



Figheldean Parish Council

(Draft until signed at next meeting)

Minutes of meeting 18th November 2025 at Village Hall @7.30 pm

Present

Cllr Tina Cole	Chair
Cllr Darrell Amison	
Cllr Angela Briggs	
Cllr Mark Christian	
Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling	
Rachel Ure	Clerk

In attendance:

Marianne (Mazz) Blake
Jemma Taylor, Headteacher Robin's Way School
Simon Briggs

Questions from the public.

Resilience Team Update – Simon Briggs

The concept is still sound, the team are still in place and the operating framework from last winter is still valid. There are approximately 20 people in the group of volunteers. The maintenance lead for Robin's Way School (Simon) is also in the group to ensure that the school are aware of any issues that may impact them. Simon Briggs will look at including a representative from Brambles in the group as well.

Last winter the only task that the team needed to respond to was a bit of gritting of pavements in the Parish.

The main current action is the outstanding insurance, which cannot be arranged until the necessary risk assessments are in place. Mazz offered to support this process by utilising a contact she has that can provide some guidance and expertise in terms of the required risk assessments.

Action: Simon to send the resilience plan to Mazz and Mazz to look at drafting the required risk assessments with support from her contact.

Action: Cllr Cole to raise the issue of securing insurance for the volunteer Resilience Team at the Stonehenge Area Board Engagement meeting later this week in order to establish how other Parish Councils deal with this issue.

PMN: Following the Stonehenge Area Board Engagement meeting, the following advice and information was received:

*Wiltshire Council **does not** cover the volunteers with insurance for emergency related incidents - unless we have tasked them to do something (this isn't really something we do for a number of reasons).*



Town and Parish Councils that have a group of emergency volunteers tend to have volunteer insurance as part of their Parish Council to cover certain activities. There's a couple providers that offer this and I can put you in touch with some Parish councils to share what they have in place if anyone was interested. In order to get insurance to cover activities Parish Councils would need a 'role' to define what activities the volunteer might do (e.g. Check drains for debris, monitor river levels etc).

When it comes to things like trees in the road etc. We always advise that communities leave these where they are and let us know to remove them ourselves (Wiltshire Council). We get asked a lot from communities if it's ok for them to remove a tree from the road using a chainsaw - This is probably one of our biggest concerns due to the risks involved so we always ask that communities **do not do this**.

Action: Simon to make contact with the group of volunteers over the next week to re-initiate the group and ensure all volunteers are still available ahead of the forthcoming winter months.

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	ACTION
1	Apologies Nil	
2	Declaration of Interests Nil	
3	Minutes of the meeting: 14th October 2025 These were agreed as a true reflection of discussion and signed by the Chair.	
4	<p>Matters arising / Outstanding Actions</p> <p>Tree root damage to path at side of school</p> <p>As the Parish Council have not been able to identify who owns this path, Cllr Briggs has been attempting to formally register the path, as a public right of way, with Wiltshire Council. Wiltshire Council have since advised that we register a path, by agreement, when there's no party to agree that with. They suggested that the appropriate officers have a conversation with the public access officers. Wiltshire Council also advised that they will make some initial enquiries about ownership.</p> <p>In the meantime, the school have agreed to contribute towards making good the path. The trees that are causing the problem come from within the school boundary.</p> <p>Cllr Blair-Pilling suggested contacting the Housing Association (Aster) as the hand rail that runs alongside the path was put in place when the bungalows were built.</p> <p>Action: Cllr Briggs to contact the Housing Association (Aster) in order to make further enquiries about the ownership of the path that runs alongside Robin's Way school.</p> <p><i>PMN: Since this Parish Council meeting the path has been repaired and therefore not further action in terms of addressing the issues caused by the tree roots is required.</i></p>	



5	<p>Wiltshire Councillor Report</p> <p>There will be a Stonehenge Area Board Engagement meeting with representatives from local Parish Councils on Thursday 20th November. The purpose of this meeting is to explain the changes with the way the Area Board meetings operate and the new objectives they will be focussing on. At the meeting the local Parishes attending will be asked for their input in to this also.</p> <p>The next full Stonehenge Area Board meeting is on the 27th November 2025, 6:30pm.</p> <p>Deadline for comments on the planning application for the previous mink farm is the 25th November 2025.</p> <p>Adult and children special need care is having an impact on Wiltshire Councils budget.</p>	
6.	<p>Chair Councillor Report – Cllr Tina Cole</p> <p>My report is very light this month except to say that myself and Cllr Mark Christian followed up on a neighbourly concern about construction noise along the High Street that was brought to our attention at the last Parish Council meeting. Cllr Christian will report in detail but suffice to say all is amicable, but I suggest we continue to monitor.</p> <p>We are still two Councillors short of a full compliment but we do have interest from at least one villager so we are hopeful they will be able to co-opt on to our Council in the very near future.</p> <p>May I take this opportunity to thank all Councillors and our Parish Clerk, Rachel Ure, for your continued commitment and time. Your efforts are truly appreciated.</p> <p>We have a great team.</p>	
7	<p>Other Organisation Reports</p> <p>Ablington Woods Conservation Group</p> <p>Below is a brief report and update from the conservation team regarding Ablington Wood.</p> <p>We have now secured 30 trees from the Woodland Trust, these include fruit trees and are about six feet high and are in pots. Three of these trees will be looked after until they can all be planted in February by Claire Fraser and her three children, the other trees are being looked after by Sarah Russell who obtained the trees. Sarah is an experienced Forester and worked for many years maintaining and planting trees for the Ministry of Defence on Salisbury Plain. Eventually we are going to ask villagers if they would like to adopt a tree.</p> <p>At our most recent meeting we decided to work from a map that I am currently producing of the wood and divide into sections to work from. Each section will be labelled then it will be decided what maintenance or work needs to be done, such as clearing of scrub, nettles and some trees. Once the work on each section has been completed we will then decide where to plant the new trees. We will be asking Derek Hanson who is also an experienced Forester and has worked for the Forestry Commission for further advice on which trees need felling. We would like to ask the Parish Clerk if she could approach an agricultural college such as Lackham</p>	



	<p>for help with the felling of the trees, this could be done as a work experience or project, but this work would have to be done before the bird nesting season which is now in February.</p> <p>Katy Sturgess, before leaving the Parish Council had produced the basis of an eleven page Woodland Plan and way forward, I am now editing this with the help of Claire Fraser and Rob Hayden from Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. The plan includes an aerial photo of the wood, a history of it, who we should seek advice from (should we need it), the geology, access, tree and plant species, wildlife and a plan for a way forward.</p> <p>I hope the Parish Council agrees with our plans. We will in the near future be asking for financial help towards maintenance and clearing, but fully understand the PC has a budget we would need to consider.</p> <p>Cllr Cole advised that she attended the last Ablington Woods meeting and confirmed that they have a good plan going forward, taking one area at a time on a grid system. All works are currently taking place on a volunteer basis.</p> <p>Jemma advised that the school would like to get involved. They would be really keen to work with the Ablington Woods conservation group and that perhaps the school could be provided with a job list that they can consistently work on in support of the woods. The school do a community walk every week and finish this in the woods. Robin's Way school are also about to get a member of staff forestry trained.</p> <p>Action: Arrange for Robin's Way school to meet with the Ablington Woods conservation group to discuss how the school can support the woods.</p>	<p>Parish Clerk</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>Councillor Reports</p> <p>Cllr Mark Christian</p> <p>Noise complaint – this has been followed up and resolved.</p> <p>Planning One approved application for a garage extension at 2 Hill Top Close.</p> <p>Playpark The RoSPA annual inspection report has now been received. The only (amber) action is to fix a sign that is slightly loose.</p> <p>Options for the development of the playpark were discussed.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do nothing 2. Refurbishment 3. Replace <p>It was agreed that a phased approach (2 – 5 years) is to be taken with regards to the development of the playground, replacing or introducing one piece of new equipment at a time so that there is a steady flow of improvements.</p> <p>Jemma stated that from a SEN point of view it's not very stimulating. A project with sensory toys would be really welcomed by a lot of the young people around here. There are grants available that would look at if using wooden equipment and sensory side of things. Jemma</p>	



	<p>confirmed that Robin's Way school would be happy to support the Parish Council with the playpark project.</p> <p>Action: A project team to meet separately to start planning the re-development of the playground. To consist of Cllr Christian, Mazz Blake (particularly in terms of support with grant funding) and Rachel Ure (as RFO and budgets). Jemma Taylor to also support, as needed, on behalf of Robin's Way school. To consider inviting some potential suppliers to visit the site to help with creating the new vision.</p> <p>Cllr Angela Briggs</p> <p>Highways Works in terms of drainage investigation will be taking place on Avon Banks on the 28th November and 1st December which will include a road closure while works are being carried out. This is a housing association adopted road and it is potentially being handed back to Wiltshire Council to manage.</p> <p>Action – Parish Clerk to ensure that Brambles are aware of the forthcoming drainage work on Avon Banks and associated road closure.</p> <p>Action – Parish Clerk to request an update on the Highways letter that was sent to Cllr Smith, with responsibility for Highways. To also advise that the school is now operational without appropriate highways signage.</p> <p>Cllr Tina Cole</p> <p>Ablington Woods Already covered.</p> <p>Cllr Darrell Amison</p> <p>Policing The initial Neighbourhood Watch meeting has taken place and planning another one in the Winter / Spring.</p> <p>Action: Parish Clerk to check that the link provided for parishioners to sign up to the Neighbourhood Watch scheme is working correctly.</p> <p>No further police updates.</p>	<p>Playpark Project Team</p> <p>Parish Clerk</p> <p>Parish Clerk</p> <p>Parish Clerk</p>																								
9	<p>Clerks Report</p> <p>Expenditure since last meeting – all approved</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="199 1758 1348 2049"> <thead> <tr> <th>Expenditure</th> <th>Amount</th> <th>Detail</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Bank charges</td> <td>£0</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clerk Salary</td> <td>£394.37</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clerk HMRC Payments</td> <td>£109.99</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bawdens</td> <td>£324</td> <td>Grass cutting</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ian Grimes</td> <td>£60</td> <td>Dog Bins</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Graham Watson</td> <td>£140</td> <td>Bins</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Graham Watson</td> <td>£90</td> <td>Grass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Expenditure	Amount	Detail	Bank charges	£0		Clerk Salary	£394.37		Clerk HMRC Payments	£109.99		Bawdens	£324	Grass cutting	Ian Grimes	£60	Dog Bins	Graham Watson	£140	Bins	Graham Watson	£90	Grass	
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Hills	£65.35	VH bins collection
Parish Clerk	£220	New bin for Ablington Woods
Direct IT Services	£85.02	Includes annual domain charges
Parish Magazine Printers	£424	
Parish Magazine Expenses	£63.15	
A A Deptford	£345.60	Replacement defib pads
RoSPA Playsafety	£192	Annual inspection
Total	£2,513.48	
Receipts	Amount	Detail
Cheque deposit	£6	Auction – Ablington Woods
FVCE	£250	Payment for Figgle Fest bin emptying
Volo Property	£170	Parish Mag advertising
Ayres Estates	£90	Parish Mag advertising
Total	£516	

Current Bank Balance @ 14th November 2025 is £24,556.84.

Three quotes have been requested in order to print ID badges, but only one returned to date. This is from The Photo Card ID People and is a total of £62.99 for 5 cards, including postage and VAT.

Approval is sought to proceed with this order.

Councillors are also asked to discuss/confirm if they would like a photo included on the ID badge.

This quote was approved and Councillors confirmed they would like to proceed with ID badges without a photo.

Action: Parish Clerk to order the required Councillor ID badges.

The Councillors confirmed that they are content to discuss/agree details of next year's precept via email as no significant changes are expected.

Parish Clerk

10 **Other Parish Business**

Cllr Christian asked if Figheledean Parish Council would want to consider, in future years, installing poppies on lampposts within the village to remember the fallen from our parish. These would need to be purchased from the British Legion.

Action: Cllr Christian to request a quote for lamppost poppies.


Cllr Cole reported that there was a wonderful remembrance service on the 11th November at Figheledean Working Men's Club with the children from Robin's Way school. The focal point was the flag and the children made some wreaths to lay. The school would like to do something on Armistice day every year and continue to invite the community.

Cllr Cole asked if the Parish Council wanted to consider improving this focal point for future years and fund for a plaque to be placed on the wall of the Club for the fallen of Figheledean.

Cllr Christian



	<p>It was discussed that we already have a war memorial in the village and that perhaps the Club isn't quite the right place for this. Temporary options were considered.</p> <p>A letter has been received from Debbie Corbett, Clerk of Netheravon Parish Council who is a Community First Responder (CFR), requesting funding for some new equipment alongside other local Parishes. The Parish Council confirmed that they are supportive of this request but asked for clarification as to whether the contribution is pro-rata'ed based on size of the Parish.</p> <p>Action: Parish Clerk to respond to the CFR request for funding.</p>	Parish Clerk
11	<p>Councillor Co-opt Appointment & Councillor Responsibilities</p> <p>After attending today's meeting Mazz Blake confirmed that she would be content to join the Parish Council. The Parish Council were asked to consider co-opting Mazz Blake on to the council. This was unanimously agreed.</p> <p>Action: Parish Clerk to onboard Mazz Blake as a new Councillor.</p> <p>In light of the new appointment of Cllr Blake, the Councillor responsibilities list was reviewed with the following changes made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Neighbourhood watch to be considered as part of Policing.• Playpark – to be jointly assigned to Cllr Christian and Cllr Blake.• Multicourt – Cllr Blake.• Playing field – Cllr Blake.• Woods – Cllr Cole.• Grass cutting – Cllr Cole.• Animal & Household Waste – Cllr Cole.• Defibs – Trevor Gill, liaising with the Parish Clerk.• Cllr Briggs confirmed that she is now able to attend LHFIG meetings during the day time.• Nick Tissot to be removed as second lead for River Avon. It was confirmed that a second lead is not needed for this area. <p>Action: Parish Clerk to send Cllr Blake the details for the ETC multicourt maintenance with a view to considering alternative arrangements.</p>	Parish Clerk
12	<p>Date of Next Meeting 20th January 2026</p> <p>Closed at 21.11.</p>	

Signed  Date 20/1/26