

Figcheldean Parish Council

(Draft until signed at next meeting)

Minutes of meeting 21st September 2022 at Village Hall

Present

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

Questions from the public: None

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	ACTION
1	Apologies Cllr James Kelly	
2	Declaration of Interests None reported.	
3	Minutes of the meeting: 13th July 2022 These were agreed as a true reflection and signed by the Chairman.	
4	Matters arising / Outstanding Actions: 13th July 2022 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outstanding Lease: As reported at the July meeting, the lease from the Solicitors is still awaited. Action: Clerk to chase. Ablington Woods: Construction of the Owl Boxes is almost complete. As previously reported, these will help provide a new habitat for our owls. Dog Fouling: To further help raise awareness in relation to dog fouling and the penalties imposed; weather proof posters are to be placed in strategic locations. The Committee thanked Cllr Tina Cole for her support in the facilitation of these. Inconsideration parking: Action: The Clerk to email PSCO Michael Farebrother regarding public parking near a junction, to ascertain what can be done to alleviate the problem, and whether parking near a junction is against highway regulations. Basketball Court: Action: The Clerk to obtain competitive quotes for replacement basketball backboards and new nets. 	SB JK SB SB
5	Wiltshire Councillor Report - Cllr Ian Blair- Pilling Wiltshire Council Supports Residents with Cost of Living Tuesday's Council Cabinet started with a comprehensive update on the steps the Council is taking to support people across Wiltshire with cost-of-living issues over the next few months. Assistance has already been provided to residents through schemes such as the Household Support Fund (£2.7m to vulnerable households), the Energy Rebate to residents in Council Tax bands A-D and the School Holidays Activity and Food programme.	



The Council is focused on supporting residents, businesses (including schools) and Wiltshire Council staff. Area Boards are being asked to work with their communities to ensure that local support is in place for the most vulnerable, including food banks. Meanwhile the Wiltshire Wellbeing Hub will support residents with financial wellbeing concerns. The 09:30hrs restriction on concessionary fare bus passes has been lifted, so that they can be used at any time, thus supporting the elderly and vulnerable to access essential services, and Warm and Safe Wiltshire will continue to offer free and impartial energy advice to reduce fuel poverty.

Locally I am very grateful for the lead that Richie Ayling and Mary Towle have taken in developing a community response and then bringing together the other Avon Valley parishes. I'll leave them to explain their good work. Next Monday our Drop-In meeting on Teams at 7pm will discuss how we can work as 1 Team towards Warm Spaces and the financial implications we are all facing as communities.

New Strategy for Helping People with Mental Disabilities Enjoy Fulfilled Lives

Cllr Jane Davies, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, SEND and Transition and Inclusion, presented the Wiltshire Independent Living Strategy, which maximises the independence, choice, and control for people with a mental health condition, learning disability and/or autism spectrum condition by providing the right accommodation and support in the right place at the right time. The strategy will reduce dependence on residential care and ensure that people are supported to live independently, with their own tenancy wherever this is possible. This means developing new supported accommodation and providing innovative, flexible care to enable people to live in the community.

£1.3m Extra Funding to Tackle Substance Misuse

Wiltshire Council has secured additional funding from the Home Office to tackle illicit drug use, including enforcement, diversion, and treatment and recovery. This funding is in addition to the core substance misuse services already delivered in Wiltshire. The additional funds will improve outcomes across both young people and adult's substance misuse services - with a particular focus on the transition period to adulthood and criminal justice.

My Wilts Reporting Tool Survey

An email invitation has been sent to all those with an account registered on the Wiltshire Council online reporting tool MyWilts. The aim is to ensure it provides a great experience when and the Council wants to understand what residents want and need. Please do get involved.

The link is: [MyWilts Online Reporting Tool Survey \(office.com\)](https://mywilts.wiltshire.gov.uk/office.com)

A345 Speed Limit Review

Our Engineer, Kate Davey, told me today that the assessment is being finalised. She expects to be able to issue the recommendation in the next week or two, certainly prior to the LHFIF at the end of October. Whatever the recommendation there will be an opportunity to discuss any concerns with officers and/or cabinet member.

Boundaries changes will be considered this year and if accepted will be implemented at the next general election -2025.



6	<p>Chairman's Report</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"> • Kevan (Parish Steward): Carries out excellent work and provides regular updates of jobs undertaken on our behalf. Action: Please advise of any issues or matters that need attending to, so that these may be passed on. • Jubilee Tree: To complete the celebrations and to mark the passing of the Queen and the inauguration of the new King, members were asked whether consideration should be given to the purchasing and planting of a 'memorial tree'; with the view to planning as soon as possible. Action: Upon professional recommendation, three suitable trees are to be purchased with the option of planting at the playing fields and/or at the green at Ablington. • Bus Stop: Discussion was had for whom responsibility for the upkeep on the bus stop on the A345 i.e the Parish or the bus company. Action: Clerk to purchase a litter bin for the bus stop. • Parish Council -Playing Field: Together with Councillor Tina Cole, we are working to draft a proposal. A draft for comment will be circulated to members prior to publication. 	<p>All</p> <p>SB</p> <p>NT/TC</p>
7	<p>Other Organisation Reports</p> <p>None received.</p>	
8	<p>Councillor Reports</p> <p>Cllr Tina Cole</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some deadwood tree felling has started to take place in Ablington Wood, and which remains ongoing. A huge thank you to Derek Hanson who is completing this work free of charge. • As already eluted to, the multi court basketball backboards need to be replaced. Quotes are to be sought. • Dog poo posters now printed and to be put up around the village. • The work on putting together a hire agreement in relation to PC Facilities (VH overall car park, Flgheldean Playing Field and Multi-Court) remains 'work in progress'. Once a document has been drafted, this will be shared with fellow councillors for comment. <p>Cllr Nick Tissot</p> <p>Planning:</p> <p>A formal decision is expected from Wiltshire Council regarding the amended planning application at Cliffend. It is believed that issues highlighted by the parish council and villagers have been addressed and that the application is likely to be approved.</p> <p>School:</p> <p>NT confirmed that the sale of the school property had completed. The new owners are the Outcomes First Group. There is currently no further information but we will keep you updated with any progress.</p>	



Cllr Fred Piner

CATG: Should hear more tomorrow night at the area board meeting. Some issues have been experienced with communication; this is considered due to a changeover of staff with WC. We are now in possession of an email address for Graeme Morrison, who is the new Strategic Engagement and Partnerships Manager.

Dog Fouling:

As already discussed, posters will be going up warning residents of the fines involved.

Cllr James Kelly (report issued in advance of the meeting)

I have constructed one owl box and hope to complete a second by the end of the month. On consultation with an owl sanctuary, we have until November to get them placed. I've identified two locations in the wood to site them

After recent observations regarding Brambles in my report – the councillors decided it would be beneficial to have a face-to-face meeting to discuss factors that are concerning residents next to Brambles.

Cllr Darrell Amison

Attached to the Minutes is a Wessex Rivers Trust update on the Figheldean River Avon Project - now referred to as the 'Wild Figheldean Project'. The second document is an associated water vole and otter survey report - both species are protected.

The Environment Agency has a further 5 weeks to consider the flood and risk activity permit application. Pending a decision to fund the project, it remains the intention to start work in Autumn 2023. The project, if implemented as envisaged, will provide long-term habitat improvements and, it is hoped, further mitigate anti-social behaviour linked to the attraction of the deep Mill Pool. Further updates will follow in the coming months.

The Wild Figheldean Project and Figheldean Water Vole Otter Survey 2022 can be found by using the link also where you can find details on the Wild Figheldean Project

<https://www.figheldean.org/2022/09/26/project-update-september-2022>

9

Clerk Report: Finance report up to 21st September 2022

Expenditure since last meeting to 21st September 2022

Dog Bins	525.00
Grass Cutting	765.06
Magazine	689.66
Parish Clerk	1,466.00
Village Hall Bins	221.47
Bank Charges	26.00
Maintenance	386.39
Miscellaneous	113.00
Grand Total	4,192.58



	Current Bank Balance: £18,849.68 All expenditure approved by Parish Councillors	
10	Other Parish Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase of Flag for Church • Clear back overhanging branches on footpath between Oak Lane and Avon Banks 	SB FP
11	Date of Next Meeting Wednesday 23 rd November at 7.30pm, the Village Hall, Figheldean.	

Signed Date