



# Figheledean Parish Council

(Draft until signed at next meeting)

Minutes of meeting 13<sup>th</sup> May 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

In attendance: Simon Briggs, Katy Sturgess

## Annual General Meeting

1. **Acceptance of apologies:** Apologies were received from Cllr Kelly. Cllr Cole further advised that Cllr Kelly will be resigning from his position of Councillor, with immediate effect.

2. **Election of Officials (Chair and Vice Chair)**

It was unanimously agreed that Cllr Cole should continue as Chair for 2024/25.

It was proposed and agreed that Figheledean Parish Council would continue without a Vice Chair at this time.

With the resignation of Cllr Kelly there are currently two vacancies on the Parish Council. Katy Sturgess was in attendance at the meeting and expressed an interest in being considered for one of these vacancies.

3. **Official Appointments**

Amesbury Area Board – to be attended by the Chair

LHFIG – Cllr Briggs with support from Cllr Amison and Cllr Cole, as required.

Police Liaison – Cllr Amison

Planning – Cllr Tissot

4. **Approval of Annual Governance Statement and Approval of Accounts 2023/24**

Clarification was requested from the Councillors on the listed Fixed Assets for Figheledean Parish Council. A full list, provided by the Auditor, was provided to all Councillors.

Cllr Cole took an action to fully explore employment status of the Parish Clerk with the Wiltshire Association of Local Councils (WALC).

The accounts were signed and approved by the Chair.





5	<p><b>Wiltshire Councillor Report</b></p> <p>Cllr Blair-Pilling referred to an open letter that had been sent by the Leader of Wiltshire Council, Cllr Richard Clewer and Chief Executive Terence Herbert to Oflog following the publication of an article in The Times regarding the worst performing councils in the country. A link to the letter is provided <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>Cllr Blair-Pilling thanked Figheldean for hosting the recent Highways meeting. Following these meetings there is now a communities portfolio in place. More resources are being allocated to every aspect of Highways, including the maintenance programme, LHFIG, flood measures, litter picking and enforcement. There will also be improvements in terms of communication.</p> <p>On the 13<sup>th</sup> June there will be a formal Area Board held in Durrington Hall.</p> <p>Cllr Blair-Pilling advised that he would welcome any information with regards to the condition of the river within Figheldean.</p> <p><b>Action: Cllr Amison to discuss with the River Keeper and update Cllr Blair-Pilling</b></p> <p>The planning application for Brindisi was discussed. Another set of plans have been submitted and the conservation officers report is available on the planning website. Cllr Blair-Pilling is awaiting the Planning Officer's view on the updates.</p>	<p><b>Action: Cllr Amison</b></p>
6.	<p><b>Chair Councillor Report – Cllr Tina Cole</b></p> <p>This year has seen your parish council continue to bring pressure on our local authority to implement the already approved traffic calming measures along the A345 Figheldean turning and the 20mph through our village. Its fair to say that weather conditions have hampered contractors who now have a very large list of jobs to get through, but we will continue to bring our cause to Wiltshire Council's attention for action.</p> <p>We are also very keen to see the resurfacing of our High Street and Pollen Lane both of which are in a very poor state. We are bringing pressure to bear for this to be implemented too.</p> <p>Parents dropping off and collecting their children from Brambles Outdoor Nursery in Ablington have caused a number of complaints throughout the year. The nursery has a robust policy on staggered drop off/pick up times and a strict no parking policy with a max 10min turn around. All parents have to sign this agreement when enrolling their children.</p> <p>Of course, the reality is a bottleneck through Ablington at around 8am and 5pm. With some parents choosing to park along by Ablington Wood causing damage to our verge. Myself and Councillor Ange Briggs are looking into ways to alleviate the pinch points and a part solution is being worked on. Parishioners will be kept fully informed and consulted should it become feasible.</p> <p>I'm delighted to tell you about our new Village Resilience Team. Headed up very kindly by Simon Briggs who has donated his time and expertise to create and co-ordinate a team of village volunteers. In essence the volunteers will form a call-out team where one, two or</p>	



more individuals will be asked to help in a time of need. This will most likely be during extreme weather events such as a fallen tree needing to be removed, putting out flood signs and gritting high-risk areas of our roads and pavements. We cannot rely on Wiltshire council to prioritise a fallen tree for instance if they have several trees down across major roads. It makes sense that we try and deal with things ourselves.

It is with sincere thanks to Simon for all his hard work on this that we now have a list of volunteers. It is still in its infancy, but further details will be available soon.

Our grass cutting operations continue with Bawdens who regularly cut the playing field through the football season with Graham Watson cutting the remainder of Parish Council grass. Graham does a wonderful job as our maintenance contractor. You may notice he has recently dealt with overgrown bushes along by the playing field paths and around the multi-court where they were beginning to impede and compromise the fence. Please remember that Wiltshire Council are responsible for cutting our verges.

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.

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 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.

Outcomes First Group, owners of the old school building are still progressing their plans to bring an open school back to Figheldean. Revised plans show that the footprint of the plot has been kept the same but with the three out-buildings to be re-built. This represents less change than was initially planned. It's a shame things are taking so long but we are hopeful that by next year the school will open up for children with complex needs. Works are planned to start in September 2024. We will keep you updated.

Netheravon FC will be using our playing field again this year from mid-August as their home ground. 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.

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 hard work of the voluntary president and committee at the Working Men's Club that keeps that wonderful asset thriving, the wonderful people of Figheldean Village Community Events, all of whom selflessly volunteer to give us plenty of events to entertain us throughout the year, and now the Village Resilience Team who have signed up to help us in times of need. And 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.

On behalf of the people of this village and this council I say a heartfelt thank you to each and every one of you. Together you continue to make this village a wonderful place to live.



7	<p><b>Other Organisation Reports</b> Nil</p>	
8	<p><b>Councillor Reports</b></p> <p><b>Cllr Nick Tissot</b></p> <p><b>Planning</b> The School - we have received confirmation that works are due to start in September 2024. The site has been cleared of asbestos and Outcomes First Group are in the final stages of tendering for the forthcoming works. Attached drawings for the scheme have been provided, which reflect the existing school layout, and are available on the Parish Council <a href="#">website</a>.</p> <p>Outcomes First Group have confirmed that they would be happy to meet with the Parish Council as plans develop.</p> <p>Cllr Briggs advised that it would be useful to be able to engage with Outcomes First Group regarding the parking situation and particularly current plans for some double yellow lines outside the school.</p> <p><b>Action: Cllr Tissot to contact Outcomes First Group regarding the parking arrangement with the school and to highlight where the Parish Council are planning to add double yellow lines.</b></p> <p>Brindisi – covered above.</p> <p><b>Cllr Darrell Amison</b></p> <p><b>Policing</b> Cllr Amison will continue to keep in regular contact with our new PC for the area, PC Ryan Mears and PCSO Levi Murphy, particularly regarding any antisocial behaviour in the village over the summer.</p> <p><b>River Avon Project</b> There is £230k of Environment Agency funding earmarked for this project for this Financial Year. There will be a Water Vole survey in the summer. It is hoped that we will be advised of who the successful contractor will be by mid-June and that work will then start in October. Further communications will take place with the community in due course.</p> <p>Once a date of a village briefing on this project has been agreed the Parish Council will also try to combine briefing with Outcomes First Group with regards to an update on developments with the School.</p> <p><b>Cllr Angela Briggs.</b></p> <p><b>Highways</b> The overall cost to reduce the speed limit within Figheldean to 20mph will be £10,000, of which £2,500 is for the Traffic Regulation Order. This does not include the costs of the speed limit assessment, which is £2,900, 25% of which has already been paid by Figheldean Parish</p>	<p><b>Action:</b> Cllr Tissot</p>



	<p>Council. It was suggested that five new speed limit signs are positioned throughout the village to inform of the revised speed limit.</p> <p>The total costs for Figheledean Parish Council would be £3,950 including the cost for the A345 traffic calming signs.</p> <p><b>Action: Cllr Blair-Pilling to chase the completion of the traffic calming signs on the A345.</b></p> <p>LHFIG requests have been submitted for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Double yellow lines outside the school and at the bottom of Pollen Lane.</li> <li>• Resurfacing of roads – although advised that this needs to be requested via the Wilts App.</li> <li>• Levelling of the road adjacent to the bus stop on the A345.</li> <li>• Additional signage adjacent to Brambles.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, our five priorities for gully cleaning within the village have also been submitted.</p> <p>A discussion was held with Cllr Blair-Pilling regarding the resurfacing of the three principal routes into the village. The Parish Councillors asked for Cllr Blair-Pilling’s support with this project in terms of ensuring the roads are safe and are kept up to standard.</p>	<p><b>Action: Cllr Blair- Pilling</b></p>															
<p>9</p>	<p><b>Clerks Report</b></p> <p>The annual audit has been completed and the end of year accounts for 2023/24 have already been shared with Councillors.</p> <p>The annual VAT return has been submitted. We are expecting a VAT refund to the value of £996.73.</p> <p>The Parish Council are required to report to Wiltshire Council on how the CIL Levy has been utilised over the last five years. The purpose of this levy was part of a planning approval and to help with the impact that the planning application would have on the village. This links to Cleveland Lodge, now Cleve House.</p> <p><b>Action – Clerk and Cllr Cole to review the Parish Council accounts over the last five years in order to confirm how the CIL levy was spent. It may particularly refer to the requirement for the provision of additional parking.</b></p> <p><b>Brambles</b></p> <p>The Clerk has made contact with our local PC and PCSO to advise them of the concerns that are being raised with regards to parking at Brambles and have asked them to be present at peak times in order to provide advice to both Brambles staff and parents.</p> <p>Expenditure since last meeting – all approved</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="252 1839 1326 2016"> <thead> <tr> <th>Expenditure</th> <th>Amount</th> <th>Detail</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Bank charges</td> <td>£8</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clerk Salary</td> <td>£832</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bawdens</td> <td>£250</td> <td>Grass cutting</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ian Grimes</td> <td>£80</td> <td>Dog Bins</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Expenditure	Amount	Detail	Bank charges	£8		Clerk Salary	£832		Bawdens	£250	Grass cutting	Ian Grimes	£80	Dog Bins	<p><b>Action: Clerk &amp; Cllr Cole</b></p>
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	Graham Watson	£160	Bins
	Graham Watson	£60	Grass + paths
	Graham Watson	£280	Multicourt
	Hills	£40.44	VH bins collection
	J Bailey Audit Fee	£270	
	Parish Magazine expenses	£52.55	
	WALC Subscription	£223.57	
	Zurich Insurance Renewal	£489.26	
	Wiltshire Council	£725	Speed Limit Assessment
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,470.82</b>	
	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Detail</b>
	Wiltshire Council	£10,179.26	Precept
	Netheravon FC	£36	Hire of VH Field
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£10,215.26</b>	
	<b>Current Bank Balance @ 11<sup>th</sup> May 2024 is £20,499.70</b>		
10	<b>Other Parish Business</b> The Clerk reminded all Councillors that there will be a D-Day 8- Commemoration held at the Washdown at Netheravon on Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> June. The arrangements for this have been made jointly by Figheledean, Netheravon and Fittleton cum Haxton Parish Councils.		
11	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b> 15 <sup>th</sup> July 2024		

Signed .....  ..... Date ..... 15/7/24 .....