



Figheldean Parish Council

(Draft until signed at next meeting)

Minutes of meeting 13th May 2025 at Village Hall @7.30 pm

Present

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

In attendance – PC Bethany Collins, Wiltshire Police

Annual General Meeting

1. **Acceptance of apologies:** Nil, but it was noted that Cllr Amison will be joining the meeting slightly later. A quorum was confirmed.

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

It was noted that all Councillors have been formally appointed to their positions following the recent election process, which was uncontested for the Parish of Figheldean. This includes the new appointment of Rev Mark Christian as Councillor.

It was unanimously agreed that Cllr Cole should continue as Chair for 2025/26.

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

There are a remaining two vacancies on the Parish Council.

3. **Official Appointments**

The list of Parish Councillor Responsibilities was updated as follows:

- Police liaison to remain with Cllr Amison.
- Liaison with DIO and Wiltshire Council (general items only, functional leads over specific items to liaise directly) to be assigned to Cllr Amison.
- Rights of Way to be assigned to Cllr Briggs.
- Lead Councillor for the Playground to be Cllr Christian.
- Cllr Christian to be the lead Councillor for Planning, liaison with the Village Hall committee and lead for Risk Assessments.
- It was agreed that Previous Councillor, Nick Tissot, would remain as the second lead for the River Avon project due to his prior knowledge in this area.
- Amesbury Area Board – to be attended by the Chair
- LHFIG – Cllr Briggs with support from Cllr Amison and Cllr Cole, as required.



Action: Clerk to amend and update the Responsibility List accordingly.

4. Approval of Annual Governance Statement and Approval of Accounts 2024/25

The accounts have been fully audited by our external auditor.

The auditor noted that arrangements are in hand for the employment status of the Parish Clerk to be changed from self-employed to directly employed by Figcheldean Parish Council. The auditor was content that this is progressing.

The auditor also commented on the requirement for all Parish Councils to move to a gov.uk domain but it was confirmed that this is already complete for Figcheldean Parish Council.

The accounts were signed and approved by the Chair.



Parish Council Meeting

Questions from the public.

Police update – PC Collins advised that Figheldean has no police reports this month. PC Collins and PCSO Morphy are continuing to monitor the Mill Pond with patrols taking place whenever the weather is nice, particularly on a Wednesday and Friday. PC Collins will also visit Gunville to introduce herself.

Regular patrols continue to take place over the Plain due to Hare Coursing. PC Collins advised that if any parishioners see any Hare Coursing taking place and individuals are on the land at that moment to call 999. If submitting a report of Hare Coursing that has already taken place Parishioners should call 101 (or submit an online crime report). PC Collins advised that Parishioners should not confront any Hare Coursers directly.

Action: Parish Clerk to share the information about Hare Coursing on the Parish Council’s social media and in the next edition of the Parish Magazine.

Action: Parish Clerk to send all future meeting dates to PC Collins and PCSO Morphy.

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	ACTION
1	<p>Apologies Nil, but it was noted that Cllr Amison will be joining the meeting slightly later. A quorum was confirmed.</p>	
2	<p>Declaration of Interests Nil</p>	
3	<p>Minutes of the meeting: 24th March 2025 These were agreed as a true reflection of discussion and signed by the Chair.</p>	
4	<p>Matters arising / Outstanding Actions</p> <p>Grievance & Disciplinary Policies</p> <p>The Grievance & Disciplinary policies, including proposed changes by the Clerk, were approved.</p> <p>Action: Parish Clerk to place the approved Grievance & Disciplinary policies on the Parish Council website.</p>	Parish Clerk
5	<p>Wiltshire Councillor Report</p> <p>Cllr Blair-Pilling thanked our communities for re-electing him. Cllr Blair-Pilling received just over 50% of the votes but the number of people voting was substantially less than the previous election. The Conservative Party have lost control of Wiltshire Council, the Council leader and Cabinet will be announced next week.</p> <p>Due to the fact that the newly formed Wiltshire Council have not had a full Council meeting yet, it is not clear where exact responsibilities will lie. As soon as this has been established</p>	



	<p>Cllr Blair-Pilling will raise the Figheldean’s request for improved rumble strips on the A345 (directly outside of Figheldean) that have not yet been actioned.</p> <p>The planning application for Cliffend was discussed and confirmed that comments can be added to the planning application up until the 28th May. It was noted that this application significantly changes the outline and profile of the property.</p>	
6.	<p>Chair Councillor Report – Cllr Tina Cole</p> <p>Firstly I'm pleased to welcome Mark Christian as our new Parish Councillor with responsibilities for Parish Planning. I'm confident Mark will be a vital asset to our Parish Council and we all look forward to working with him and thank him for volunteering.</p> <p>It's good to see that the implementation of the 'Walking Bus' from the village Hall to Brambles Outdoor Nursery is working well, although between 4-5pm is still proving to be difficult for Ablington residents with the usual parking issues caused by parents collecting their children. We still have an open dialogue with Brambles and Cllr Briggs and myself will continue to monitor the situation.</p> <p>There is a gentle swell of concern over the opening of the new school and the impact of extra cars in the village at key times. I'm hopeful that with Headteacher Jemma Taylor kindly inviting ourselves and others to an open evening in June, we will be able to express concerns on behalf of parishioners and give her the 'Heads-up' of the difficulties already experienced through Ablington.</p> <p>It's wonderful to hear that the Ablington Wood Conservation Group has started up again having been put on hold during the covid years. Thank you to villager Jackie Dryden for putting the group together. She will be liaising with Cllr Sturgess as facilities lead who is also on the conservation team and I'm sure we should be able to apply for funding to help with tree planing etc. This is being looked into by myself and Jackie. Parishioner Tony Morgan has created six natural fences using fallen branches and cleared a large area ready to be used as a recreation spot. Great work by him and the rest of the team who I know are quietly clearing and stacking fallen branches as time allows.</p> <p>Durrington Ladies & Girls FC are continuing to use our playing field and village hall changing rooms next season and for training during the summer break. Villagers appear to be happy with many telling me that it great to see the pitches in use again. It is also great news for our Working Men’s Club who benefit from extra footfall on occasion.</p> <p>Potholes are being filled in by our Parish Steward but of course we still await resurfacing, the implementation of 20mph and rumble strips on the A345.</p> <p>As we begin another year at council may I take the opportunity to thank all Councillors and our Parish Clerk Rachel Ure, for your continued commitment and time. We have a great team.</p>	
7	<p>Other Organisation Reports</p>	



	<p><u>Village Hall</u></p> <p>It was confirmed that new stage lights have been fitted, thanks to a grant application. The Village Hall are now pursuing grants for a new kitchen and an upgrade to the changing rooms.</p> <p><u>Durrington Football Team</u></p> <p>It was confirmed that for the next season we will be charging them £37 per match instead of £35. £1 extra going to the Village Hall and £1 extra to the Parish Council.</p>	
8	<p>Councillor Reports</p> <p>CLlr Mark Christian</p> <p>CLlr Christian advised that he has bought some WiFi humidity gauges that can sit within the defibrillator cases to record the humidity level, and advise if it has dropped. They do require WiFi connectivity to work, CLlr Christian confirmed that he will fit these within the defibrillators at the Village Hall and the Club.</p> <p>Planning Cliffend already discussed. No other planning applications at this time.</p> <p>CLlr Angela Briggs</p> <p>Rights of Way 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.</p> <p>Highways Double Yellow Lines – the request to add these opposite the School and at the bottom of Pollen Lane is progressing. The consultation period has ended and now awaiting for report to be drafted.</p> <p>Revised speed limit within Figheldean - The consultation period has ended and now awaiting for report to be drafted.</p> <p>CLlr Katy Sturgess</p> <p>Multicourt The new sign for the multicourt has been received. It was agreed that a separate, no dogs sign (for within the multicourt) will also be purchased.</p> <p>Action: Parish Clerk to purchase a separate No Dogs Allowed sign for the multicourt.</p> <p>Ablington Woods The Ablington Woods conservation group are now active and are working on clearing some areas of the woods so they are a bit less overgrown.</p> <p><i>CLlr Amison joined the meeting at 8:30pm.</i> <i>CLlr Christian left the meeting at 8:30pm.</i></p>	<p>CLlr Briggs</p> <p>Parish Clerk</p>



Clerks Contract

Final actions for the completion and associated arrangements for the Parish Clerk’s contract, and direct employment by Figcheldean Parish Council, are now to be completed.

The contract has now been approved and the accountant will be instructed to begin processing payments.

Action: Parish Clerk to obtain copies of Wiltshire’s Maternity, Paternity and Parental Leave policies and forward them to the Councillors for consideration of how these are adopted by Figcheldean Parish Council.

Parish Clerk

Bins

It was noted that the bin outside Cllr Christian’s property has not been emptied for some time.

Action: Cllr Sturgess to send Cllr Cole the newly developed map of all the bins in the Parish.

Cllr Sturgess

Action: Cllr Cole to clarify with Graham Watson how many dog bins within the Parish he is emptying.

Cllr Cole

Cllr Darrell Amison

Policing

It was agreed to confirm a date to re-launch this scheme during a coffee morning, perhaps a Wednesday morning in mid-late June.

River Avon Project

Cllr Amison is arranging a date in which to have a further meeting about developments for this project.

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Clerks Report

The annual audit has been completed and the end of year accounts for 2024/25 have already been shared with Councillors.

The annual VAT return has been submitted. We are expecting a VAT refund to the value of £1,237.12.

Expenditure since last meeting – all approved

Expenditure	Amount	Detail
Bank charges	£8	
Clerk Salary	£832	
Bawdens	£250	Grass cutting
Ian Grimes	£120	Dog Bins
Graham Watson	£140	Bins
Graham Watson	£30	Playpark
Hills	£96.55	VH bins collection
J Bailey Audit Fee	£280	
Direct IT Services	54.88	



WALC Subscription	£239.94	
Zurich Insurance Renewal	£407.10	
Value Products	£131.80	Multicourt Sign
Figgle Fest Donation	£300	
Ablinton Woods Donation	£200	
Total	£3,090.27	
Receipts	Amount	Detail
Wiltshire Council	£10,179.26	Precept
Figheledean Village Hall	£300	Hire of VH Field – Durrington FC
Figheledean Village Hall	£30	Hire of VH Field – individual booking
Total	£10,509.26	

Current Bank Balance @ 5th May 2025 is £22,374.98.

2025/26 Budget

The budget for 2025/26 was approved, the headline figures are:

2025/26 Budget - Income = £23,612.30

2025/26 Budget - Expenditure = £22,895.38

It was agreed to add an additional line to the budget for Highways Costs. We are anticipating a spend of £3,225 on Highways during 2025/26. This will increase the overall budget expenditure but the finance for these costs will be spent from allocated reserves for this project.

Revised 2025/26 Budget – Expenditure = £26,120.38

This leaves a reserve amount to invest in other projects of £6,782.

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Other Parish Business

It was noted that the bins at the Village Hall are often over filled (and reported as over weight by Hills) and that they are being used by others, rather than the intended sole use of the Village Hall and Parish Council.

Action: Cllr Cole to arrange for a sign to be placed on the bins to advise that they are for Village Hall and Parish Council use only.

It was noted that the multicourt was not left to the standard expected after the recent clean by ETC.

Action: Parish Clerk to contact ETC and advise that we were disappointed with the way the site had been left.

Cllr Cole

Parish Clerk

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Date of Next Meeting

8th July 2025

Signed Date