

# Figcheldean Parish Council

*(draft until signed at next meeting)*

Minutes of meeting held 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

## **Present**

Cllr John Menzies	Chairman
Cllr Jackie Dryden	Vice Chair
Cllr Nick Tissot	
Cllr Darrell Amison	
Cllr John Yelland	
Cllr Tina Cole	
Sandra Burch	Clerk

## **Public Question Time**

Cllr Nick Tissot (NT) presented a brief update re RAM and the PC plan of action. He highlighted that there would not be many questions this evening as a dedicated RAM public meeting will be held in due course.

He thanked those who attended last Thursday's RAM drop-in session, which was very well attended.

There has already been some feedback from parishioners via email or the Facebook pages.

There has been some confusion on several points that NT clarified:

- The site is not within Figcheldean's Parish but in Netheravon BUT this does not mean that our parishioners do not have a voice especially given the potential impact of RAM on Figcheldean
- NT confirmed that Army HQ have informed us that any transfer of land to the RAM will be subject to a successful planning application and local support. "Local support" will likely be measured via the Parish Council at planning stage
- The land has NOT yet been transferred
- The planning application is expected to be submitted to Wilts Council at the end of February or early March.
- Villagers will therefore also have an opportunity to be heard during the planning process/once the planning application has been lodged with Wilts Council
- The PC will advise on this process in due course as it depends on what form the application takes.

The Parish Council have agreed the following plan:

- Await publication of new Outline Business Case that is expected in 3 weeks. This document is like a business plan and will give concrete details and assumptions surrounding the project
- The OBC will be distributed to parishioners and we will ask villagers for questions and concerns that are not covered by OBC
- The PC will ask for an official documented response from RAM to unanswered questions/facts
- We will then distribute and/or present findings to the Parish
- Hold a dedicated RAM public meeting for the Parish (likely to happen after the planning application has been lodged given that the timing will be very similar)
- We can then establish the view of villagers

The PC will endeavour to maintain contact with the village via the notice boards, Facebook, email and flyers. Should any of villagers wish to be added to the Parish email distribution list, please give us your names and email addresses this evening or send an email to Sandra at [parishclerkfigcheldean@gmail.com](mailto:parishclerkfigcheldean@gmail.com)

In summary, so far, the village are aware that we have the main topics covered, the main questions surround:

- a. Location
- b. Size of the site
- c. A345: Traffic, noise, pollution, congestion, access to and from the museum
- d. Rat runs through the villages
- e. Public transport
- f. Expected visitor numbers including events
- g. Noise, Light from the museum
- h. Disruption during construction phases
- i. Employment opportunities
- j. Amenities
- k. Ecological and Environmental impacts
- l. Location of the Car Park
- m. Future plans/ambitions for RAM and site
- n. Lease details

Cllr Nick Tissot thanked the villagers.

**There was a SHORT question and answer session**

A villager asked why the PC was waiting 3 weeks before villagers and PC approach RAM and Wilts Council with their concerns.

- NT explained that we needed the facts first so that we really understand what is planned and then we can assess the real impact. With this in mind it made sense to wait until the OBC was published and distributed.

A villager made the point that the perception was that this was a “done deal” and that the village needed to be informed that this was not the case.

- NT confirmed that this was not the case having had confirmation from the Army early that day. It was agreed that the PC would make this clear to the Parish.

A villager highlighted that the RAM topic had caused a lot of unrest and animosity in the village and felt that this was very sad

- JM will attend the Area Board on the Thursday to voice that Figheldean Parish Council does not currently support or object to this project. It officially supported the previously proposed location at Knighton Down. The Parish Council will only officially support or object to the plans for Avon Camp West following consultation with parishioners.

Item	Description	Action
1	<b>Apologies</b> W Cllr John Smale	
2	<b>Declaration of Interests</b> None	
3	<b>Minutes of the meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019</b> were agreed and signed by the Chairman	
4	<b>Matters arising from last minutes</b>  <b>Village School Building and Bus Station</b> SB emailed John Price from WC who confirmed that the school purchase was taking longer than expected, they wanted to advertise the site to gauge interest. SB will chase up again for update.	SB

	<p>The parish clerk has been trying to contact Reds for an update on the old bus station which remains unused. It was agreed that she could find out the owner by requesting a report from the land registry.</p> <p><b>Communication</b>  Cllr Nick Tissot and Simon Banton had engaged with TEEC but was disappointed by their product and functionality. He has selected a company call Parish Council Websites, Simon Banton has developed a test page and is working with NT to build the new website. NT thanked Simon Banton for his hard work and perseverance.</p> <p>David Ferguson has offered to maintain the website for the Parish once it's up and working</p> <p><b>Royal Artillery Museum</b>  The PC will keep villagers informed and a flyer will be distributed outlining concerns and the next steps. See Above</p> <p><b>Defibrillators</b>  The village hall defibrillator has been installed and SB to chase up the Working Men's Club regarding installation.</p> <p>SB to arrange a demonstration on how they work and will place an advert in the next magazine asking parishioners to attend a brief demonstration.</p> <p>If the village hall committee agree, the additional defibrillator within the hall can be moved to Ablington. Cllr Tina Cole to seek their approval.</p>	<p>NT</p> <p>SB</p> <p>TC</p>
5	<p><b>Chairman's Report</b></p> <p>The storm drains in Pollen Close and Lane need urgent attention from Wiltshire Council. Drivers are using Oak Lane without thoughts for other users and when approached by residents they are met with abuse; this is not acceptable behaviour in our Parish. Vehicles are also regularly obstructing the pavements in the village making it difficult for pedestrians to walk the village safely without going onto the road.</p> <p>There is a lady wishing to open a private school in our school, she is looking into the possibilities, I hope to arrange to meet her shortly to get her thoughts on the future of the old school building. It was agreed that there should be a business plan or presentation to the Parish Council.</p> <p>The church is looking to get a footpath alongside the driveway, I have asked Trevor for a sketch of his ideas.</p> <p>A special thank you to Jackie for her support as Vice Chair during the past few Years.</p> <p>SB to seek advice from PCSO Pippa Brewer regarding the traffic issues mention above</p>	<p>SB</p>
6	<p><b>Other Organisations Reports</b>  No other organisations were in attendance.</p> <p>Noted that the Village Hall has a new chair - John Murray</p>	

<p>7</p>	<p><b>Parish Councillors Reports</b></p> <p><b>Cllr Jackie Dryden</b>  This was Cllr Dryden’s last meeting as a councillor. She has been on the Parish Council for 9 years and four months and it is now time to concentrate on her work so sadly has handed in her resignation. She reflected over the years especially taking on the role of editor of the parish magazine.</p> <p>She presented the Parish Council with an anonymous cheque for £1,500 which means that SOW total to purchase the woods was reached, just leaving some solicitors costs to raise. After the next SOW event at the end of this month the Parish Council will cover the shortfall.</p> <p>The Parish Councillors thanked her and gave a special thank you to Cllr Tina Cole and Cllr Jackie Dryden for securing the woods at a lower price and managing to get nine months to pay instead of three.</p> <p>The purchase of the woods should be marked with a community event to celebrate. Maybe a picnic in the woods with music. She would be happy to organise with Cllr Tina Cole in the summer</p> <p>SB to chase up the storm drains cleaning and contact the Parish Steward. She will also speak to Brambles Nursery about chip barked which is being washed into the drains</p> <p><b>Cllr John Yelland</b>  Cllr Yelland attended the last Area Board meeting which focused on climate change, WCC are planning to be carbon neutral by 2030.</p> <p>There are six dedicated rural policemen, PCSO Pippa Brewer will still be covering our Parish.</p> <p><b>Cllr Tina Cole</b>  Cliff End planning permission has not been objected to; the remaining building will be demolished making way for a four-bedroom home with a garage.</p> <p>A new quote has been obtained for the printing of the Parish Magazine which is a very important communication tool. The editor, Caroline Hicks, who does all the hard work to prepare and collate, has also found new advertisers. The new quote could save around £100 to £150 per edition. Cllr Tina Cole to speak with Caroline.</p> <p><b>Cllr Darrell Amison</b>  Councillor Amison updated the Council on progress with the Mill Lane Traffic Regulation Order (TRO). Wiltshire Council have confirmed that detailed design work for the project is underway. Installation will take place at some point from February; the precise date to be confirmed shortly.</p> <p>The gate is likely to be a green Broxap Swing Gate, 3.0m in width, with a bearing post and a latch post to allow locking in the open and closed position. The bearing gate will have a socketed foundation, so it is removable when the gate is opened in case a wider vehicle requires access. There will be an illuminated signpost erected at the position of the gate with a sign depicting the restriction. An advance advisory information sign will be erected at the junction of the Mill Lane and the High Street to give advance warning of the restriction.</p> <p>Regarding waiting restrictions (double yellow-lines) for Mill Lane, these will be ordered at the same time as the rest of the project, hopefully by the end of January, however it is worth noting at this stage that a clean and dry road surface is required to lay road markings. If the weather is still wet when the works are carried out there is a possibility that the road markings will have to be completed after the gate installation.</p>	<p>SB</p> <p>TC</p>
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	<p>Councillor Amison has asked Wiltshire Council for a site meeting before installation to ensure residents are aware and content with detailed siting plans. He will also arrange a meeting in February with authorised Permit Holders in order to agree and confirm protocols for opening and closing the gate.</p> <p>Councillor Amison also thanked Graham Watson for clearing the multicourt of leaves.</p>																																																																																					
8	<p><b>Report by Wiltshire Councillor Smale</b> Not presented</p>																																																																																					
9	<p><b>Clerks Report</b></p> <p>Bank Balance as at 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020 £15,301.10</p> <p><b>1st April to 15th January 2020</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: center;">April to Jan 15th 2019_2020</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Full Year 2018_2019</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><b>Income</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>£</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>£</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Precept</td> <td style="text-align: right;">19,098.09</td> <td style="text-align: right;">18,190.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grants</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,534.00</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Parish Magazine Income</td> <td style="text-align: right;">235.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">770.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vat Refund</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,058.50</td> <td style="text-align: right;">837.23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wiltshire CC</td> <td style="text-align: right;">799.35</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Donations</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,387.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Save our Woods</td> <td style="text-align: right;">25,588.70</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right; border-top: 1px solid black;"><b>48,313.64</b></td> <td style="text-align: right; border-top: 1px solid black;"><b>21,184.23</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Expenditure</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>£</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>£</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dog Bins</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,448.20</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,924.37</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grass Cutting</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3,154.82</td> <td style="text-align: right;">5,678.64</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Public Works Loan</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,873.48</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3,746.96</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Parish Magazine</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,770.70</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,933.15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Parish Clerk</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3,745.11</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3,961.04</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Waste Bins at Village Hall</td> <td style="text-align: right;">382.07</td> <td style="text-align: right;">199.33</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bank Charges</td> <td style="text-align: right;">54.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">72.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Insurance</td> <td style="text-align: right;">395.88</td> <td style="text-align: right;">374.11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Audit Fee</td> <td style="text-align: right;">150.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">140.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Maintenance &amp; HS</td> <td style="text-align: right;">4,035.24</td> <td style="text-align: right;">159.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Save our Woods- Purchase and Legal</td> <td style="text-align: right;">29,150.45</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Miscellaneous</td> <td style="text-align: right;">186.18</td> <td style="text-align: right;">414.10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Donations and Funding</td> <td style="text-align: right;">950.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">950.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Small Asset Purchases - defibrillators</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3,870.00</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Subscriptions</td> <td style="text-align: right;">220.70</td> <td style="text-align: right;">235.36</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right; border-top: 1px solid black;"><b>51,386.83</b></td> <td style="text-align: right; border-top: 1px solid black;"><b>19,788.66</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Surplus or Deficit</b></td> <td style="text-align: right; border-top: 1px solid black; border-bottom: 3px double black;"><b>- 3,073.19</b></td> <td style="text-align: right; border-top: 1px solid black; border-bottom: 3px double black;"><b>1,395.57</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		April to Jan 15th 2019_2020	Full Year 2018_2019	<b>Income</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	Precept	19,098.09	18,190.00	Grants	1,534.00	-	Parish Magazine Income	235.00	770.00	Vat Refund	1,058.50	837.23	Wiltshire CC	799.35	-	Donations	-	1,387.00	Save our Woods	25,588.70	-		<b>48,313.64</b>	<b>21,184.23</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	Dog Bins	1,448.20	1,924.37	Grass Cutting	3,154.82	5,678.64	Public Works Loan	1,873.48	3,746.96	Parish Magazine	1,770.70	1,933.15	Parish Clerk	3,745.11	3,961.04	Waste Bins at Village Hall	382.07	199.33	Bank Charges	54.00	72.00	Insurance	395.88	374.11	Audit Fee	150.00	140.00	Maintenance & HS	4,035.24	159.60	Save our Woods- Purchase and Legal	29,150.45	-	Miscellaneous	186.18	414.10	Donations and Funding	950.00	950.00	Small Asset Purchases - defibrillators	3,870.00	-	Subscriptions	220.70	235.36		<b>51,386.83</b>	<b>19,788.66</b>	<b>Surplus or Deficit</b>	<b>- 3,073.19</b>	<b>1,395.57</b>	
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The small asset purchase is for two defibrillators which the PC received 50% grant for their purchase. The final purchase funds and solicitor's costs have been transferred to the solicitor for completion of the woods by the end of February

**Save Our Woods Summary as at 15.01.2020**

**Events**

Auction	4,869.81
Retro incs Quiz	4,150.33
Fashion Show	807.80
Halloween	925.23
Jumble Sale	600.83
Stonehenge Talks	132.05
Coffee Morning	40.00
Tapas Evening	200.00
Tree of Light	732.65

**12,458.70**

**In Memory**

U Osborne	2,000.00
Mr R J Hatcher	1,000.00
John Chant MBE	1,829.00

**4,829.00**

**Donations**

Village Hall	5,000.00
Chrysogon Bamber	100.00

**5,100.00**

**Anonymous Donations**

3,201.00

**3,201.00**

	<p><b>Just Giving Page</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">less Estimated Charges 880.00</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>880.00</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Grand Total</b> <b>£26,468.70</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Purchase Price of Woods and Legal Costs</b> <b>£29,150.45</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Shortfall as at 15th Jan 2020</b> <b>- £2,681.75</b></p> <hr/> <p>Funds banked after the meeting – anonymous cheque £1500 and bank receipt of £300.  January Event – Wine and Cheese will be the final event, money taking at the Christmas Fair (approx £350) will be banked after the event as well</p>	
10	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>There is confusion over a Facebook page called Figheldean Parish news and it was agreed that this page would be renamed to avoid future confusion. It was decided that the Parish Council will have their own official Facebook page which will be set up by the clerk. Also, she will collate email addresses to form a parish group to deliver information by emails. If you are interested in joining parish email distribution please email <a href="mailto:parishclerkfigheldean@gmail.com">parishclerkfigheldean@gmail.com</a></p> <p>Councillor Tina Cole has offered to set up a Twitter account as well.</p> <p>With a vacant position of Vice Chair, Cllr Tina Cole volunteered to accept the role of Vice Chair which was validated by all present.</p>	<p><b>SB</b></p> <p><b>TC</b></p>
12	<p><b>Dates for future meetings</b></p> <p>Next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020 @ 7.30pm</p>	

Signed ..... Date .....