

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 26th November 2024 at 7.00 pm

Present: Parish Councillors Dee Nix, Richard Fleet, Nicky Fleet, Prue Smith, Richard Lewis, Jamie Ede, Kathryn Richardson, and Neil Ridgway
Unitary Councillor Paul Oatway
Clerk Ruth Kinderman
Resident Annamarie Miles

24/58	To receive apologies for absence Cllr Dawn Wilson.	
24/59	To receive declarations of interest Cllr PS – items 63.6 and 63.7	
24/60	To agree the minutes of the parish council meeting held on 24th September 2024 All agreed that these were an accurate record; signed accordingly by Cllr DN.	
24/61	Public question time All questions related to matters on the agenda and would be addressed under the appropriate items.	
24/62	<p>Update from Unitary Councillor Paul Oatway</p> <p>Cllr PO reported that the Local Plan has been signed off by Wiltshire Council Cabinet and will be circulated shortly; items within the Plan relevant to this parish will include those relating to the planning application process and housebuilding targets.</p> <p>Cllr PO reported that Wiltshire Council has allocated an additional £22million for Highways in its budget for 2025/2026, with a further £20.7million for Highways being granted by Central Government; Cllr PO said that he will be taking care that this part of Wiltshire gets its share of this money for highways.</p> <p>Cllr PO reported that the government is continuing to provide money for the Household Support Fund (HSF) set up by the previous government to support those in need with items such as food, household bills and repairs. To date, 38,000 people in Wiltshire have benefited from the scheme, 77% of whom were children and 4.2% old-age pensioners. Wiltshire Council is able to identify and target those residents who are most likely to be in need; parish councils are asked to refer anybody to the scheme as necessary. In response to questions, Cllr PO said that he does not believe the HSF can be used for improvements to private properties such as hand rails.</p> <p>Cllr PO reported that Wiltshire Council will increase the budget for bus services by £7million during 2025/2026, in order to extend the use and frequency of the services.</p> <p>The Wiltshire Local Transport Plan (LTP), covering the next twenty years, will be sent out for consultation shortly. Cllr PO reported that the LTP focuses on the theoretical strategy for HGVs to use the A350 and does not acknowledge the extent to which the A345 and A338 are used by vehicles from the distribution centres at Amesbury and Andover.</p> <p>Cllr Oatway noted the intention of Wiltshire Council to proceed with requesting devolved powers from central government; in order to create a large enough population to qualify. Wiltshire will be collaborating with North Somerset and Dorset, possible to be joined by Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP).</p> <p>Under the Levelling-Up legislation of 2023, central government is asking county councils to combine to create new mayoral authorities; although Wiltshire and its partners would prefer to pursue an alternative model, central government will cut funding to Wiltshire by £22million if a mayoral system is not adopted.</p> <p>All noted that this proposal has not been publicised; Clerk noted that it was published as a small news item on Wiltshire's website, and that it can be found elsewhere in the press provided one</p>	

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	<p>knows to look for it. Clerk had been notified very recently by a resident elsewhere in the Pewsey Vale.</p> <p>It was noted that combining the councils will have an impact on existing organisations such as NHS integrated care structures and the Dorset & Wilts Fire & Rescue Service.</p>	
24/63	<p>Planning Applications and Enforcement</p> <p>To note progress of planning applications previously considered:</p> <p>63.1 PL/2024/08735 – 23/24 Wilcot – reduce 2 x cherry, 1 x hornbeam, 1 apple, and 1 lime tree</p> <p>63.2 PL/2024/08698 – 17 Wilcot – reduce magnolia</p> <p>63.3 PL/2024/08871 – The Vicarage, Wilcot - Reduce Line of Holly Trees to 2m</p> <p>63.4 PL/2024/08879 – Hollybush House, Wilcot - Liquid Amber & Birch - Crown reduce by 40%(6m)</p> <p>63.5 PL/2024/08914 – Wilcot Lodge, Wilcot - 6 x Lime trees - re-pollard</p> <p>Wiltshire Council had approved these notices of tree works.</p> <p>To review and provide feedback on new planning applications from Wiltshire Council (Town and Country Planning Act 1980, schedule 1, para 8)</p> <p>63.6 PL/2024/09466 - 27 Wilcot, Pewsey, SN9 5NS Proposal - Construction of timber framed workshop Comments by 29th November It was agreed to submit no objection.</p> <p>63.7 PL/2024/09832 - 6 The Old Dairy, Wilcot, Pewsey, SN9 5PJ Proposal - Construction of single storey lean-to rear extension adjoining existing kitchen Comments by 6th December It was agreed to submit no objection.</p> <p>63.8 PL/2024/09344 - Huish Down Farm, Oare Hill, Oare, Marlborough, SN8 4HZ Proposal - Demolition of existing dwelling, garage, sheep shed and grain store. Erection of replacement dwelling with associated access, parking, landscaping and private amenity space. Change of use of land from agricultural to residential. Comments by 10th December In discussion it was noted that the existing dwelling is of relatively new construction and was only allowed on appeal, after the planning enquiry in 1990 conceded that a dwelling could be justified as necessary to support the agricultural complex. It was noted that the existing dwelling is in a good state of repair and that the current site was permitted as that having the least impact on the North Wessex National Landscape (formerly the AONB). It was noted that the proposed new building will be on a different footprint, more visible from all directions. It was noted that the proposal to demolish the agricultural buildings removes the original justification for any dwelling at all. It was noted that small farmers are constrained by legally binding ties and that to overlook the agricultural planning history of this site would vindicate the stance taken by planning officers in 1990. It was agreed that there is no reason to change the use of the land. It was agreed to submit an objection; Clerk to draft a response incorporating all points raised in discussion. Cllr PO will speak to the planning officer and report back to Clerk</p>	RK/PO
24/64	<p>Project updates</p> <p>64.1 SIDs Colin Gale of Rushall has ordered the third SID for the co-operative group. The new pole in Oare was due to be installed during October at the same time as the new road signs. The co-operative group has agreed to extend the warranty on their second SID for three further years at an annual cost of £199.00.</p> <p>64.2 A345 safety/signage review The new signs were due to be installed during October; Highways has advised that the contractor is behind schedule. The recent village newsletter had focused on the A345 and the parish council's efforts to improve safety.</p>	

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Correspondence had been received from Mr and Mrs Russell of Highleaze House, and Mrs Dolby of Highleaze Lodge, requesting a reduced speed limit between Prospect Corner and Oare. Danny Kruger, MP, had been supportive of their initial contact with him and had advised them to contact the parish council to progress the matter. It was agreed that Highways should be approached again about reviewing the speed limit as part of the long-term project to address the A345. Clerk had sent the correspondents a copy of the recent parish newsletter, Road Safety Special Edition.

64.3 Bus stop at Sunnyhill Lane – LHFIG – Substantive Highways Scheme Fund

A preliminary design has been drawn up. LHFIG had agreed to contribute £5000 towards the total expected cost of £23,800.00; the Area Board meeting last night had approved this contribution. It would be expected that the parish would match this contribution, with the remainder to be funded by the Substantive Highways Scheme Fund (SHSF). Clerk had circulated details of the Fund to all councillors. Bids for 2025/2026 funding need to be submitted by 13th December.

Cllr DN noted that many residents of Sunnyhill Lane are unable to drive, may have restricted walking ability, and are isolated from the rest of the village. Improving bus facilities should ease access to Oare village hall and to Pewsey.

Clerk advised that the lower the proportion of SHSF money requested for a project, the higher the score for the project when the bid is measured against the criteria for decision-making.

It was noted that the bus shelter may not meet several criteria which are more relevant to more populated areas.

Cllr NF noted receipt on 7th November of further CIL monies of £3728.30 in relation to PL/2022/00360 New Cott and 2 New Cottages, East Stowell. In discussion, it was agreed to use only previous CIL monies for the bus shelter, which had been requested as part of the first round of CIL consultation.

Cllr RF proposed that the parish council contribute £5000.00 from reserves plus the £1284.20 remaining CIL money. This was seconded by Cllr JE with all in favour. Clerk to complete SHSF bid.

RK

64.4 To consider request for improved safety between SAVE32 and WILC15

A member of the Ramblers Association had submitted a request for the parish council to consider supporting an LHFIG request to create a footpath along the verge between WILC15 and SAVE32 to create safe passage for walkers along that stretch of the A345. Clerk reported that Wiltshire Highways would not facilitate walking between the two bends in the road unless a formal pedestrian crossing place is also installed. Highways had advised that crossing the A345 between SAVE33 and WILC35 is their preferred route for walkers.

It was agreed that although the proposal is in line with the overall intention to improve safety along the A345, very few parishioners would benefit directly from it, in contrast to the current projects under consideration. It was agreed that the proposal could be revisited in future, with appropriate funding in place; it was suggested that the Ramblers Association could be approached for a contribution if the proposal is pursued in the future.

64.4 Bus shelter at Wilcot

Clerk and Cllr NR had met Mark Stansby, Senior Highways Engineer, to view the site. Mark Stansby had advised that a small shelter with perch seats could be considered for installation on the small piece of pavement, at a cost of approximately £5000.00. Other costs may be incurred relating to the adjacent telegraph pole; any design would have to take into account the drain behind, and the sight lines for driveways of neighbouring properties. The project would have to be pursued through the LHFIG process. It was agreed to postpone this proposal until the Sunnyhill Lane bus shelter project is complete.

64.5 Drainage along Alton Road, Wilcot

Clerk and Cllr NR had viewed the site with Mark Stansby, who had recognised how badly flooded the road gets. Cllr NR had explained that the Stowell Estate and Manor Farm have cleared all ditches and gullies for which they are responsible; the drain at this location is the responsibility of Highways. Clerk had followed the advice of Mark Stansby to contact Andy Cadwallader, Local Highways Engineer, again, with a view to possibly arranging for the specialist drainage team to visit; no response has yet been received.

The problem had worsened since the site visit with Mark Stansby, with flooding covering a pot-hole, which grew rapidly beneath the water each time a vehicle hit it. Highways responded to a

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	<p>MyWilts report by placing warning triangles. The pot-hole grew to a foot deep, approximately 1.3 metres wide and was not repaired until one vehicle lost two tyres after hitting it at speed. Cllr RF noted that the standard of driving during the weekend was disgraceful, with drivers travelling at excessive speed in very dangerous conditions, entering deep water regardless of hidden hazards and destroying the verge in the process. It was agreed that the driver who lost two tyres should be prosecuted for dangerous driving, rather than compensated for the damage incurred. It was agreed that the matter should be pursued with Andy Cadwallader again, with a view to a proper engineering solution. In general discussion, it was considered expedient to discover how much compensation has been paid out by Wiltshire Council due to flood-related incidents along Alton Road. Cllr KR proposed that Clerk should submit a request for all relevant information to Wiltshire Council; seconded by Cllr PS with all in favour.</p> <p>64.6 Greensward update It is assumed that the dredging did not take place, as no invoice has yet been received.</p> <p>64.7 Footpath audit It was noted that WILC1/WILC42 between Sunnyhill Lane and Pound Lane had benefited from new kissing gates but that nettle overgrowth needed to be tackled. It was noted that the rights of way HUIS10,11,12,13 around Huish Down House are not clear on the ground; Clerk to investigate any historical modifications to the map.</p> <p>64.8 Defibrillators Cllr DN reported that the Oare Village Hall defibrillator had been taken to a resident as a precaution, but not used; Clerk to reinstate as 'available' on The Circuit. It was noted that the very elderly resident had fallen and waited all night for an ambulance; the current system means ambulances are being used as beds and unable to respond to emergencies. Cllr KR had followed the supplier's instructions to reset the Sunnyhill Lane defibrillator. This had been unsuccessful and Clerk will arrange for a replacement.</p>	<p>RK</p> <p>RK</p> <p>RK</p> <p>RK</p>
24/65	<p>Finance</p> <p>65.1 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>65.2 To approve invoices due Wessex Print - £46.00 for the November newsletters.</p> <p>65.3 To receive grant request from PCAP The grant application form had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. The Annual Review from PCAP, detailing its activities, had been circulated earlier in the year. It was noted that the annual donation from this parish has been static at £250.00 for at least six years. Cllr DN proposed a grant of £300.00; seconded by Cllr PS, with all in favour.</p> <p>65.4 To consider draft budget Cllr NF had circulated a draft budget and expenditure forecast. It was noted that the generator may require a new battery. It had been agreed by email to repair the wooden fingerpost at Hare Street/Alton Road/Church Road rather than replace it with a new metal one. Costs are awaited. Clerk to forward revised pay-scales published by NALC to Cllr DN. The comparative precepts as published in the recent newsletter were noted, especially those neighbouring parishes which have progressed pavement projects and have precepts more than twice the level of this parish. It was agreed that the precept for this parish must be increased to achieve further safety improvements along the A345. It was agreed that, as improvements to footpaths behind Martinsell Cottages would not benefit all residents, the possibility of using white lining to manage traffic in the short term should be explored further; Clerk to enquire whether this could be included at no cost to the parish when Highways refresh the road markings in due course. The total forecast running cost for 2025/26 is £9125.00</p>	<p>NF</p> <p>NF</p> <p>RK/DN</p>

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	<p>It was agreed to allow a further £5000.00 for projects. It was agreed in principle to request a precept of £14125.00 for 2025/2026, £51.41 for a Band D property, a 54.79% increase on 2024/2025. The tax base for 2025/2026 is 274.77. Precept to be confirmed at the next meeting of the parish council in January.</p>	
<p>24/66</p>	<p>Clerk's Report 66.1 Parking in Wilcot Andy Cadwallader, Local Highways Engineer, has arranged for the hardening up of the parking places as soon as Highways resources allow.</p> <p>66.2 Canal and Rivers Trust (CRT) Cllr Oatway has asked Richard Rogers, Community Engagement Manager, to invite CRT to an Area Board meeting. Clerk will confirm site meeting arrangements with Danny Kruger, MP, once the Area Board has had a response from CRT. CRT had responded quickly to a report of an abandoned boat, which has been in the same location for six months. CRT had cleared the rubbish from the towpath but had declined to share its intentions with regards to the boat, of which they were already aware; CRT classed its intentions as private data belonging to the licence holder.</p> <p>66.3 Parish Steward Tasks for the visit on Thursday include: road sweeper for Huish Lane/A345; pot holes along the C264/arboretum; pot holes in Church Lane, Wilcot; pot holes at the western end of Alton Road.</p> <p>66.4 Highways - PCAP The response from Samantha Howell, Director of Highways, had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting.</p> <p>66.5 Police Matters The police report is attached as an appendix to these minutes.</p> <p>66.6 White Hart Further to item 24/56.5, it was noted that a skip is in use to the rear of The White Hart.</p> <p>66.7 Post box at Sunnyhill Lane Further to item 24/56.6, a response is awaited from Danny Kruger, MP (<i>post meeting note – Royal Mail have responded to Danny Kruger, who had written on behalf of the parish; they have declined to relocate the post box.</i>)</p> <p>66.8 Oare School - request for mirror at junction Oare School had requested that the parish council consider arranging for a mirror opposite Huish Lane to assist traffic turning out of the lane on to the A345. It was noted that this junction is extremely dangerous. It was agreed that there is no space for a mirror on the opposite bank. Clerk to check whether it is still the case that Highways policy is not to authorise mirrors. It was noted that visibility at the junction is impaired by advertisement banners affixed to the railings; Clerk to take action to prevent this.</p> <p>66.9 Wilcot – request for speed survey In response to a request from a resident for the parish council to take action to reduce speeding through Wilcot (item 64,5), it was noted that neither police nor Highways will review the situation unless recent speed data is available. Clerk had advised resident that the Wilcot Community Speedwatch (CSW) Team had been removed from the police list of active sites due to insufficient volunteers; a speed survey will show whether the village still qualifies for CSW. It was noted that white village gates at each end of the C8 may be beneficial. Cllr NR proposed that Clerk request a speed survey outside numbers 9-12 Alton Road; seconded by Cllr RF with all in favour.</p>	<p>RK</p> <p>RK</p> <p>RK</p> <p>RK</p> <p>RK</p>

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	<p>66.10 Other correspondence</p> <p>Oare School had requested improved signage at the Huish Lane/A345 junction to draw attention to the existence of the school. Clerk had advised that the new signage (item 64.2) includes a replacement direction sign to the school and Huish.</p> <p>Wiltshire Unitary Councillor for Corsham Without, Derek Walters, is campaigning for changes at Wiltshire Highways as to how they address speeding issues in towns and villages; Clerk had completed the survey he had circulated to all parishes.</p> <p>The Wilcot noticeboard will be checked again by Cllr JE; the left-hand door has been faulty ever since it was not shut properly and exposed to the winds.</p>	<i>JE</i>
24/67	<p>Exchange of information</p> <p>67.1 Area Board feedback from 25th November</p> <p>Neither Catherine Roper, Chief Constable of Wiltshire Police, nor the new Social Prescriber to address over-use of medical services (item 24/57.1) had been able to attend the meeting; there was nothing to report other than the Area Board's approval of the LHFIFG contribution of £5000 to the Sunnyhill bus shelter (item 64.4).</p> <p>The C8 will be closed between Cross Hayes and the Stowell turning from 2nd to 13th December for verge over-run repairs.</p> <p>Sunnyhill Lane will be closed on 8th January for Openreach to retrieve a buried pole.</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 14 th January 2025 - precept	Oare
Tuesday 25 th March 2025	Wilcot
April – end of year accounts approval - date tbc	Oare
Wednesday 14 th May 2025 – annual meetings	Wilcot

Meeting closed at 9.30 pm

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Transaction Date	Transaction Type	Transaction Description	Debit Amount	Credit Amount	Balance @ bank	Income	Hire of halls	Grants (\$137)	Community expenditure	Newsletter	Salary	Accountancy	Auditing	Admin	Subscriptions	Transfers
Balance at 1 April 2024					1063.00											
02/04/2024	FPO	HMRC (PAYE)	25.00		1038.00						25.00					
02/04/2024	FPO	Clerk's salary (Mar)	212.25		825.75						212.25					
02/04/2024	FPO	Wessex Print - newsletter	46.00		779.75					46.00						
19/04/2024	BGC	Wilts Council (precept)		9514.00	10293.75	9514.00										
24/04/2024	DD	Charlton Baker (accountancy)	15.50		10278.25							15.50				
13/05/2024	FPO	Clerk's salary (Apr)	212.45		10065.80						212.45					
13/05/2024	FPO	Manningford PC - contribution to SID	300.00		9765.80				300.00							
13/05/2024	FPO	WALC/NALC subscription	229.37		9536.43										229.37	
28/05/2024	DD	Charlton Baker (accountancy)	16.50		9519.93							16.50				
24/06/2024	DD	Charlton Baker (accountancy)	16.50		9503.43							16.50				
25/06/2024	FPO	Heartbeat Trust - defibs	140.34		9363.09				140.34							
25/06/2024	FPO	Clerk's salary (May)	212.25		9150.84						212.25					
25/06/2024	FPO	PCC Wilcot - burial ground upkeep	465.00		8685.84				465.00							
25/06/2024	FPO	Wilcot Village Hall	64.00		8621.84		64.00									
25/06/2024	FPO	Zurich - insurance	504.33		8117.51									504.33		
15/07/2024	FPO	C Bartlett (Domain name)	132.00		7985.51									132.00		
15/07/2024	FPO	HMRC (PAYE)	76.80		7908.71						76.80					
15/07/2024	FPO	Clerk's salary (June)	420.55		7488.16						420.55					
25/07/2024	DD	Charlton Baker (accountancy)	16.50		7471.66							16.50				
25/07/2024	DD	ICO	35.00		7436.66										35.00	
05/08/2024	TFR	Transfer to savings	4314.07		3122.59											4314.07
05/08/2024	FPO	Clerk's salary (July)	226.19		2896.40						226.19					
05/08/2024	FPO	P Emery (repairs)	50.00		2846.40				50.00							
27/08/2024	DD	Charlton Baker (accountancy)	16.50		2829.90							16.50				
04/09/2024	FPO	Clerk's salary (Aug)	226.19		2603.71						226.19					
24/09/2024	DD	Charlton Baker (accountancy)	16.50		2587.21							16.50				
24/09/2024	FPO	Oare PTA - Grant	399.00		2188.21			399.00								
24/09/2024	FPO	Open Spaces Society	45.00		2143.21										45.00	
24/09/2024	FPO	Wessex Print - newsletter	46.00		2097.21					46.00						
25/09/2024	BCG	Wilts Council (payment in error)		8000.00	10097.21	8000.00										
25/10/2024	DD	Charlton Baker (accountancy)	16.50		10080.71							16.50				
04/11/2024	FPO	Clerk's salary (Sept)	226.19		9854.52						226.19					
04/11/2024	FPO	Clerk's salary (Oct)	226.19		9628.33						226.19					
04/11/2024	FPO	HMRC (PAYE)	35.40		9592.93						35.40					
11/11/2024	BCG	Wilts Council (CIL payment)		3728.30	13321.23	3728.30										
12/11/2024	BCG	Wilts Council (payment returned)	8000.00		5321.23	-8000.00										
Total			16984.07	21242.30	5321.23	13242.30	64.00	399.00	955.34	92.00	2099.46	114.50	0.00	636.33	309.37	4314.07



Wilcot, Huish and Oare

Quarter 3 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.

NB- The below statistics do not account for incidents that police respond to but do not need any formal follow-up. (Road traffic incidents, minor incidents of anti-social behaviour)

From **1st July 2024 - 30th September 2024**

1 crime and **2** incidents have been recorded in the Wilcot, Huish and Oare parish area.

There has been **1** report of a non-dwelling burglary in the parish area.

There have been **0** reports in relation to the theft of or from motor vehicles during this period.

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

We know that about this time of year when the crops have been harvested our rural communities see an increase of hare coursing and the associated damage to land and infrastructure that comes with this. The concerns with crimes of this nature are that on occasions hare coursing activities are linked with rural burglaries and theft of plant and farm machinery. Locally we are increasing patrols out in our rural areas along with the Wiltshire Police dedicated Rural Crime Team and there have been number of positive outcomes including arrests and the seizure of motor vehicles as a means to disrupt and prosecute offenders. If you do notice suspicious activities on farmland which you think might be hare coursing or other rural related crime in progress, please report it on 999.

We have also seen a recent increase across the County and neighbouring forces of theft from work vehicles. Incidents have been reported in Marlborough and the surrounding villages with tools often being stolen overnight from vehicles. Please ensure that all windows and doors are locked on vehicles and that any alarm systems fitted are working. Consider marking any tools and take note of any serial numbers. If you see anyone acting suspiciously around vehicles, please inform the Police immediately.



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 **10 occasions** in the Pewsey area between **July- September 2024**.

During this period, **34** drivers have been offered speed awareness courses, **6** drivers have been issued with a fine and points on their license and **1** driver has 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.

Community consultations

During this period there have been **four** community engagements held in the wider local area. Police also attended the Parish Council meeting held in July and have utilised the neighbourhood policing engagement vehicle in our rural communities.

In the next three months we will be in the following locations.

10th October 2024 at The Royal Oak, Wootton Rivers at 11am -12am

14th November 2024 Great Bedwyn, Holy Cross Church at 12pm – 1pm

17th December 2024 Bouverie Hall, Pewsey 09:00am – 10:00am

The specific times of these surgeries will be advertised via community messaging and the Pewsey Police Facebook page. You and your residents can sign up for community messaging at www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk