



Figheldean Parish Council

(Draft until signed at next meeting)

Minutes of meeting 18th May 2026 at Village Hall @7.30 pm

Present

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

In attendance:

Jackie Dryden, Bethany Joyce.

Annual General Meeting

1. **Acceptance of apologies:** Nil. A quorum was confirmed.

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

It was unanimously agreed that Cllr Cole should continue as Chair for 2026/27.

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

Cllr Briggs advised that she would be standing down from the Parish Council as Councillor.

Gary Hellowell was formally co-opted on to the Parish Council as Councillor. It was noted that there is a remaining one vacancy on the Parish Council. With Cllr Briggs departing this would take us to two Councillor vacancies.

Action: Parish Clerk to advertise again for further Councillors.

3. **Official Appointments**

The list of Parish Councillor Responsibilities was updated as follows:

- Amesbury Area Board – to be attended by the Chair
- LHFIG – Cllr Hellowell (Cllr Briggs to handover to Cllr Hellowell) with support from Cllr Cole, as required.

Responsibility for handing over facilities management to go to the next appointed Councillor.



It was noted that when all Councillor positions are filled Figcheldean Parish Council would like to assign responsibility for health & wellbeing to a Councillor. This would then fit in with the Stonehenge Community Area Health and Wellbeing Group. It was agreed that Cllr Blake would take on this responsibility until another Councillor has been appointed.

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

4. Approval of Annual Governance Statement and Approval of Accounts 2025/26

The accounts have been fully audited by our external auditor.

Other than some minor adjustments, there were no points of improvement recommended by the auditor this year.

The Clerk advised that we are required to submit a different set of AGAR forms for 2025/26 due to the fact that our income was over the threshold of £25k. The main difference is that the accounts will now be subject to an external audit as well as the internal audit that we have already completed.

The accounts were signed and approved by the Chair.

Questions from the public.

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	ACTION
1	Apologies Nil	
2	Declaration of Interests Nil	
3	Minutes of the meeting: 30th March 2026 These were agreed as a true reflection of discussion and signed by the Chair.	
4	<p>Matters arising / Outstanding Actions</p> <p>Ownership of path at side of School</p> <p>The ownership of the path beside the school is still unknown, although has now been repaired so there is no immediate action.</p> <p>Cllr Blair-Pilling suggested that the Wiltshire Council by-ways officer may be able to advise.</p> <p>Playing Field – Conditions of Use</p> <p>Cllr Briggs has a draft conditions of use document, which includes a separate paragraph applicable to Durrington Football Club, to share with the Council. This will be shared with all other Councillors via SharePoint.</p>	



	<p>Action: Clerk to issue access instructions to all Councillors for SharePoint.</p> <p>Cllr Blake has drafted an initial hire agreement for the netball court.</p> <p>Safeguarding Policy</p> <p>Cllr Blake has a revised Safeguarding policy that can be placed on the SharePoint site for other Councillors to review. The following amendments have been made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added a section on how to report an incident and included a template reporting form. • Included more info on Safeguarding with reference to Councillors. • Assigned a Designated Safeguarding Lead. Cllr Blake confirmed that she is content to take on this role. • It was agreed that the first point of contact to make a report / submit a concern would be the Parish Clerk. • It was noted and agreed that all Councillors would need to carry out Safeguarding Training. A slot to be added to the next agenda for this, Cllr Blake to lead. • It was confirmed that Councillors are not required to have a DBS as they are not responsible for children or vulnerable adults. <p>When complete the policy will be added to the website.</p> <p>It was clarified that if we are hiring our facilities to another Club we would need to see their own Safeguarding policy. This will need to be completed for Durrington Football Club (DFC). A condition of use document and the revised Safeguarding policy will need to be in place with DFC for their new season which starts in August 2026.</p>	
5	<p>Wiltshire Councillor Report</p> <p>Cllr Blair-Pilling advised that he will progress the request that has been raised with regards to improved disabled parking facilities and a residence on Oak Lane. Cllr Blair-Pilling will investigate to see if LHFIG can support this request.</p> <p>Cllr Blair-Pilling will be attending the Wiltshire Council meeting tomorrow, this will include discussing and making decisions on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Plan – next steps; • Funding for the fire service; • IVF support; • Bleed kits; • LHFIG meeting remit and way forward. <p>Cllr Blair-Pilling confirmed that he will not be standing as Chair of the Area Board.</p>	
6.	<p>Chair Councillor Report – Cllr Tina Cole</p> <p>Looking back</p> <p>As we begin another year in the parish council calendar, I would like to reflect on what we have achieved over the past 12 months.</p>	



	<p>Firstly, the roads around our village have finally been resurfaced with Ablington next on the list. Thank you to Cllr Ange Briggs for her persistent efforts in helping to ensure this work was carried out. Great work.</p> <p>Secondly, thank you to Cllr Darrell Amison for reintroducing the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. Although take-up is currently low, I am confident that, with time and regular reminders, more residents will join this valuable initiative.</p> <p>Thirdly, thank you to Cllrs Mark Christian and Mazz Blake for leading our next major project: the redesign and refurbishment of the play park. It is an exciting initiative, and I know the team is committed to seeing it through. Over the next 12 months, they will be working with playground design experts, organising sponsorship, grant applications and fundraising events to support the work.</p> <p>Lastly, it is with some sadness that we say goodbye to our Parish Clerk and RFO, Rachel Ure. As many of you know, Rachel has done an excellent job managing the affairs of the Parish Council over the past four years. She has been outstanding in her role and will be greatly missed, both as our clerk and as a dear friend. We send her our very best wishes for the future.</p> <p>Looking forward</p> <p>We are pleased to welcome Gary Hellawell as a new councillor. He will be a valuable addition to the team and is keen to take on responsibilities. This brings our council to six members, with one vacancy still to fill.</p> <p>I am delighted to say that the role of Parish Clerk/RFO is likely to be filled very soon, which will allow for business as usual here at the council.</p> <p>Finally, I would like to thank all our councillors for their dedication to the village and for giving their up their time for free. They work hard to help keep our village pleasant, well maintained and safe for everyone to enjoy.</p> <p>In addition to the above report, Cllr Cole advised that she has confirmed with Robin’s Way school that the fee for use of the playing field for the remainder of this academic year will be £100. This will be re-negotiated for the next academic year. It was noted that, as a comparison, Brambles pay a fee of £300 per year for the use of the overflow car park. Therefore, the Councillors suggested and agreed that a fee of £100 per long term, and therefore £300 per year, seemed appropriate.</p> <p>A discussion was held over the fee charged to Durrington Football Club for the use of the field. It was confirmed that the Councillors were content to keep this fee at £15 per session as the overall cost of grass cutting for the forthcoming year has only marginally increased.</p> <p>It was also agreed that when a new Parish Clerk is appointed Councillors are content for attendance at a Parish Clerk training course, charged at £40, to be approved.</p>	
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7	<p>Other Organisation Reports</p> <p>Ablington Woods Conservation Group</p>	
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	<p>Jackie Dryden advised that there has been some vandalism in Ablington Woods. The playhouse has been vandalised three times, to the point it is beyond repair, and has now been removed.</p> <p>Brambles have tied two of the canopies to the trees and one of those ropes has pulled down over the path. One of the trees is still leaning on to the footpath. However, it was noted that this has not yet been addressed by their tree surgeon.</p> <p>The Parish Clerk has already been in contact with Brambles regarding this and they have confirmed that if they wished to tie a sale/canopy to a tree they need to contact the Parish Council first.</p> <p>Action: Parish Clerk to request an update from Brambles with regards to the repair/removal of the damaged tree(s).</p> <p>Jackie Dryden also advised that the Ablington Woods Conservation Group would like to purchase some water butts to position in the Woods to collect rain water. A number of water butts were offered, for free, from attendees at the Parish Council meeting.</p>	
8	<p>Councillor Reports</p> <p>Cllr Mark Christian</p> <p>Planning Nil – nothing outstanding.</p> <p>Cliffend still waiting for remedial action.</p> <p>Playpark Cllr Christian is booked on a Procurement course in July to support this project. It is anticipated that a total of £30k will need to be raised for the playpark project.</p> <p>Cllr Christian provided an update on the Poppies for Trees. He has been researching more information for the names to be placed on the poppies and has written to the secretary of RBL to ask for a contribution.</p> <p>Cllr Darrell Amison</p> <p>Mill Pool Cllr Amison has been in touch with Knocker re the out of bounds area of the Mill Pool. Knocker has improved the fence to repair the holes. Have asked PC Newman if he can patrol over the forthcoming weekend when the weather is expected to be much improved.</p> <p>If there are any concerns over anti-social behaviour at the Mill Pool parishioners are to ring 101 to log a report.</p> <p>Action: Parish Clerk to remind parishioners about how to report a concern (101).</p> <p>Cllr Amison is now chasing the DIO re the longer-term river project. He has requested an update but confirmed that we will need to start from scratch in terms of funding.</p> <p>Policing</p>	



Neighbourhood watch currently has 27 members. Cllr Amison is planning another parish meeting in the summer to promote this scheme further, potentially to be held at the Club. It was noted that we do live in a very low crime area.

Cllr Blair-Pilling left the meeting at 20:24

Cllr Amison will invite PC Newman to the next Parish Council meeting.

Cllr Gary Hellowell

As an introduction Cllr Hellowell advised that he has lived in Figheldean for 20 years and is ex-military. He previously worked within the Defence industry and retired four years ago. Cllr Hellowell felt it was right and proper to serve the Parish now he has time to do so.

All Councillors provided a very warm welcome to Gary.

Cllr Mazz Blake

Netball Court

Cllr Blake has been continuing investigations into the possibility of updating the multicourt so that it can also be used as a netball court. The court lines can be painted quite cost effectively, at a price of £350. The cost of the netball posts vary from £350 - £800 per pair, but the interested party who is interested in hiring out this space as a netball court has advised that they would be content to fund the posts (but they would then be stored away for her sole use only). If the Parish Council funded them, then they could remain in position permanently. The holes for the posts are already in position.

However, as it stands the netball court cannot be used for competition standard because the basketball hoops are directly in front of the netball hoops. It is possible to get a hoop that converts for basketball and netball but this is at a cost of £1,500 each.

Cllr Blake asked if the basketball hoops are used regularly enough to remain in position?

If these changes were made it could result in a guaranteed income from the multicourt of a minimum of £30 per week, to start off with.

The Councillors confirmed that they definitely needed to know more about this project before a decision could be made and that therefore the interested party is invited to attend the next Parish Council meeting to provide more detail and answer any questions the Councillors have.

Phonebox Book Store

Work has progressed well and we are currently waiting for the phone-box to be rubbed down in preparation for painting.

Cllr Angela Briggs

Highways

Cllr Briggs provided an update from the recent LHFIFG meeting. The frequency of these meetings will be reducing to three, from six, per year. £80k was committed to Highways for last year, not all of it has been spent. Only £17k committed for this year. Some of this is already allocated.



The 20mph traffic calming measures for Figheldean and Ablington are already committed. LHFIFG advised that this should be done in the next couple of months. £2,500 is reserved in the Parish Council budget for our contribution to these costs.

There has been no further progress on the Pollen Lane resurfacing. The top end of Pollen Lane is still to be re resurfaced and remediation work put in place for the drains on Church lane due to change of camber on waterflow. This was due to be completed within six weeks of the High Street re-surfacing.

Cllr Briggs advised that we would like to add Avon Banks, Mill Lane and the rest of Pollen Lane to the re-surfacing programme, but it currently does not include any further works for the Parish of Figheldean.

Parish Stewards have stopped filling in potholes for the time being and should now be available to carry out work within their designated Parishes.

9 **Clerks Report**

Accounts

The reconciled account balance @ 18th May 2026 is £25,802.58.

Expenditure since last meeting – all approved

Expenditure	Amount	Detail
Clerk Salary	£788.94	
Clerk HMRC Payments	£219.78	
Bawdens	£604.80	Grass cutting
Ian Grimes	£120	Dog Bins
Graham Watson	£280	Bins
Graham Watson	£190	Grass
Graham Watson	£175	VH car park patching
Hills	£52.66	VH bins collection
Parish Clerk	£62.74	Paint and paintbrushes for phone box community library
Direct IT Services	£132.75	
Parish Magazine Printers	£334	
Parish Magazine Expenses	£13.30	
WALC	£210.26	Annual subscription
WALC	£42	Data Protection Training
Zurich	£518.09	Insurance
J Bailey	£300	20256/26 Audit of Accounts
Total	£4,044.32	
Receipts	Amount	Detail
Stonehenge Ales	£110	Parish Magazine Advertising
Figheldean Village Hall	£90	DFC Field Hire
Wiltshire Council	£10,316.03	Precept payment
Total	£10,516.03	



2026/27 Budget

The 2026/27 budget has been approved by all Councillors. Training costs for 2026/27 have now been added. A full break down has been previously issued.

The Clerk & RFO is currently proposing a budget of £27,227.32 for 2026/27. This is a slight increase on the budget figure agreed for 2025/26.

Note that this includes anticipated Highways Improvements costs which are not part of the annual precept payments from Parishioners but are an agreed spend of surplus as an investment into the Parish. Removal of these costs from calculations would bring the total budgeted expenditure (£24,727.32) under the budgeted income (£25,490.33).

VAT Return

The annual VAT return has been submitted. We are expecting a VAT refund to the value of £1,258.25.

Village Hall Waste Contract

The contract for the collection of the Village Hall Waste has now transferred from Hills Waste Solutions to Grist Environmental, with the new bins now on site.

Community Infrastructure Levy Return

We have once again been asked to submit a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) expenditure return. We last did this in 2024 when it was linked to Cleveland Lodge.

There is a new entry on the Parishes Spend Report and we have been allocated another CIL payment for the development of Brindisi - £798.60.

We therefore need to allocate how we are going to spend this funding in line with the CIL expenditure requirements, which are:

CIL Regulations state that this proportion of funds must be used 'to support the development of the local area by funding

*(a) The provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure; or
(b) Anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area.'*

This gives Parish and Town Councils considerable freedom to spend their proportion of CIL on things that address the impacts of developments on the area.

Examples include:

- *Improvements to village halls, playparks, footpaths, streetlights etc.*
- *Preparation of a Neighbourhood Development Plan (providing it addresses the demands that development places on the area)*
- *Planning Application Fees – monies can be used towards a planning application fee that relates to community proposals.*

Councillors are required to discuss and agree how this funding is best used within the guidelines above.

The deadline for submission of the CIL expenditure return for 2025/26 is the 30th June 2026. The deadline to spend this funding by is the 7th January 2031. Therefore, if Councillors are content, I would suggest a nil return is submitted for 2025/26 (considering we only received the funding in January 2026) but we would need to ensure we are carefully tracking



	<p>how this funding is used so that a more detailed report can be submitted next year/in future years.</p> <p>It was agreed to submit a nil return for 2025/26 and to allocate the funding for the Playpark project in future years.</p>	
10	<p>Other Parish Business</p> <p>Whilst the new bins from Grist are in place at Figheldean Village Hall there is no key for them. Parish Clerk to contact Grist regarding this.</p> <p>Jackie Dryden advised that the licence for Figgle Fest 2026 has now been approved.</p> <p>Jackie Dryden advised that the gate at bottom of the playing field requires some repair work and is not shutting properly. Cllr Cole advised that she has already asked Graham Watson to attend to it.</p>	
11	<p>Date of Next Meeting(s)</p> <p>Tuesday 14th July 2026</p> <p>Tuesday 22nd September 2026</p> <p>Tuesday 17th November 2026</p> <p>Tuesday 12th January 2027</p> <p>Tuesday 16th March 2027</p> <p>Closed at 20:55</p>	

Signed Date