



# Figheldean Parish Council

*(Draft until signed at next meeting)*

Minutes of meeting 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at Village Hall

## Present

Cllr John Menzies	Chair
Cllr Tina Cole	Vice-Chair
Cllr Darrell Amison	
Cllr Nick Tissot	
Cllr Fred Piner	
Cllr James Kelly	
Cllr Ian Blair- Pilling (WC)	
Sandra Burch	Clerk

Questions from the public: None

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	ACTION
1	<b>Apologies</b> Cllr Nick Tissot.	
2	<b>Declaration of Interests</b> None reported.	
3	<b>Minutes of the meeting: 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022</b> These were agreed as a true reflection and signed by the Chair.	
4	<b>Matters arising / Outstanding Actions: 25<sup>th</sup> May</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Lease from the Solicitors is still awaited. When ready, this will be sent to Chair for signing.</li><li>The dog fouling notice was published in the Parish magazine as advised.</li><li>Councillors agreed that going forward, the minutes of Parish Council (PC) meetings should no longer be published in the Parish magazine, but replaced with items such as:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Meet the Councillor</li><li>Councillors' responsibilities</li><li>Councillor reports</li></ul></li><li>All minutes of Council meetings are to be published on the PC website and noticeboards as is the current practice, as it is hoped that this will encourage parishioners to visit the website.</li></ul>	
5	<b>Wiltshire Councillor Report - Cllr Ian Blair- Pilling</b>  <b>SPTA Fires</b> It is a relief that after a huge effort by the Army and civil fire and rescue services the recent extensive fires on the Plain that have now been put out. We all appreciate that the military need to train and are used to the normal range of activity and noise, but I am concerned that all possible lessons are learned, and I will be pursuing this through our Public Health officers and their established liaison with MoD authorities.	



## Cost of Living

I would like to pass on the briefing given by the leader of Wiltshire Council at our June Cabinet meeting summarising the Council's work to combat the recent increases in the cost of living. I appreciate it is a long and complex read, but there may be nuggets in it that are relevant and may help some of those most in need. Please draw on it and come back to me on any aspect you wish. I would also highlight that while much of the support is in the gift of Central government we can and do lobby where we see a need. Through our MPs we have recently raised the issue of those living in park homes who may not benefit from the energy refunds Richard Clewer briefed us

"There is a range of support we offer or administer already in place that we are promoting, alongside support and initiatives being undertaken nationally.

These include:

- Providing the Local Welfare Provision, funded by Wiltshire Council, with £100,000 set aside for 2022/23. This is a scheme for those in crisis and the number of claims and recipients of this scheme are typically 1,000 per annum.
- The Council Tax Reduction Scheme, which currently supports 26,000 households (10k of which are pensioners). We have allocated a further £140,000 to a Discretionary Council Tax Reduction Scheme, for those struggling most with the payment of council tax.
- Administering housing benefit, currently delivered to 12,000 households, as well as the Discretionary Housing Payment Scheme where we have already committed almost 50% of the £330,000 available.
- Delivering the first part of the Household Support Fund, and we were allocated £2.7m for the first six months of this year and there is no need for people to apply to Wiltshire Council, as eligible people are identified and contacted.

This is being deployed to support:

- Pensioners in receipt of council tax reduction and pension credit with £133.
- Vulnerable working age households with £66.
- Food payments during school holidays for those on free school meals or with early year's pupil premium, or other vulnerable families (working with schools).
- Vouchers for food and utility bills for those in temporary accommodation, supported accommodation or those recently moved into permanent accommodation.
- Food banks and linked projects to ensure they can purchase and provide food to those most in need.

We are also planning use of the fund for September to March, for which we have been allocated a similar amount as the first half of this year.

- Offering the Holiday Activities and Food programme (known as FUEL in Wiltshire), which will run again in Wiltshire over summer 2022. FUEL is a free holiday activity and food project that offers those on free school meals the opportunity to take part in a range of fun activities and receive a nutritious meal during school holiday periods.
- Paying the energy rebate, to those living in houses in council tax Bands A-D. This has already been received by over 100,000 households. We have been chasing bank details for over 40,000 households in order to issue them with payment. The final tranche of letters inviting them to claim were delivered on 25 May.
- A webpage has been set up outlining the full range of [What can we help you with? - Wiltshire Council](#) and signposting to other organisations as appropriate. There is also a national version - [Cost of Living Support – Get government support to help with the cost of living](#)

The announcement from the Chancellor last month was also further welcome news and this support in response to the short-term crisis is vital.



It also means residents in Wiltshire will be receiving more than £220m through the various schemes in place.

As well as this direct support on the cost of living, we are supporting a range of initiatives that address rising fuel prices through energy efficiency.

These include:

- Warm and Safe Wiltshire, which provides a free and impartial energy advice service and aims to reduce fuel poverty in Wiltshire.
- A Home Upgrade Grant scheme which will open this summer delivering over £3m of support on insulation and renewable energy.
- Through the Green Homes Grant we are delivering a £4.4m scheme that offers households an income of £30,000 or less, and living in a property that is rated D, E, F or G for energy efficiency, the chance to access up to £10,000 for improvements such as insulation, solar panels and double glazing.
- We continue to invest in our council housing stock through the retrofit programme, helping some of our most vulnerable residents save money on their energy bills. The aim is to retrofit 500 homes a year and complete all 5000 of our council homes by 2030.
- In May, we launched Solar Together, a joint buying scheme that allows communities to purchase solar production and storage at the right price.
- We continue to promote other energy efficiency measures by social media, such as the £5k grants for heat pumps, which began last month.

I have held discussions with my Cabinet and our partners in other public service and voluntary sector organisations on what more we can do individually and collectively – including promotion of existing support, widening the scope of existing schemes, better targeting of vulnerable clients with support, tackling the risk of exploitation, reinvigorating initiatives such as car sharing and will continue to keep this area under review.”

#### **Enhanced Highways Maintenance Funding**

Some good news on highways and fighting fly tipping

The appearance of our roads and verges is important to the public and local communities, but with funding limitations, it has not always been possible to deliver the desired levels of routine maintenance on the network, as safety maintenance has had to take priority.

At this month’s Cabinet meeting, we agreed to increase funding by £683,000 annually over the next three years to improve the safety and appearance of the highway network.

- Funding for **road marking and lining** will increase by £200,000 annually to address the backlog and make an enormous difference to the appearance and safety of the network. This will be used to renew give way, roundabout markings and stop lines, predominantly using ‘hand’ gangs within the urban areas and a programme of machine lining on the inter-urban roads, especially the A roads. The programme will be focused on an area-by-area basis, which will see the lining brought up to standard over the next three years.
- The budget for **gully emptying** will be increased by £333,000 annually to pay for another specialist gully-emptying machine with jetting facility, supporting traffic management and additional equipment to be deployed to improve drainage. The provision of this fourth machine will enable the frequency of gully emptying to be increased.

**Litter enforcement** will be improved by investing £150,000 annually to provide monitoring cameras, three additional enforcement staff, and an advertising and awareness.



6	<p><b>Chairs' Report</b></p> <p>The Chair thanked all members present for their continued support and commitment, and advised on the following developments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr David Ferguson has regrettably resigned from the PC. Thanks were expressed to David for the support he has shown to the Parish and for agreeing to continue with the maintaining of the defibrillators within the village.</li> <li>• Grateful recognition was also paid to Katie Crowther's for her work on the 'Emergency Action Plan'; the PC will review and update all relevant contact information directly.</li> <li>• The new owners of the old Bus Workshop have made welcome Improvements to the appearance of the site; this has seen neglect over past years.</li> <li>• Complaints have been received from residents regarding the untidy appearance of the entrance to the village. This includes and is not limited to broken fences and visible tree growth. Although this area of land is not owned or falls under the responsibility of the Parish Council, the Clerk is actively seeking to find an acceptable resolution.</li> </ul> <p>Parishioners are encouraged to make any comment(s) so that these can be passed onto the Parish Councillors.</p>	
7	<p><b>Other Organisational Reports</b></p> <p><b>Michael Farebrother (PCSO) – Team member of Amesbury Rural Community Policing</b></p> <p>Following a brief introduction, Michael advised on the areas covered within the remit of responsibility, these included: Larkhill, Bulford, Durrington and Figheledean. Military police assistance is provided, as support, when dealing with incidents concerning military personnel, their property or DIP land.</p> <p>Although Figheledean is recognised and confirmed as a 'low' crime area, assurances were provided that during the summer months, hotspots such as Gunville and Mill Pool, will be monitored regularly.</p> <p>On matters relating to inconsiderate parking, members were advised that the police have no powers or influence; unless members of the public break highway laws, which would then warrant a fixed penalty fine – seen as a good deterrent for persistent offenders.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> MF to confirm and report back on whether parking near a junction is against highway regulations.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> MF to provide a monthly report for distribution by the Clerk.</p>	<p><b>MF</b></p> <p><b>MF/SB</b></p>
8	<p><b>Councillor Reports</b></p> <p><b>Cllr Tina Cole</b></p> <p><b>The basketball back boards:</b></p> <p>Repairs to the backboards remain outstanding. Cllr James Kelly, put forward an offer of help in support of this matter.</p> <p><b>Multicourt:</b></p> <p>ETC Surfacing: The annual maintenance to the multicourt is now complete, with the invoice having been paid in full. One year remains on a five-year maintenance contract with the firm. It has been noticed that tree roots are pushing up the surface of the Courts; this is to be investigated and the level of damaged established and quantified.</p>	<p><b>TC</b></p> <p><b>TC</b></p>



**Ablington Woods:**

Members agreed to delay the next scheduled inspection of the woods until Jan/Feb 2023, when the trees are bare of its leaves. It was also agreed that a small quantity of Owl Boxes are to be erected and installed before October; this will help in providing a new habitat for our owls.

**Village Playing Field:**

It was agreed by all councillors that rotted fence poles will be replaced and move closer together

***Cllr Darrell Amison***

**Mill Pool Project:**

Wessex Rivers Trust are waiting for the return of a river hydraulic model before they progress the Flood Risk Activity Permit application. All of the Environment Agencies' queries relating to the application so far have been answered. The Parish Council will continue to stay in close touch with the Wessex Rivers Trust and provide updates as and when there is something to report.

***Cllr Nick Tissot***

**Planning Update:**

**School:**

Application is still pending Department of Education (D of E) approval: see below:

Following my recent letter to the D of E, I had a long conversation with Simon Foster, who is dealing with the application, last Tuesday week who told me that he could see no reason why consent to the transfer should not be forthcoming from the Department within a month.

Consequently, I look forward to hearing from him that consent has been formally granted before 5 August.

**Bus Depot:**

As mentioned in the previous meeting, the site has been sold but it is not yet clear who to. It has been rumoured that the Depot was being rented out; the Parish Council will be updated once the appropriate information has been obtained.

**Other Planning matters:**

A new Planning Application has been submitted and approved for the re-roofing of the church in Figheldean.

***Cllr Fred Piner***

**Stonehenge Local Highways & Footways Improvement Group (LHFIG) formerly known as (CATG)**

The forms to reduce the speed limit on the main A345 road, as you approach the village from the A345, and within the village itself, has been completed, and will be submitted following a review by Jacqui Abbot.

The next stage will take the form of a cost and benefit analysis by WC; including a site visit to prepare a survey of traffic numbers and speed. It has been suggested that a village campaign

**FP**



	<p>may be of benefit, but this may result in a time consuming and lengthy process; albeit it would be beneficial in increasing awareness and provide weight to the cause.</p> <p>It is considered that a pelican crossing would enforce traffic to slow down and provide a safer way to cross the road at the bus stops on the A345.</p> <p><b>Dog Fouling:</b></p> <p>Remains, on the rise. A public notice was placed in the parish magazine informing parishioners of the fines imposed, and that the PC is actively seeking to raise awareness, including the placing of posters on key hot spots.</p> <p><b>All Councillors</b></p> <p>Responsibilities by category was updated to include New Councillor James Kelly. The Parish Civil Emergencies Response Plan will be reviewed by Cllr Darrell Amison just to see whether it would a better approach to leave major incidents to the emergency services.</p>	All/DA																								
9	<p><b>Clerk Report: Finance report up to 12<sup>th</sup> July 2022</b></p> <p>Current Bank Balance: £12,655.26</p> <p><b>Expenditure since last parish meeting in VAT</b></p> <table><tr><td>DOG BINS</td><td>£400.00</td></tr><tr><td>GRASS CUTTING</td><td>£880.06</td></tr><tr><td>ICO - SUBSCRIPTION</td><td>£35.00</td></tr><tr><td>INSURANCE</td><td>£413.88</td></tr><tr><td>JUBILEE WEEKEND</td><td>£756.00</td></tr><tr><td>LEGAL SERVICES</td><td>£900.00</td></tr><tr><td>MULTI COURT MAINTENANCE</td><td>£660.00</td></tr><tr><td>PARISH MAG EXPENSES</td><td>£11.66</td></tr><tr><td>PCC FIGHELDEAN PC GRANT 2022</td><td>£350.00</td></tr><tr><td>VILLAGE HALL BINS</td><td>£38.64</td></tr><tr><td>WAGES</td><td>£550.00</td></tr><tr><td>WALC SUBSCRIPTION</td><td>£221.94</td></tr></table> <p><b>All expenditure approved by Parish Councillors</b></p> <p>The clerk reported that Jubilee Celebration expenditure was within approved budget limits.</p>	DOG BINS	£400.00	GRASS CUTTING	£880.06	ICO - SUBSCRIPTION	£35.00	INSURANCE	£413.88	JUBILEE WEEKEND	£756.00	LEGAL SERVICES	£900.00	MULTI COURT MAINTENANCE	£660.00	PARISH MAG EXPENSES	£11.66	PCC FIGHELDEAN PC GRANT 2022	£350.00	VILLAGE HALL BINS	£38.64	WAGES	£550.00	WALC SUBSCRIPTION	£221.94	
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10	<p><b>Other Parish Business</b></p> <p>None to report</p>																									
11	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2022 at 7.30pm, the Village Hall, Figheldean.</p>																									

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