



Figheldean Parish Council

(Draft until signed at next meeting)

Minutes of meeting 22nd May 2023 at Village Hall @7.30 pm

Present

Cllr Tina Cole Chair
Cllr Darrell Amison
Cllr James Kelly
Cllr Rachel Ure Acting Clerk
Cllr Ian Blair- Pilling (WC)

Annual General Meeting

1. **Acceptance of apologies:** Nil, noted that Cllr Kelly will be arriving slightly late.
2. **Election of Officials (Chair and Vice Chair)**
Cllr Tina Cole to formally take on the role of Chair (previously Acting Chair) – appointed.
It was proposed and agreed that there would be no Vice Chair at this time.
3. **Official Appointments**
Amesbury Area Board – to be attended by the Chair
LHFIG – Cllr Cole / Cllr Amison
Police Liaison – Cllr Amison
Website – Cllr Ure
4. **Approval of Annual Governance Statement and Approval of Accounts 2022/23**
Signed and approved by the Chair.

Parish Council Meeting

Questions from the public.

Angela Briggs was present to observe the meeting.
No questions at this time.

Introduction and Police Update from Inspector Ricky Lee, Amesbury Police Station.

There has been no criminality within the Figheldean Parish in the last four weeks and Figheldean continues to be a safe place to live.

Cllr Amison advised that since the last meeting he has been in touch with Constable Hanscombe regarding any potential local issues. It is inevitable that there will be some disturbance at the Mill Pond or Gunville as the weather improves. Cllr Amison will continue to review these areas with Constable Hanscombe for mitigation and management purposes and to ensure a positive relationship between Parish Councillors and Officers is in place.



Nothing further for this report.

19:46 – Inspector Lee left the meeting.

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	ACTION
1	<p>Apologies Nil – it was noted that Cllr Kelly will be arriving slightly late.</p>	
2	<p>Declaration of Interests None reported.</p>	
3	<p>Minutes of the meeting: 24th April 2023 These were agreed as a true reflection of discussion and signed by the Chair.</p>	
4	<p>Matters arising / Outstanding Actions</p> <p>LHFIG Update. Cllr Cole and Cllr Amison met with Rhiann Surgenor of Wiltshire Traffic Engineering Team to assess the dangers of the A345 near the Figheldean turning.</p> <p>Ideally, we would like to see the speed reduced along this stretch of road but Rhiann explained that due to a similar speed reduction trial that is taking place in Netheravon currently, Figheldean should wait for the outcome of that to assess if a similar application is likely to be successful.</p> <p>Cllr Cole and Cllr Amison met with Rhiann at 7:30am on a weekday to assess the Figheldean turning at one of the busiest times of the day. As a result, Rhiann will be exploring the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of additional speed calming measures on the bend approaching Figheldean. • The signage on the approach from Durrington was identified as not fit for purpose and the introduction of yellow chevrons will be explored. <p>In addition, the introduction of a reduced 20mph speed limit in the village was discussed. This will involve the introduction of speed monitors into the village to assess current speed, which to achieve the desired reduction will need to, naturally, be between 20mph and 24mph.</p> <p>Both Cllr Cole and Cllr Amison will attend the next LHFIG meeting on the 16th August 2023.</p> <p>The site meeting was very encouraging and it is hoped that now there is some momentum to our speed reduction campaign in the Parish of Figheldean we will start to see some developments soon.</p>	
5	<p>Wiltshire Councillor Report – Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling</p> <p><u>Household Support Fund</u> Cllr Blair-Pilling advised a sum of money has been provided by the Government in order to assist with the cost of living crisis and those people that are struggling.</p>	



	<p>The current sum of money has been provided for a period of 12 months, starting at the beginning of April. The plan of how this money can be used, in line with the Government criteria, was submitted last week.</p> <p>There is an element of this funding that people can apply for. An aide-memoir explaining and advertising this will be provided to Figheldean Parish Council for display on our website and village notice boards. It will also assist our Councillors with signposting any parishioners within the community who may need support. Any questions to be directed to Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling.</p>	
6.	<p>Chair Councillor Report – Cllr Tina Cole</p> <p>This last year has been a year of flux for the Parish Council. With the sad loss of John Menzies, the previous Chair in November and most recently the stepping down of our Parish Clerk, Sandra Burch whom we will miss immensely, our council has had to adjust to a new future.</p> <p>We have dwindled in numbers too so an active drive to enrol new councillors is currently underway and applications are also being sought to fill the Parish Clerk role with immediate effect.</p> <p>For my part I'm delighted to be elected as Chair of Figheldean Parish Council having been Acting Chair since November. I have had to hit the floor running though as we have recently implemented a campaign to reduce the speed limit along the A345 at the Figheldean turning from 50mph to 40mph. We have also requested the speed limit through our village be reduced to 20mph.</p> <p>Both these requests are being considered by Wiltshire Council with the later seeing us receive speed monitors which will be fitted within the village at some point during the summer. (Date to be confirmed). Reducing the speed limit along our stretch of the A345 is a much longer haul. But, we are determined to improve the safety of villagers as they negotiate that junction and our pedestrians, mostly made up of school children, as they try to cross the busy road to and from the bus stop.</p> <p>Ablington Wood has had its 3 yearly survey completed this year with a few trees highlighted for further inspection in due course. What a great asset the woodland is. We're so lucky to have the community that we have, that raised the money to purchase the woods four years ago to secure it for future generations. A truly amazing effort.</p> <p>Our grass cutting operations have changed with a renewed contract with Bawdens who will now only cut the playing field with Graham Watson cutting the remainder of Parish Council grass. Please remember that Wiltshire Council are responsible for the verges.</p> <p>Pot holes have been another bone of contention with villagers rightly reporting them on the MyWilts app. We have a Parish Steward that comes bi-monthly and we always task him with filling our potholes. But his equipment is limited so he does the best he can. It is so important that we all keep reporting them regularly on the MyWilts app.</p> <p>Monitoring of the activity at the Mill pool and Gunville will continue again this year with the weather warning up it's inevitable that visitor numbers will increase. Local police and the MOD police are fully aware of our problems with unsocial behaviour in these two places. It is</p>	



	<p>so important that any unsocial behaviour is reported to the police. Patrols will increase during the coming months as visitor numbers rise at our two beauty spots.</p> <p>Some good news is the opening of our old school by its new owners Outcomes First Group. An intake of just 30 students will see the building in full use again with modified plans currently being processed and hopefully agreed by Wiltshire Council. The current date for the school to have its first intake of students in January 2024. Further details to follow in due course.</p> <p>Earlier this year the Parish Council secured a new lease on the waste ground car park that is adjacent to the village hall. The lease was up for renewal, so we had to act. Unfortunately, the rental we now pay to the MOD has jumped significantly from £80 a year to £600 a year. We felt it essential to keep hold of the land and have negotiated its terms of use to include car boot sales and charitable events as well as its usual caravan training and overflow car parking for the village hall. To help pay this hefty increase Brambles nursery now pay for staff parking on the site and the Village hall will also contribute.</p> <p>You will have noticed that Netheravon FC now use our football pitch as their home turf. It's great to see it in use again. They pay per match to cover grass cutting so that residents are not out of pocket and they pay the village hall separately for the use of the changing rooms. We do not have the fixture list yet for next season but we will post it on notice boards and our social media when we do.</p> <p>Figheledean Parish is a small but vibrant parish as we all know and it always amazes me how connected we all our with our collective love of the place. It's that togetherness that allows the parish council to continue to work for all its residents.</p> <p>A huge thank you to all our volunteer councillors and all those that volunteer their time and effort throughout our community. Whether it's providing the coffee morning or lunch club at the hall? The free hours worked behind the bar at the Working Men's Club to keep that wonderful asset thriving or the wonderful people of Figheledean Village Community Events, all of whom selflessly volunteer to give us plenty of events to entertain us throughout the year. Let's not forget the wonderful people who give up their time to ensure our village is kept lovely by litter picking or repairing what's broken, your commitment, dedication and your hard work does not go unnoticed.</p> <p>On behalf of the people of this village and this council I say a heartfelt thank you.</p> <p>Together you make this village a wonderful place to live.</p>	
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7	<p>Other Organisation Reports Please refer to 'Questions from the Public (above).'</p>	
8	<p>Councillor Reports</p> <p>Cllr Nick Tissot <u>Planning Applications</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School. The planning application is still under consultation. A couple of items were identified for action: 	



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highways – access query. This has now been confirmed as suitable for the number of teachers and students that will be attending. • Requirement for a Bat Survey. Now complete and a minor relocation plan for bats in place. <p>The new link to the planning application that was distributed recently was an update with a slightly revised tree plan, car park plan and the results of the bat survey. There is no real change at this time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Cliffend</u> <p>Still under consultation, latest deadline for approval was the 17th May. Cllr Blair-Pilling to follow up.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cottage on the High Street – replacement of eight windows. This is still under consultation. <p>Cllr Darrell Amison <u>Police/Emergency Services.</u> Cllr Amison will meet with PC Mike Hanscombe within the next couple of weeks. This will include visits to the Mill Pond and Gunville.</p> <p><u>River Avon</u> Cllr Amison met with the Project Officer for an update on the project to remove the Mill pool and to improve biodiversity. The Environment Agency (EA) have accepted and approved the project. The Project Officer has therefore applied for the required money for this project but is still exploring different funding streams, this includes the EA receiving money from water companies for investment in environmental projects. Funding for species reintroduction is also being explored. The cost is approximately £170k and may need to include a water vole translocation.</p> <p>It was hoped that this project will start in November 2023. A further update on the funding of the River Avon project from the EA and the Wessex Rivers Trust will be provided in July.</p> <p>It was agreed to distribute some information within the Parish on who to call if any anti-social behaviour is experienced at the Mill Pool, or other areas of Figheldean, over the summer. Cllr Amison will discuss this with Constable Hanscombe and request some text to include. Cllr Ure to include this information in the Parish Magazine and on our website and social media. A flyer to also be produced and delivered to local residents in Mill Lane / Church Lane.</p> <p>Cllr James Kelly <u>Grass Cutting</u> Bawdens have accepted the renegotiated contract for grass cutting and Graham Watson has picked up the other areas.</p> <p><u>Multi Court Repair</u> This will cost £450 + VAT and is still under negotiation. Cllr Kelly to request that this is included within the next contract. The net also needs replacing, Cllr Amison to try and source.</p> <p>The overhanging trees need to be addressed. Cllr Kelly and Cllr Amison will meet up in late June to action this.</p> <p><u>Tree Survey</u></p>	<p>Cllr IBP</p> <p>Cllr DA Cllr RU</p> <p>Cllr DA Cllr JK</p>
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	<p>This took place on the 11th May. There are a few identified areas of improvement, all low risk. Cllr Kelly will pursue, particularly the removal of the small amount of dead wood.</p> <p><u>Football Pitch</u> A request had been received for another Club to use the pitch on Sunday's. As it is already utilised by Netheravon on this day this request will have to be declined.</p> <p>Dog Bins Cllr Kelly to catch up with Ian Grimes/Graham Watson to review the new arrangement for emptying dog bins.</p> <p>Cllr Rachel Ure Work on the website and enhanced content for the Parish Magazine is continuing.</p>																							
9	<p>Clerks Report</p> <p>Expenditure since last meeting – all approved</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>Hills Waste</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£69.65</td> </tr> <tr> <td>WALC</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£223.46</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grass Cutting</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£350.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clerking Services</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£264.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Defib Training</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£100.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bank Charges</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£8.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Waste and Dog Bins</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£360.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Parish Magazine, expenses + printing</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£319.66</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Multi Courts</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£600.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Auditors – annual return</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£250.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Padlock</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£17.79</td> </tr> </table> <p>Current Bank Balance: £17,227.97.</p>	Hills Waste	£69.65	WALC	£223.46	Grass Cutting	£350.00	Clerking Services	£264.00	Defib Training	£100.00	Bank Charges	£8.00	Waste and Dog Bins	£360.00	Parish Magazine, expenses + printing	£319.66	Multi Courts	£600.00	Auditors – annual return	£250.00	Padlock	£17.79	
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10	<p>Other Parish Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Cole advised of the requirement to advertise for the appointment of the next Parish Clerk. Draft advert to be finalised and sent to all Councillors to review. • There is space for two more Councillors to join the Figheldean Parish Council. Angela Briggs, who was observing the meeting, advised that she would like to be considered to join the Parish Council. Proposer: Cllr Tissot. Seconder: Cllr Amison. • It was agreed that the Parish Steward is to be tasked with addressing some of the potholes in the village. Cllr Blair-Pilling advised that in the winter, only a cold fill can be completed on potholes. Now we have some warmer weather a hot fill can be carried out. The Parish Council were advised that the MyWilts reporting system is working, with reports being received, but that the acknowledgements were not being sent. Wiltshire Council have actually repaired more potholes than have been reported. RU to advertise 	<p>Cllr RU</p> <p>Cllr RU</p>																						



	<p>the MyWilts reporting system on our website and social media.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Figgle Fest will be taking place on the 1st July. It was proposed that the Parish Council arrange for the bins to be emptied the day before Figgle Fest. Figgle Fest will then pay for the bins to be emptied the following Monday, after the event. This was agreed.	
11	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monday 17th July 2023, 7:30pm	

Signed  Date 17/7/23

