



# Figheldean Parish Council

*(Draft until signed at next meeting)*

Minutes of meeting 6<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at Village Hall

## Present

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

## Presentation by Matt Irvine Wessex Rivers Trust

Mr Matthew Irvine, the Senior Project Officer Avon and Stour of the Wessex Rivers Trust, provided an update on a project to improve the flow of the Avon in the vicinity of the Mill Pool. The slides used by Mr Irvine have been posted on the Figheldean village website. During the question and answer session the following points were noted:

1. The need to be careful about making the river bank in the vicinity of the current weir so appealing that it encourages too many visitors with the associated risk of anti-social behaviour. This matter will be discussed with the Wessex Rivers Trust.
2. The need to consider disabled access to the site adjacent to the current footbridge over the Avon. The Parish Council will work with the Wessex Rivers Trust and Wilts Council to ensure statutory compliance.
3. The need to confirm whether fishing will still be allowed in the area of the Avon adjacent to the old mill.
4. The Wessex Rivers Trust will work with Mr Burgess (local farmer) to address his concerns over water flow through a channel that runs through his field.
5. Approximately three quarters of those present at the meeting voted in favour of the project.

The project will hopefully receive funding approval later this year after which the project will be completed in late 2023. Further updates will follow as and when information becomes available.

**he slides from the presentation will be on our website <https://www.figheldean.org>**

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	ACTION
1	<b>Apologies</b> Cllr Fred Piner	
2	<b>Declaration of Interests</b> None reported.	
3	<b>Minutes of the meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022</b> These were agreed as a true reflection and signed by the Chairman.	



4	<b>Matters arising from the minutes</b> None raised.	
5	<b>Wiltshire Councillor Report - Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling</b>  <b>Report for Figcheldean Parish Council - Apr 22</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Jubilee Events</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Thur 2 Jun – Beacons</li><li>○ Sun Jun - Netheravon and Figcheldean both have street parties</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Ukraine Refugees – As at 29 March 2022</b><p>We welcomed the recent government announcements and look forward to helping Ukrainian refugees settle here in Wiltshire. We already have a good track record supporting Syrian refugees, and more recently Afghan refugees, and we are poised and ready to support again.</p><p>We have already had some arrivals into Wiltshire under the family scheme, where extended relatives live in the county and are able to apply for visas.</p><p>The second scheme, the Homes for Ukraine scheme, opened on 18 March and Wiltshire residents are once again poised to help those who need support and a safe place to stay. We understand that a large number of Wiltshire residents have registered to be sponsors and provide accommodation to refugees. The numbers put us within the top three councils in the UK.</p><p>The scheme offers £350 a month to people offering spare rooms in their home or alternative accommodation and support, so those coming to the UK can be helped to access services and children can attend schools.</p><p>Individuals, charities, community groups and businesses can volunteer accommodation. Sponsors can provide accommodation for as long as they are able but there is a minimum expectation of six months.</p><p>During Phase One of this scheme, visa applications are only for those who wish to travel to the UK and who have named people in the UK willing to sponsor them.</p><p>As a council, we have an important role to play, alongside our partners, to ensure these people can settle into the county and have access to the services they need. Accommodation checks, safeguarding checks and planning for school places are already underway.</p><p>We have a well-established refugee, resettlement and migration team and we are recruiting additional caseworkers to support with providing the relevant checks and wrap around support.</p><p>We are in the process of setting payment mechanisms for sponsors and emergency support for new arrivals and we are working closely with our partners in the NHS, DWP</p></li></ul>	



and town and parish councils, as well as the wider voluntary and community sector across the county.

Wessex Community Action are part of the Voluntary and Community Service Partnership and are helping co-ordinate local responses and offers of support. We know our communities will rally around those who come into the county and provide that goodwill and help that can make a difference and make someone truly feel welcome.

We also know that not everyone will be able to offer a home but there are other ways to support and we have a web page with information on how people can send financial donations to charities who directly support Ukrainian people.

We are delighted that Wiltshire Council Singers, the council's staff choir, joined forces with The Keevil Singers to perform a fund-raising concert for the people of Ukraine.

They were joined by local Ukrainian singer Nicole Medin who sang two Ukrainian folk songs and joined the choirs in singing the Ukrainian national anthem. The concert took place on Wednesday 23 March at Holy Trinity Church in Trowbridge and raised £1,518.50 for the Disasters Emergency Committee's Ukraine Appeal.

We can also share with you that last week's business and sports gala dinner raised an additional £685 during the 'Inspire a Generation' quiz for the same appeal.

Two quick pleas:

- If you are aware of Ukrainian refugees who are coming as part of the Ukraine Family Scheme please feel free to pass on their details to us by emailing [refugees@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:refugees@wiltshire.gov.uk).
- Also Wiltshire Council asks people who can speak Ukrainian or Russian and are willing to volunteer time to help with translation or support to please contact [refugees@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:refugees@wiltshire.gov.uk)

It won't surprise you that there is a high number of enquiries to the refugee's inbox. This means you may not have an immediate response however we will respond to it in due course.

Finally, please be reassured that the leadership at Wiltshire Council have open lines of communication with central government, our local MPs and the LGA so that guidance that has not yet been provided can be expedited, gaps in arrangements and expectations can be addressed, and our pressures better understood. We want to do everything we can to help those who need it most at this tragic time.

**The latest information from Wiltshire Council this week:**

186 Wiltshire sponsors have been registered through the government portal and have been matched with 492 guests.

Wiltshire Council has completed 70 accommodation checks and issued 70 DBS checks, of which 13 have been returned so far but this is speeding up every day. We start these checks when the government notify us a sponsor has been matched with a guest.

The Home Office has changed its guidance so full accommodation and DBS checks can be done after the visas have been approved – this will speed up the visa approvals



	<p>considerably. The Home Office will do a basic Police National Computer checks and address verification checks to get the visa approvals through quickly.          Refugees are beginning to arrive in Wiltshire but we do not have exact numbers as those coming through the Family Scheme do not have to be registered through Wiltshire Council. We tend to find out about them when they need access to education, work or health care.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Closure of Pollen Lane</b> 27 May 09.30 – 15.30. From its junction with Oak Lane to its junction with Hilltop Close. To give Openreach safe access to the network and associated works. <b>Alternative route:</b> via Pollen Lane (unaffected length) - C32 – Ablington - Avon Banks - High Street and vice versa. Access will be maintained for residents and businesses where possible, although delays are likely due to the nature of the works. The closure and diversion route will be clearly signed. For further information, please contact Openreach 03316689082.</li> <li>• <b>Electric Vehicle Charging Points</b> - Update will follow in time regarding charging points at the moment there is a lack of them in all the parishes</li> <li>• <b>Footpath to Netheravon</b> - Needs more investigating due to land access and ownership</li> </ul>	
6	<p><b>Chairman’s Report</b></p> <p>Thanks again for the work carried out behind the scenes on behalf of the PC.          it is great to have the Monday Lunch Club in action again, also the coffee mornings are being well supported, in the main hall, to be able to keep our distance          Most of our residents are happy with the responses they get from the PC especially to any queries put to us.          It will be of interest the questions regarding the mill pool plans once these minutes are distributed, we encourage engagement if you have any concerns with the proposed project.</p>	
7	<p><b>Other Organisation Reports</b>          None received.</p>	
8	<p><b>Councillor Reports</b></p> <p><i><b>Cllr Tina Cole</b></i></p> <p><b>The basketball back boards:</b>          Graham Watson has been asked to look at the condition of the back boards with a view to replacing them.</p> <p><u>Resolution:</u> Graham is going to fix the boards using marine ply and apply</p> <p><b>Ablington Wood:</b>          Cllrs will recall that Derek Hanson has arranged for our maintenance/remaining survey work to be carried out by trainee tree surgeons (referred to as this for the purpose of these minutes) Derek Hanson has advised that the PC to contact Nigel Fitchett to cut back or fell the overhanging tree that is encroaching the road at the west side of the woods.</p>	



**Agreement from PC** to have essential tree work in Ablington woods by Fitchetts also to move the dog bin by the bridge as you enter the village to further along the road.

**Pot Holes Ablington Un-Adopted Road leading up to the Crescent**

The subject was discussed by the councillors but the responsibility of repair and costs sits with the residents who use the road. The road falls outside Wiltshire Highways as well and can't be repaired by the Parish Steward. Cllr Tina Cole to prepare a letter for residents or to discuss with them in person.

***Cllr Nick Tissot***

**Bus Depot:**

Still no news leading on from our correspondence. A parishioner has requested more details regarding the site to pass on to a friend who may use the site for motor repairs

**St Michael's School:**

Wilts Council have confirmed that they have exchanged conditional contracts for the sale of the school and they are now awaiting the Department of Education consent before they can complete.

**New Applications:**

Nothing new to report

***Cllr D Ferguson***

**AED:** The hall's AED not functioning - new batteries and pads have been fitted

***Cllr Fred Piner***

Will be attending the next Stonehenge CATG Meeting on the 13th April 2022 also will take on the responsible of dog faeces which needs to be tackled again, the PC will name and shame at first.

9

**Clerk Report: Finance report up to 6<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

Accounts for the finance year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 have been finalised with a surplus of £4173.51

Current Bank Balance: £10,404.47

**Expenditure Since last Meeting**

Dog Bins - 4 Months	800.00
Grass Cutting - Bawdens 2 Months	750.09
Magazine Printer and Costs	300.66
Wages	918.00
Waste - Bins Village Hall (Hills)	76.78
Remove Branch Brambles G Watson	100.00
Grant Figgle Fest	600.00



	Community Events - Jubilee Weekend      1003.17  All expenditure approved by Councillors	
10	<b>Other Parish Business</b>  <b>Jubilee Village Weekend Events:</b> A raft race, lighting of Beacon and Street Party plans have been agreed. Details will be published in our local magazine  <b>Cllr Darrell Amison</b> reported a fence that needs fixing by the bridge. Clerk to investigate and report issue to DIO.  The clerk will email out who to contact to report any issues regarding footpaths or rights of way	
11	<b>Date of Next Meeting and AGM</b>  Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> May 2022 @ 7.30pm at Village Hall	

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