

FIGHELDEAN PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 14 July 2026

Held at Figheldean Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present

Cllrs Tina Cole (Chair), Gary Hellawell, Darryll Amison, Mark Christian, Ian Blair-Pilling (Wiltshire Councillor) and Bethany Joyce (Parish Clerk/RFO).

Members of the public were also in attendance.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Maz Blake.

It was noted that Angie has resigned from the Parish Council and that Gary has joined the Council in her place.

Emma has requested that her application to become a Parish Councillor be deferred at this time.

2. Declarations of Interest

Gary Hellawell declared that he knows a member of staff at Brambles Nursery.

Other interests relating to Figheldean Festival were also noted.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2026 were approved as a true and accurate record.

4. Matters Arising

Housing Association

No update had been received regarding ownership of the path adjacent to Robin's Way.

Conditions of Use Document

The draft Conditions of Use document has now been uploaded to SharePoint. The Parish Clerk will review the document.

Bin Keys

The Parish Clerk continues to pursue replacement keys.

20mph Traffic Measures

It was noted that two 20mph signs are proposed on the road towards Ablington, however concerns were raised that only one side of the road is currently included. Gary Hellawell will discuss the matter further with Wiltshire Council with assistance from the Parish Clerk.

The issue regarding Brambles Nursery canopies tied to trees has now been resolved.

5. Wiltshire Councillor Report

Wiltshire Councillor Ian Blair-Pilling provided his report, including updates on:

Wiltshire Council finances.

Highway maintenance.

Parking measures.

Planning matters.

Wildfire incidents and smoke management.

It was reported that incidents of fires and smoke have reduced compared with previous years.

6. Chair's Report

The Chair presented her written report, welcoming Bethany Joyce as the new Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer.

The report also included updates on:

Retrieval and reinstatement of the Mill Pool lifebuoy.

Successful resetting of the village defibrillator following its deployment.

Wildfire smoke guidance for residents.

Preparations for Figgle Fest.

Thanks to councillors and volunteers for their continued commitment.

The report was received and noted.

7. Other Organisations' Reports

Ablington Woods Conservation Group

Mark advised that he will be attending the relevant training course.

A report from Maz was read by Tina.

Maz advised that fundraising work has now commenced. Opportunities for matched funding grants will be explored and the Parish Clerk will investigate suitable grant funding bodies. Amesbury's recently completed playground project will also be researched for potential funding information.

8. Parish Councillors' Reports

Bus Depot

Darryll reported that the bus depot has been significantly tidied and is now being actively used for the first time in approximately ten years. Councillors welcomed the improvements and agreed that a member of the Council should visit to introduce themselves and acknowledge the positive work taking place.

Village Maintenance

Gary Hellawell outlined plans to improve organisation of village maintenance through the introduction of a forward works schedule. Councillors were asked to report maintenance issues in advance to allow work to be planned more effectively.

Parking Bollards

Gary reported that residents had been consulted regarding the reinstatement of parking bollards. Feedback indicated that most residents were content, although concerns remain from residents whose bollards had previously been removed.

It was agreed that replacement bollards should be purchased for those residents affected.

MOD Range Patrols

Concern was raised that complaints made about MOD range patrol vehicles have discouraged patrols from attending the area. It was agreed that discussions should take place with the resident concerned.

Highways

Councillors discussed continuing pothole problems and concerns that recent road works may have altered road drainage and cambers. Wiltshire Council's Clerk of Works will be asked to revisit the site.

Damage to the verge outside Brambles Nursery caused by parked vehicles was also discussed. Tina will provide the location using What3Words so that Gary can inspect the area.

Brambles Nursery Parking

The Council received representations from members of the public regarding unsafe parking associated with nursery drop-off and collection times.

Concerns raised included:

- Obstruction of emergency vehicle access.
- Parking across private driveways.
- Damage to verges.
- Ongoing safety risks for pedestrians.

Councillors discussed several possible actions including:

- Meeting with Brambles Nursery.
- Contacting the local PCSO to attend during peak periods.
- Reviewing the Nursery's Travel Plan.
- Liaising with Wiltshire Council Education Services.
- Seeking a written statement from affected residents.
- Considering future parking restrictions if required.

It was agreed that the Parish Clerk will draft a formal letter to Brambles Nursery outlining the Council's concerns and requesting appropriate action within an agreed timescale.

Darryll will arrange to meet with the local PCSO regarding enforcement and community engagement.

Mill Pool and MOD Fencing

Members noted that there had been fewer complaints regarding Mill Pool this year, although one emergency call had recently been made.

The condition of the Harris fencing was discussed at length. Councillors considered options including temporary removal, permanent replacement and requesting that the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) accept responsibility for a long-term solution.

Darryll will discuss options with MOD representatives and Knocker, with further updates to be brought back to Council.

9. Clerk's Report

The Parish Clerk confirmed that the AGAR Form 3 submission had been successfully completed.

Village Phone Box

The village phone box has now been cleaned, sanded and had the broken window repaired. Tina and Jackie will undertake painting works.

10. Other Parish Matters

Figgle Fest

Permission was granted for the use of the Parish Council field for Figgle Fest, subject to the relevant terms and conditions being signed.

Tina will forward the necessary paperwork to the Parish Clerk for circulation to Gary, Darryll and Mark for approval.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 22 September 2026.