

WILCOT and HUIISH (with OARE) PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council
Wilcot Village Hall, Tuesday 20 May 2014, at 19.30.

Present:

Councillors: Mr C Bartlett, Dr J C Bouch, Mr L Giddings, Mrs B Lawson, Dr D Nix (Chair), Mrs N Fleet, Mr R Fleet, Mrs A May (Clerk), Mrs P Smith and Ms D Wilson.

In attendance:

Councillor Paul Oatway, Wiltshire Council (part meeting), 6 members of the public.

Actions

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Paul Oatway apologised in advance for his late arrival, due to his attendance at another meeting.

2. Election of Chairman

Cllr Bouch took the Chair. Nominations had been received for Cllr Dee Nix to be elected as Chairman.

Resolution: That Cllr Nix be appointed as Chairman.

Proposed: Cllr R Fleet **Seconded:** Cllr D Wilson All in favour.

Cllr Nix then took the Chair.

3. Election of Vice Chairman

Nominations had been received for Cllr Bouch to be elected as Vice Chairman.

Resolution: That Cllr Bouch be appointed as Vice Chairman.

Proposed: Cllr Giddings **Seconded:** Cllr Lawson All in favour.

4. Allocation of Councillor Responsibilities

Staffing Committee: Cllr Nix, Cllr Wilson, Cllr Bartlett.

Rights of Way and Footpaths: Cllr Giddings

Canal & River Trust Liaison: Cllr N Fleet

Rural Broadband & Mobile Phone Signal: Cllr Lawson

School Bus Stop Project, Wilcot: Cllr R Fleet

Emergency Planning, including flood response plans: Cllr Wilson, Cllr Giddings

School Liaison: Cllr Wilson

PCCs and Village Halls: Cllr Nix (Oare)

Lighting: Cllr Bartlett

Website: Cllr Bartlett

Transport & Highways: Cllr R Fleet

Railway: Cllr Lawson

Planning: Cllr Smith

Neighbourhood Development Committee: Wait for Wiltshire Core Strategy

Parish Steward Liaison: Clerk

Area Board/PCAP Liaison: Cllr Wilson, Cllr Nix

Speedwatch: Cllr R Fleet

Road Safety: Clerk

Wilcot Hut and Green Liaison: ~~Cllr R Fleet~~ Cllr Bouch

Police Liaison: Clerk

5. Declarations of Interest on any agenda item to be discussed

Cllrs Bartlett and Bouch on items relating to the Canal in Wilcot.

6. Minutes of the last meeting – 9 April 2014

Clerk's action report was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting, and was made available to members of the public by request.

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Item 5 (item 9.1 from 18/02/14 meeting) Chairman is awaiting a date for a meeting regarding rights of way at Rainscombe.

Item 9.1 Cllr Giddings said that Mr Maidment was considering his options on permanently changing footpath 32 as it will be an expensive exercise, but is continuing to provide a permissive footpath around the boundary of the field.

Resolution: That the minutes be adopted as a true record of the meeting without amendment.

Proposed: Cllr N Fleet **Seconded:** Cllr Wilson All in favour.

7. Budget and Monitoring Report

The Budget and Monitoring Report was circulated with the Agenda. At the end of the previous financial year the account was reconciled and spend was within budget. Some cheques were yet to be presented but it is anticipated that at year end there will be a balance of £405.14 in the Lloyds bank account and £1513.15 in the NS&I savings account, which is available for projects.

Resolution: That the Budget and Monitoring Report be adopted.

Proposed: Cllr R Fleet **Seconded:** Cllr Lawson All in favour.

8. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman gave a report of the year covering and expanding upon agenda items 8.1 the work of the Parish Council 2013-14, 8.2 Links with Wiltshire and other organisations, 8.3 Parish Council Quality Audit.

It has been a busy year and this Council has started to achieve positive benefits in a short space of time. The Defibrillator campaign resulted in the installation of two units in Wilcot and Oare; thanks to Cllr Wilson. A training session delivered by Cllr Wilson resulted in a Quality Audit being carried out by the Council. The Council continue to draw up a range of policies and procedures that will help make this a quality Council acting on behalf of the community. A number of planning applications were reviewed throughout the year with reference made to the Conservation Area Statement, which ensures fair play for all. Councillors attend a number of additional meetings and groups, including the local Area Board. The Parish Council is legally obliged to hold 4 meetings a year but held a number of additional meetings in the last year. Agendas are posted on Parish noticeboards and on the website, and minutes are posted on the website, ensuring the Council is open and accessible. Council aim to limit meetings to a 2 hour timeframe and trust that the public find the agendas specific and meaningful. Council operate clearly on votes and resolutions. The Council complied with changes in employment law in employing the new Clerk, and the Chairman acknowledged the Clerk's generosity in working additional hours. Council have a regard for the protection of biodiversity in keeping the villages clean, in operating largely electronically and in conjunction with local societies. An unused grit bin in Wilcot will be redeployed to Oare where it will be more useful. A contribution is made towards the public toilets in Pewsey. In supporting tourism where possible the Council must balance their commitment to benefit the whole community. Council contribute to maintenance of the three churchyards in the parish, and keep an eye on footpaths and rights of way. The Chairman acknowledged the support of Cllr Paul Oatway who has attended most meetings in the last year and represents the views of the Council to Area Board meetings.

9. Public Question Time

Members of the public present had concerns regarding camping at the Golden Swan, Wilcot – which was listed as agenda item 10.4.

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10. Current Parish Issues and Updates

- 10.1 Highways
The Chairman hoped that the changes now made to Cross Hayes crossroads should improve the junction and reduce the number of accidents. A member of public commented that the grass is now growing on the verges at the crossroads reducing visibility. This will be passed on to the Parish Steward. Clerk
- Members of the public commented on the road layout outside the Golden Swan in Wilcot; the priority is unsatisfactory and the quality of the road markings poor. Cllr Wilson will make enquiries about upgrading the white lines. When cars park outside the pub it can make navigating the junction hazardous and the Chairman requested that the landlord help facilitate free movement of this junction when possible. Cllr DW
- Resurfacing was carried out on the C264 (Stowell) road, but not in the area that was expected and is worst affected. Further information has been received about the road being closed on 5 June and we wait to see if this is in the right area to improve the road. The Highways team have a meeting scheduled for 27 May.
- Council plan to get a map of the roads in the parish to identify them by name.
- 10.2 Kennet and Avon Canal, Wilcot
Council had arranged for representatives from the Canal and River Trust to attend this meeting but they withdrew in favour of the Pewsey Area Crime and Community Partnership meeting. This meeting was attended by other villages who experience similar problems to Wilcot, caused by a small minority of canal users. This meeting concluded by arranging 2 meetings in the forthcoming year, for all parties to identify issues, with a follow up meeting to see if the situation improves. The Chairman commented that she felt that this end of the canal has been neglected in favour of the western end, which is busier. The first meeting is scheduled for 19 June. It was interesting to note that at this meeting the police said they had received no reports of incidents relating to the canal. The Chairman reiterated the need to report any crime or incident to the police or they will not be able to act on it.
- A member of the public remarked on a collapsed section of towpath in Wilcot. Clerk to raise this with Canal & River Trust. Clerk
- 10.3 Rights of Way
The road alongside the canal towards Cannings Cottage in Wilcot shows an improvement in the condition of the verge.
- 10.4 Camping in Wilcot
Nothing additional to comments made under item 6.
- There was considerable discussion regarding camping at the Golden Swan. The landlord, Mr Coupland, gave an explanation of the rules he is obliged to operate by on his Certificate of Lawfulness, however his interpretation and implementation of the rules were challenged by members of the public. The Chairman charged all parties to get clarification of the rules and then pursue the discussion. Further discussion will include representatives from all Cllrs

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sides and identifying the rules will ensure clarity all round and the rules can be enforced.

10.5 WW1 Events and Commemoration

There will be a Commemoration service at Tidworth Military Cemetery at 10am on 30 July. Volunteers may be required to make crosses representing the fallen commemorated on the village memorials.

There will be an event in East Grafton, which is likely to go ahead on 3 August.

10.6 Green Lane, Oare

This lane is becoming damaged by heavy useage. Cllrs Giddings and Nix will liaise with Rights of Way Officer.

Cllrs DN
& LG

10.7 Verges

There had been issues with verges being sprayed in Huish. Providing workers are considerate and abide by the law there is little the Council can do. Managing the needs of working land with wildlife management is always difficult.

10.8 Emergency Plan

This has now been completed. Thanks to Cllrs Wilson and Giddings for their hard work.

10.9 Flooding Response – Ditches and Verges

Linking to the emergency plan is the need to remind landowners that they have a legal duty to maintain ditches and verges so as not to contribute to flood problems.

11. Projects

The project to provide a hardstanding and waiting area for children catching the school bus in Wilcot continues to make progress. Funding is being sought from the Area Board, supported by Cllr Oatway, and a planning officer is being allocated.

Cllr RF

12. To review and provide feedback on new planning applications from Wiltshire Council

(Town & Country Planning Act 1980, sched 1, para 8)

- 12.1 **14/04483/TCA** – Pollard ash tree to clear electricity pylon. 52 The Green, Wilcot. A site visit was carried out and there were no objections to the application, providing work is carried out by a professional tree surgeon.

13. Correspondence

Clerk's correspondence report was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting, and was made available to members of the public by request.

Clerk added a recently received item regarding considerable disorder in the area caused by people staying at the Woodbridge camp site. Cllr Oatway updated that the police have moved these people on now. The Chairman reminded the meeting to be vigilant for opportunist thieves and fraudsters.

14. Exchange of Information

- 14.1 Cllr Wilson has applied to the British Heart Foundation for funding for the defibrillator in Huish, and this is under consideration.
- 14.2 Cllr Wilson has arranged defibrillator awareness training on 18 June, 7.30pm in Wilcot village hall. She will contact the sporting clubs who made significant contributions to the funding and invite them to attend.

Cllr DW

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15. Proposed additional items for next agenda

15.1 Broadband and phone signal.

Cllr Lawson will aim to find a schedule of works for Wiltshire.

Cllr BL

16. Date and time of next meetings

16.1 Council set meeting dates for the forthcoming year:

Tuesday 15 July 2014 – Oare Village Hall

Tuesday 16 September 2014 – Wilcot Village Hall

Tuesday 18 November 2014 – Oare Village Hall

Tuesday 13 January 2015 – Wilcot Village Hall

Tuesday 17 March 2015 – Oare Village Hall

Tuesday 19 May 2015 – AGM – Oare Village Hall

Annual Parish Meeting to be held April 2015 in Wilcot Village Hall,
date to be arranged.

The meeting ended at 21.05

Additional diary dates:

Parish Walks – dates to be arranged

Planning Meeting and closed Council CPD – date TBA

Chairman:

Date: