

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 13th September 2022 at 7.30 pm

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

With the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elisabeth II on Thursday 8th September, Cllr DN opened the meeting by asking that a minute's silence be observed.

Cllr DN recounted attending a Garden Party some years ago, where she observed Her Majesty, already very small and quite elderly, bringing a smile to many faces throughout a long afternoon, clearly having said the right thing in each case; attendees noticed Her Majesty removing her feet in turn from her shoes every now and again, testament to her quiet endurance in every circumstance and duty.

22/54	To receive apologies for absence Apologies from Councillor Kathryn Richardson were accepted.	
22/55	To receive declarations of interest Cllr DN – item 58.9	
22/56	To agree the minutes of the meeting of the parish council held on 12th July All councillors indicated their approval of the minutes and they were signed accordingly by Cllr DN.	
22/57	Public question time Cllr PS had photographed a notice which residents had spotted opposite the war memorial, advertising a proposal by BT to install a 10-metre pole for provision of full fibre broadband. Clerk confirmed that no planning application has been received. Clerk to investigate via the online-chat address published on the notice; no email address or contact name was provided.	RK
22/58	Planning Applications and Enforcement To note progress of planning applications previously considered: 58.1 Application PL/2021/04772 (Listed Building) Ladies Bridge, Kennet & Avon Canal, Wilcot, Wiltshire, SN9 5PD A site meeting is due to take place shortly between Cllr PO, Mr Maidment and the Canal and Rivers Trust (CRT), whereat a proposal by Mr Maidment for resolution will be discussed. If CRT do not accept the proposal, Cllr PO will proceed to call in the original application to Planning Committee. 58.2 Application PL/2022/03765 and PL/2022/03798 Cold Blow Cottage, Cold Blow, Oare, Marlborough, SN8 4JL This application has been approved by Wiltshire Council with the condition that external surfaces of the heat pump housing are painted black. 58.3 Application PL/2022/04807 The Limes A345 Marlborough Road, Oare, SN8 4JA Treeworks have been approved by Wiltshire Council. 58.4 Application PL PL/2022/04929 18, WILCOT, PEWSEY, SN9 5NN Treeworks have been approved by Wiltshire Council. 58.5 New driveway at 5 Alton Road, Wilcot ENQ/2022/00189	

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<p>Wiltshire Planning Department has now acknowledged that the advice given to owner of 5 Alton Road that planning permission was not required was incorrect. Wiltshire Council does not intend to pursue this matter further given the strong likelihood that permission would have been granted given the presence of a similar hardstanding a short distance further south.</p> <p>It was agreed that the precedent quoted to justify Wiltshire Council's decision does not apply, as that other hardstanding had also been installed without planning permission, further to incorrect advice from the Planning Department to the owner.</p> <p>Clerk reported that Wiltshire Rights of Way department had confirmed that Wiltshire Council does not own the land or any right of way over it. It was assumed that the land was transferred to Aster and is maintained by them. It was agreed to contact Aster to enquire whether the land has been sold to residents. It was noted that the properties in the crescent are entitled to parking spaces behind the houses, but that Aster does not appear to allot these spaces fairly.</p> <p>It was noted that Wiltshire Council had been stringent in applying planning regulations to the installation of driveways at numbers 10 and 11, neither of whom have any other off-road parking facility.</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>58.6 Application PL/2022/05228 MANOR FARM, WILCOT, PEWSEY, SN9 5NS Proposal: Ash Leaf Maple – Fell Comments by 29th July. It had been agreed by email to submit no objection; Wiltshire Council had since approved these treeworks.</p> <p>58.7 Application PL/2022/05533 – listed building consent Oare House, Rudge Lane, Oare, Marlborough, SN8 4JQ Proposal: Stairlift from main hall to first floor Comments by 26th August. It had been agreed by email to submit no objection; Wiltshire Council has yet to make a decision. It was noted that Historic England had been consulted but had not expressed an opinion on the application, other than to advise Wiltshire Planning Department to seek advice elsewhere.</p> <p>58.8 Application PL/2022/05921 COLD BLOW HOUSE, COLD BLOW, OARE, MARLBOROUGH, SN8 4JL Proposal: Reduce Holm Oaks Nos 97, 100, 101 and 119 by 40% to prevent further damage - Trees are multi stemmed from base. Comments by 23rd August It had been agreed by email to submit no objection; Wiltshire Council had since approved these treeworks.</p> <p>58.9 Application PL/2022/05950 BEECHCOMBE, COLD BLOW, OARE, MARLBOROUGH, SN8 4JL Proposal: Beech tree - reduce to hedge height (4m) Comments by 24th August</p>	<p>RK</p> <p>RK</p>
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	It had been agreed by email to submit no objection; Wiltshire Council has yet to make a decision.	
22/59	<p>To Receive the Budget and monitoring report</p> <p>59.1 To note invoices paid since the last meeting in accordance with Fin Regs Appendix</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clerk's salary July £195.65 and August £195.85 - Charlton Baker direct debit July and August, each £14.00 = £28.00 - ICO GDPR direct debit £35.00 - Chris Bartlett hosting fee £119.99 - Clerk postage costs £4.70 <p>59.2 To approve invoices due</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an invoice for £15.00 had been received in relation to the Civility and Respect webinar attended by Cllr DW on 12th September. Cllr DW reported that the content of the webinar had not been as expected and will give feedback to WALC accordingly. Clerk to circulate notes provided by Cllr DW. <p>Cllr JE proposed that the invoice for £15.00 be paid, seconded by Cllr PS, all in favour. Cllr DW will ask WALC for further information regarding the content of the additional webinars relating to Civility and Respect/Behaviour/Code of Conduct which WALC has advertised in conjunction with the Hertfordshire Association of Town and Parish Councils before a decision is taken to attend any or all of them.</p> <p>59.3 To note external audit arrangements for 2022/23-2026/27</p> <p>The contract for Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments is due for renewal by central government; parish councils may opt out of arrangements made by central government and appoint their own external auditor if they wish. It was noted that opting out would probably entail additional costs.</p> <p>Cllr DW proposed that this Parish Council remain opted-in to central government arrangements; seconded by Cllr NF, all in favour. No further action is required.</p>	NF
22/60	<p>Project updates</p> <p>60.1 Footpath audit</p> <p>Cllr RF reported that the footpath to the east of Rainscombe has been temporarily diverted due to pheasants; he noted that this had been courteously managed. The footpath reaches a hole in the hedge by the A345 which is not satisfactory.</p> <p>The footpath which continues up the side of the hill on the other side of the A345 would benefit from an additional waymarker in the middle of the route.</p> <p>Cllr RF reported that WILC3 has become very overgrown and is not yet clearly waymarked at the Pound Lane end. Clerk to contact Stephen Leonard directly regarding this matter due to past involvement with both landowners.</p> <p>Cllr DN reported that the stile and mud on WILC39/WILC18 have been replaced by a kissing gate and gravel, improving the route to Giant's Grave.</p> <p>60.2 To discuss parish steward provision</p> <p>Cllr DN reported that the parish steward had achieved many things in Oare yesterday, prompting her to defer her request that the parish council consider pursuing a complaint against him.</p> <p>Clerk noted that the current system of monthly request sheets is inefficient as many tasks need doing every visit. It was agreed to suggest to Highways that each village has a monthly checklist of regular tasks with the request sheet to be used for additional one-off jobs.</p> <p>It was noted that Highways is willing for parish councils to communicate directly with stewards; Cllr JE volunteered to be the Wilcot contact. Cllr JE said that Church Lane is still</p>	<p>RK</p> <p>RK</p> <p>RK</p> <p>JE/RK</p>

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	<p>in poor condition, responsible for at least two damaged tyres. Clerk to report this again, to the steward and on the MyWilts system.</p> <p>60.3 Community Speedwatch Clerk had not yet received a reply from Colin Gale to the suggestion that an additional spare battery is bought for the SID; this had been in Wilcot recently but had stopped working again before it was due to be moved.</p> <p>It was noted that solar power may be better than battery for SIDs.</p> <p>It was noted that a metrocount is in place along the A345 either side of Rainscombe; Clerk had not been notified of this and will make enquiries with Highways.</p> <p>60.4 Defibrillator options Due to the global supply chain disruption, SWAST has again stopped setting up new contracts, although a waiting list is in operation for those who make a full payment upfront. Cllr DW said that the current defibrillators and batteries should last for a further eighteen months. It was agreed not to make any payment and that SWAST should be asked to give a definite response within twelve months.</p> <p>60.5 Greensward update Clerk had circulated all quotes for the work to be done at the Greensward. The committee had met on site to consider these and had agreed that Rowan Tree Surgery should be accepted. Cllr RF proposed that this be supported; seconded by Cllr JE with all in favour. It was noted that the price was subject to access through the adjacent field with a cherry picker to reach the dead elm.</p> <p>Cllr NR said that permission for this access had been denied by the landowner. It was therefore agreed that Clerk should contact Rowan Tree Surgery for a revised price. It was noted that access will have to be obtained by removing the fence posts at the eastern edge of the sward. It was agreed that Clerk should advise the Greensward Committee to apply for a grant from the Area Board. It was agreed that the Parish Council could use the CIL monies to match-fund any grant the Area Board may be willing make.</p> <p>Clerk reported that the barrister for the landowner of the adjacent field had expressed concern that some of proposed treeworks may be within his boundary. Cllr NR confirmed that all trees considered for works are within the Greensward.</p> <p>Tree surgeons had varied in their advice as to how to deal with the sycamore, which had fallen out of the sward into the neighbouring field and had been pushed back to the boundary by a tractor driver. It was agreed to remove it to assist in ascertaining the original hedge line.</p>	<p>RK</p> <p>RK</p> <p>RK</p> <p>RK</p> <p>RK</p>
22/61	<p>Clerk's Report</p> <p>61.1 Wilcot bridge – Canal and Rivers Trust Cllr PO had taken the opportunity to draw the attention of the CRT to the delayed repair of Wilcot bridge when in discussion about CRT's aims to preserve and maintain all the bridges along the canal. Clerk reported that CRT's contractor Keir has now scheduled this work for October.</p> <p>61.2 Correspondence - WILC34 Clerk apologised for not having progressed this item since the last meeting.</p> <p>61.3 White Hart Clerk has written to Mr Jones requesting confirmation that he is the current owner and advising him that an application to list the building and beer cellar with Historic England is in preparation.</p> <p>61.4 Correspondence – DMMO 2021/25 Park Copse Clerk had circulated the letter, summary and full report by Wiltshire Council in which the DMMO had been refused, and in which the reasons for the refusal were given. Cllr PO noted that the report was very thorough and detailed. Clerk said that the application had been submitted by the parish council in ignorance of various factors which, if known, may have had a bearing on parish council decisions. Clerk</p>	

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	<p>had been unaware that the previous farm manager may not have been the best point of contact with the Estate at the time. Clerk had also been unaware that Park Copse had been the site of more than one altercation in the preceding year, with solicitors involved at times. The parish council's motive for submitting the DMMO application was therefore open to misinterpretation by any residents who did know these things.</p> <p>Cllr RF expressed his appreciation for the refusal having been clearly based on relevant evidence alone; in this case insufficient evidence was the determining factor. Cllr RF said that the parish council had been supporting parishioners in a request they were making and that it was not the parish council's role to judge the evidence submitted; Clerk confirmed that she had made this clear to any correspondents.</p> <p>Cllr PS noted that two of the parishioners making the request were also parish councillors; Cllr DN said that parish councillors are free to do this provided they declare an interest, which they had done.</p> <p>Clerk said that the situation arising from the DMMO application appeared to be a symptom of a wider problem, stemming from the historical relationship between the landowner and the Parish Council. Cllr NF noted that it had been a different council at that time and that current parish councillors who were serving at that time had supported the Estate in the matter. Clerk noted that the Estate has also undergone a change of personnel since that time.</p> <p>61.5 Code of Conduct</p> <p>Cllr PO said that the focus group has completed its review of the new model Code and that its recommendations have been accepted by the leaders of the Independent, Liberal Democrat and Labour groups at Wiltshire Council. The Conservative group has declined to comment so far; Cllr PO will be meeting with them before the proposed new code is voted on by full council.</p> <p>Cllr PO said that the majority of complaints received by the Standards Committee relate to parish and town councils rather than to unitary councillors. Wiltshire Council will be encouraging all town and parish councils to adopt the new Wiltshire Code once approved, in order to ensure consistency across the county.</p> <p>Clerk distributed copies of this parish council's current Code of Conduct and asked councillors to familiarise themselves with it in order to make an informed decision once the new Wiltshire Code is received for their consideration.</p>	<p>ALL CLLRS</p>
<p>22/62</p>	<p>Exchange of information</p> <p>The Area Board meeting to be held on 19th September has been postponed to 10th October.</p> <p>Cllr JE asked whether rooftop solar panels require planning permission; Cllr DW and Clerk to investigate.</p>	<p>RK/DW</p>

Provisional dates and times of next meetings 2022/2023

Tuesday 22 nd November 2022 - budget	Oare
Tuesday 17 th January 2023 - precept	Wilcot
Tuesday 14 th March 2023	Oare
Tuesday 16 th May 2023 – annual meetings	Wilcot

Meeting closed at 9.10pm

Signed: _____

Date: _____