



Figheldean Parish Council

(Draft until signed at next meeting)

Minutes of meeting 25th March 2024 at Village Hall @7.30 pm

Present

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

Questions from the public.

Public Question Time

In attendance: Brian England, Village Hall Committee Chair, Richard Blake, Village Hall Treasurer.

The attendees were invited by Councillors for an update on the communications mast, situated by the Village Hall, and the associated contract that comes to an end in the next few years and the impact this may have on the funding for the Hall.

Brian England explained that the current contract runs until 2028, it was previously extended in 2018 for another 10 years. The original rental agreement was put in place in 1953. The rental payment to the Village Hall is approx. £10k - £12k per year and represents half of the Village Hall income. The situation post 2028 currently unknown. There are several similar cases currently under court action. The land that the mast sits on is owned by the Parishioners of Figheldean, and is "governed" by the Parish Council.

The Councillors asked why the rental payments are made to the Village Hall when the mast sits on land that is governed by the Parish Council. Brian explained that at the time the additional income was used to build the Village Hall, for the benefit of the whole community.

Action: Cllr Blair-Pilling to investigate if any other local Parishes have a similar issue with regards to positioning of a communications mast and potential end of contract.

It was agreed that this a collaborative issue that we need to work on together as it's relative to Parish Council land and the future success of the Village Hall for the whole communities benefit.

Action: Clerk to obtain any relative rental agreements / contracts relating to the communications mast, particularly the 99 year lease agreement. Trethewans previously dealt with the legal documents.

The Councillors thanked Brian and Richard for attending. Brian and Richard left the meeting.



ITEM	DESCRIPTION	ACTION
1	<p>Apologies Cllr James Kelly</p>	
2	<p>Declaration of Interests Cllr Tina Cole declared her conflict of interest with regards to the item on the communications mast at the Village Hall and that she is also one of the Village Hall Managers.</p> <p>Cllr Angela Briggs declared her potential conflict of interest with regards to the item on the Village Hall as her husband, Simon Briggs, has recently been appointed as the new Chair of the Village Hall committee.</p>	
3	<p>Minutes of the meeting: 29th January 2024 These were agreed as a true reflection of discussion and signed by the Chair.</p>	
4	<p>Matters arising / Outstanding Actions</p> <p>Risk Assessment Update – Ablington Woods. The updates that were requested to the Risk Assessment for works in Ablington Woods are still required.</p> <p>It was noted at the previous meeting that a section needs to be added to the Risk Assessment about potential risk to the individuals carrying out any required works and that correct safety equipment and PPE should be used/worn to mitigate. The Risk Assessment will also need signing.</p> <p>Speed Reduction Update. The reduction of the speed limit from 30mph to 20mph throughout Figheldean and Ablington has met the required criteria. The Parish Council are awaiting further advice on when the consultation period will commence.</p> <p>Wiltshire Council will be holding a Highways meeting on Wednesday 27th March at Figheldean Village Hall.</p>	<p>Action: Cllr Kelly</p>
5	<p>Wiltshire Councillor Report – Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling</p> <p>It was confirmed that the Parish Council AGM will be on the 13th May 2024 and that Cllr Blair-Pilling will provide a report for this.</p> <p>Cllr Blair-Pilling advised that whilst Wiltshire Council are in a positive financial position, there is a potential financial risk in terms of special needs provision. The Government have set up a scheme called Safety Valve – this focuses on formulating a plan to increase spending on meeting special educational needs. This is a multi-agency approach and the plan for Wiltshire has been accepted.</p> <p>The Household Support Fund will continue for another six months. This starts in April 2024 but we don't yet know the sum of money or the conditions that are attached to it. The funding will need to be spent between the 1st April and September 2024.</p> <p>The Wiltshire Council led Highways meeting is taking place on Weds 27th March 2024. Cllr Wright has been working hard to ensure that this is a useful meeting, and that Parishes have their questions answered. There will be £10m of Wiltshire Council funding invested in</p>	



	<p>Highways over the next two years, and this is part of a series of meetings to identify priority areas. Flooding issues are also being considered and a separate meeting of the Upper Avon Floods Group will also be taking place. Simon Briggs will be attending on behalf of the Parish Council.</p> <p>Cllr Nick Holder is the new Cabinet Member for Highways. One of his priorities is improved communication.</p> <p>The speed trial at Netheravon continues to go well, based on the last set of speed data.</p> <p>Wiltshire Connect's on call bus service will cost just £1 per journey on a Saturday throughout 6th April – 27th June.</p> <p>Brindisi Planning Application. Cllr Blair-Pilling has spoken with the Planning Officer. Superimposed photos showing the height of the proposed property in relation to the listed building next door (Corner Cottage) have been requested.</p> <p>Cllr Angela Briggs raised that she is persistently logging gully clearance requests on the My Wilts app but they are consistently deleted without being actioned.</p> <p>Action: Cllr Briggs to send the My Wilts app gully clearance request reference numbers to Cllr Blair-Pilling for further investigation in to why these are not actioned.</p>	<p>Cllrs Briggs and Blair- Pilling</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Chair Councillor Report – Cllr Tina Cole</p> <p>Earlier this month myself, Cllr Angela Briggs and our Parish Clerk Rachel Ure, had a meeting with Brambles Outdoor Nursery representatives to discuss a way forward for parents parking near the nursery. This was in response to receiving an email from a parishioner who outlined the difficulties experienced by villagers trying to travel along Ablington road at peak times. The nursery already has in place a robust plan which includes an agreement that parents must sign outlining the staggered start times that must be adhered to and the quick 'Drop-Off' only rule. Asking to use an area of the farm as a drop off zone is not an option. The Health & Safety risks are simply too high. We shall remain in contact with Brambles whilst we look into signage as one of the options. Cllr Angela Briggs is leading on this.</p> <p>A big thank you to Derek Hanson's team who have taken down eight fir trees in line with our survey, within Ablington Wood. This is to allow more light to come through the canopy for the good of the other native trees nearby. This work was kindly carried out free of charge.</p> <p>Another big thank you goes to Graham Watson for clearing bushes around the multi-court which were leaning through the fence and onto the court.</p> <p>There are a total of three trees down along our stretch of the river. The MOD are responsible but have advised us that they will not be removed yet because the whole area is too boggy to get their equipment in place. The annual Duck Race has therefore been postponed until June.</p> <p>Netheravon FC have played their last game of the season and have expressed their wish to continue to use our paying field next season. They will start by playing friendly matches in August, dates to be confirmed.</p>	



	<p>The Neighbourhood policing team attended a recent coffee morning. They covered hare coursing, use of 101 and the online and phone fraud support.</p> <p>I'd like to take the opportunity to offer sincere thanks to all Councillors for your commitment to this council and the village and for giving your time for free.</p>	
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7	<p>Other Organisation Reports Nil</p>	
8	<p>Councillor Reports</p> <p>Cllr Nick Tissot Planning. Brindisi has already been covered.</p> <p>The School. Outcomes First have confirmed that they are in the process of procurement for the project and are expecting to provide the Parish Council with a timeline in the next few weeks. It was agreed that Cllr Nick Tissot would contact them again to advise that there is a lot of uncertainty within the Parish about the progress of these works and that after meeting and briefing the community directly, some improved communications are required.</p> <p>Action: Cllr Tissot to contact Outcomes First to request updated and improved communications on the progress with the School.</p> <p>Cllr Darrell Amison Resilience Plan. Cllr Amison provided his thanks to Simon Briggs who is attending the Upavon Flood Group meeting this week on behalf of the Parish Council.</p> <p>In terms of progress on the Figheldean Resilience Plan, it was agreed that the next step is to hold a Community Meeting to further brief the Parish on the details and requirements of the plan. A date of Monday 22nd April, 7:30pm – 8:30pm, in The Working Men's Club was agreed (with the Club/bar to open at 7pm).</p> <p>We will be seeking to appoint two Deputy Coordinators and then a number of other volunteers.</p> <p>Action: Parish Clerk to advertise the Resilience Plan Community Meeting within Figheldean, to include asking Frank Grimes to prepare a sign for the bridge.</p> <p>River Avon. Cllr Amison will meet again with Wessex Rivers Trust in mid / late May for an update. The water vole survey will be taking place in the Spring (April/May). If a relocation is required this will take place in the summer with planned works the in September/October. The Parish will be fully briefed beforehand.</p> <p>Approval for the purchase of a new basketball hoop for the multicourt has been received. Cllr Amison will purchase the basketball hoop and ask Graham Watson to fit it.</p> <p>Cllr Angela Briggs.</p>	<p>Cllr Tissot</p> <p>Clerk</p>



Salt Bins. Two slat bins had been identified as being potentials to be relocated outside the Club in order to service the corner by the school that often floods. Unfortunately neither bins are suitable for relocation.

Highways. Cllr Briggs has submitted a request to the Highways Team regarding consideration of some additional double yellow lines within the Parish. This will be discussed at the Highways meeting on Wednesday 27th March.

The Parish Council have been advised that our request to reduce the speed, from 30mph to 20mph, within the majority of Figheldean and Ablington has met the required criteria. This will not include the section of the road just before the A345. We are currently waiting for a detailed report. This will cost £10,000 in total, 25% of which is paid for by the Parish Council. Dates for the consultation period have not yet been advised.

Improved traffic calming measures and signage on the A345 is still outstanding.

Action: Cllr Cole to chase for a progress update on the improved road signage on the A345.

Cllr Cole

Cllr Briggs confirmed that Wiltshire Council have cleaned the bus shelter on the A345.

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Clerks Report

The current forecast to year end is currently anticipating an underspend of £3,101.72.

Major changes to the forecast since my last report:

- The £725 that we were expecting to spend on traffic calming measures has been removed from the 2023/24 forecast as it is looking unlikely that this work will be completed this financial year.
- An additional £600, that was not forecasted for 2023/24, has been paid. This is to the DIO for the Village Hall car park rent and this payment actually applies to 2024/25, but needed to be paid in advance of the new financial year.

The maintenance budget is only forecasting a minor overspend now due to the repair of the multi court falling into the next financial year as part of the new contract.


It was agreed that the rate for the hire of the Playing Field by Netheravon Football Club would need to increase for the 2024/25 season from £12 to £15 per match / training session. This is in line with the Parish Council's increased grass cutting costs.

Expenditure since last meeting – all approved

Expenditure	Amount	Detail
Bank charges	£16	
Clerk Salary	£624	
Bawdens	£500	Grass cutting
Ian Grimes	£80	Dog Bins
Graham Watson	£480	Bins
Graham Watson	£330	Grass + paths
Hills	£122.76	VH bins collection
DIO – car park rent	£600	



	Parish Magazine expenses	£650.80		
	Crime Prevention Leaflets	£13.85		
	Total	£3,417.41		
	Receipts	Amount	Detail	
	Parish Magazine Advertising	£330	Annual income	
	Netheravon FC	£12	Hire of VH Field	
	Total	£342		
Current Bank Balance @ 24th March 2024 is £13,755.26				
10	<p>Other Parish Business</p> <p>Jackie Dryden has submitted information to the Parish Council from the British Ornithology Society confirming that the bird nesting season is now thought to start in February, rather than March. Therefore, any habitat management works (particularly in Ablington Woods) should ideally take place between November and the start of February. The Parish Council noted this requirement and will bear this in mind for any future works.</p> <p>Jackie Dryden has submitted a Figgle Fest update for the Parish Council's awareness. There will be some people camping on the field that night before and the night of Figgle Fest (20th July 2024). Local police will be informed of Figgle Fest, as always. Parking will be courtesy of the Rawlins family and the use of their field in order to reduce parking within the Parish. There will be a separate entrance and exit.</p> <p>It was agreed that an advert for a Parish Councillor, without portfolio, is to be issued as we are still carrying a vacancy.</p> <p>Action: Parish Clerk to issue an advert for a Parish Councillor.</p>			Clerk
11	<p>Date of Next Meeting 13th May 2024 - AGM</p>			

Signed  Date 13/5/24