

Minutes
Charlton St Peter and Wilsford Joint Parish Council Quarterly Meeting
7:30pm Thursday 21st November 2024
Wilsford Village Hall

Present: Neil Golding (NG) Chair, Clarissa Reilly (CR) Vice Chair, Tim Fowle (TF) RFO, Evie Lindsay (EL), Terrance Dixon (TD),
Also Present: Paul Oatway (PO) Local Councillor, Cassie Fowle (CF) Clerk, Julian Down, Christopher Beese, Yosh Reilly, Mary Gillmore, Sharon Prance, Alma Fowle, Luke Fowle

1. Apologies for Absence
 - Apologies were received from Jo Lord.
2. Minutes of the meeting held 29th August 2024
 - The minutes were agreed and signed by the chair.
3. Matters Arising from the previous meeting
 - 3.1. Wiltshire Local Plan Review
 - PO stated that the plan has been approved by the cabinet and is now moving to the next phase. However, local planners are concerned because government views are changing rapidly, and it's unclear what the government's next steps will be
 - 3.2. Broadband issues In Wilsford
 - Mary Gillmore reported that her connection is still very poor and has completely stopped working twice in the last two months. Openreach has been out to fix it twice, but the speed has not improved.
 - PO will speak to the cabinet member about this issue, as there is significant frustration among residents of Wilsford, and will provide feedback to the council.
 - 3.3. Vehicle Traffic in Wilsford
 - CR has found that there are mixed views about speeding in the village. A speed survey would cost £3,100, and even with a subsidy, the village would still need to contribute £775. The likely outcome is that the survey results will not recommend relocating the speed limit signs. However, all three speed limit signs could benefit from being moved to provide better visibility and more notice for motorists.
 - CR has also sought permission from landowners for a sign that says 'Please drive slowly through our village.' This sign will be moved around the village to encourage drivers to reduce their speed, with an estimated cost of around £200.
4. Highways
 - 4.1. Hedge Cutting
 - More hedge cutting will take place in the coming months. CR discussed areas where the hedges pose a danger to motorists along the A342, as well as locations where the hedges are straggly and patchy
 - CR has still not received a reply from Tomas Hayward at Wiltshire Council. PO will speak to Thomas and request that he replies to CR.

4.2.CSP- Bench by A342

- The parish steward has mown around the bench and will include it on his rounds when he is in CSP.
- Vote of thanks to Luke Fowle for the hedge cutting he has done on the main road down into CSP.

5. Environmental Issues

- The Environmental Bulletin can be found as an appendix to these minutes.
- PO expressed his disappointment that litter continues to be a problem along the A342.
- There was a discussion from the floor about the local MPs video regarding solar farms.
- PO will share the form which can be submitted which requests the attendance of the gulley sucker.

6. PROW Update

- An update will be distributed as an appendix with these minutes.
- WILS10 has a hole which appears annually half way down, this has been reported on MyWilts.
- At the end of WILS10 there is no bank to stop someone falling into the ditch.

7. Website

- There were no updates

8. Planning Matters and Wilsford Solar Farm Proposal

- Malt House planning application – internal and external works - these works will be delayed until 2025 due to the nature of the works which must be completed during the spring or summer.
- No update on the Tuckeys application.
- 19 Wilsford - tree works
- Solar Farm Proposal - There has been no updates from the developers or council and no planning application has been submitted, it was felt that there isn't much point in further discussing the application as there are no significant updates.

9. WC Report from Paul Oatway

- The previous government's household support fund is being continued by the new government, with £3 million available for those on benefits or pensioners. PO encouraged anyone who needs assistance to apply for this fund
 - This fund is to help people with food, bills, and provides assistance for people who are struggling with over 37,000 people being supported so far.
- £22 million is being allocated to highways in 2025/26 for road improvements, machinery, and equipment. There has been significant activity in this part of the county recently, with work done on A roads, B roads, and unclassified roads. For example, Wilcot Prospect to Manningford has been completed, and smaller country lanes are also being worked on. Many locals rely on unclassified roads to access larger roads. The work includes pothole repairs and resurfacing
- £7 million being invested into county bus services across vale and county for 2024/2025 and 2026.
- Village Hall improvement money available from areas boards

- The election is being held in May 2025 – PO will be standing again.
 - CR asked question about if there is an uncontested election will we still have to pay? PO disagrees that if there isn't a contested election there shouldn't be a charge. The costs for this council will be around £240.
10. PAB Report
 - There was no updates.
 11. RFO's report
 - A discussion was had around the precept, the RFO suggested that the precept is not changed as even with the election fees as the council is in a healthy position.
 - TF spoke about the new charges being introduced by Lloyd's bank – he will investigate further the potential to move to a new bank which provides free accounts for community. He will also contact Lloyds.
 - After a short discussion it was decided that a donation of £100 will be made to the Air Ambulance and £45 to PCAP.
 12. Emergency Plan
 - Ongoing
 13. Neighbourhood Development Plan
 - Ongoing
 14. Any other business
 - MG recently met with the probationary service, which offers a completely free service for litter picking, clearing footpaths etc. The PC will discuss the suggestion and potentially identify suitable tasks they could assist with. MG will pass on the contact details.

Declarations of Interest

Note: Members who are bound by the provisions of the National Code of Conduct are required to declare either personal or prejudicial interests and, where necessary, leave the meeting during consideration of any relevant matters.

Future PC meeting dates; • 21st November 2024 • 6th February 2025	PAB Dates • 25th November 2024 – Tim Fowle • 3rd March 2025 – Neil Golding
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If you are a resident of Charlton St Peter or Wilsford and wish to receive correspondence from the Parish Council, please email clerk@cspw.org.uk and ask to be added to the mailing list.

For more information about the Parish Council please visit www.cspw.org.uk.

Charlton St Peter & Wilsford Parish Council.

RFO Report for 21/11/2024

Financial year 01/04/24 to 31/03/25

Opening Balance	01/04/24		£1813.06
Precept	17/04/24	£1450.00	£3263.06
Clerks Fees	05/07/24	-£650.00	£2613.06
Zurich Insurance	29/09/24	-£196.00	£2417.06
Transfer to wyvern account	05/11/24	-£240.00	£2177.06
Donations	06/02/25	-£145.00	£2032.06
Closing Balance			£2032.06

Wyvern Account 01/04/24—30/03/2025

Opening Balance		£1129.40	
Inbox creative web costs	03/04/24	-£20.00	£1109.40
" " " " "	03/05/24	-£20.00	£1089.40
" " " " "	03/06/24	-£20.00	£1069.40
" " " " "	01/07/24	-£20.00	£1049.40
" " " " "	01/08/24	-£20.00	£1029.40
" " " " "	02/09/24	-£20.00	£1009.40
" " " " "	01/10/24	-£20.00	£989.40
" " " " "	01/11/24	-£20.00	£969.40
Transfer from current account	09/11/24	£240.00	£1209.40
Inbox monthly			
Closing balance 30/03/25			£1129.40

I currently know of no other planned expenditure.

Any other suggestions for our donations gratefully received.
Otherwise, the Air Ambulance it is.

Tim Fowle

RFO CWPC 21/11/24

Report of the Environment Working Group – November 2024 – Edition 2
Submitted to Councillors

Matters of Note:

Fly-tipping and Littering

Roadside littering continues.

Traffic Accidents

30 September 2024. A car overturned on the A342 between the Charlton Cat and the first turning to Wilsford at around 0800, closing the road for some time.

Trees

Vandalism of trees, reported on previously, continues at low level.

Hedges

Further to the report on stunted growth on some hedge plants, and mortality on others, alongside crops across the width of Wilsford Parish, likely from wind-borne herbicide overspray. The matter was reported to landowners in order that they could exercise due control of contractors.

21 September 2024. The hedge line from Wilsford to the boundary with Charlton St Peter has suffered considerably through the summer and following spraying and cultivation of the former gun-dog training area. The landowner has walked the site and will consider with contractors how best to address this unfortunate situation. The lesson, if any, is that when landowners agree with contractors what should be done, it is equally important to agree what should not be done. The landowner has otherwise a fine record of environmental enhancement.

Solar Farm

The constituency MP met with local residents on Wilsford Hill, where the MP restated on film his discomfort with solar farms in Wiltshire and posted a video clip in his bulletin of 19 October. The Chair to the Working Group has responded to the MP and is due to meet the MP in December to discuss the assertions made in his bulletin and accompanying video.

Rural Crime

9 September 2024. The Working Group attended a meeting of the Rural Crime Partnership in Police Headquarters, Devizes. Both the Chief Constable and Police & Crime Commissioner attended and voiced support for the rural community as victims of organised crime.

A number of organisations attended, including the Army, National Gamekeepers, NFU, British Horse Society, Wiltshire Council Environmental Enforcement and Neighborhood Watch. The meeting recalled the level of crime, from agricultural plant theft, through coursing to fly tipping, but also proffered much good news with inter-county intelligence, convictions and initiatives.

8 November 2024. The Chief Constable, Wiltshire Constabulary, included the following in her report to the Police and Crime Commissioner:

'Moving to an operational update, National Rural Crime Week ran at the end of October. Whilst we have seen a decline in Wiltshire of just over 23 per cent in the volume of rural crime year on year, we know that Rural Crime remains a significant issue for our county with, on average, 14 crimes per month.

During the week of action, officers from Wiltshire - working alongside multiple other key partners and other forces in the region - carried out a series of proactive operations. Some results of this targeted activity were:

- *Proactive operations, which stopped over 30 vehicles towing machinery, to check vehicle identification and compliance, with one of those vehicles subsequently seized*
- *High-visibility patrols on local and regional road networks*

- *Ten rural businesses and farms proactively visited*
- *45 waste carrier license checks across six locations, alongside Wiltshire Council's Enforcement Team, to deter illegal waste disposal and fly tipping. 11 drivers are being followed up by Wiltshire Council as a result*
- *Visits to multiple scrapyards across the county to check compliance with legislation*
- *Proactive operations across Devizes, Tidworth, and Marlborough areas to target hare coursing and poaching*
- *Engagement with our rural communities to provide reassurance and seek to understand concerns in relation to rural crime.'*

Hare coursing continues in our area almost every day, with Wiltshire Constabulary applying maximum resource to countering this activity, which is linked to organised crime on a national scale. The report of a violent confrontation between coursers and farmers at Wilsford, Pewsey, was in fact at Wilsford Cum Lake, Amesbury.

Drainage

The ongoing maintenance of grips is applauded, as is the recent maintenance of drainage ditches along the southern edge of Wilsford village; both actions likely to reduce flooding through the coming winter.

For the **Environmental Working Group**
Parish Council of Charlton St. Peter & Wilsford

With the benefit of corrections and commentary at the meeting of the Parish Council on 21 November 2024.

PROW Update – 25th November 2024

Summary

1=0 new item opened 0 item closed since the August meeting

Of the 10 open items

- 4 concern overgrown hedging, 3 at intersect / crossing point with roads & impact visibility. Some cutting has taken place but these will continue to be an issue as hedging continues to grow so these are left open for monitoring.
- 2 concern the surface of ROW (hole by path); logged on MyWilts App awaiting action by the council
- 1 needs action to be defined (permissive path at CSP)
- Items marked * could be supported by a parish calendar of activities

Open Items

Item	Location	Date Reported	Issue	Status
3	Permissive path around the back of CSP	Pre-Nov-22		Way forward to be agreed
9	Footpath 3, intersect with Bridleway NNEW 3	Nov-22	Lack of signage	Logged on MyWilts App, status submitted. Route of patch unclear. Keep open & monitor
11	Bridleway NNEW 3	Mar-23	Hole in middle of path	Marked & logged on MyWilts App, pending update. Marker removed and hole was not evident with summer growth, nor recently. Keep open & monitor
12	Byway WILS7 intersect with A342	May-23	Reducing visibility at road crossing due to density & height of hedging	Some cutting back of hedging on south side and mowing of verges helped with visibility. Now leaves are lost there is a significant improvement in visibility. Keep open & monitor*
15	Bridleway WILS10	Sep-23	Narrow route through due to overgrowth from hedges and brambles	Some cutting back of hedging and undergrowth aided by escaped cows / reduced autumn growth. Currently passable. Keep open & monitor*
19	Bridleway WILS10 intersect with A342	Oct-23	Overgrown hedging limiting visibility crossing road	Some cutting back of hedging and mowing of verges helped with visibility in the summer. Now leaves are lost there is a significant improvement in visibility. Keep open & monitor*
20	Bridleway WILS12	Mar-24	Hole at side of path	Marked and logged on MyWilts App, pending inspection by Wilts Council, status received. Marker removed in July however but hole has become visible after grass cutting. Marked with a flag & followed up again on MyWilts. Keep open & escalate if not progress over the next few weeks
22	Footpath NNEW1	Apr-24	Footpath ploughed over	Review once route of path is defined (item 9). Route of path has been unclear for the duration (ploughed, crops sown.
23	Bridleway NNEW3 & footpath 2	Apr-24	Hemlock risk	Hemlock growth observed by the Avon in Marden, risk this is also regrowing growing in PROW from last year. Wilsford resident flagged hemlock growth adjacent to the path and one stem across the path which could present a hazard. Wilsford WhatsApp used to alert residents and CSP / landowner made aware. Keep open & monitor*
24	Bridleway WILS10	Jul-24	Round bales stacked on bridleway	Logged on MyWilts App, status remains 'in progress' Keep open & monitor

Closed Items

Item	Location	Date Reported	Issue	Status
1	Bridleway 13	Pre-Nov-22	Overgrown hedging restricting route	Resolved Nov-22, cut back by council contractor
2	Bridleway 1	Pre-Nov-22	Overgrown hedging restricting route	Resolved Nov-22, cut back by council contractor
4	Bridleway 6, north of A342	Nov-22	Overgrown hedging restricting route	Resolved Nov-22, cut back by council contractor
6	Bridleway 2, intersect with Bridleway NNEW3	Nov-22	Gate closed & fencing pulled across route obstructing access	Resolved Nov-22, track closed off for moving stock, fencing moved to one side
10	Byway WILS7	Jan-23	~50 tyres dumped to site of track	Resolved Jan-23, removed by council
5	Bridleway 6, south of A342	Nov-22	Narrow gate by A342	Closed May-23, easily passable on horseback
8	Bridleway NNEW8	Nov-22	Tree trunk across path restricting route	Partially resolved in Nov-22 as trunk was moved to give wider access. Kept open in case access becomes an issue Resolved Sep-23, restriction removed
13	Bridleway NNEW3 & footpath 2	July-23	Hemlock growing along PROW	Closed Sep 23. Warning signage put in place in Jul-23 (removed Sep-23) and article on perils & ID of Hemlock included in July Redhorn News
14	Bridleway NNEW8	Sep-23	Ground cut up following work to clear ditches	Closed Sep-23,
17	Bridleway NNEW?12 intersect with bridleway NNEW3	Oct-23	Route obstructed by 2 round bales	Resolved Oct-23. Logged on MyWilts and inspected following week. Obstruction removed (had been put in place whilst moving cattle)
18	Bridleway WILS?6	Oct-23	Deep hole (65cm) in center of path	Marked & logged on MyWilts App. Local horse riders notified. Phone call to council to stress the danger this could present. Closed by Council within the week. JL to check status of hole. Closed Nov-23
7	Bridleway 9, intersect with Bridleway 8	Nov-22	Tree trunk across path restricting route	Closed Feb-24. This has been kept open in case access becomes an issue but the trunk has been moved to give a wider area to pass through
16	Bridleway 3, intersect with Wilsford west road	Oct-23	Overgrown hedging limiting visibility exiting bridleway	Closed Feb-24. Cut back Nov-23, improved visibility for exiting from the bridleway onto the road
21	Bridleway NNEW8	Apr-24	Poor surface	Closed Aug-24. Raised by Marden. Ditch clearance & soft ground impacted the surface. Currently passable.