</b></p> <p>PCAP has asked parishes to consider supporting a vote of no confidence in Wiltshire Highways. Cllr DN said that although this parish has no confidence in the senior echelons of the department, the new local engineer appears to be doing his best, with a lot more attention to local roads recently; it would be unwise to jeopardise this progress. It was agreed that Cllr DW should report accordingly to PCAP. Cllr DW noted that Wiltshire Council is due to review its current contract with Milestone, and that PCAP may request to participate in that discussion. Cllr RF noted that it is largely a matter of poor resources and that it would be unfair to hammer the lower-level employees with the failings of the senior management. It was noted with appreciation that Cllr PO is supportive of parishes in this matter.</p> <p>Cllr PO said that he has had numerous meetings with the Head of Highways, who has accepted that the roads in the Pewsey Vale West division are the worst, partly due to geographical factors and partly due to lack of maintenance for many years. Cllr PO appreciates the investment in A and B roads but noted that his division consists mostly of C and UC roads, which his residents need to use to reach the main highways. Wiltshire Council has transferred its first quarter £40million underspend to Highways, along with £25million Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money; work to C roads is now programmed in, including the Wilcot/Manningford boundary C261 road from Little Abbots to Frith Copse.</p> <p>Cllr PO reported that the recent major drainage works at Conock on the A342 are being followed through to ensure there are no unintended effects further along the water courses at Marden and elsewhere.</p> <p>Cllr DN noted that the major drainage works and reinstatement of the pond by Dog Kennel House at the top of Oare Hill were due to take place in spring or early summer. Cllr PO will make enquiries.</p>	DW
<p><b>46.4 Police Matters</b></p> <p>Further to item 46.1, PC Steele advised that there is an open police report Ireference number for the parking issue so all police officers are aware of it and tasked to patrol the site when on duty, if able.</p> <p>With regards to time patterns, it was noted that fishing at the canal usually takes place at weekends rather than during the week. <i>(Post-meeting note – further communications have confirmed that police patrols are not needed during the day when vehicle owners are at work)</i></p> <p>In response to comment and questions from the floor about recent incidents on the tow path involving aggressive dogs, PC Steele said that incidents should be reported to the police; the police work closely with the Wiltshire Dog Wardens and reports assist police in building a fuller picture of ongoing problems.</p> <p>The quarterly police report is attached as an appendix to these minutes.</p>	PO
<p><b>46.5 White Hart</b></p> <p>Clerk had written to the owner to request hedging and vegetation growing over and on to the pavement is cut back, and to signpost the owner to the Information Commissioner Office’s website for advice and regulations for the use of CCTV, which has been reported as installed on the site.</p>	

# WILCOT, HUISH and OARE PARISH COUNCIL

	<p>Further to item 24/19.5, additional reports had been received relating to inadequate mortar between bricks and a dropping window sill, with rats sighted to the rear of the property. Clerk reported that the Wiltshire Environmental Health Department was unable to take any action due to the White Hart being a non-operational business, and had advised contacting Wiltshire Building Control. Building Control are unable to deal with rats but will inspect the property for structural safety; inspectors will ensure the pavement/footway is safe but informed the Clerk that parents use the adjacent car park at their own risk. <i>(Post-meeting note – Building Control has reported that the White Hart currently meets the expected safety standards)</i></p> <p>As neither department will address a rat problem, it was agreed that Clerk should notify the owner of the recent sightings and request that the rear of the property is tidied up</p> <p><b>46.6 Post box at Sunnyhill Lane</b></p> <p>Further to item 24/35.7, residents had reported an unsuccessful outcome from the final panel reviewing their complaint about the re-sited post box. Councillors had since approved an official letter from the parish council to the Royal Mail Complaints Department; a response is awaited.</p> <p><b>46.7 Correspondence – Ladies’ Bridge</b></p> <p>A letter and photographs of the approach to Ladies’ Bridge had been sent to Cllr DN and circulated to all councillors, with a draft response for approval. All agreed that the draft response was acceptable. Clerk to send.</p>	<p>RK</p> <p>RK</p>
24/47	<p><b>Exchange of information</b></p> <p>Cllr PO reported that the previous government’s £1.7million fund for home upgrade grants has been doubled by the new government with a further £1.7million for energy efficiency retrofits; grants are available to homeowners with an annual income below £36,000 or to landlords with fewer than four properties. Wiltshire Council is working with EDF to implement works and interested residents should contact Cllr PO for further information.</p> <p>It was agreed to send a formal letter of thanks to Richard Lanyon for having repainted the Wilcot war memorial railings at his own expense. Cllr PS noted that complaints are still being received about the illegibility of names inscribed on the memorial; it was agreed that Clerk should approach Conservation Officer Pippa Card about the matter.</p> <p>Clerk asked for any requests for inclusion in the forthcoming Summer Newsletter.</p> <p>Cllr DW said that the Local Youth Network is working with the leisure centres to provide swimming sessions for all children unable to swim a width unaided. The Cost Of Living Support Scheme is still open to those in need, provided applications are supported by a referee such as headteacher, GP or parish councillor.</p> <p>Clerk will contact Krystal to address email problems still being experienced by several councillors.</p> <p>Cllr RF said that the post box by the Wilcot Village Hall has been hit; Clerk to report.</p>	<p>RK</p> <p>RK</p> <p>RK</p> <p>RK</p> <p>RK</p>

Planning Committee meetings will be held as required. All meetings will start at 19.00hrs unless otherwise advertised.

Provisional dates and times of next meetings 2024/2025:

Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	Oare
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> November 2024 - budget	Wilcot
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> January 2025 - precept	Oare
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	Wilcot
April – end of year accounts approval - date tbc	Oare
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> May 2025 – annual meetings	Wilcot

Meeting closed at 8.40 pm

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_





# Wilcot, Huish and Oare

Quarter 2 2024

## Crimes and incidents

Wiltshire Police record crimes and incidents in accordance with the National Crime and incident recording standards. Not all incidents that one would consider a crime are necessarily classified as a crime for recording purposes. There are occasions where multiple crimes may be recorded from the same incident, for crime recording standards purposes. NB- The below statistics do not account for incidents that police respond to but do not need any follow up or are recorded as non-crime incidents. (Road traffic incidents, minor incidents of anti-social behaviour)

**From 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024- 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

**1** Crime has been recorded in the **Wilcot, Huish and Oare Parish** area.

**0** Dwelling burglaries

**0** Vehicle offences

Having reviewed the crime data for the area – There are no apparent trends that are presented or a series of crimes that are linked.

## Speed enforcement

Both the local Neighbourhood Policing Team and the Speed Watch Enforcement Team have conducted several pro-active checks in the local area. Speed enforcement has taken place on at least **16 occasions** in the Pewsey area between **March- June 2024**. During this period, **47** drivers have been offered speed awareness courses, **7** drivers have been issued with a fine and points on their license and **2** drivers have been reported to court for excess speed. During this period, there have been several pro-active patrols made of the Pewsey area from Neighbourhood, Response and Specialist Operations teams to combat driving offences known as the '**Fatal 5**'- **Careless Driving, Drink/Drug Driving, Not wearing a seatbelt, Excess speed and Distracted Driving (including use of mobile phones)**.

## Community consultations

- There have been several planned drop-in surgeries held in the Pewsey area during this period and there have been **5** recorded community engagements throughout the wider Pewsey area during this time.
- In this quarter, Operation Sceptre was running from **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024- Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2024**. This is a national initiative to tackle knife crime and involves co-ordinated activity targeting knife crime from root cause to enforcement. In the Marlborough area the Neighbourhood Policing Team, conducted weapon sweeps of





public areas and in conjunction with Trading Standards completed a knife test purchasing operation from local retailers using volunteers from the Cadet force. Across, the Marlborough, Pewsey, and Devizes sector 15 of the 23 shops failed meaning that underage persons were able to purchase knives and bladed articles despite being under 18 years of age. Due to the results, this operation is going to be repeated to ensure compliance with the legislation and repeat failings will result in prosecution.

- Local Officers have also been patrolling polling stations in the local area for both the Police Crime Commissioner and General Elections. This has been a good opportunity for officers attached to the Neighbourhood Policing Teams to engage with residents from our various parishes.
  
- Further community consultations will take place in the third quarter of 2024, and these will be advertised in advance via our Neighbourhood Policing Team social media pages. Any residents are also free to sign up to our community messaging service at [www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk](http://www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk)
  
- We are always looking for new areas to conduct drop-in surgeries and provide community engagement opportunities. If you are aware or have access to suitable facilities, particularly in the **Wilcot, Huish and Oare Parish** area please contact us directly via email- [devizesareanpt@wiltshire.police.uk](mailto:devizesareanpt@wiltshire.police.uk)
  
- The next community consultations currently scheduled for the Pewsey sector are as follows;
  - **25<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at The Royal Oak, Wootton Rivers**
  - **1<sup>st</sup> August 2024 at Great Bedwyn Holy Cross Church**
  - **4<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at Woodborough Parish Rooms**