



Figheldean Parish Council

(Draft until signed at next meeting)

Minutes of meeting 13th February 2023 at Village Hall @7.30 pm

Present

Cllr Tina Cole Acting Chairman
Cllr Darrell Amison
Cllr Nick Tissot
Cllr Tina Cole
Cllr James Kelly
Cllr Rachel Ure
Cllr Ian Blair- Pilling (WC)
Sandra Burch Clerk

Questions from the public

None.

Councillor Jon Menzies: As a mark of respect, our Acting Chair, Cllr Tina Cole, said a few words on the passing of Cllr Joh Menzies. A full tribute is provided for within the Chairperson's report.

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	ACTION
1	Apologies None.	
2	Declaration of Interests None reported.	
3	Minutes of the meeting: 23 November 2022 These were agreed as a true reflection and signed by the Chairman.	
4	Matters arising / Outstanding Actions All outstanding actions covered under Item: 8 Councillors Reports.	
5	Wiltshire Councillor Report – Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling Parish Boundaries As previously referenced, consultations are taking place with all concerned, following the recommendation put forward that Cliff End and Figheldean New Buildings should remain within the FP boundary. If accepted, this will come into effect at the next general election in 2025. These changes will mean that Netheravon Camp and Quarters will be part of Netheravon Parish; agreed as a logical step by all councillors.	



A345 (Netheravon Village only) - Speed Limit Review to reduce the speed limit down from 50 mph to 40 mph

Background

The history of this request goes back to when I was chair of the Netheravon Parish Council, the speed limit of 50 mph was set by Highways precise criteria, therefore, to change the speed limit would mean that Highways would have to make an exception to their rule book, and which could open the flood gates for other Parishes.

Major changes to highway rules must be sponsored by a senior cabinet member. The Highways are willing to trial this as a test case, but it would still need to be approved by all parties including the police; therefore, there is no guarantee that at the end of the year trial run, it will be approved. Netheravon will deploy SID's, and speed watch task force made up of local volunteers to curtail speeders. This task force could be make-up from follow parish members and be implemented along the A345 to Enford

I must stress that this is not a given at any point. In April/May we enter in to consultations with all parties, all speed signage needs to be changed, traffic speed checker (two counters spread across the roads that records speed from one counter to another). These will have to be completed at one, two, three, six months intervals. Netheravon will have to secure local police support and at the end of the year, the Highways and the cabinet will review information and may still say 'NO'.

Whilst this is progressing, there is nothing stopping Figheldean pushing forward a case to Highways to review, expressing our concerns due to our **only** bus stop being on the A345, and the speed of its traffic. The LHFIG have replied to Figheldean Parish Speed Limit requests (A345 and village), and they have given the green light to proceed with a 20-mph assessment within the village, although Figheldean do match the set criteria for a speed change on the A345, due to lack of homes on the main road.

Action: Councillors draft a reply to the LHFIG email address, expressing the need for: a site survey of the A345 covering lack of streetlight, road markings, crossing and other observations.

ALL



6	<p>(Acting) Chairman’s Report - Cllr Tina Cole</p> <p>It is with deep sadness that we acknowledge the passing of our friend and colleague Cllr John Menzies who presided as Chair of our Parish Council from approximately 2008 until November 27th last year. Our sincere condolences go out to his wife Marian and all their family. He is greatly missed both by this council and around the village. RIP John.</p> <p>Firstly, a very well done to Cllr Nick Tissot for his organisation of the Village Meeting last month with the Outcomes First Group. It was well-attended and after a show of hands, an overwhelming majority were happy for the school to go ahead, subject to planning permission. We are to understand that asbestos on site will delay the demolition of the outbuildings with the planned opening and first intake of students now January 2024. Nick will continue to oversee the project for us.</p> <p>With the new school imminent, we are hopeful this will add weight to our request for a reduction in road speed, both in the village and along the A303 near the Figheldean turning. We look forward to the continued support from Wilts Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling and for the matter to be considered and implemented by traffic authorities as soon as possible. We understand there is a trial-taking place at Netheravon for speed reduction, but their criteria differ from ours. We will continue to raise this matter with Wiltshire Council.</p> <p>A warm welcome is extended to Cllr Rachel Ure who joins us and now takes on the responsibility for Media and Communications. We look forward to the experience of Media and Communication that Rachel brings to the Parish Council in her new role.</p> <p>Netheravon Wanderers Football Club are now the resident football club at Figheldean Playing Field for the remainder of the Andover and District Sunday League season 2022-23. In addition, cup round matches. They have agreed to our reduced cost of £12 per match played, payable at the end of each calendar month; training sessions will not take place on our field. NOTE: We will need to keep on top of the grass cutting for the pitch - first cut anticipated around April?</p> <p>Graham Watson has done a great job completing the clean-up of the path surrounding the village hall, which had a build-up of slippery moss, along with the bench seat adjacent to the multi court. He and Tom Watson also repainted the hopscotch slabs in the playground area and replaced bolts on the swings as depicted in our maintenance survey. We still need to look at updating the playground, and the framed hard rubber swing seats for younger children need replacing.</p> <p><u>Ablington Woods:</u> Our three-year tree survey is due this year. Keith Yates has completed this for us in previous years.</p> <p><u>Request from Parishioner:</u> Some pavement parking is taking place along Avon Banks near the school. The complaint states the need for a pushchair having to be pushed out into the road on more than one occasion, to pass the cars. It is to be noted that Vehicles parking on pavements are required to park, leaving enough room for all pavement users.</p>	
7	<p>Other Organisation Reports</p> <p>None received.</p>	



<p>8</p>	<p>Councillor Reports</p> <p>Clr Nick Tissot</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sale of the School: As advised in an email from Cllr Tissot, comments in relation to the sale of the school, as outlined on the planning website, are to be included within the minutes. The Notes will be displayed in the Parish Magazine. • Netheravon Camp: No comments have been put forward in relation to the putting in place of planned temporary catering facility on MOD land. This does not represent and issue or a concern. • Planting of new trees: No further update to report. Further meetings with Keith Yates are to be scheduled, upon the mutual availability of Cllr Tissot and Cllr Cole. • A345 speed Limit: The Parish, as a collective, should rationally push hard in its attempt to reduce the A345 speed limits to 30 mph. It must be considered that the 40-mph speed limit may be the best outcome for the village, fixed on the current and required criteria. <p>Clr Darrell Amison</p> <p>Figheledean Avon River Project: the Parish Council continues to wait for a funding decision from the Environment Agency. The project has been provisionally costed at circa £173,000 and, assuming it goes ahead, will take approximately 6-weeks to complete. Due to the number of water voles along the river bank the cost could increase by up to £60,000 due to the need to transplant these endangered and therefore protected mammals. A pre-project water vole survey will determine whether or not transplantation is required. It is possible the project will be partially rather than fully funded. If this is the case, the project scope will be reviewed and prioritised in conjunction with stakeholders.</p> <p>Wiltshire Community Policing: Following a meeting on Tue 7 Feb, The Parish Council has re-established links with Wiltshire Police through PC Juliet Cox and our new community policing officer, PCSO Levi Murphy. Further policing updates will follow in the coming weeks and months.</p> <p>Clr James Kelly As discussed, and agreed with Councillors, a parish member with restricted ability, has been offered the responsibility of emptying its bins. After consulting with two concerned parishioners, it was mutually agreed that the new person would take on the responsibility of five bins, but on a trial basis only. Full PPE is to be provided. Councillors gave thanks to Cllr Kelly for initiating this.</p> <p>Action As part of Cllr James Kelly’s new responsibilities, negotiations are to be held and contracts put in place in relation to: Grass cutting and repairs to the playground and multicourt.</p> <p>Clr Rachel Ure A warm welcome was offered to Cllr Rachel Ure. Upon the proposal that Cllr Ure takes on responsibility of the Parish Website; Cllr Ure accepted, in light of proven experience and expertise in Communications and Operations.</p>	<p>JK</p> <p>SB</p> <p>RU</p>
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	<p>Action: The Parish Clerk to arrange a handover with all parties concerned.</p> <p>Members reviewed and discussed the ‘table of responsibilities’ (see attached updated version).</p> <p>Proposal: New Councillor (Highways and Transport) Due to a requirement for a Councillor to attend meetings of the LHFIG, which are scheduled during work day business hours, it has been agreed that a new position is advertised to recruit a Councillor who has an interest in Highways and Transport, and who has the flexibility and time to support this initiative.</p> <p>Action: Cllr Ure to draft a job advert for approval.</p>																			
9	<p>Clerks Report</p> <p>Expenditure since last meeting – all approved</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 80%;"></th> <th style="text-align: right; width: 20%;">£</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Dog and waste bins</td> <td style="text-align: right;">400.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grass Cutting</td> <td style="text-align: right;">850.09</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Magazine Costs</td> <td style="text-align: right;">342.66</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Waste Bins at VH</td> <td style="text-align: right;">102.36</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bank Charges</td> <td style="text-align: right;">16.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Maintenance -Bin, Backboards and Risk Assessment Playground</td> <td style="text-align: right;">537.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Miscellaneous - ink cartridge, flowers and wreath</td> <td style="text-align: right;">161.64</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Website</td> <td style="text-align: right;">49.17</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Current Bank Balance: £11,854.01</p> <p>Resolution: On agreement of the ‘Air Ambulance’ clothes bin to be repositioned to sit alongside red waste bins as agreed with VH</p>		£	Dog and waste bins	400.00	Grass Cutting	850.09	Magazine Costs	342.66	Waste Bins at VH	102.36	Bank Charges	16.00	Maintenance -Bin, Backboards and Risk Assessment Playground	537.20	Miscellaneous - ink cartridge, flowers and wreath	161.64	Website	49.17	
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10	<p>Other Parish Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant requested for the ‘Figgle Fest’. • King’s Coronation in early May will be a low-key event; clerk suggested a joint venue with Village Hall, Club and Committee. <p>Action - Clerk to update budget for next year to establish affordability.</p>	SB																		
11	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>Monday 24th April 2023 AGM Monday 22nd May 2023</p>																			



Signed Date