

WILCOT, HUIISH and OARE PARISH COUNCIL

Local Government Act 1972

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Wilcot Village Hall
on Tuesday 9th January 2024 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillors Dee Nix, Dawn Wilson, Richard Fleet, Nicky Fleet, Richard Lewis, and Neil Ridgway.
Unitary Councillor Paul Oatway
Clerk Ruth Kinderman

Residents and other members of the public: Jane Brown, Pamela Smith, Wendy Kite, Clive Kite, Andrew Fordham, Andrew Lingard, Rich Mallet, Rob Nicholas, John Pearce, Mel Hayworth, Mike Smith, Sarah Huggins, Julian Huggins, Jim Lindralf, Sam Iles, Sama Kyle.

24/01	To receive apologies for absence Cllrs JE, PS and KR.	
24/02	To receive declarations of interest None.	
24/03	To agree the minutes of the meeting of the parish council held on 21st November 2023 Clerk noted that the published draft contained an error under item 23/68; the draft published figure of £9200.00 had been corrected to £9660.00 for the printed copy in the minute book. Cllr DW proposed the corrected minutes be accepted as an accurate record; seconded by Cllr RL with no objections and signed accordingly by Cllr DN.	
24/04	Public question time Having ascertained that all members of the audience were present for the same reason, Cllr DN invited two of their members to speak on behalf of the rest. The first representative said that she would like to submit a formal complaint against the parish council for having abused and exceeded its powers under Section 96 of the 1980 Highways Act, by obstructing access to the verge along the canal-side road in Wilcot. She considered that the building up of the verges on both sides of the highway was a deliberate attempt to drive boat users out of the parish. She noted that boat users are legally entitled to moor at Wilcot for up to fourteen days. She considered that poor public transport provision left boat users no choice other than to park vehicles near their boats, in order to access their places of employment, and other services. The complaint was also against Wiltshire Council for its failure under clauses 1, 3 and 4 of Section 130 of the Highways Act 1980. With reference to previous incidents in the village, she said that boat users will not hesitate to prosecute any parties to future acts of vandalism of their vehicles or abuse against them. The second member of the audience to speak said that parking in the main village is too dangerous for boat users with children, who get out of their cars onto the main road. She considered that boatism, which she defined as an aversion to people only because they live on boats, is the underlying cause for any fly-tipping, bollards installation and turfing of part of the verge to prevent boaters parking near some houses. Cllr DN noted that fly-tipping is a matter for Wiltshire Council as parish councils have no jurisdiction over that. Cllr DN thanked the speakers for their comments. Cllr DN noted that item 24/10.1 was for the Clerk to report to the parish council on matters which have been relative to the canal and parking since the last meeting.	
24/05	Update from Wiltshire Council – Unitary Councillor Paul Oatway With reference to the comment made under item 24/04 about a perceived lack of public transport, Cllr Oatway said that he had been instrumental in obtaining £1million	

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investment into the new Wiltshire Connect bus which operates on demand throughout the Pewsey Vale.

Cllr Oatway reported that Kennet Valley Joint Parish Council has requested a boundary change whereby Heath Cottage and Clench Cottage would be transferred to that parish; Clerk confirmed that this parish council was unaware of the proposal. Cllr DW noted that these properties are within this parish because of the historical manorial boundaries and the old Savernake Forest wards. Cllr Wilson reported that when last visited, these properties indicated contentment with their isolated position.

It was agreed to pre-empt the Community Governance Consultation by submitting a response with these details explaining the historic parish setting and to note that the expense of the Review could have been avoided if the neighbouring parish council had made an initial informal approach to this parish council to see whether the proposal would be mutually agreeable.

Cllr Oatway reported that the Wiltshire Council Tax precept will rise by 4.99% or 3.99% this year to be followed by only a 2.99% rise the next.

With regards to the recent flooding, Cllr Oatway noted that the ditches on the southern side of Alton Road to the west of Wilcot need jetting out.

Further to the complaints made under item 24/04, Cllr Oatway read a summary of an email he had received today from a lady in Dorset, in which she apologised for being unable to attend the meeting she understood he had called this evening to discuss parking in Wilcot. Knowledge gained during her time serving with Dorset Council led her to believe that the verge works along the canal-side road constituted unauthorised waste disposition.

Cllr Oatway noted that he had not called this meeting, which is a regular meeting of the parish council. In the light of the comments made by his correspondent, he has contacted the Wiltshire Mineral & Waste Enforcement Team, the Planning Department, and the Highways Department, who will be contacting the parish council for further information. *Cllr Oatway excused himself from the remainder of the meeting due to other commitments.*

Cllr DN proposed that in the light of the accusations made under item 24/04, this parish council should take no further action until Cllr Oatway reports back with the results of his investigations. All were content with this proposal.

Cllr DN noted that the parish council had worked closely with Highways, who had given prior approval, and approved the works once partially complete; Highways is due to provide hardcore to improve the parking spaces.

Cllr NF noted that any incidents of vandalism or abuse should be reported directly to the police.

Further discussion centred around the recent decision of the Canals and Rivers Trust to remove dog waste bins from the tow-path. Members of the audience noted that they suffer the consequences of other canal users leaving their dog waste behind; in addition, the nearest refuse facilities for boaters are Pewsey to the east, and All Cannings to the west. It was noted that very rural areas suffer more from this policy decision than the larger canal towns such as Hungerford and Newbury. Cllr DN expressed the parish council's sympathy with the boaters and said that neither the behaviour of some dog walkers, nor the CRT's removal of bins, were acceptable. Cllr DN noted that the parish provides a general waste bin on Wilcot green, to which dog bags can be added. Clerk read a statement provided by CRT regarding the bin removal policy, which is aimed at cutting costs of £39,000. The parish council agreed that this projected saving was risible in the context provided by CRT of a funding shortfall of £300million this year. The parish council

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	<p>agreed to object to this decision which affects all canal users, the local community and the boat licence payers. Cllr DN noted that the supposition that waterways could be successfully run as a charitable trust has been proved to be a fallacy.</p> <p>Comments from the floor suggested that the effect of the removal of the dog bins could be compared to the removal of parking availability, and that the parish council should therefore empathise with the boaters. Noting that parked vehicles belonged to other canal users beside boaters, Cllr DN noted that the quantity of parked vehicles had led to tree root damage and often obstructed the highway in such a way as to restrict access for emergency services. Reminding the audience that Cllr Oatway would investigate the situation further, and that not all parking space had been removed, Cllr DN thanked them for attending and said that, although welcome, they were under no obligation to stay for the remainder of the meeting.</p> <p>All members of the audience thanked the council and left the meeting.</p> <p>A parting observation about the invasion of Japanese knotweed on the north-east side of Bristow's Bridge was noted.</p>	
24/06	<p>To Receive the Budget and monitoring report</p> <p>06.1 To note invoices paid since the meeting of 21st November approved in accordance with Fin Regs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clerk's salary November and December 2 x £220.65 - Charlton Baker direct debit November and December 2 x £15.50 - Oare Village Hall – hire for 2023/2024 £127.50 - London Hearts match-funded defibrillator and cabinet £750.00 - NBB recycled furniture Huish bench £558.00 (£465.00 + £93.00 VAT) - TDP Wilcot bench £619.28 (£516.07 + £103.21 VAT) - Wessex Print December newsletter £44.00 <p>06.2 To approve invoices due</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fishlock & Dyer installation of defibrillator at Hillview Park, Sunnyhill Lane <p>Cllr Wilson proposed that the invoice be paid without further discussion provided it is below £700.00. Seconded by Cllr RL with all in favour.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clerk noted that printer ink is low; purchase and reimbursement was agreed. <p>A grant of £478.00 had been received from The North Wessex Landscape Trust Sustainable Development Fund towards the benches.</p>	RK
24/07	<p>To set precept for 2024/2025</p> <p>Further to item 23/68, Wiltshire Council had published parish tax bases for 2024/2025; it was noted that with the reduced tax base from 278 to 273.81, retaining the precept at £9660.00 would show as a 1.53% increase. It was agreed that a nil increase was preferable. To achieve this, Cllr NF proposed a precept of £9514.00; seconded by Cllr DW with all in favour.</p>	RK
24/08	<p>Planning Applications and Enforcement</p> <p>To note progress of planning applications previously considered:</p> <p>08.1 Application PL/2022/09122 (Listed Building Consent) 16 & 17 Wilcot Green, SN9 5NN – replacement windows Wiltshire Council is due to publish a decision on 19th January. <i>Post-meeting note – approved with conditions.</i></p> <p>08.2 Application PL/2023/04911 (Listed building consent) 18, Wilcot, SN9 5NN - Replacement and repair of windows and doors Approved by Wiltshire Council subject to various conditions relating to joinery specifications.</p>	

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08.3 Applications PL/2023/04706 & PL/2023/04214 (Listed Building Consent)

Oare House - proposed replacement wall.

Wiltshire Council requires a sample of the wall prior to commencement.

08.4 Application PL/2023/07717 (treeworks) - The Stables, Pound Lane, Oare, SN8 4JA

Proposal – Sycamore – reduce crown of one tree by 40 - 50% to approx 10m above ground level; action requires due to danger of damage to buildings as proximity is less than 5m to buildings. Small lower branches are already trimmed as they were growing into buildings. Risk is that branches higher up or whole tree fall on buildings in increasingly frequent high winds.

Approved by Wiltshire Council.

08.5 Application PL/2023/07723 - Home Farm Cottage, Oare, Marlborough, SN8 4JA

Proposal - Demolition of single storey extension. New single storey extension and new 2 storey extension. General refurbishment of interior.

Approved by Wiltshire Council subject to conditions restricting external lighting and stipulations about the use during construction, and restoration afterwards, of WILC17.

08.6 Application PL/2023/07933 - Oare House, Oare Estate, Oare, SN8 4JQ

Proposal - Relocation of existing shade tunnel, erection of glass house and horticultural building to provide a maintenance store, estate office and greenhouse with associated ground works and landscaping. Partial change of use of paddock to accommodate the proposed use.

Wiltshire Council is due to publish a decision on 10th January.

Post-meeting note – decision postponed until 21st February.

08.7 Application PL/2023/08636 - Home Farm Cottage, Oare, Marlborough, SN8 4JA

Proposal - Change of use of area of land from Agricultural Use to Residential Amenity for Home Farm Cottage and erection of a greenhouse.

Approved by Wiltshire Council.

08.8 Application PL/2023/08968 - Hatfield Farm, Oare, Wilts, SN8 4JE

Proposal - Replacement of Units 1 and 2 with new buildings with altered footprint.

Wiltshire Council is due to publish a decision on 12th January.

08.9 Application PL/2023/09284 - Wilcot Cricket Club, School Meadow, Wilcot, SN9 5NN

Proposal - Provision of bowling and batting nets for coaching junior cricketers.

Wiltshire Council was due to publish a decision on 21st December.

To note applications considered since the last meeting

08.10 Application PL/2023/10321 - 5 THE OLD DAIRY, WILCOT, PEWSEY, SN9 5PJ

Proposal - Hawthorn tree, Cherry tree & Rowan tree - reduce height by 1m and shape; 2 x Crab Apple trees - reduce by 2m and shape

Approved by Wiltshire Council.

08.11 Application PL/2023/10322 - 3 THE OLD DAIRY, WILCOT, PEWSEY, SN9 5PJ

Proposal - Prunus tree - reduce height by 1m and shape; Acer tree - crown reduce by 2m and Shape; Hawthorn tree - crown reduce by 1.5m and shape

Approved by Wiltshire Council.

08.12 Application PL/2023/10323 - 13, WILCOT, PEWSEY, SN9 5NN

Proposal - Prunus tree - crown reduce by 30% (2m-3m), thin by 10% and shape path

Approved by Wiltshire Council.

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	<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>08.13 Application PL/2023/09665 - The White Hart, Oare, Marlborough, Wilts, SN8 4JA Proposal - Certificate of Lawfulness for material start to implement permission 14/07813/FUL (Erection of new dwelling in the grounds of White Hart public house and formation of new car park for public house)</p> <p>Comments by 11th January.</p> <p>It was agreed to object to the further extension of 14/07813/FUL, which itself was a re-approval of an application approved in 2011. It was noted that the conditions of approval in 2014 assumed the ongoing functioning of the White Hart as a public house; they do not reflect the current reality of the derelict building. There has been no work done since the material start in 2017, which was not certified until after the three-year expiry of the 2014 Decision Notice. The parish council would expect a fresh application to be made for this site. It was agreed that Clerk should notify the school of the application, as current long-standing parking arrangements for parents may be affected by this or any other application for the site.</p>	RK
24/09	<p>Project updates</p> <p>09.1 Community Speedwatch Cllr DN reported that Wiltshire Police have advised CSW should not operate where it is too dangerous to reach the location. Community Area Manager Richard Rogers had confirmed that this applies to Oare, due to the lack of pavement. It was noted that the Oare Village Hall Committee is considering the purchase of a SID to be used permanently in Oare, subject to further enquiries relating to installation and necessary licences to move it from one location to another, battery charging and data download. If successful, Wilcot will benefit from the shared SID more often.</p> <p>09.2 A345 – to note date of next LHFIFG meeting 31/01/24 The police announcement referred to under 24/09.1 will assist in progressing the A345 safety improvements through LHFIFG. Cllr DN to send relevant points to Cllr DW in readiness for the LHFIFG meeting.</p> <p>09.3 Bus stop at Sunnyhill Lane – Reds; LHFIFG – to note date of next LHFIFG meeting 31/01/24 Cllr DN to send relevant points to Cllr DW in readiness for the LHFIFG meeting.</p> <p>09.4 Benches Both benches have been ordered and paid for. The Oare bench is due to be delivered on Thursday 11th January; Cllr DN to receive delivery to the village hall car park and Clerk to advise the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee of imminent delivery.</p> <p>09.5 Defibrillator at Hillview Park The application for a fully-funded defibrillator had been unsuccessful but a match-funded one has been obtained, with Fishlock & Dyer due to install this within the next two weeks. This will be registered on The Circuit, as required under the terms and conditions of the scheme.</p> <p>09.6 Communal skips The recent newsletter asked for comments from residents on this proposal; one response had been received, disapproving of the parish council spending money on skips when the Household Recycling Centres can be used free of charge. It was noted that Wiltshire Council will collect large items directly from dwellings, at a cost of £30.00 per item.</p> <p>09.7 Greensward update Clerk will rearrange the pond dredging and fence replacement for next August.</p> <p>09.8 Footpath audit It was agreed that Clerk should write to Ladybird Cottage, requesting that the hedge is cut back along the footpath. It was noted that walkers appear to be directed away from</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DN/DW</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DN/DW</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DN/RK</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DN/RK</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RK</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RK</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RK</p>

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	the correct route at WILC3 from Pound Lane. Clerk to check with the landowners if way-markers are required.	
24/10	<p>Clerk's Report</p> <p>10.1 Canal side parking and verge project including correspondence Clerk has responded to a request for references in the parish council minutes relating to this matter, sending all item numbers as far back as January 2022, with the offer of more from the previous minute book if required.</p> <p>10.2 Parish Steward The steward is due on 29th January. Cllr DN to send a complete list of required tasks which will include pavement sweeping in Oare and clearing the ditches and gullies at Draycott crossroads.</p> <p>10.3 Highways correspondence No responses had been received to the questions submitted to the Highways Matters Event at the Area Board on 27th November; Clerk to chase. It was noted that the large puddle at the top of Oare Hill appears to now gather further north towards Marlborough; this may be due to more frequent gully cleaning as promised by Wiltshire Council. Clerk to request gel sacs and sand bags for Huish in preparation for future flooding. The new Local Highways Engineer, Andy Cadwallader, has raised a ticket to ensure the road sweeper clears the debris at the A345/Huish Lane junction.</p> <p>10.4 Canal & Rivers Trust removal of dog waste bins This had been addressed under item 24/05. It was agreed to submit a Freedom of Information Request to CRT to find out whether their costs involved in the Ladies Bridge application exceeded £39,000.00, the savings they are attempting to make by removing the bins. Cllr NR noted that the Stowell Estate hosts 6km of the canal, for which CRT has no liability.</p> <p>10.5 Hedge cutting at Huish Corner Cllr NR had cut back the hedges on the east side of the road, for which the parish council thanked him. It was agreed to contact the householders again, to explain that more will need to be removed in order to comply with the expected 14" from the edge of the tarmac.</p> <p>10.6 Police matters The quarterly police report is attached as an appendix to these minutes; there were no recorded incidents in the parish.</p> <p>10.7 Polling place review Clerk has requested an update as there appeared to be no information as to the progress and outcome on the relevant Wiltshire Council website page.</p>	<p>DN/RK</p> <p>RK</p> <p>RK</p> <p>RK</p> <p>RK/NR</p> <p>RK</p>
24/11	<p>Exchange of information</p> <p>11.1 Pewsey Area Board - Monday 4th March 2024</p> <p>11.2 PCAP – Thursday 18th January 2024</p> <p>It was agreed to use the PCAP issues request to submit a general pot-hole complaint, and ask PCAP to lobby Wiltshire Highways on behalf of the parishes.</p> <p>Tuesday 30th January – WALC training event for parish councils – Martyn's Law. Clerk had circulated details of the proposed legislation requiring venues and organisers of large gatherings of over 100 people to take certain security precautions. Cllr RF had notified the Wilcot Village Hall Committee. The training is aimed at larger councils; it was not thought necessary to attend.</p> <p>It was agreed to write a formal letter of congratulation to resident Diane Miles on her MBE awarded in the recent New Year's Honours List.</p>	<p>RK</p> <p>RK</p>

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Planning Committee meetings will be held as required. All meetings will start at **1900hrs** unless otherwise advertised.

Provisional dates and times of next meetings 2023/2024

Tuesday 19 th March 2024	Oare
Tuesday 14 th May 2024 – annual meetings	Oare

Meeting closed at 9.15 pm

Signed: _____

Date: _____



WILTSHIRE POLICE PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Wilcot, Huish and Oare

Quarter 4 2023

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 follow up or are recorded as non-crime incidents. (Road traffic incidents, minor incidents of Anti-social behaviour)

From 1st October 2023- 23rd December 2023

0 Crimes have 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 at **28 different locations** in the Pewsey area between **October- December 2023**.

During this period, **141** drivers have been offered speed awareness courses, **9** drivers have been issued with a fine and points on their license and **0** 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 which have resulted in the arrests of several drivers for drink/drug driving related offences. Oare has had various visits from both Neighbourhood and Speed Watch Enforcement Officers during this time to carry out speed checks.

Community consultations

There have been several planned drop-in surgeries in the Pewsey area during this period and there has been 9 recorded community engagements throughout the wider Pewsey area during this time.

During the lead up to Christmas, officers from the Neighbourhood Policing Team have been focusing on **Operation Elf**, which has involved numerous high-visibility foot patrols of the **Devizes, Marlborough, and Pewsey areas** to deter criminality such as shopliftings and offer crime prevention advice to businesses and members of the public. There have been several pro-active arrests and positive outcomes linked to thefts from retail businesses in the area during this period.



Further community consultations will take place in the first quarter of 2024, and these will be advertised in advance via our Community Policing Team social media pages. Any residents are also free to sign up to our community messaging service at 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

The next community consultations currently scheduled for the Pewsey sector are as follows;

- **Royal Oak Public House, Wootton Rivers on Thursday 8th February 2024 (Time TBC)**
- **Bouverie Hall, Goddard Road, Pewsey on Tuesday 12th March 2024 (Time TBC)**

Incidents of note

On Wednesday 20th December 2023, an 18-year-old male from the local area was arrested by Police after a vehicle was taken from the Wootton Rivers area without the owner's consent. The vehicle was later recovered by Police following a pursuit. The suspect was arrested on suspicion of aggravated vehicle taking, dangerous driving, failing to stop for Police and driving whilst unfit through drugs and driving otherwise in accordance with a licence. The matter currently remains under investigation.