



Figcheldean Parish Council

(Draft until signed at next meeting)

Minutes of meeting 8th July 2025 at Village Hall @7.30 pm

Present

Cllr Tina Cole	Chair
Cllr Darrell Amison	
Cllr Angela Briggs	
Cllr Katy Sturgess	
Cllr Mark Christian	
Rachel Ure	Clerk

In attendance – PCSO Levi Morphy, Wiltshire Police

Tony Morgan, Rosemarie Smith, David Blaker, Caroline Garratt, Claire Fraser-Green, Brad Sturgess, Chris Sheppard, Sharon Sawyer, Jackie Dryden, Greg Caswell.

Questions from the public.

Whilst waiting for PCSO Morphy to arrive, Cllr Amison provided a summary of the situation with the Mill Pool:

The overall long term project to remove the Mill Pool is still an aspiration, but a new funding source will need to be identified. The main attraction with the Mill Pool is the ‘pool’ element that is deeper and people can jump in to it. For now the focus remains on trying to mitigate against the number of visitors this area of the Parish is receiving.

- The Parish Council are engaging with the neighbourhood policing team constantly, and always ahead of a period of hot weather. We are encouraging them to patrol reactively, and particularly from 2pm onwards. Some public health issues have been witnessed including noise and also parking/traffic issues.
- The Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) are engaging with the MOD (Tidworth & Bulford garrison) and there has been an attempt to repair the hole that has appeared in the fence.
- Parking remains a challenge, but it was noted that the response to this needs to be led by the Local Authority. Unless this is an acute problem the NPT won't address it.
- During the times that the NPT have attended they have not witnessed any anti-social behaviour. Residents have been urged that if they do witness any anti-social behaviour that it is reported via 101. It is important that a log of reported incidents is built up.
- Cllr Amison is meeting the SPTA Senior Training Safety Officer next week to specifically discuss the fencing around the area. The possibility of also fencing off the bank was discussed.
- The MOD have been asked to declare this area out of bounds to their troops. 60/70% of attendees at the Mill Pool are military and their families.

At 19:45 PCSO Morphy and PC Jody Kinge arrived.

Cllr Amison summarised the above discussion for PCSO Morphy and PC Kinge. Cllr Amison stated that we are very grateful for the NPT's hard work on this subject but is conscious that there is more work to be done. Cllr Amison



advised that it would be useful for PCSO Morphy and PC Kinge to now hear from local residents, principally in Mill Lane and the High Street in terms of the impact on their daily lives and a Q&A with regards to anything they wish to explore.

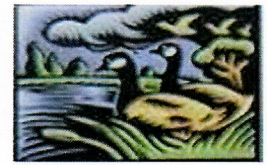
- A Mill Lane resident advised that their experience is predominantly with regards to the harmless side of anti-social behaviour, particularly parking in Mill Lane. It's a constant daily mission in this hot weather to move people on. Residents constantly have cars parked outside their hours and they aren't able to park when they arrive home. Sometimes this is across driveways and gates and can be quite bad outside Figheldean House gates. Whilst PCSO Morphy and PC Kinge advised that this doesn't meet the criteria for anti-social behaviour, Cllr Amison felt that it did as it is impacting residents lives.
- A discussion was held over the inability to record and build an evidence base of any anti-social behaviour because it would be too confrontational for parishioners to record or document activities.
- PCSO Morphy advised that parishioners would need to decide if the police are needed immediately, parking issues do not include that. If a fire truck is trying to get down the lane then please do call them. If dangerous parking is reported to the police it will be allocated to someone on duty but graded in priority against other jobs that have been received.
- Another resident stated that most of the time people do leave, if asked. However, this does have an impact on parishioners lives. We can be asking people to move on four to five times a day. PCSO Morphy did advise that if these visits were reported each time, they wouldn't have the resources to attend.
- PCSO Morphy advised that she has visited 20 – 30 times in the last month and has only needed to ask 5 cars to move on, but encouraged parishioners to report it if they feel that parked vehicles are going to cause an issue.
- It was noted that there is no restricted parking in this area. Would this be something that could be introduced?
- PCSO Morphy advised that she is waiting for the Garrison Commander to respond to her requests to discuss this issue with the MOD and to, hopefully, request that the area is marked off limits to military personnel. Cllr Amison advised that he will also write to the Garrison Commander. It was noted that to be able to progress this request evidence, in terms of reports to the police, may be required. Cllr Amison suggested that we use this public meeting as the required evidence. Whilst the nuisance levels are high, which is causing stress, the level of anti-social behaviour is quite low.
- The issue of parking directly in front of the barrier was raised. PCSO Morphy advised parishioners not to be confronting people as it puts them at risk and it could escalate. Parishioners were advised to call 101 if parked cars are blocking a highway and they can't get out. In terms of Parishioners trying to get in, and being blocked by a parked car, this wouldn't be viewed as an issue by the police as they are able to park in an alternative location.

Action: Cllr Briggs to further explore the parking restrictions on Mill Lane.

- Cllr Amison suggested putting bollards in this location to prevent irresponsible parking. PCSO Morphy confirmed that they don't have any spare, but parishioners could put their own traffic cones on their driveways – but not on a public highway. It was confirmed that cones could be placed in the front of the gate.

In summary:

Cllr Amison will write to the Garrison Commander for Tidworth, Bulford and Larkhill to express the outcomes of the discussion this evening and request that the Mill Pool is placed out of bounds to troops. Cllr Amison is meeting the training safety lead for Salisbury Plain to look at the fencing to see if can improve that and the signage. Cllr Briggs to look at consultation with Wiltshire Council on the Highways, which will take some time but confirmed that we have police support for that. The very long-term solution is the desire to remove the mill pool, discussions lined up with the DIO regarding that and getting the funding in place.



PCSO Morphy is doing as much as she can and understands how frustrating this is for everyone. Parishioners were made aware that they have a really big patch, but this is a priority for them.

Parishioners agreed to send impact statements to the Parish Clerk: clerk@figheldeanparishcouncil.gov.uk.

PCSO Morphy confirmed that she is content for her email address to be shared with parishioners: levi.morphy@wiltshire.police.uk.

The possibility of a, separate, meeting with parishioners about the long-term plan with the mill pool was discussed. Cllr Amison confirmed that this needs to be progressed/approved with Wessex Rivers Trust and the DIO in the first instance.

7 parishioners left the meeting

Ablington Woods Conservation Group

Remaining in attendance: Jackie Dryden, Tony Morgan, Claire Fraser-Green and Brad Sturgess.

Tony Morgan provided the following report on progress of the Ablington Woods Conservation Group:

- The path/road through the wood is now cleared and is wheelchair accessible from Brambles Nursery end of the woods. Over hanging branches and brambles adjacent to the path towards Brambles have also been cleared. At a later date it may be worth looking at making the Avon Banks end of the woods wheelchair friendly. Thank you to Paul Lane and his children for all their efforts supporting this work.
- The picnic area is completed with three picnic benches in place. These were kindly donated by Christopher Morgan in memory of family members. Tony is hoping that more benches and picnic benches will be added in time. Thank you to Brad, Katy, Paul and all who helped.
- Tony hopes to clear an area for planting new trees and bushes in the autumn. We have people in the group that are chainsaw trained and insured who will be willing to take out any dead trees, again in the autumn. We are hoping that the Woodland Trust will supply some trees etc.
- Fundraising. We are having an auction and raffle at the Working Men's Club in September to fund more benches etc. Tony raised £100 at the Easter Bunny Racing at the Clun and has spent £50 of this on wood chippings for the picnic area. Therefore there is £50 still remaining.
- Tony asked for confirmation that the Parish Council have some budget for maintenance of the woods and that this money would be used to pay for insurance and tree surveys etc, enabling any other funding to be spent on benches etc. The Parish Clerk confirmed that this is correct:
 - The 2025/26 budget for Ablington Woods = £1,000. The tree survey should be completed every three years, was last completed in 2023/24 (so technically due next year).
 - 2024/25 expenditure = £1,520
 - 2023/24 expenditure = £560 (tree survey)
 - 2022/23 expenditure = £780
 - Average over the last three years = £953
- Tony advised that we now need to upkeep all the areas that have been cleared, with weeding etc.
- Tony asked if a litter bin could be installed in the picnic area and therefore emptied by the Parish Council.

Cllr Cole asked about the overall plan for the future work in the woods and particularly in relation to insurance and liabilities. It was agreed that the Conservation Group will only work on lower level works and that any members of the



group need to be wearing correct protective kit when working. It was also agreed for appropriate signage to be put in place, when needed, i.e. 'Tree Felling – Do Not Enter'.

Action: Cllr Sturgess and Brad Sturgess agreed to arrange for appropriate signage.

Action: Cllr Sturgess to review the latest tree survey report in order to help identify any areas that can be trimmed down to help improve the amount of natural light.

Action: The Parish Council to arrange for a bin to be purchased, situated by the picnic area, and added to the regular emptying schedule.

A discussion was held over the appropriate safe keeping of the finances that are being raised for the Woods. It was suggested and agreed that a summary account of all funding received, and any spend, is provided to the Parish Clerk every six months.

Cllr Cole noted that Tony Morgan has done a fantastic job on the Woods and formally thanked him for his efforts.

A discussion followed regarding the conservation of the woods and particularly the use of weed killer. Claire Fraser-Green stated that her children love playing in the woods and have enjoyed the benches and the picnic area. Claire thanked Tony for all of his work. Claire further advised that she has been in discussions with some wildlife experts (volunteers for Wiltshire Wildlife Trust that live in the village) and suggested that we need to carry out a survey to identify where we can add wildlife, nature and ecology benefits to the woods. They have worked with communities in the past to improve woods.

Claire suggested that we need to have a plan in order to move forward. If the Woods are identified as a Conservation Wood then we shouldn't be using fertiliser and weedkiller.

Tony Morgan advised that it is not a conservation woods, but an area for people to enjoy. Jackie Dryden advised that the woods are in a conservation area.

As the woods are the remit of the Parish Council it was agreed that the Parish Council should develop a plan and consider appointing a sub-committee.

20:50 Tony Morgan left the meeting.

Claire further advised that such a plan would look at a zoned response within the woods, which would include picnic areas. There is a balance to managing the woods and clearing areas that are good for conservation. The plantation section is particularly eco-system poor. Completely clearing and removing things from the woods is not always the best way forward.

Brad Sturgess left the meeting.

The Parish Council agreed that a common plan and an agreed way forward is required, considering the conservation of the woods. The Conservation Group was originally formed to create a picnic area for the forthcoming teddy bear's picnic and Tony Morgan has completed the bulk of the work for this, which is very much appreciated.

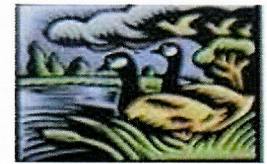
Action: Cllr Sturgess, as Councillor with responsibility for the Woods, to liaise with the Conservation Group and prepare an informed plan (using expert advice) to present at the next Parish Council meeting. The plan should



identify areas that can be cleared, and those that should not be cleared, within the woods. A summary of the amount of monies raised by the Conservation Group to be sent to the Parish Clerk.

Jackie Dryden and Claire Fraser-Green left the meeting.

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	ACTION
1	Apologies Cllr Blair-Pilling	
2	Declaration of Interests Nil	
3	Minutes of the meeting: 13th May 2025 These were agreed as a true reflection of discussion and signed by the Chair.	
4	<p>Matters arising / Outstanding Actions</p> <p>Dog Bins</p> <p>It was noted that the dog bin outside Cllr Christian's property has not been emptied for some time.</p> <p>Cllr Cole confirmed that Graham Watson empties six dog bins and eleven litter bins. Ian Grimes has six dog bins, which totals twelve dog bins. Cllr Sturgess believes that there are 20 dog bins in total within the Parish.</p> <p>Action: Cllr Cole to ask Graham Watson to confirm the location of all of the dog bins that he empties.</p> <p>Tree root damage to path at side of school</p> <p>Cllr Briggs advised that she has been in touch with the school who have agreed to pay a contribution towards fixing this problem.</p> <p>Action: Cllr Briggs to obtain a quote from Chris Sheppard for the root damage to the path at the side of the school, and then liaise with the school accordingly.</p>	<p>Cllr Cole</p> <p>Cllr Briggs</p>
5	Wiltshire Councillor Report Nil	
6.	Chair Councillor Report – Cllr Tina Cole Summer is proving to be a busy period for the reoccurring issues at our Mill pool. Thank you to Cllr Darrell Amison for his continued work ensuring the police and MOD are on side to minimise the impact of any anti-social behaviour, traffic congestion and poorly parked vehicles in the vicinity. We continue to notify villagers via our social media to contact 101 or 999 if needed to report anti-social behaviour at the time of occurrence.	



	<p>I'm pleased to confirm that our Parish Clerk is now an employee of the Parish Council as opposed to being self-employed thus far. This sees us in-line with other parish councils. Thank you to Cllr Katy Sturgess for her work on this and to our clerk Rachel Ure for her part in the smooth transition.</p> <p>Great work is being done by the Ablington Wood Conservation Group, notably a newly created picnic area which now has picnic benches installed donated by Christopher Morgan. This is truly a wonderful development and it's great to see the community working together.</p> <p>Thank you goes out to all councillors for their work and continued commitment to our village and the council.</p>	
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7	<p>Other Organisation Reports Nil.</p> <p>Ablington Woods already discussed.</p>	
8	<p>Councillor Reports</p> <p>Cllr Mark Christian</p> <p>Planning There are currently five planning applications. Two of them are for domestic extensions to garages, nothing of concern but perfectly reasonable. Brindisi – application denied, new plans submitted. Cliffend – planning rejected. Brambles – administration building being constructed. Cllr Christian has talked to Brambles about the impact on the woods, there isn't any. The Nursery are not expecting their number on roll to rise, so this would not represent any further parking/traffic impact. The new building is purely for the purposes of adding an office area.</p> <p>Playground Cllr Sturgess will hand over to Cllr Christain and provide him with the report from last year. Some parishioners are happy to be a sounding board for a future project on improving this area.</p> <p>Cllr Angela Briggs</p> <p>Rights of Way Already covered.</p> <p>Highways An assessment has been carried out for future resurfacing work on Church Lane and the High Street, that are due this financial year. Pollen Lane will be next financial year.</p> <p>Action: Parish Clerk to follow up with regards to the letter that was sent to Cllr Nick Holder regarding the highways issues in Figheldean.</p> <p>Cllr Briggs provided the latest update, from Wiltshire Highways, on our other projects:</p>	Parish Clerk



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20mph speed restriction –still going through approval process needs approving by a cabinet member. • Signage on A345 – awaiting an update. • Double yellow lines – school and pollen lane/High Street – gone through TOR consultation process, report drafted for approval. <p>The gully cleaner will be attending Figheledean in August. 5 top priority drains for the Parish will be submitted and added to the clearance list.</p> <p>Parish Steward did a great job on his last visit. Cllr Briggs thanked him for all his efforts.</p> <p>Action: Parish Clerk to include an overview of the work carried out by our Parish Steward in the next edition of the Parish magazine.</p> <p>Cllr Briggs suggested that the Parish Council purchase some cones for use in Mill Lane. Vlr Briggs to ensure that parishioners are happy with this approach.</p> <p>Cllr Katy Sturgess</p> <p>Ablington Woods Already covered</p> <p>Clerks Contract All sorted and in place.</p> <p>Bins Already covered.</p> <p>Defibs Updated information for the tracking software is required.</p> <p>Action: Cllr Sturgess to carry out a review of the Defibs in the Parish and provide the required information to the Parish Clerk so that the software can be updated.</p> <p>Cllr Darrell Amison</p> <p>Policing Already covered.</p> <p>Neighbourhood watch – still need to find a date for a coffee morning.</p> <p>Action: Parish Clerk to distribute some dates for a Neighbour Watch coffee morning (using the online Village Hall diary).</p> <p>River Avon Project Already covered.</p>	<p>Parish Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Sturgess</p> <p>Parish Clerk</p>
9	Clerks Report	



Expenditure since last meeting – all approved

Expenditure	Amount	Detail
Bank charges	£16	
Clerk Salary	£832	
Bawdens	£648	Grass cutting
Ian Grimes	£120	Dog Bins
Graham Watson	£420	Bins
Graham Watson	£495	Grass & Playpark
Hills	£166.03	VH bins collection
Parish Clerk	£9.99	No Dogs Sign
Direct IT Services	54.88	
ICO	£47	
Parish Magazine Printers	£343	
Parish Magazine Expenses	£63.15	
Church Donation	£350	
Total	£3,565.05	
Receipts	Amount	Detail
HMRC	£1,237.12	VAT Refund
Figheldean Village Hall	£120	Hire of VH Field – Durrington FC
Figheldean Village Hall	£150	Car Park Rental
Brambles	£300	Car Park Rental
P Vowles	£300	Car Park Rental
Total	£2,107.12	

Current Bank Balance @ 5th July 2025 is £20,917.05.

- 10 **Other Parish Business**
 Bramblebury is on the 19th July. They will be using the Fishermans car park. They have advised that they would like to donate any monies made to the Woods, and would like to also donate a bench which they would sponsor.

 More benches around the playing field / playpark area was suggested as a future investment.

- 11 **Date of Next Meeting**
 16th September 2025

Signed

Date

14/10/25