

WILCOT, HUISH and OARE PARISH COUNCIL

Local Government Act 1972

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Oare Village Hall
on Tuesday 24th September 2024 at 7.00 pm

Present: Parish Councillors Dawn Wilson (Chair), Richard Fleet, Prue Smith, Richard Lewis, Jamie Ede, and Neil Ridgway
Clerk Ruth Kinderman

24/48	<p>To receive apologies for absence Cllrs DN, NF and KR Unitary Councillor Paul Oatway</p>	
24/49	<p>To receive declarations of interest Cllr NR – item 54</p>	
24/50	<p>To agree the minutes of the parish council meeting held on 23rd July 2024 Cllr RF proposed that the minutes be approved as an accurate record; seconded by Cllr RL with no objections and signed accordingly by Cllr DW.</p>	
24/51	<p>Public question time No residents were present.</p>	
24/52	<p>Update from Unitary Councillor Paul Oatway Cllr DW noted that Cllr PO had attended last night's Area Board meeting, to be addressed under item 57.1</p>	
24/53	<p>Finance 53.1 To Receive the Budget and monitoring report 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>53.2 To approve invoices due Pending payments to the Open Spaces Society (£45.00) and to Oare School had been previously approved. The invoice for £46.00 to be paid to Wessex Print for the recent newsletter was noted.</p>	NF
24/54	<p>Planning Applications and Enforcement To note progress of planning applications previously considered: There are no applications awaiting decisions by Wiltshire Council.</p> <p>To review and provide feedback on new planning applications from Wiltshire Council (Town and Country Planning Act 1980, schedule 1, para 8) Two notices of tree works had been received since publication of the agenda: PL/2024/08735 – 23/24 Wilcot – reduce 2 x cherry, 1 x hornbeam, 1 apple, and 1 lime tree PL/2024/08698 – 17 Wilcot – reduce magnolia</p> <p>It was agreed to submit no objection to both notices.</p>	RK
24/55	<p>Project updates 55.1 SIDs – LHFIG A new SID post had been approved by LHFIG for the verge near the church in Oare at an estimated cost of £600.00 to include temporary traffic management. The Area Board subsequently approved this at last night's meeting. LHFIG had considered the damaged SID post in Wilcot to be a possible maintenance issue; to be investigated by the Engineer and replaced if necessary. Further to the request to LHFIG for improved signage at Cross Hayes, this is under review by highway engineers.</p> <p>55.2 A345 safety/signage review – LHFIG</p>	

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	<p>LHFIG had noted comments by the parish council about some elements of the project being classed as maintenance; Highways had responded that the project is not a straightforward like-for-like replacement but will keep the possibility of reimbursing the parish open at present. Gates at the northern entrance to Oare had been ruled out due to the steep banks, vegetation growth and the presence of driveways and field entrances on Oare Hill. Improvements to the road markings will be considered as and when the road is resurfaced, at no cost to the LHFIG or Parish. Further to LHFIG recommendations for new signage as supported by the last parish council meeting, the project was approved by the Area Board with the Parish making a 40% contribution, a sum of £1,568.37 as recorded in the parish council meeting minutes for 23rd July.</p> <p>55.3 To note progress of bus stop at Sunnyhill Lane – LHFIG Further to support from LHFIG and the Area Board, Highways will now arrange for the topographical survey. The additional cost incurred for the asbestos survey as minuted on 23rd July will be met by LHFIG (£480.00) and the parish council (£320.00)</p> <p>55.4 Bus shelter at Wilcot Clerk apologised for not having facilitated a site meeting during the summer and will do so shortly, now that attendees are less likely to be away.</p> <p>55.5 Greensward update A Greensward Committee member had taken photographs of the empty pond, which Clerk had forwarded to Bawden with a telephone call to request dredging takes place without further delay. Confirmation of completion of the job is awaited.</p> <p>55.6 Footpath audit Cllr NR had arranged for clearing bridleway HUIS6 following complaints about overgrowth. An overhanging tree further north on the bridleway had been reported in writing to Bayardo Farm, who own the land on one side at that stretch. Complaints about WILC1 and WILC5 had been resolved on completion of the lucerne harvest. Clerk had received no response from the new Ramblers group about assistance with clearing ALTO1. As Alton Parish Council has been contacted twice about this matter before, it was agreed to write directly to the landowner, copying in Alton Parish Council and the Senior Rights of Way Officer Stephen Leonard.</p> <p>55.7 Defibrillators Cllr NR will send pictures of the West Stowell defibrillator to Clerk to confirm the status update for The Circuit. Clerk has requested assistance from the supplier of the Sunnyhill Lane defibrillator, which has been marked as out of use on The Circuit ever since entering error state as reported last meeting.</p>	<p><i>RK</i></p> <p><i>RK</i></p> <p><i>RK</i></p> <p><i>RK</i></p> <p><i>RK/DN /KR</i></p>
24/56	<p>Clerk's Report</p> <p>56.1 Parking in Wilcot – update Correspondence from a resident during August had suggested that the situation had improved, with less parking on and near the bridge, and no further dog-related complaints. Danny Kruger, MP, had become aware of the situation and had asked for an update; Clerk had replied that the situation seemed to have settled locally but that his suggestion of a site visit would be welcome in order to discuss with him, and to invite him to address, CRT policy on issue of licences, enforcement of conditions and other matters such as the removal of dog-waste bins along the tow path. Cllr RF confirmed that the number of vehicles continues to ebb and flow, but that the parking situation had improved overall. It was agreed that Cllr PO should proceed to invite CRT to attend an Area Board meeting, as originally planned, in order to continue to press for longer-term solutions.</p> <p>56.2 Parish Steward Tasks to be requested for the steward visit on Thursday are: strim around Sunnyhill Lane bus stop; sweep pavement in Oare; fill in verge over-runs along Church Lane, Wilcot; strim and tidy around Wilcot bus stop and sight lines; reinstate Huish verge markers where necessary. It was noted that parish stewards were observed working hard recently to clear a fallen tree in East Kennet.</p>	<p><i>RK/PO</i></p> <p><i>RK</i></p>

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	<p>56.3 Highways - PCAP Nine parishes in the Pewsey Community Area had positively supported the draft letter to be sent to Highways in place of a vote of no confidence as originally proposed. A response from Highways is awaited.</p> <p>56.4 Police Matters The quarterly parish police report has not yet been received. The area police update to the Area Board last night may be viewed at: https://cms.wiltshire.gov.uk/documents/s230830/Police%20Update%20-%20July%20and%20August%202024.pdf</p> <p>56.5 White Hart Clerk had written to the owner as agreed, requesting that the car park is tidied up in order to address an emerging rat problem.</p> <p>56.6 Post box at Sunnyhill Lane No response had been received from Royal Mail to the letter sent previous to the parish council meeting in July. It was agreed that the residents of Sunnyhill Lane should be advised of this lack of response in order to assist them with deciding how they progress the matter. It was agreed that Danny Kruger, MP, should be made aware of the situation; Clerk to send him a copy of the letter sent to Royal Mail.</p> <p>56.7 Other Correspondence Clerk had replied to Cocklebury Farm as agreed, noting that parish councils would welcome the opportunity to visit the farm and view environmental schemes in place. A response has not yet been received. Clerk had written to Mr Lanyon, thanking him for repainting the war memorial railings. Clerk had written to Bayardo Farm about HUIS6 as noted under item 55.6. Clerk had received complaints about a stray peacock in Wilcot, and the damage being done to gardens. The owner had been successfully traced. Clerk had advised complainants that the parish council has no legal powers in matters such as this and that if the matter recurs, and amicable resolution is not possible, then Wiltshire Council should be contacted as the local authority for addressing nuisance. The damaged post box in Wilcot had been reported to Royal Mail; report details to be updated to include the post box reference number as provided by Cllr RF.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">RK</p> <p style="text-align: right;">RK</p>
24/57	<p>Exchange of information</p> <p>57.1 Area Board Cllr DW reported that the main item had been a presentation, with Question & Answer session, from representatives of the Kennet and Avon Medical Partnership. Social Navigators are working to understand and address the underlying issues for High Maintenance Users, those patients who contact the surgeries more than twenty-eight times in a three-month period. Sanity Clause, a new group for men who may have interests other than activities which are already catered for, such as football and walking, opens at 6.30pm on 14th October in the Pewsey Scout Hut. Full reports were delivered to the Area Board from Wiltshire Police and the Fire Service. The Area Board had noted the request from attendees for a regular agenda item to address Highways Maintenance. Issues of concern include: the lack of response to MyWilts reports which may be closed without any comment from Highways; the wide variation in quality of work between locations; and the failure to follow up completed jobs with an inspection of the work done. It was agreed that Clerk should re-request white lining at the Draycott crossroads; request further intervention at the West Stowell verge breakdown and the sinkhole on the A345; to acknowledge the good job done at the top of Oare Hill but ask the purpose of the sandbags left in place. Cllr DW reminded the council about the Local Youth Network's provision of funded swimming lessons, as publicised in the recent parish newsletter.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">RK</p>

