



# Figheldean Parish Council

(Draft until signed at next meeting)

Minutes of meeting 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at Village Hall @7.30 pm

## Present

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

## In attendance:

Rev Mark Christian  
Tracey Dyderski

## Public Question Time

Parishioner Tracey Dyderski asked for an update on the situation with Brambles parking. Tracey advised that there doesn't seem to be any improvement in the situation.

Cllr Briggs advised that they have very recently met with Brambles again about this issue. They are listening to our concerns and taking on the advice offered. There have been some changes in circumstances and some new developments. The number of children attending the Nursery have increased due to a change in Government legislation and a reduction in ratio of carers to children. Because of this, and the ongoing parking problems, the walking bus has been re-established. This has been targeted towards those families that only have one child.

The reintroduction of the walking bus has only been running for a week so is still in its infancy and is currently in the mornings only. This will be expanding to afternoons as well once embedded.

It was also discussed that Brambles staff have been parking in Avon Banks and the Crescent. The Parish Council confirmed that Brambles to have an arrangement in place in which to use the Village Hall overflow car park for staff parking. Occasionally there are cars blocking access to the post box and the footpath.

Concerns were also raised over the erosion of the side of the road outside Brambles. Cllr Briggs confirmed that this road has been added to the Wiltshire Council programme of resurfacing.

**Action: Cllr Briggs to write to Brambles again to re-emphasise the concerns that are being raised.**

It was also confirmed that Brambles have previously advised that if we are able to let them know of a car registration number that is parked inconsiderately, they will discuss this directly with the parent/staff member. Any car registration numbers can be passed on to the Parish Clerk who will liaise with Brambles.



ITEM	DESCRIPTION	ACTION
1	<p><b>Apologies</b> It was noted that Nick Tissot has stepped down as Parish Councillor due to work commitments. The Chair thanked Nick for all of his hard work and contributions to the Parish Council.</p> <p>The Chair welcomed Mark Christian who will be observing with a view to submitting a nomination to join the Parish Council</p>	
2	<p><b>Declaration of Interests</b> Nil</p>	
3	<p><b>Minutes of the meeting: 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025</b> These were agreed as a true reflection of discussion and signed by the Chair.</p>	
4	<p><b>Matters arising / Outstanding Actions</b> Nil</p>	
5.	<p><b>Wiltshire Councillor Report</b> We are currently entering an election process for both Unitary and Parish Councillors, with the period of purdah commencing this evening. The deadline for Councillor nominations is the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025. A list of all candidates will then be published on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2025.</p> <p>Cllr Blair-Pilling will remain a Wiltshire Councillor and portfolio holder until the 5<sup>th</sup> May 2025. Polling day is on the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025.</p> <p>Cllr Blair-Pilling confirmed that the budget for Wiltshire Council is in a good position with only a 4.5% rise in place for this financial year.</p> <p>The final sign off for the 40mph limit on the Netheravon section of the A345 has not yet been confirmed. The next focus will be improvements to the bus stop at Harefield Crescent.</p> <p>Wiltshire Council were briefed today on the Governments new Planning Act. This may reduce our ability to shape what it is happening in our area in terms of planning applications as we would lose the ability to call a planning application in to Committee for further review.</p> <p>A conversation was held over the highway's improvements that Figheldean have requested but have not yet been implemented. It was agreed that Figheldean Parish Council would submit a letter to Cllr Nick Holder, who is the Cabinet Member for Highways, to raise the profile of the works needed within our Parish and to ask for further information on proposed timelines. This is of particular importance with the School due to open soon and the increased traffic that this will represent. Cllr Blair-Pilling confirmed that he would be happy to support such a letter.</p> <p><b>Action: Clerk to draft a letter to send to Cllr Nick Holder regarding the highways improvements for Figheldean.</b></p> <p>The bus stop on the A345 outside of Figheldean was discussed and the fact that the bin recently caught fire.</p> <p><b>Action: Clerk to email Cllr Blair-Pilling to request clarification as to whether it should be the Parish Council or Wiltshire Council that need to source and pay for a replacement bin.</b></p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>



	<p>Cllr Blair-Pilling left the meeting at 20:01.</p>	
6.	<p><b>Chair Councillor Report – Cllr Tina Cole</b></p> <p>Firstly, I’m delighted to see the Brambles Walking Bus Scheme back in place. By using the Village Hall as a drop off point in the mornings for parents and Brambles staff walking the children down the pathway to the nursery, will surely go some way to easing the congestion through Ablington. Of course time will tell and Cllr Angela Briggs will be monitoring progress. Our multicourt is having its annual anti-fungus spray and maintenance check ready for the spring and summer season and grass cutting has resumed with Bawdens cutting the playing field this month.</p> <p>The football teams are continuing to use our pitches and I’m pleased to say the ground had stood up to the vigour of winter fixtures very well. Matches have been cancelled when the ground was too sodden or frozen on occasions. Next season’s contract will be looked at soon.</p> <p>The Village Hall committee are looking into ways to conserve money ready for the possibility of losing the annual rental payment from the mast company which the parish council agreed they could benefit from when the mast was first erected. The contract between the Village Hall and the mast company is due to expire in 2028. They currently receive between £10,000 and £14,000 pa depending on how many mobile companies’ dishes are attached. We shall be monitoring events as they transpire.</p> <p>Thank you to all councillors for their continued hard work and for giving up their time for free. We have a dedicated team and I look forward to more joining us as we enter our election period. Nominations are due to be registered by April 2nd.</p> <p>Lastly I’d like to acknowledge the stepping down due to work commitments of our Planning and DIO Liaison Councillor Nick Tissot. Nick has been a stalwart of our Parish Council for some 6 years showing great dedication and expertise. His presence will be sorely missed. On behalf of the PC and the village, thank you Nick for all your hard work and may we wish you and your family the very best for the future.</p> <p>Further to the above report, Cllr Cole confirmed that she has already indicated to Durrington Ladies Football Club that the pitch fees for the next season may need to increase. This is to ensure that grass cutting costs are sufficiently covered. Fees for use of the pitch are currently £15 per match and it was agreed that, for the new season, this should rise to £20 a month in line with rising grass cutting fees.</p> <p><b>Action: Cllr Cole to confirm the revised pitch costs to Durrington Ladies Football Club for the next season.</b></p>	<p>Cllr Cole</p>
7.	<p><b>Other Organisation Reports</b></p> <p>Figheledean Village Hall – the Hall Committee are closely observing the situation with the mast and are actively working to reserve money.</p>	
8.	<p><b>Councillor Reports</b></p> <p><b>Planning</b></p>	



Nil

### **School**

Figheledean Parish Council have received the following update from Outcomes First Group:

“It’s taken longer than expected but I’m pleased to say works should be complete by the end of this week.

The next stage is an Ofsted pre-registration inspection to check the quality of provision, curriculum, leadership team and facilities, followed by formal DfE Registration as a school. All going well we now hope to be ready for our first children in late May early June.

This is also the time I bow out and hand over to the operations team. We are currently onboarding the Head Teacher who starts in April and will be in touch with the Parish Council. The Schools Facilities Manager and the best point of contact until the Headteacher is in role.

We are aware many villagers may have attended the school and we will be organising some open house sessions to get to know our neighbours and answer the inevitable questions on the school and its students.

The school will be known as Robin’s Way School, after the early neolithic causewayed enclosure known as Robin Hood's Ball. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robin\\_Hood%27s\\_Ball](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robin_Hood%27s_Ball)”

### **Cllr Darrell Amison**

#### **Figheledean Resilience Team**

No further activity to report on now that the weather has improved.

Action: Cllr Amison to request an update from Simon Briggs on progress with the required Risk Assessment.

Once the Risk Assessment is in place we will be able to formally progress the required Insurance.

### **Safeguarding Policy**

The Safeguarding Policy was signed by the Chair and formally accepted by the Parish Council. The letter of assurance that needs to be obtained from Durrington Ladies Football Club also needs to include a signature confirming that they will abide by the Safeguarding Policy.

### **Policing**

A report regarding any local police activity was recently issued by PCSO Morphy. There was little activity in the local area however some anti-social behaviour in Durrington and Hare Coursing in the local area were noted.

The PC assigned to Figheledean will now be PC Bethany Collins, who will be attending the Figheledean Parish Council AGM. Levi Morphy remains as our PCSO. Amesbury police station will be closing and our team will be based at the station in Tidworth.

### **Neighbourhood watch**

It was agreed that a community meeting will take place in late May / June to re-launch the Neighbourhood Watch scheme. The County Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator has offered to attend such an event.



<p><b>River Avon Project</b>          Cllr Amison has been in contact with the Project Lead, Matt Irvine. Due to the previous halting of this project there are no funds currently available. The project status remains as officially 'Consented' but another funding stream and a resolution to the previous issue will need to be identified. Cllr Amison is now also in touch with the DIO Estates Surveyor directly and will continue to liaise with him to hopefully move this project forward.</p> <p>As sunnier weather approaches, we will need to continue to work with the local Police to mitigate any anti-social behaviour at the Mill Pond and Gunville.</p> <p><b>Cllr Angela Briggs</b>  <b>Brambles</b>          See public question time.</p> <p><b>Highways</b>          Cllr Briggs and Cllr Cole recently attended a local Highways meeting, held in Durrington. Cllr Briggs advised of a website, called Operation Snap, that individuals can send dash cam footage to if anyone is recorded driving unsafely.</p> <p>Cllr Briggs attended a Rights of Way meeting and has submitted all details regarding the footpath along the side of school to a contact met at that meeting who advised that the path has been awarded as a private path.</p> <p><b>Action: Cllr Briggs to contact the school with regards to the trees (and specifically the roots) that are on school property and have caused damage to the path that runs alongside of the school.</b></p> <p>It was also agreed that a sign should be installed along the path advising that it is a private path and accessed at users own risk.</p>	
<p><b>Cllr Katy Sturgess</b>  <b>Playpark</b>          Cllr Sturgess has met with some local mums to discuss the type of improvements they would like to see within our playpark.</p> <p>The next stage will be to investigate fundraising opportunities, this could include grants, i.e. National Lottery, as well as some of our own fundraising events.</p> <p><b>Action: Cllr Cole to contact Graham Watson regarding the spikes at the top of the small hill adjacent to the play park. Cllr Cole to also follow up with Graham about the other maintenance items that are outstanding, i.e. the gates.</b></p>	<p>Cllr Briggs</p> <p>Cllr Cole</p>
<p><b>Dog Bins</b>          The village map with all dog bins identified on it is nearly complete.</p> <p><b>Action: Cllr Cole to clarify with Graham Watson how many dog bins within the Parish he is emptying.</b></p> <p><b>Field, Trees/Hedge</b>          Cllr Sturgess has followed up on some recent queries regarding the maintenance of some of the trees along the edge of the playing field. Some of these are healthy trees and therefore</p>	<p>Cllr Cole</p>



the Parish Council are limited as to how much work can be done on them. Some of this work will continue in September when the nesting season has ended.

**Action: Parish Clerk to contact the resident that has planted shrubs on the field side of their fence.**

**Defibs**

A warning email has been received regarding the defibs at the Village Hall and the Working Men's Club advising that they need to be checked monthly and will only operate if kept between 0 and 50 degrees. Cllr Sturgess has checked all of the defibs and confirmed that they are all currently in working order and will keep a record of when regular checks are carried out.

**Multicourt – Warning Sign**

Cllr Sturgess has received some quotes for some new warning signage for the Multicourt. The quote is for £109. It was also agreed that this sign is to include a notice that no food is to be consumed within the Multicourt.

A discussion was held over the tidying of the Multicourt and removal of leave debris etc, this needs to particularly be done at this time of year ahead of Spring/Summer. The spraying of the surface of the Multicourt was recently due to be completed by ETC Sports as part of the annual maintenance contract.

**Action: Parish Clerk to request a quote from Mills & Bloom with regards to the tidying up and removal of leaves from the Multicourt.**

**Action: Cllr Cole to contact ETC Sports to clarify if the spraying of the Multicourt took place considering that all the leave debris is still in place.**

Parish Clerk

Parish Clerk

Cllr Cole

9.

**Clerks Report**

Expenditure since last meeting – all approved.

Expenditure	Amount	Detail
Bank charges	£16	
Clerk Salary	£832	
Bawdens	£500	Grass cutting
Graham Watson	£280	Bins
Mills & Bloom	£100	Playing Field trees/branches
Hills	£149.86	VH bins collection
Parish Magazine expenses	£54.15	
Parish Magazine printing	£416	
Fitchetts	£240	Tree removal
Church Donation	£350	
Direct IT Services	£54.88	Office 365
DIO VH Car Park Rental	£600	
Parish Clerk	£6.99	Bin bags for dog bins
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,599.88</b>	
Receipts	Amount	Detail
Parish Magazine donation	£30	
Parish Magazine advertising	£170	Rangers Durrington
Parish Magazine advertising	£170	Greensleeves



Parish Magazine advertising	£50	Graham C Brown
Parish Magazine advertising	£170	Stonehenge Plumbing
Parish Magazine advertising	£110	Sarum Graphics
Parish Magazine advertising	£110	Stonehenge Ales
Parish Magazine advertising	£90	Milston Flowers
Parish Magazine advertising	£70	Donald Capewell
Parish Magazine advertising	£110	Slinky Fox
Parish Magazine subscription	£20	M Parrott
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,100</b>	

**Current Bank Balance @ 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2025 is £14,539.99**

We are currently anticipating a planned overspend, to budget, of £1,198.89 mainly due to additional Ablington Wood expenditure and the speed limit assessment. We were anticipating a much larger planned overspend/investment but the other highways costs/improvements have not been realised this financial year.

A draft budget for 2025/26 was discussed.

**Action: Parish Clerk to revise the draft budget for 2025/26 and issue to all Councillors for review.**

**Parish Magazine**

Cllr Cole and the Parish Clerk recently met with Caroline Hicks, editor of the Parish Magazine. An update on this meeting was provided to the Councillors, with the main outcomes/actions being:

- Consideration of producing a digital version of the magazine for those residents that are happy to access the magazine in this way, and therefore reduce print costs.
- Quotes from other printers to be obtained and compared.

Parish Clerk

10.	<p><b>Other Parish Business</b>  <b>FVCE Grant</b>  A grant of £500 for Figheldean Village Community Events (£300 for Figgle Fest and £200 for Ablington Woods 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations) was approved.</p> <p><b>Ablington Wood Conservation Group</b>  Jackie Dryden has contacted the Parish Council to make them aware of the re-establishment of the Ablington Wood Conservation Group. The focus of the group will be tidying up of dead branches and planting natural woodland flowers, not to carry out maintenance. It was noted that personal liability will rest solely with individual conservation group members. The Parish Council confirmed that they were content with this approach.</p>
11.	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b>  13<sup>th</sup> May 2025 - AGM</p>

Signed .....  ..... Date ..... 13/5/25 .....