



Figheldean Parish Council

(Draft until signed at next meeting)

Minutes of meeting 14th October 2025 at Village Hall @7.30 pm

Present

CLlr Tina Cole Chair
CLlr Angela Briggs
CLlr Mark Christian
CLlr Ian Blair-Pilling
Rachel Ure Clerk

In attendance:

Dorothy Simkin, Tony Taylor, Doreen Taylor.

Questions from the public.

Some concerns were raised about persistent building works and associated noise in the Parish.

Action: Cllr Christian and Cllr Cole to investigate.

Dorothy Simkin, Tony Taylor and Doreen Taylor left the meeting.

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	ACTION
1	Apologies CLlr Darrell Amison	
2	Declaration of Interests Nil	
3	Minutes of the meeting: 8th July 2025 These were agreed as a true reflection of discussion and signed by the Chair.	
4	Matters arising / Outstanding Actions Dog Bins It is believed that there are 20 bins, in total, in the Parish. Ian Grimes empties six of these and confirmation of those emptied by Graham Watson has been received. Clerk to obtain the map with bin locations identified to carry out a final cross check but it is believed that all bins are now being regularly emptied. Tree root damage to path at side of school	



	<p>Cllr Briggs has obtained one quote with regards to the required repairs to the path but will also obtain two more quotes. We have not been able to establish who owns the path with Wiltshire Council advising that it is not them. The path appeared when the neighbouring houses were built. It has been agreed that the school will pay a contribution towards the repairs.</p> <p>Cllr Blair-Pilling advised that we can apply for the path to be registered as a right of way.</p> <p>Action: Cllr Briggs to obtain two more quotes for the repairs to the path and apply for the path to be formally registered as a right of way.</p>	<p>Cllr Briggs</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Wiltshire Councillor Report</p> <p>Stonehenge Area Board, At the recent meeting in Netheravon attendance beyond those seeking grants was sparse. I shall be discussing how to respond to this with our Board and suggest that this is a continuing reality to be accommodated rather than resisted. I am aware that the Lib Dem administration may in due course have plans for developing the role and hence attraction of Area Boards, but we have no flesh on that so far.</p> <p>For the immediate future we shall the shift towards focussing the business meetings on the planning and progression of each councillors agreed objectives, while pursuing the delivery of those objectives in separate more public focussed events.</p> <p>The areas of focus for each Board member are: Cllr Graham Wright is leading on youth, and the youth fayre, something that he has already been doing. Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling is leading on community cohesion and community recognition, with events to bring together parish council reps on a more local basis. I shall be writing to you shortly to invite the chairs, clerks and one other from each of the parishes in the Avon Valley to an event (Currently - 20 Nov at Enford village hall) to get your views and inputs on our chosen objectives. Cllr Kevin Asplin is leading on the Environment, with an initial focus on supporting the Great Bustard project. Cllr Monica Devendran will continue to concentrate on Adult social care Cllrs Alan Hagggar and Kevin Daley will lead in the creation of a Community safety forum with each respectively focussed on urban and rural aspects.</p> <p>Local Highways Footpath Improvement Group (LHFIG)</p> <p>Netheravon A345 Speed Limit reduction trial report. Netheravon PC and LHFIG are content most of the report and how it evidences their success, but not with a recommendation to move the Northern 40 mph limit Southwards which would exclude the entrance to Mill Road Netheravon PC will be responding to the cabinet minister about further measures, moving Speed Indication Devise (SIDS) road markings etc.</p> <p>Bus stop at Harefield – The topographical survey has been carried out and passed to MoD estates as the basis for them to decide whether or not the necessary strip of land could be rededicated to Wiltshire Council for the enlargement of the bus stop. The estimate included should act as a maximum indicative cost of works. The Parish Council would be responsible for 25% of cost and should consider its provision when setting precepts</p> <p>East and West Court - Residents met with Danny Kruger MP about the access up the A345 and putting a footpath in. Kruger has since asked to Cllr Blair-Pilling to assist. Cllr B-P advised that he had previously investigated footpath provision and concluded this was very unlikely to prove feasible, due to the owner ship constraints. He pointed out that the residents of E&W Court</p>	



already have an agreement with The Stable enabling a safe walking route to the village. There was also a request for a bus stop outside Support Weapons wing, there is one on one side but not on the other. Parish Council to write to Salisbury Reds and LHFIFG regarding putting in a pole, as this should already be a bus stop.

Draft Council Plan – The draft plan had been through scrutiny and a recent 7 hour Cabinet meeting. It will go to Full Council on 21 Oct.

In my view it says a lot of nice things, but little on how it may be implemented in a time of very constrained budgets and so far contains few targets against the selected Key Performance Indicators.

Army Liaison - Cllr Graham Wright of Durrington and I have been discussing with Maj 'Paddy' McGill how little the local communities may understand of 'life, work and play' of their military neighbours in Larkhill Garrison. We are arranging a series of coach trips with Paddy as tour guide. I am asking if my Parish Councils would be interested in going on one.

6. **Chair Councillor Report – Cllr Tina Cole**

Firstly, I'd like to pay tribute to Katy Sturgess who has recently stepped down as Parish Councillor. Her expertise and commitment have proved invaluable over the last few months and I know you will all join me in wishing Katy all the very best for the future.

We of course now need to enrol another councillor with primary responsibility for Ablington Wood and general parish maintenance. I will take on the responsibility until the role can be filled.

As we all know there was a 'drugs bust' in the old coach depot next to Figheldean Working Men's Club over the August Bank Holiday. It was a shocking revelation and I understand the investigation is ongoing. Cllr Darrell Amison is liaising with local police.

I'm also very much looking forward to Cllr Darrell Amison reinvigorating our Neighbourhood Watch scheme. There is to be a launch meeting to be held at the village hall with parishioners invited along.

I'm also delighted to report that our community has come together to raise money towards the maintenance of Ablington Wood on its 5th anniversary with a donation from Figheldean Village Community Events via a teddy bears picnic and bespoke book sale (namely Ablington bear of Ablington Wood, written and illustrated by yours truly), a kind donation from Brambles's Nursery and most recently an auction held at Figheldean Working Men's Club organised by Tony Morgan. The total raised is TBC and yet again our community has stepped up to ensure the longevity of a wonderful parish asset.

What a wonderful village we live in.

Our next project will be the children's playground. I'm hopeful we can apply for grants to help pay for what I'm sure will be an expensive undertaking.

As always, I want to thank all councillors for their time and commitment to this council and our village.



7	<p>Other Organisation Reports Ablington Woods Conservation Group</p> <p>Cllr Sturgess was previously the Council lead for this area, as Cllr Sturgess has stepped down, Cllr Cole will take on the lead on behalf of the Parish Council. Jackie Dryden will lead the Conservation Group.</p> <p>Between the 4th and 14th November, 30 trees are arriving of mixed species. The plan of where and when to plant these will be confirmed. The trees were obtained free of charge.</p> <p>Cllr Cole will attend the next Conservation Group meeting and pick up the actions that were raised at the last Parish Council meeting with regards to an informed plan for the continued conservation and preservation of the woods. There is a concern over the long term plan for the new picnic area as the nettles/weeds keep coming through.</p> <p>The new bin for the picnic area has been ordered.</p>	
8	<p>Councillor Reports</p> <p>Cllr Mark Christian</p> <p>Planning Cliffend – the recent planning application was refused but the adjustments have already been built. Cllr Blair-Pilling advised that the next step of the process will be that there is a six month window in which an appeal of this decision can be submitted.</p> <p>Playground Cllr Christian advised on three potential options to improve the current Playground facilities that we have in Figheldean:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Do nothing.2. Upgrade existing facilities.3. Complete new build. <p>Cllr Christian has been collating feedback from interested parties and advised that there is a lot of enthusiasm for the facilities that we already have. It was agreed to wait until we have a full council to make a final decision but it is likely that the option of upgrading current facilities will be pursued. This will include applying for grants and fundraising.</p> <p>Once the most recent safety report regarding the playpark has been received any actions that need to be taken to ensure the equipment remains safe will be addressed immediately.</p> <p>Cllr Christian asked if Figheldean Parish Council ID badges (using the same image at the top of the minutes) and email signature blocks could be provided.</p> <p>Action: Clerk to arrange for Parish Council ID badges and an email signature block to be provided to all Councillors.</p> <p>Cllr Angela Briggs</p> <p>Highways</p>	Clerk



	<p>A holding response has been received to the letter sent to Cllr Smith, Cabinet Member for Highways, but no detailed response yet.</p> <p>It was acknowledged that the sealed Traffic Regulation Orders for the new double yellow lines has been issued.</p> <p>Drains – five gullies were attended to recently, this is the maximum number of gullies that Wiltshire Council will maintain/clear at any one time. Cllr Briggs advised that she would have liked to have added more to the list for attention.</p> <p>Action: Cllr Briggs to send Cllr Blair-Pilling more information on the other drains that are a priority for attention within Figheldean and accurate information on how many we actually need to be regularly maintained. Cllr Blair-Pilling will then raise this requirement on our behalf.</p> <p>Grit Bins – it was noted that, this year, there is a requirement for Parish Councils to collect salt and associated equipment. Cllr Blair-Pilling advised that he was not aware of this and confirmed he would look into this further.</p> <p>Action: Clerk to confirm collection arrangements for salt for Figheldean Parish Council.</p> <p>Cllr Tina Cole</p> <p>Ablington Woods Already covered.</p> <p>Bins Already covered.</p> <p>Defibs Will now be checked by parishioner, Trevor Gill (first aider and very familiar with defibs). Software will be updated.</p> <p>Maintenance The planter at Hill Top Close has been replaced. George Rawlins has been asked to cut the hedge around the Village Hall car park. Graham Watson has already cut the trees that were overhanging the football pitch.</p> <p>Cllr Darrell Amison</p> <p>Policing (update provided by Cllr Tina Cole)</p> <p>The Neighbourhood watch coffee morning took place a couple of weeks ago. Ross from the area Neighbourhood watch team came along. Six members of the Parish attended, a few signed up. PCSO Levi Morphy also attended. Parishioners can sign up to be part of this initiative online and you can download an app on to a mobile phone. We will look at running this session again in the future.</p>	<p>Cllr Briggs</p> <p>Clerk</p>
9	Clerks Report	



Expenditure since last meeting – all approved

Expenditure	Amount	Detail
Bank charges	£16	
Clerk Salary	£1,492.35	
Clerk HMRC Payments	£584.59	
Bawdens	£1,296	Grass cutting
Ian Grimes	£180	Dog Bins
Graham Watson	£420	Bins
Graham Watson	£190	Grass
Hills	£169.01	VH bins collection
Parish Clerk	£120.52	No parking bollards & Land Registry fee
Direct IT Services	£82.32	
Parish Magazine Printers	£767	
Parish Magazine Expenses	£11.15	
ETC Sports	£570	
Wiltshire Council	£407.50	Highways Improvements – A345
Consumables	£14.36	Neighbourhood Watch Coffee Morning
Parish Clerk	£5.98	Bin Bags for Dog Bins
Total	£6,326.78	
Receipts	Amount	Detail
Figheledean Village Hall	£720	Hire of VH Field – Durrington FC
Figheledean Village Hall	£30	Hire of VH Field
Brambles	£30	Hire of VH Field
Brambles	£375	Ablington Woods Donation
Wiltshire Council	£10,179.26	Precept 2 nd Payment
Cash	£1,250.40	Ablington Woods Donation - Auction
Total	£12,584.66	

Current Bank Balance @ 9th October 2025 is £26,834.32.

There is a new income line – 109 Ablington Woods Expenditure. This is to ensure that we can record any donations that the Parish Council receive to be spent on the maintenance of Ablington Woods are recorded separately. Summary of funds received so far are:

