



Figheldean Parish Council

(Draft until signed at next meeting)

Minutes of meeting held 14th July 2021 at Village Hall

Present

CLlr John Menzies Chairman
CLlr Tina Cole Vice-Chair
CLlr Darrell Amison
CLlr David Ferguson
CLlr Ian Blair- Pilling (WC)
Sandra Burch Clerk

Public Question Time

The clerk advised members that a formal response to Derek Sheppard's enquiry regarding the SSI site by the bridge was still outstanding. **Action:** The clerk to speak with Graham Watson and email Derek directly regarding a tidy up of weeds around the bridge and trim back roadside of the SSI.

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	ACTION
1	Apologies CLlr Nick Tissot	
2	Declaration of Interests None.	
3	Minutes of the meeting of 17th March 2021 These were agreed and signed by the Chairman.	
4	Matters arising from the minutes Action: The Emergency Planning Policy, prepared by Katie Crothers, to be taken forward for approval at the next Parish meeting.	SB
5	Chairman's Report Areas of discussion summarised as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A meeting is taking place this evening to formally meet the new County Councillor, Mr Ian Blair-Pilling.• A report is to be received following the Mill Pool meeting.• Storm drain clearance still outstanding due to the clearance truck breaking down. Members will be updated on developments as and when they arise.• Members to notify the Chairman of any work required that the Parish Steward can assist with.• Consideration to be given on the co-opting of additional residential support in the up-keep of the Parish and Parish Council business.• The Committee expressed thanks to Katie for the support she had provided the Parish Council, following her decision to leave.	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanks were extended to the Parish Councillors and Clerk, for the diligent work and continued support they provide to the Parish Council and its parishioners. • Congratulations to all on the re-opening of the 'Figheldean Working Men's Club' following its refurbishment. • Confirmation remains outstanding on the village car park 'extension to lease' and 'change of use' decision. 	
6	<p>Other Organisation Reports No other representation in attendance.</p> <p>It was noted that the village hall is now re-opening for bookings, with aspirations to resume Short Mat Bowls, and Coffee Morning's in September 2021.</p> <p>The Parish council agreed we should hold a community coffee morning for its residents; providing an environment to meet new and existing residents, whilst partaking in a free beverage and cake.</p> <p>Action: Cllr Tina Cole to ask the Village Hall for some funding and use of the Hall.</p> <p>Action: A request for support with the organising of the event to be posted on Facebook and advertised in the parish magazine.</p>	SB
7	<p>Councillor Reports</p> <p>Cllr Tina Cole</p> <p>The Playground:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A quote from ETC Sport Surfaces (Rory Wells) for new basketball back boards and loops, still outstanding despite chasing. • Graham Watson jet washed the playground and replaced a loose bolt. • Two large swing seats need to be replaced, and the requested expenditure for around £100 was approved. • Going forward, a cage swing seat will need to be replaced. This was previously replaced approximately five years ago. <p>Other matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keith Yates will attend Ablington Wood on the 20 July 2021 for its annual inspection. Two outstanding tasks remain from last years' inspection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Removal of soil around the base of the trees. ○ Removal of an overhanging branch. To facilitate this, the road will need to be closed for 30 minutes, and the putting in place of appropriate road closure signage. Permission to borrow appropriate signage from Avon Parish Council has been provided by Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling. • A resident has enquired as to whether training on AED, which was stopped due to COVID restrictions, could be re-initiated. Action: The Clerk to re-run the advert in the local parish magazine. <p>Cllr Nick Tissot – emailed report</p> <p>Members noted the Planning updates as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bus Depot (Change of Use to residential): Still no change. • The school: Wiltshire Council awaiting a response from the Department of Education. However, the move to exchanging of contracts is nearing. 	SB



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No other Planning Applications in train with Wiltshire Council apart from a few window changes at the Old Bakery, which is currently closed. No update from Wessex River's Trust following the receipt of recent feedback. <p>Cllr D Amison</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mill Pool: A meeting of stakeholders held on the 5th July Full minutes of the meeting held is attached for reading and comment At the meeting, PC Juliet Cox was alerted to the inconsiderate parking at the bottom of Pollen Lane. It was suggested that to help address this issue, that VRNs are noted by Councillors; with follow-ups to take place in the form of home visits. <p>Cllr D Ferguson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An in-person meeting is to be arranged with Simon Banton regarding Website maintenance and management once lockdown rules are eased. All AED have been regularly checked and all are in good working order, and in date. 	SB
8	<p>Report by Wiltshire Cllr Ian Blair Pilling</p> <p>Cllr Ian Blair Pilling provided members with a brief synopsis of historical and current role(s) and responsibilities. Included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cabinet Member for Leisure, Libraries, Governance, Facilities Management and Operational Assets. Wiltshire Conservative Councillor for the new Avon Valley division, covering Enford, Fittleton, Nether Avon, Figheldean, Milston and Larkhill. Vice Chair of the Amesbury Area Board which is looking to change its name to Stonehenge Area Board. Has given long service to the community, providing acquired grounding in what and who make our communities tick. Historically, has been chairman of Netheravon Village Hall Committee, the Durrington and Area LINK and Netheravon Parish Council, and a member of Netheravon Working Mens Club Committee. Continues to volunteer in the local library and chairs the Netheravon and Fittleton Jubilee Committee. Attends Netheravon Cheerful Cuppa, a successful community event. Previously a member of the Eastern Area Planning Committee <p>Key area of note:</p> <p>Members were advised that some of the occupiers of the terraced houses near the Nether Avon Airfield are having issues with the MOD. A number of civilian tenants, who had taken up short term tenancies in 2020, when the Mod considered them to be temporarily surplus, have since been informed that they must move out as the MoD (who lease the homes from the owners - Annington Homes) has since decided to hand the homes back to the owners. It has been suggested that Wiltshire Council purchase these properties, but there are many issues to be resolved before this may be possible.</p> <p>If you have any views, concerns, or questions, please email Councillor Ian Blair Pilling directly: Ian.Blair-Pilling@wiltshire.gov.uk</p>	



9	<p>Clerk Report: Finance report up to 14th July 2021</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Income</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Precept</td> <td style="text-align: right;">9,549.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grants</td> <td style="text-align: right;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Parish Magazine Income</td> <td style="text-align: right;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vat Refund</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2,644.38</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><u>12,193.88</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Expenditure</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dog Bins</td> <td style="text-align: right;">260.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grass Cutting</td> <td style="text-align: right;">636.72</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Public Works Loan</td> <td style="text-align: right;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Parish Magazine</td> <td style="text-align: right;">297.66</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Parish Clerk</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2,185.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Waste Bins at Village Hall</td> <td style="text-align: right;">101.74</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bank Charges</td> <td style="text-align: right;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Insurance</td> <td style="text-align: right;">407.69</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Audit Fee</td> <td style="text-align: right;">210.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Maintenance & HS</td> <td style="text-align: right;">550.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Save our Woods- Legal</td> <td style="text-align: right;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Miscellaneous</td> <td style="text-align: right;">190.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Donations and Funding</td> <td style="text-align: right;">350.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Small Asset Purchases</td> <td style="text-align: right;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Subscriptions</td> <td style="text-align: right;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Website Development and Charges</td> <td style="text-align: right;">133.33</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ablington Wood Expenditure</td> <td style="text-align: right;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><u>5,322.94</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Surplus or Deficit</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><u><u>6,870.94</u></u></td> </tr> </table> <p>Current Bank Balance £13,714.36</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purchase of three (3) red dogs' bins for £75. Suggested positioning: end of Pollen Lane near the back road; and the green in Abington. • Action: The clerk will liaise with Graham; and chase up about the hire of the digger for the woods. 	Income	£	Precept	9,549.50	Grants	-	Parish Magazine Income	-	Vat Refund	2,644.38		<u>12,193.88</u>	 		Expenditure	£	Dog Bins	260.00	Grass Cutting	636.72	Public Works Loan	-	Parish Magazine	297.66	Parish Clerk	2,185.80	Waste Bins at Village Hall	101.74	Bank Charges	-	Insurance	407.69	Audit Fee	210.00	Maintenance & HS	550.00	Save our Woods- Legal	-	Miscellaneous	190.00	Donations and Funding	350.00	Small Asset Purchases	-	Subscriptions	-	Website Development and Charges	133.33	Ablington Wood Expenditure	-		<u>5,322.94</u>	 		Surplus or Deficit	<u><u>6,870.94</u></u>	SB
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10	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling asked if we could move his positioning in agenda order just in case he has to attend other parish meetings. Agreed by PC</p>																																																									
11	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>The next Parish Council Meeting and AGM will be held on: Wednesday 15 September 2021</p>																																																									

Signed Date

Figheidean Mill Pond Site Meeting

Monday 5 July 2021

Minutes

Attendees:

Darrell Amison - Chair
Felicity Pigott - Temporary Secretary
Nick Tissot - Parish Council
Louise Batson - Villager
Major Andrew Riddle - Training and Safety Officer, Salisbury Plain
Chris Wyllie - MOD Police
Lt Col Rupert Whitelegge - Garrison Commander
Mark Hiscock - SDFFA
Martin Brown - River Keeper
PC Juliet Cox - Wiltshire Police
PCSO Michael Farebrother - Wiltshire Police

Introductions

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting and all introduced themselves.

Background

1. The Chair explained the increasing difficulties with the river, often exacerbated by social media, and the honeypot that is the Mill Pond. Hordes of 'visitors', problems with parking, ASB often fuelled by alcohol, and health and safety issues caused by broken bottles on the river bed, human defecation and deep and dangerous water.

The installation of a traffic barrier halfway down Mill Lane has mitigated the problems but they are nevertheless ongoing.

It was also explained that there was a longer term project to assess a natural way of dealing with the Mill Pond issues and these include a range of options ranging from the removal of the weir to a re-routing of the river. This was driven by the DIO/MOD following an incident at the Mill Pond and the proposals have been made by the Wessex Rivers Trust. A meeting on 22 June discussed the project to remove the Mill Pond. This is a long-term measure (2/3 years), not yet funded, and therefore it was proposed that we should explore additional interim measures.

There was much discussion about jurisdiction on the river. Who owns what? What actions can be enforced? Some of it appeared contradictory. There is a need to clarify who has legal responsibility for the stretch of river at the mill pool – the DIO (Maj Andrew Riddle) is requested to do so.

2. So far it is understood that:

*. The DIO have placed the bank on the right of the river (behind the barriers) out of

bounds, so do we have a legal right to challenge people there?

* If the DIO do own the river and they place it out of bounds, this would give us a much stronger legal position.

*. MOD have created Presumption of Access for training areas in the past. i.e. you can't go where there is a barrier/flag or danger on training areas but, by invitation, you can go anywhere else. The far side of the river is Sched 1 land (owned by the MOD) and so we have no legal right to challenge people there. Therefore, fencing off the riverbank on the far side (as suggested at the 22 June meeting) would not be permissible.

*.Use of BBQs is forbidden by bye-laws.

Shortage of manpower, both police and military, was discussed and highlighted as an issue (but an understandable one)

CONCLUSION WAS THAT THE ONLY NUMBER TO RING FOR RIVER PROBLEMS WAS 101. Wiltshire Police. The Police would than contact the other relevant stakeholders (if appropriate).

The police offered to patrol from early afternoon onwards, which is when the problems occur. Weekends and Bank Holidays are particularly problematic.

3. Other points:

*. Fencing under the bridge to stop swimmers is not possible, as suggested in 22 June meeting.

* A.R agreed to consider improving the fencing and signage (specifically 'no swimming' if the DIO has responsibility for the river) in the vicinity of the Mill Pool.

*. CCTV has 2 broken triggers. A.R. has agreed to get these fixed. CCTV can only be used in retrospect.

*. Possible to explore other parts of the river to find a less controversial bathing option for swimmers? Charlie Crossing not possible as it is much used by the military.

*. Ask Wiltshire Council if we could have residents' only parking in the village. Each house to have permits. This would make parking for visitors' cars difficult.

*. Social Media. LB to survey web sites, remove Mill Pond and direct people away from Figheldean.

*. Steeple Langford has similar problems. Liaise with them to discuss?

The meeting ended at 17.30hrs.