



# Figheldean Parish Council

(Draft until signed at next meeting)

Minutes of meeting 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at Village Hall @7.30 pm

Present

|                              |       |
|------------------------------|-------|
| Cllr Tina Cole               | Chair |
| Cllr Darrell Amison          |       |
| Cllr Nick Tissot             |       |
| Cllr James Kelly             |       |
| Cllr Angela Briggs           |       |
| Cllr Ian Blair- Pilling (WC) |       |
| Rachel Ure                   | Clerk |

## Questions from the public.

Mr Gary Halliwell was in attendance. Gary lives at Alton Magna on the A345 just next to the turning into Figheldean and wishes to raise some concerns about the problems he experiences accessing his property from such a busy road.

Gary shared his personal experiences of living directly on the A345 and particularly the observations he has made about the safety of children accessing the bus stops. These issues have been in existence for a number of years but never fully addressed. The increasing issues of child safety brings these concerns to the forefront.

Directly outside Gary's house the speed limit is 50mph. There are double white lines for the majority of this section of the road, apart from directly outside Gary's house where there are broken white lines. Accessing his drive during key periods of the day is difficult and turning right is more of an issue. Drivers have limited visibility when approaching Gary's driveway. If travelling at 50mph, the distance is approx. 100m which gives 3 – 4 seconds notice for drivers to see if someone is entering/exiting the drive.

Gary is seeking suggestions/recommendations to slow the traffic down as they approach this section of the A345. Drivers require more information regarding the approaching, hidden, entrance.

Previously, Gary's wife's car has been hit by another car and three vehicles have gone off the road and into the farmers field and across the pavement. Lorries travelling on this stretch of road are also very close to pedestrians on the small stretch of pavement, including at the bus stop.

Gary asked if consideration could be given to reducing the speed limit in that area and some form of signage to warn drivers that there is hidden access. Gary also raised the 50mph speed limit on the stretch of road as you enter Figheldean.

Cllr Cole updated Gary on the Parish Council's recent quest to address these issues. The Council are currently discussing traffic calming measures with the Wiltshire Council Traffic Engineering Team. The Council will take into account the additional information Gary has provided and use this to apply some fine tuning to the proposal, particularly including the section of road outside of Alton Magna.

The Council invited Gary to submit any video footage of the problems he has experienced on this section of road to support their proposal.



**Action:** Cllr Cole to contact the Wiltshire Council Traffic Engineering Team in order to submit the required revisions to the current traffic calming proposal.

Gary also advised that the condition of the pavement next to Alton Magna needs some improvement. The verges have encroached from the field to the edge of the curb which forces pedestrians closer to the road.

**Action:** Cllr Kelly to ask the Parish Steward to address this issue.

**Police Update from Inspector Ricky Lee, Amesbury Police Station.**

Figheledean is a very low crime area. Only one crime of note in the last month which was a break in on a farmhouse.

There continue to be ongoing anti-social behaviour issues at Gunville Farm and the Mill Pond.

Cllr Amison advised that direct engagement from the police with the residents living at these properties has been reassuring. As these areas are a public right of way the ability to permanently solve the problem is limited but the proactive engagement from the police goes a long way. The police recognise the impact issues such as these can have on people's lives. Thanks was given to the PC's that have been supporting this issue.

Inspector Lee advised that adding the issue of anti-social behaviour in these areas to the Police Tasking and Briefing portal is also an option for the future should the amount of police presence need to be increased.

Gary asked what the best method is to report anti-social behaviour. Inspector Lee advised that calling 101 or reporting online is the appropriate way to report such incidents. Information on this was previously provided to all parishioners via the Parish Magazine.

Inspector Lee also confirmed that if any environmental hazards arose as part of these issues that the police would liaise with the Environment Agency.

| ITEM | DESCRIPTION  | ACTION         |
|------|--|----------------|
| 1    | <b>Apologies</b><br>Nil – it was noted that Cllr Tissot will be arriving slightly late (arrived at 19:50).   |                |
| 2    | <b>Declaration of Interests</b><br>Cllr Kelly advised that he has submitted a planning application so would need to withdraw from any discussion on this.  |                |
| 3    | <b>Minutes of the meeting: 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023</b><br>These were agreed as a true reflection of discussion and signed by the Chair.   |                |
| 4    | <b>Matters arising / Outstanding Actions</b><br><br>LHFIG Update.<br>Further to the discussion at the start of the meeting, the current traffic calming/speed reduction proposals will be tweaked, with pictures submitted to support our request. | <b>Cllr TC</b> |
| 5    | <b>Wiltshire Councillor Report – Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling</b><br><br><u>Household Support Fund</u>   |                |



This is all in place with information available on the Wiltshire Council website, with a link available from the Figheldean Parish Council website. This fund is made up of £5.5m to help people with cost of living. A large proportion of the funding will be automatic and pushed out to those that the Council are aware of as in need.

#### Wiltshire Council Financial Update

Wiltshire is in a very good financial position, not come easily or by chance – there are massive problems with inflation, but we are financially sound. WC are less than half % overspent on £14m revenue budget which is an excellent position.

Money has been put aside for various risks as well as the pay award and capital projects. Funding has also been allocated for agreed business plan priorities, one of which is litter. Investment will be made into improving this issue over the next two years, including a mobile camera enforcement trial, fly poster enforcement, more awareness, cleaning up multistorey car parks and biannual litter picking on rural roads (roads that communities with volunteer litter picks can't get to).

#### The Local Plan

This went to cabinet last week and will come to the full council tomorrow. This document governs everything to do with planning and contains a number of policies regarding roads and infrastructure (affordable housing, carbon emissions, biodiversity).

If the draft plan is agreed by WC tomorrow, it will go out to public consultation in late September for six weeks. Feedback goes to the Secretary of State and then to an independent inspector. If all agreed the plan would become effective at the end of next year.

From the minute the consultation starts it gathers weight in planning decisions as the process progresses. This will then support any consultation with future development proposals.

Cllr Blair-Pilling will be putting together a briefing so that Parish Councils can attend an area board meeting (in September) before the consultation comes out. This will cover the structure of the document, systemic changes and particular areas of development. It was noted that Cllr Cole and Cllr Tissot will attend this meeting.

Cllr Tissot asked how Councillor's participate in the drafting of such a document in the future. Cllr Blair-Pilling advised that the Councillor's can state their views as part of the forthcoming consultation, but if we wish for something to be changed it is important to provide evidence in support of this.

Cllr Blair-Pilling advised that Figheldean do not have a target number for new housing developments as we are a small village and there is not much room to develop/build. Because of this Figheldean do not require a neighbourhood plan either.

#### Planning Applications – Cllr Tissot

Cliffend – the location of the house has moved south a bit. Cllr Blair-Pilling to speak to the Planning Officer to find out the reason for this.

Brambles – the enforcement officer has confirmed that there was no planning application in place for the new building that has been erected. A retrospective planning application has been requested from Brambles, with a deadline of the 18<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

Cllr IBP




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|----|--|--|
|    | <p>Larchwood – an application for a small outbuilding. Neighbours have all been notified.</p> <p>270 Ablington – one small window on the garage and solar panels on the roof at the back, can't be seen by the road and not overlooked.</p> <p>No further news on the school at this stage. Advised that it is progressing.</p>  |  |
| 6. | <p><b>Chair Councillor Report – Cllr Tina Cole</b></p> <p>An update on the anti-social behaviour experienced at Gunville has already been covered during this meeting.</p> <p>FIGGLE FEST our annual family fun day and music festival was a great success earlier this month, albeit with a few parking issues noted around the village. The organisers have informed the PC that a field has been agreed upon for use as a car park at next year's event. This should solve the problem. The date of the next FIGGLE FEST is 20th July 2024 (later than usual) to allow time for a field to be harvested in time for the festival.</p> <p>I'd like to take this opportunity to formally welcome Cllr Angie Briggs onto the Council and thank her and all Parish Councillors for volunteering their time to ensure our village remains in good health and a great place to live.</p> <p>Cllr Blair-Pilling and Inspector Lee left at 20:43</p> <p><u>Councillor Responsibilities</u><br/>         These were reviewed in light of the addition of Cllr Briggs.<br/>         RU to issue the updated responsibilities list to all Councillors for them to refresh and simplify the wording for their areas of responsibility.</p> <p>RU to ensure that joining instructions for the LFHIG Teams meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> August are shared with relevant Councillors.</p> <p><u>Resilience Plan</u><br/>         The responsibility for this currently sits with Cllr Amison. A discussion was held over the suitability of delivering such a plan and having the resources to fully deliver on it. In the event of anything happening in Figheldean it would be quickly picked up and managed by the emergency services.<br/>         RU to investigate if the requirement for this plan is statutory or advisable.</p> | <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> |
| 7  | <p><b>Other Organisation Reports</b></p> <p>Please refer to 'Questions from the Public (above).</p> <p><u>Village Hall</u><br/>         A new Chair is now in place, Brian England.</p>  |  |
| 8  | <p><b>Councillor Reports</b></p> <p><b>Cllr James Kelly</b><br/> <u>Ablington Wood</u></p>   |  |



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|------------------------|---|--|---|-------------------|---------|------------------------|---------|-----------|---------|--------------|--------|--|
|                        | <p>The initial tree survey has been completed and a quote, for £275, received from Graham Watson for dealing with some of the trees (20 in total, 4 that are urgent) that require attention.</p> <p>It was agreed that Cllr Kelly would advise Graham that the Council are content to accept his quote so long as the correct safety measures are followed. This includes Hi Vis, signage and taping the area off.<br/>RU to check if there is a Risk Assessment on file for Graham Watson.</p> <p><u>Multi Court Repair</u><br/>A second quote has been received. Quotes are now £540 and £600. This is to repair the bubbling in the corner.<br/>Cllr Amison to approach Chris Sheppard to see if he would be able to help, or if he knows someone who can provide a further quote.</p> <p>A new maintenance contract for the courts is not in place yet.</p> <p><u>Playing Field</u><br/>Caroline Lacey has advised that there are bushes on the playing field encroaching on her property. Cllr Kelly to liaise with Graham Watson to see if the situation can be rectified.</p> <p><b>Cllr Angie Briggs</b><br/>Cllr Briggs asked if it is the Council responsibility to clean the drains. It was confirmed that this lies with the Local Authority, Cllr Briggs to raise a request.</p> <p><b>Cllr Darrell Amison</b><br/>Police update already covered. Cllr Amison confirmed that he will discuss the need for a Resilience Plan with the police.</p> <p><u>Mill Pool Project.</u><br/>As previously reported, the Environment Agency (EA) has approved the purpose and scope of the project to be delivered by the Wessex Rivers Trust. The key issue remains the funding of the project. That said, the Wessex Rivers Trust has received an intent (with conditions) to fund the project from Natural England. There remains a possibility, subject to funding, that the project will be completed this autumn/winter albeit a delay of 12 months is likely if a water vole (a protected mammal) translocation is required before work starts. Further updates will be provided as soon as information is available.</p> <p><b>Cllr Nick Tissot</b><br/>Nothing further to add, covered earlier in the meeting.</p> | <p>Cllr JK</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr JK</p> <p>Cllr AB</p> <p>Cllr DA</p> |   |                   |         |                        |         |           |         |              |        |  |
| 9                      | <p><b>Clerks Report</b></p> <p>Expenditure since last meeting – all approved</p> <table data-bbox="284 1839 943 2022"> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">£</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clerking Services</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£576.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grass cutting services</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£720.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Insurance</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£456.28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bank Charges</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£16.00</td> </tr> </table>   |  | £ | Clerking Services | £576.00 | Grass cutting services | £720.00 | Insurance | £456.28 | Bank Charges | £16.00 |  |
|                        | £   |  |   |                   |         |                        |         |           |         |              |        |  |
| Clerking Services      | £576.00   |  |   |                   |         |                        |         |           |         |              |        |  |
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|    | <p>Waste and Dog Bins £597.21</p> <p>Parish Magazine, expenses + printing £368.66</p> <p>Savills – Car Park rent (2 years) £1,040.00</p> <p>ICO £35</p> <p>Income since last meeting.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">£</p> <p>Brambles – car park rent £300.00</p> <p>HMRC – VAT Refund £1,417.94</p> <p><b>Current Bank Balance: £13,760.47</b></p> <p>There are some unbudgeted expenditures this year and therefore the Council may need to take the decision to move some routine, non-urgent, costs into the following year.</p> <p>RU to provide a forecast against budget to the end of the year.</p> <p><u>AGAR – Certificate of Exemption</u></p> <p>At the recent AGM we signed off the Annual Governance &amp; Accountability Review (AGAR) paperwork that Sandra had duly completed. This paperwork was then submitted to the auditors (PKF Littlejohn).</p> <p>Figheledean Parish Council meet the criteria to be able to claim exemption from having a review performed under the limited assurance regime. We meet the exemption criteria because our gross income or gross expenditure did not exceed £25,000 within the year ending 31st March 2023.</p> <p>The Councillors agreed that they would like to proceed with this exemption and provided approval for the Clerk to complete and submit the Certificate of Exemption to PKF Littlejohn.</p> | <b>Clerk</b> |
| 10 | <p><b>Other Parish Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Figgle Fest have formally requested the use of the playing field for next year's event on the 20<sup>th</sup> July 2024. This was agreed.</li> </ul>   |              |
| 11 | <p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023, 7:30pm</li> </ul>  |              |

Signed .....  ..... Date ..... 16/10/23 .....