

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 Wednesday 13th September 2023 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillors Dee Nix, Dawn Wilson, Richard Fleet, Nicky Fleet, Prue Smith, Richard Lewis, Jamie Ede, Neil Ridgway and Kathryn Richardson (arrived 7.30pm)

Unitary Councillor Paul Oatway (until 7.30pm)

Clerk Ruth Kinderman

Residents Phil Coles, Kate Fetherston-Godley, Tessa Ing, and Martin Fetherston-Godley (from 8.15pm)

23/51	To receive apologies for absence None.	
23/52	To receive declarations of interest Cllrs NF and RF – item 57.13 Cllr PS – item 57.2	
23/53	To agree the minutes of the meeting of the parish council held on 13th July. Cllr RF proposed these be accepted as an accurate record. Seconded by Cllr DW with all in favour; signed accordingly by Cllr DN.	
23/54	Public question time In response to a question from the floor as to whether further verge works along the canal-side road in Wilcot are planned, Cllr NR said that the project had been on hold for the duration of harvest only and will re-commence shortly.	
23/55	Update from Wiltshire Council – Unitary Councillor Paul Oatway Cllr PO reported that the Wiltshire Highways Department will be subject to some much-needed strong criticism at the Pewsey Area Board meeting in November, due to be attended by the Director of Highways. Cllr PO said that all parish councils in his division are appalled by the state of their roads. Cllr PO reported that one highway engineer had noted that the A342 is not fit to be classed as an A road, since when resurfacing works to the value of £250,000 had taken place but had been implemented on a stretch which did not need doing, whilst the worst places had been overlooked. Cllr PO said that with an additional £1 million from Wiltshire Council reserves, an additional £10million from Central Government and a £3.6million grant, the Wiltshire Highways budget has increased considerably. Cllr PO noted that the Wiltshire Highways Department has 2700 miles of roads to maintain but that he is determined to ensure the east of Wiltshire gets its fair share of expenditure. Cllr DN had issued an apology to all residents through the recent newsletter about the state of the parish, not only regarding the roads but also the lack of maintenance of pavements, bus stops and other street furniture. By way of Freedom of Information requests if necessary, Cllr DN intends to find out how much money has been spent in each area of Wiltshire. Cllr PO asked the parish council to ensure steward sheets are returned to Highways after a visit, noting what work had been completed or otherwise, to assist Highways in collecting evidence for assessing the scheme. In response to comments from the floor, Cllr DN accepted the offer of photographs taken of stewards in the course of their duties. Cllr PO noted that the new Wiltshire Connect bus service has been well used and a great success so far.	
23/56	To Receive the Budget and monitoring report 56.1 To note invoices paid since the meeting of 20 th June approved in accordance with Fin Regs - Clerk's salary June, July and August £869.95 - Charlton Baker direct debit June, July and August 3 x £15.50 - ICO GDPR annual fee - £35.00 - Open Spaces sub 2023/24 - £45.00	

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	<p>- grant to St John’s Ambulance - £250.00 - grant to PCAP - £250.00 - grant to Wilcot Village Hall & Green Committee - £250.00 - Chris Bartlett/web hosting - £60.00 56.2 To approve invoices due. - Bawden – Greensward, pond dredging The work has been rescheduled to the end of September, not August as previously expected. - defibrillator electrode pads £327.54 Cllr DW noted that delivery of replacement pads is due shortly; Cllr RF proposed that the expenditure be approved, seconded by Cllr PS with all in favour. - Wessex print newsletters - £44.00 - web domain name – Cllr NF noted that this cost in the region of £120.00 is usually requested with the hosting fee. Cllr DW proposed that it be paid on receipt of the invoice; seconded by Cllr RF, all in favour. 56.3 To note grant availability from NWAONB Clerk advised that the North Wessex AONB Sustainable Grant Fund has opened for applications; it was noted that Woodborough used this scheme to help finance its telephone kiosk conversion.</p> <p>Cllr JE suggested that the parish council funds could be earning interest. Clerk advised that public money should be readily accessible. Clerk and Cllr NF to research account options.</p>	RK/NF
23/57	<p>Planning Applications and Enforcement To note progress of planning applications previously considered: 57.1 Application PL/2021/04772 (Listed Building) Ladies Bridge, Kennet & Avon Canal, Wilcot, Wiltshire, SN9 5PD Cllr PO reported that Wiltshire Planning Department had taken legal advice and had subsequently withdrawn the application on the basis that Listed Building Consent was not necessary, as the proposed bollards would not interfere with the architectural fabric of the bridge. Wiltshire Council had not made Cllr PO aware of its proceedings prior to withdrawing the application, which was noted as having been open for a very long time. Cllr PO said that the proposed works remain a matter for the attention of Wiltshire Highways Department, as the proposed bollards will be placed on a public right of way. Clerk will circulate Wiltshire Council’s file note relating to the withdrawal of the application to all councillors.</p> <p>57.2 Application PL/2022/08562 and PL/2022/08887 (Listed Building Consent) 11 Wilcot Green, SN9 5NN – replacement conservatory and garage Cllr PS reported that this application is now for the attention of Planning Officer Karen Guest and a decision is due to be published on 22nd September.</p> <p>57.3 Application PL/2022/09122 (Listed Building Consent) 16 & 17 Wilcot Green, SN9 5NN – replacement windows Negotiations between the agent and the Conservation Officer are ongoing.</p> <p>57.4 Application PL/2023/04308 Cocklebury Farm, Wilcot, SN9 5PD - farm tracks This retrospective application had been approved by Wiltshire Council, with a reminder issued about the necessity of keeping rights of way clear during works and at all other times.</p>	RK

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57.5 Application PL/2023/04350

Home Farm Cottage, Oare – replacement dwelling

This application had been withdrawn by the applicant.

CLlr PO had met the applicant to discuss the proximity of the proposed development to a listed barn.

CLlr DN said that reasons for the parish council objecting to the application had included increased footprint and visual impact on the AONB from the surrounding downs and footpaths.

57.6 Application PL/2023/04879 & PL/2023/05177 (Listed Building)

Manor Farm, Yard Cottage, Wilcot – single storey extension

Wiltshire Council had been due to publish its decision on 14th August.

57.7 Application PL/2023/04891

Pound House, Oare - Alterations to design of front porch

Approved by Wiltshire Council subject to conditions relating to materials to be used.

57.8 Application PL/2023/04911 (Listed building consent)

18, Wilcot, SN9 5NN - Replacement and repair of windows and doors

Wiltshire Council is due to publish its decision on 5th October.

57.9 Application PL/2023/05211 (treeworks)

2 The Old Dairy, Wilcot – crown reductions to trees

No objection from Wiltshire Council.

57.10 Application PL/2023/04950

Straw Barn, Draycot North to Huish – replacement of barn

Approved by Wiltshire Council.

Clerk noted that contrary to the update recorded in the last meeting minutes, Wiltshire Planning Officers has requested further detail and additional specification for the proposed replacement wall at Oare House, PL/2023/04706 & PL/2023/04214. Clerk apologised for confusing this proposal with that previously approved relating to the tennis court, also at Oare House.

To note planning applications considered since the last meeting:

57.11 Application PL/2023/04728 (Listed Building Consent) - The Manor, Wilcot

Proposal - Installation of an electric vehicle charger. Comments by 12th September.

The parish council had not objected to the proposal on architectural grounds but had commented that, as the national grid is unable to cope with the increasing demands placed on it, installations of electric vehicle chargers would only be supported when accompanied by mitigating generating capabilities such as solar panels.

57.12 Application PL/2023/06721 – Pound House, Pound Lane, Oare, SN8 4JA

Proposal - Construction of garden machinery store & folly. Comments by 6th September.

The parish council had commented that the proposed structures were not in keeping with the village of Oare as a whole. The parish council had requested that any approval given for these large ancillary buildings should be subject to conditions preventing any separate sale or lease of them in the future.

57.13 Application PL/2023/06789 (treeworks) – Wilcot Village Hall, Wilcot, SN9 5NN

Proposal - Tree 1 Hawthorn Remove dead wood and straggling branches; Tree 2 Cherry Reduce spread so as not to overhang driveways; Tree 3 Apple Remove dead wood and

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	<p>reduce crown to reduce risk to parked vehicles; Tree 4 Sycamore Remove lower branches overhanging changing room and storage shed. Reduce crown by 3m to prevent it becoming a hazard to both buildings. Comments by 1st September. The parish council had submitted no objection.</p> <p>To review and provide feedback on new planning applications from Wiltshire Council (Town and Country Planning Act 1980, schedule 1, para 8) None received at time of publication.</p>	
23/58	<p>To receive options for the improvement of safety for all users of the A345. Clerk summarised the advice given by Mark Stansby, Senior Highways Engineer, at a site meeting held in Oare on 23rd June with Cllrs DN and DW. The summary is attached as an appendix to these minutes. Clerk advised that the first action to be taken is likely to be a signage or speed survey, requested through the Local Highways and Footpaths Improvement Group (LHFIG). The next meeting of LHFIG will be on 18th October with any requests for their agenda to be submitted by 4th October. Phil Coles of the Village Hall Committee volunteered to help with any consultation that may be needed in future. It was agreed that in addition to any external action taken to make improvements, the number of Community Speedwatch volunteers needs to increase. Clerk to send relevant information to Phil Coles, who will put out a request for volunteers. Cllr DN will ask police Speed Enforcement Officers to conduct a speed-watch session in the 50mph limit between Oare and Prospect. Cllr NF noted that a high-viz jacket on a pole could be used occasionally as a speed deterrent.</p>	<p>RK</p> <p>RK</p> <p>DN</p> <p>all</p>
23/59	<p>Project updates 59.1 A345 – approve LHFIG application for signage survey. Cllr JE proposed that a signage survey be requested, to include the possibility of installing one or two village gates on the A345 to the north of Oare. Seconded by Cllr NR, all in favour. It was noted that with improved signage and a more active Community Speedwatch Team in place, the situation could then be reviewed with fresh speed data available. 59.2 CIL monies expenditure – bus stop, benches, defibrillator at Hillview Park Residents at Hillview Park had requested a defibrillator, their closest currently being that at Pewsey Wharf. The park home site owner is willing for a defibrillator to be installed on the shower block. All councillors acknowledged the need and agreed that a defibrillator should be provided. It was agreed to consider purchasing an old cabinet and defibrillator from Woodborough Parsh Council, advised as available by the Clerk, which could then be replaced when the four existing defibrillators in the parish are eventually renewed. Clerk had not received a response regarding the bench in Huish; Cllr DW advised that the bench had been removed. Clerk and Cllr DN recommended that replacement benches for Huish and Oare should be of low-maintenance recycled plastic. As the CIL monies will not cover all three projects, it was agreed to research additional funding from Salisbury Reds, the Area Board, Hills Group, and the North Wessex AONB. 59.3 CIL/A345 – approve LHFIG application for bus stop. As Highways has approved the project in principle (see appendix), it was agreed to commence the process to run in parallel with grant applications, rather than delay the application until all funding was secured. It was agreed that the bus stop should be treated as a separate project from the longer-term solutions to general safety along the A345. Cllr DW proposed that the LHFIG application for the bus stop and dropped kerb should be submitted; seconded by Cllr NF with all in favour.</p>	<p>RK</p> <p>RK</p> <p>DN/RK</p> <p>RK</p> <p>RK</p>

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	<p>59.4 Communal skips Clerk advised that Grist could supply three skips per year for £645.00 plus VAT, with the expectation that the parish council would open an account with them. A price will be sought from Hills for comparison. This potential expenditure will be taken into account when considering the budget and precept for 2024/2025.</p> <p>59.5 Greensward update Bawden has scheduled the pond dredging for week commencing 26th September.</p> <p>59.8 Footpath audit It was noted that the electric fence is across footpath WILC7 between Hatfield House and Sunnyhill Lane and that the stile is in need of repair. Clerk noted that this stile had been reported on MyWilts sometime previously. Cllr DW to send photos to Clerk for a new report to be submitted. Clerk to write to Hatfield House to make enquiries as to ownership of the land.</p> <p>59.9 Emergency Plan Wiltshire Council has published a new template; Cllr DW will transfer relevant information from the old plan to the new. All councillors will review the plan and ask for volunteers from their localities. It was noted that Wiltshire Council is asking for all contact details, except the coordinators', to be redacted before sharing parish plans with them, due to GDPR.</p>	<p>RK/NF</p> <p>DW/RK</p> <p>DW/all/ RK</p>
23/60	<p>Clerk's Report</p> <p>60.1 Canal side parking and verge project Clerk had been advised by a resident that a car had been parked on the new verge by Cannings Cottage, on the bend in the road, which she had reported on 101 and had a reference number issued. Cllr NR reported that he had toured the parish with Matt Perrott, local Highway Engineer, and agreed a program of works. Whilst the perception is that agricultural vehicles are largely responsible for the state of the roads it had become clear that the main problem is that water cannot easily clear from the highways and is rotting the roads, due to the lack of maintenance of ditches and drains by Wiltshire Council. In addition to the verge works in Wilcot, Cllr NR said that the Stowell Estate will clear all ditches and grips from Mortimer's field gate through to the village green and make good the verge edge on the Green. Highways will arrange for a services survey, traffic control and a gully pit cleaner with drain-jetter, to address the drainage problems along the Alton Road. Cllr NR said that the Stowell Estate will cut back the hedge along Sunnyhill Lane, clear all ditches and grips and form the sub-base of the road; Wiltshire Highways will arrange road closure as necessary, obtain a services survey, provide the stone for the sub-base, tarmac and make good the road after the estate has completed the sub-base. Cllr NR hopes that the works will be completed in time for the road diversion during the forthcoming Pewsey Carnival. At Bristow's Bridge, the Stowell Estate will bank up the sides, and clear grips and ditches, whilst Highways will arrange road closures and a services survey, and lay tarmac to make the roads good after the Estate works.</p> <p>60.2 Parish Steward Clerk will submit request sheets next week; there were no additional tasks in addition to the regular jobs.</p> <p>60.3 Correspondence Verge damage at Wilcot Green – Cllr NR had addressed this matter under item 60.1. Canal & Rivers Trust removal of dog waste bins – Clerk has been notified by a resident that CRT are removing all bins along the tow path. Clerk to ask CRT why parish councils had not been informed. Hedge cutting at Huish Corner – further to advice from Mark Stansby, Clerk contacted</p>	<p>NR</p> <p>RK</p> <p>RK</p> <p>RK</p>

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	<p>all households with private hedges overhanging the A345. Two households have asked Clerk to liaise with Highways about road closures and costs for cutting the hedges back. Verge/hedge damage outside Oak Farm – request for verge markers.</p> <p>It was noted that the large puddles outside Oak Farm may resolve once the drainage along Alton Road is addressed; it was therefore agreed not to proceed with verge markers at present.</p> <p>60.4 MyWilts - to include discussion of hole in A345 by bus stop.</p> <p>Clerk advised that some matters are reported repeatedly on MyWilts without ever being satisfactorily resolved. It was noted that the sink hole by the A345 has previously been advised by Wiltshire Council as subject to further investigation for eventual long-term resolution. It was agreed that the Gazette and Herald should be notified of this hazardous hole if Wiltshire Council fails to respond appropriately to a further MyWilts report.</p> <p>60.5 Newsletters – content and any questions</p> <p>A Late Summer parish newsletter had been circulated; there were no questions arising.</p> <p>60.6 Wiltshire Local Plan consultation</p> <p>Clerk advised that the draft Local Plan was largely irrelevant to this parish. Cllr DW had attended some of the information sessions.</p>	<p>RK</p> <p>RK</p>
<p>23/61</p>	<p>Exchange of information</p> <p>61.1 Pewsey Area Board - Monday 18th September – Great Bedwyn – Cllr DW to attend.</p> <p>61.2 Wiltshire Towns Programme – online - 26th September – Cllr KR to attend.</p> <p>61.3 GWR Community Stakeholder Conference – online - 13th September</p> <p>Cllr DW had attended the session and advised that there had been more than 600,000 responses to the proposed closure of ticket offices, which will force a debate in Parliament. It is unclear whether the proposal emanated from the Department of Transport or from Great Western Railways. It was noted that there are 55 million versions of rail tickets nationwide, addressing which matter should take priority. In general discussion about the proposal, it was noted that an MP from Dorset had observed that a £43.00 ticket to London bought from his railway station office would cost £158.00 online.</p> <p>61.4 WALC AGM – Wednesday 25th October - venue to be confirmed.</p> <p>No councillors able to attend.</p> <p>61.5 Community First AGM - Wednesday 11th October – Devizes</p> <p>No councillors able to attend.</p> <p>61.6 PCAP – Thursday 19th October – venue to be confirmed.</p> <p>Cllr DW to attend.</p> <p>61.7 NeighbourhoodWatch AGM – Devizes – Saturday 7th October</p> <p>It was noted that local WhatsApp groups are effective for this purpose.</p> <p>61.8 To note new Connect bus service.</p> <p>Cllr DW had obtained leaflets and posters; the service had been advertised in the newsletter. Cllr Oatway had noted the successful launch to date.</p>	<p>DW</p> <p>KR</p> <p>DW</p>

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 21 st November 2023 - budget	Oare
Tuesday 9 th January 2024 - precept	Wilcot
Tuesday 19 th March 2024	Oare
Tuesday 14 th May 2024 – annual meetings	Oare

Meeting closed at 8.55 pm

Signed: _____

Date: _____

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Appendix to item 23/58, minutes of the parish council meeting held on 13th September.

Summary of options for improving safety for all users of the A345.

Speed

A speed survey – an assessment for re-considering the speed limit along entire A345 through village. This would need to go through the Local Highways and Footpaths Improvement Group and would cost approximately £2900, with a 20% contribution expected from the parish. Mark Stansby, Senior Highways Engineer, thinks the outcome of a speed survey is likely to be a recommendation to keep the status quo, but not necessarily so.

Mark Stansby advised that the 30mph limit cannot be pushed further north but that the signage could be enhanced.

Mark Stansby advised that the village could be obliged to accept in-fill housing to justify any extension of the 30mph limit further south.

General safety

White lines could be used to visually narrow the A345 to single file at the Huish junction.

A safety appraisal south of Rudge Lane could be undertaken, which would be likely to warn against the use of white lines only. White lines could be supplemented with a kerbed barrier for the protection of pedestrians. A trial could take place using a water-filled barrier to narrow the road. The cost of running a trial would be significant, as temporary signs and road markings, and possibly temporary lighting, would have to be installed.

There are pros and cons of a Priority Scheme to enable Footway Provision which should be considered:

Benefits: safer passage for pedestrians; likely reduction of traffic speeds at peak times.

Downsides: impact on streetscene – ‘urbanisation’ - with additional regulatory signs and markings; negative impact on journey times at peak times for local and through traffic; queuing and start/stop traffic will increase air and noise pollution; possible increased aggressive behaviour and/or higher speeds from drivers not wishing to ‘give way’.

Signage

Signage survey – we could request a full signage appraisal, as with the speed survey mentioned above, by going through LHFIG. For example, the ‘bend’ sign at the northbound bus stop could be replaced with joint bend/junction sign; larger signs could replace the 30mph roundels on entrance to the village from the north; the school/junction sign could be repositioned further north to give earlier warning; road markings would be reviewed.

Other enhancements

Mark Stansby said that a bus shelter could be installed on the southbound side at Sunnyhill, with a dropped kerb to make a clearer crossing point to the northbound stop.

As part of the ongoing efforts to make the Greensward more accessible, Mark Stansby will check the allowable distance between the road edge and a potential scalping path along the verge between the Greensward and the Stowell road.