

# RAMSBURY & AXFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council Alice Charlwood c/o Council Office, Memorial Hall, High Street, Ramsbury, Wilts SN8 2PB  
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## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7.45pm in the Memorial Hall

**1821**

### Present:

S Glass – Chair (SG)	B Murray (BM)
D Barnett - Vice Chair (DB)	H Lloyd (HL)
D Edwards (DE)	E Hodgson (EH)
A Foale (AF)	M Tester (MT)
R Greasley (RG)	D Gill (DG)
G Hawes (GH)	A Charlwood (AC) – Clerk

**Five members of the public were also present**

- 1. APOLOGIES** – were received from Lynn Jauncey, Chris Morgan, Maggie Waugh, and Ron Young -  
**Approved**
- 2. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST** - None
- 3. THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**  
A member of the public pointed out an error on page 1816 under the heading Horses On Springs Hill (where the words “common land” should have said “open access”). With that correction, the minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2023 were approved and signed as a true record.  
**Proposed RG; Seconded EH. Approved.**
- 4. MATTERS ARISING** – not included in the Agenda
  - (i) Tree warden scheme** – SG asked if anyone was interested in volunteering for this project but no-one came forward.
  - (ii) Overgrown trees** - SG reported that the overgrown walnut tree on Crowood Lane which had been reported by a resident had been trimmed by Wilts CC.  
DG asked if the three whitebeam trees at the far end of Ashley Piece could also be trimmed by the council because they are now very large and shedding their leaves which are blocking all the drains. SG said she would contact Wilts CC about trying to get the size of their canopies reduced too, but success would depend on whether the trees stand on council land. DG said she thought they did.  
**ACTION - SG**

## 5. NEW CORRESPONDENCE – Items for discussion\*

Ref. No	Date Received	August-Sept 2023 Correspondence	Subject Highlighted for Discussion
A7443	15 August	Resident	Rocks on roadside on Union Street. See Item 6(iii)
A7445	16 August	Anna Forbes, ARK	Need to get a tree surgeon to remove unsafe ash tree by the footbridge. SG has approached three contractors for quotes to do this work and is awaiting their response.
A7447	16 August	Tony Evans, Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust	Re. the Bobby Van free service to people with a registered disability. Fwd to Cllrs. It was agreed that the Bobby Van notices should be posted on the parish noticeboards, on the website and in Whitton Ways. ACTION:SG
A7451	20 August	Resident	Blocked drains on Chapel Lane. These have been cleared.
A7452	21 August	Resident	Thank you for clearing out the Axford bus shelter and phone box. For information.
A7453	21 August	Resident	Suspected abandoned vehicle near the junction of Chapel Lane and Oxford Street. Wilts CC appear to have closed this case, presumably because the vehicle is taxed and insured till January, so there is nothing more the PC can do.
A7454	21 August	Wilts CC	16 in-person consultation events + online event commencing 27 Sept. re. the Wiltshire Local Plan. Fwd. to Planning Committee. A public consultation is to be held at Marlborough Library on 9 <sup>th</sup> October which is open to all.
A7456	22 August	Wilts CC Leisure, Culture & Communities	Notes of Town & Parish Clerks' meeting held on 18 <sup>th</sup> August. Fwd. to Cllrs. For information.
A7458	22 August	Wilts Police & Crime Commissioner	Launch of a Rural Crime Survey. See item 19.
A7463	25 August	Resident	Suspected abandoned vehicle near the junction of Chapel Lane and Oxford Street. As A7453 above.
A7465	30 August	Isles Court Warden	Request to drop kerbs on Isles Road. After discussion it was agreed that the PC should second this application. ACTION:SG.
A7473	05 Sept	Smart Wheelie Bins	Speed awareness stickers for wheelie bins. There was a discussion about whether more of these adhesive roundels would be wanted. SG was asked to look into the likely cost, and whether we could arrange to split the cost of a batch of 100 (apparently the minimum order) with a neighbouring parish council. ACTION:SG

## 1823

A7474	06 Sept	Resident	Need to clear the Scholards Lane footpath of foliage and brambles to avoid pedestrians being forced on to the road. Fwd. to Cllrs. SG has written to the landowners of the overgrown hedges asking that they cut them back.
A7476	07 Sept	Prospect Hospice Community Fundraiser	Christmas tree collection scheme. Fwd. to Cllrs. As the PC owns an area of land beside the surgery with easy access and parking, SG has suggested that this be made available for this scheme and Prospect were pleased to accept this proposal. They will let us have more details nearer the time.
A7477	08 Sept	Wilts & Swindon Preparedness	Community Resilience – information which may be of use. Fwd. to Emergency Committee. See Item 6(v).

\*The full list of incoming correspondence from 15<sup>th</sup> August – 8<sup>th</sup> September can be viewed on the parish council website

### 6. Committee Reports:

#### 6 (i) Planning

*Diann Barnett*

### PLANNING REPORT RAMSBURY AND AXFORD PARISH COUNCIL - September 2023

#### Planning Applications Processed since August 2023 Report

##### New applications-

- |                 |                         |   |
|-----------------|-------------------------|---|
| • PL/2023/07407 | 1 The Square, Ramsbury  | Change of use bowls green-garden + summerhouse      |
| • PL/2023/07436 | Meadow Fm Stud SN8 2PP  | Varying of conditions.                              |
| • PL/2023/07250 | Newtown Lodge, Newtown  | Treework  |
| • PL/2023/07297 | Hop House, Tankard Lane | Resubmission of 18/00532/FUL                        |
| • PL/2023/07437 | Land south of Back Lane | Single storey eco house, access, boundary wall work |

##### Still awaiting –

- |                 |                                   |   |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| • PL/2022/05380 | Ramsbury Manor SN8 2RG            | Exhibition centre, estate yard and car park                                   |
| • PL/2022/04972 | Ramsbury Manor SN8 2RG            | Exhibition centre, estate yard and car park N/O                               |
| • PL/2022/08705 | Coombe Farm, Axford               | New house, dwelling, Est yard and ancillary. N/O                              |
| • PL/2023/04271 | Ramsbury Methodist Chapel SN8 2PG | Amendments to change of use – commented on privacy boundary windows. CONCERNS |
| • PL/2023/05245 | Crown and Anchor                  | Chalet bungalow, drive, parking, garden. OBJ                                  |
| • PL/2023/05510 | 1 The Square, Ramsbury            | Erect summer house in garden. N/O   |
| • PL/2023/05852 | 3 Maslin Close, Back Lane         | Roof conversion with dormer. OBJ  |
| • PL/2023/05902 | Snellswood Dairy, Whittonditch    | Build farmhouse for agricultural workers N/O                                  |
| • PL/2023/06108 | Land NE Lamplands                 | Siting of mobile home OBJ   |
| • PL/2023/06141 | Peach Tree Cott, Lamplands        | Conversion of garage and link extension N/O                                   |
| • PL/2023/06332 | 14/15 Union St                    | Side and rear ext., 3 dormer windows  |

## Decisions-

- PL/2022/07930 House Farm, Axford Demolish barn and erect agriculture stores APP
- PL/2023/05532 46, Whittonditch Road Conversion of 6 bed house to 2 & 4 bed houses. APP
  
- A-7081 Red Lion, Axford Planning contravention notice served.

DB reported that there had been two changes since she prepared this report, as follows:

- Ramsbury Manor – APPROVED
- Ramsbury Methodist Chapel – APPROVED subject to some conditions.

### **6(ii) Finance**

*Erica Hodgson*

- Public loo – see item 16.
- The Finance Committee will hold its first 2024/25 budget meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> October.
- EH reported that her approach to Barclays Bank about opening a new account with them is looking problematic as they estimate it will take six months to get it opened and it will attract bank charges. She is therefore researching other options. **ACTION - EH**

### **6(iii) Rights of Way**

*Lynn Jauncey*

LJ was not at the meeting but had submitted the following report :

- Horses on Springs Hill – is an ongoing issue as we have had more local people reporting they have been chased by horses. I've sent the WCC RoW officer an email asking for advice. I'd also like them to provide a more robust warning notice that we can put up every year. I will also be calling the landowner to see if an electric fence can be put up to keep them in one area of the field. **ACTION - LJ**
- The rocks on the highway in Union Street have been removed.
- At the next RoW Committee meeting I'd like to discuss reinstating a monthly local walk in our parish. **ACTION - LJ**

### **6(iv) Play Areas and Seats**

*Denise Edwards*

- DE has not yet heard from the RoSPA inspector about arranging a site meeting and had nothing new to report.

### **6(v) Emergency Committee**

*Alison Foale*

- SG and AF learnt a lot at the Wiltshire council event they attended on 31<sup>st</sup> August about community resilience to emergencies and found it very useful and interesting. It made them realise that our Emergency Plan is fairly robust but it needs some updating, and more attention needs to be paid to how well the community would recover in the aftermath of an emergency. They also realised that the more people the Committee could call on to assist in the event of an emergency the better and proposed that all the parish councillors should be coopted on to the Committee if a crisis should ever arise. This was agreed. SG has written as piece on this for Whitton Ways.
- AF also reported on a trial that had been conducted in Chippenham on creating "Community Hubs". As this had had good results Wiltshire intend to roll out the scheme and AF confirmed that Ramsbury Memorial Hall and Axford Village Hall would be our designated Community Hubs, generators having been installed in both for precisely that purpose.

## 1825

- MT spoke of the need to keep the Street Wardens engaged and it was agreed that a get-together with them should be arranged (hopefully in October) to update them and discuss the way forward. **ACTION - AF**
- Concerns were expressed by several councillors about future electrical outages and people being uncontactable after BT disconnect existing landlines in December 2025. From then on “Voice Over Internet Protocol” (VOIP) - using a broadband internet connection - will be the only way to make calls and won’t work at all if there should be a power cut for any extended period of time. SG and AF mentioned that SSE already have some contingency plans in place for protecting the elderly and vulnerable in such a scenario and will be offering free battery packs to the over-65s and other people who would qualify for their Priority Services. MT suggested that it would be a good idea to include the procedure for acquiring those battery packs in our village Welcome Packs, as well as the SSE leaflets about how to register for their Priority Services. It was agreed that this should be done once the database slips have been updated. **ACTION - SG**
- AF will convene a meeting of the Emergency Committee in October. **ACTION - AF**

### 6(vi) Green Committee

*Maggie Waugh*

- DG reported that the Green Committee had met earlier in the day and had prepared a draft document setting out their vision, policy and approach to environmental matters. It was agreed that this draft should be circulated to the councillors before the next meeting in case they had any comments or ideas that might be incorporated into the final version.
- BM discussed the options for how this policy document and, later on, further information about relevant matters of environmental concern, might be posted on the website. In time we might also get input from residents for these tabs.
- The Committee would prefer to be known as the Environment Committee rather than the Green Committee from now on.
- As MW was not at the meeting there was no update on whether she had been in touch with the organisers of the Great Bedwyn green open homes event.
- In answer to a question about what the Committee are hoping to achieve initially, DG explained that they are trying to explore how the village feels about a campaign to make the village single-use-plastic-free by 2025. They recognise that, to succeed, they will need to bring the village with them in this endeavour and are continuing to work on it.

### **Public Forum -Parish Council Standing Orders were temporarily suspended for this item**

Five members of the public attended the meeting to discuss ways of addressing the concerns reported to the PC in recent months about the horses on the open access land on Springs Hill. It was recognised that many people evidently walk across the field with no problem whatsoever and no complaints about the horses were received in 2022 so it is difficult to know why the problem seems to have arisen since May this year; perhaps some people are feeding them and this is having the unwanted consequence of the animals starting to pester walkers crossing the field, or it may be that the horses are being made jittery by dogs that are not on leads (as, in fact, they should be on any land where livestock are grazing.)

SG reminded the meeting that the PC had done their best to make walkers aware of the horses and the need to keep dogs on leads but the signs they put up to this effect had been torn down within 24 hours of putting them up and now they are at a loss to know what more they could do. The point was made that the responsibility for resolving the problem really rested with the owner of the land and the animals, and they proposed that the best compromise solution would be for them to erect an electric fence to divide the field in two without crossing the Right of Way, and swapping the side occupied by the horses from time to time during the spring and summer months when they are grazing on the hill. This was agreed. The landowner mentioned that the horses will not be on the hill from October to March.

**7. AXFORD***Diann Barnett*

DB reported that letters from SSE had been delivered around the village about a planned electricity outage from 8.30-4.30 on 29<sup>th</sup> September. It was noted that residents who have completed an SSE priority request form will be helped by them if necessary.

**8. LOCAL HIGHWAYS & FOOTWAYS IMPROVEMENT GROUP***Sheila Glass*

The next meeting will be held on 19<sup>th</sup> October.

**9. MARLBOROUGH AREA BOARD***Sheila Glass*

The next meeting will be held on 10<sup>th</sup> October.

**10. ALLOTMENTS***Denise Edwards*

DE reported that they are planning another delivery of compost at the end of September.

**11. WEBSITE**

DE will be in touch with the Environment Committee about how their policy document and other material gets posted on the website.

**ACTION – DE/BM****12. VILLAGE MAINTENANCE**

**(i) Rocks on the highway in Union Street** – Have been removed.

**(ii) Blocked gullies** – Have been cleared at the bottom of Hilldrop Lane, Whittonditch Road and Chapel Lane. Residents are asked to contact the Parish Council if they are aware of blocked gullies.

**(iii) White gates on Newtown Road** – SG has been informed that Idverde do not carry out this sort of work any longer, but she will take up the matter with her contact in the company to see if they can be persuaded to do this for us. A decision has yet to be made about whether to place an order for a second white gate (to make up a pair with the one that was left unused at Whittonditch.)

**ACTION - SG**

**(iv) SIDs** – There is a fault in the SID in Axford which may require a call-out. If this proves to be the case SG will contact the Minal PC to see if its possible to liaise with them and share the call-out charge for the repairs needed to our respective SIDs.

**ACTION - SG**

MT raised a question about whether police funding might be available towards the cost of upgrading our SIDs to enable them to record data that could be passed on to Wiltshire Police, particularly in the light of their apparent finding that the use of SIDs to slow drivers had reduced the number of deaths and serious injuries from 233 to 112 last year.

Some uncertainty was expressed about whether this benefit resulted from data collection or the SIDs themselves slowing down drivers.–SG thought it unlikely that funding would be forthcoming for upgrading the SIDs that we already have but she will look into it.

**ACTION - SG**

**(v) Christmas tree and Christmas lights** - SG is still waiting to hear back from Alistair Ewing at Ramsbury Estates about laying a wire under the road in the Square to power uplighters on the tree as well as having one 10-12' tree with fairy lights alongside it, supported by the post that has already been installed on a corner of the Square.

**ACTION - SG**

LJ had discovered that her suggestion of trying to use domestic solar power for lighting the trees this year was unlikely to be adequate as The Square is too over-shadowed during the winter when the sun is low.

**(vi) Retiring Post Mistress** – SG has heard from Elaine that one of the people who had expressed interest in taking over this role is currently in touch with the Post Office. It may take as long as three months to complete the necessary handover.

(vii) **Closure of local pubs** – Both the Crown and Anchor and The Pelican will be closing in the coming months.

**13. MEMORIAL GARDEN**

SG has been in touch with a contractor about getting a quote for building a new gate. One or two other names were suggested as possible contacts for getting this job done.

**ACTION - SG**

**14. PARISH STEWARD'S ROTA**

Next visit will be on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September.

SG expressed frustration that some of the jobs were not carried out at their last visit, and we do not know why. The Clerk was asked to write to request that Northern Highways give us feedback in future about the reason why some tasks are not carried out, should this happen again in future.

**ACTION - CLERK**

**15. LIBRARY**

Nothing to report.

**16. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES**

RG reported that good progress is being made and the next big step will be when the contractor takes delivery of the doors and windows so they can finish the building internally. RG is working through the contract prior to firming up the figures in order to formalise the contract.

Carty's have asked that we choose some tiles and SG and RG will liaise about this.

**ACTION – SG/RG**

**17. MEMORIAL HALL**

*Sheila Glass/George Hawes*

The planned refurbishment of the kitchen will go ahead soon, and new wall cupboards will be fitted in order to free up the cupboard to make it a store for cleaning materials.

The Roxy is requesting some improvement to the blinds covering the large semi-circular window in the end wall so they exclude light more efficiently. Talks are also underway about a possible permanent location for their projector.

**18. NATURE RESERVE**

*Chris Morgan*

No report.

**19. POLICE SURGERY**

SG reported on a rather ill-planned police surgery in the Lychgate Room on the afternoon of 7<sup>th</sup> Sept. It had been arranged by the Police Community Support Officer for 6<sup>th</sup> September with far too little prior notice to enable us to publicise it properly, then cancelled because of illness at four hours notice and subsequently reinstated on 7<sup>th</sup> September at two hours notice. On the day there was not even an A-board outside so, unsurprisingly, no-one turned up.

The Clerk was asked to write to them and ask that they give us at least a month's prior notice of their next visit so that we can make residents aware of it.

**ACTION - CLERK**

**20. RECREATION CENTRE**

*George Hawes*

The AGM will be held at 8pm on 19<sup>th</sup> September and has been advertised.

## 21. RAMSBURY SCHOOL

*Roger Greasley*

RG reported that the autumn term started on 4<sup>th</sup> September. Half-term holidays will run from 19<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> October and term will end on 21<sup>st</sup> December. The school roll stands at 194 with the lower school being completely full, and a few places being available in upper school.

In response to some enquiries from teachers and parents about whether the school contained any RAAC RG has learnt that it does not, and apparently nor do any schools in Wiltshire.

## 22. VANDALISM

Whilst not exactly vandalism, SG has learnt of the theft of almost the entire crop of apples from the trees in the garden of Ramsbury Hill, which had been promised to Prospect Hospice to use to produce the apple juice that they sell. If anyone has any information about this incident, please contact the Parish Council or phone 101.

DE expressed annoyance at the pile of horse droppings that had been left on the pavement near the British Legion. It was felt that whilst this may have been unavoidable at the time it happened (and it was clearly impractical for the rider to dismount and deal with it just then), it was not unreasonable to expect that the rider should have returned later to remove the droppings from the pavement – just as we expect owners to do with dog mess. After discussion it was agreed that there was no expectation for riders to pick up horse droppings off the roadway, as these get dispersed quickly by passing vehicles and are therefore less offensive, but the council would request that the rider go back afterwards and clear up any mess accidentally left on a pavement as quickly as possible.

## 23. PATIENTS' REP

*George Hawes*

GH reported that vaccination clinics will be held at the surgery on 24<sup>th</sup> September and 14<sup>th</sup> October for both Covid and flu vaccinations.



## 24. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT IN SEPTEMBER

Invoice No	Payments to Suppliers – September 2023	Amount	Net	VAT	Paid By	S137
I3898	HMRC – Clerk’s income tax deductions. Paid in July	373.50	373.50	0.00	DD	No
I3899	B&Q – Rosemary plants for Memorial Garden. Paid in August	20.00	20.00	0.00	VisaDebit	No
I3900	HP Instant Ink – 28 <sup>th</sup> July to 27 <sup>th</sup> August. Paid in Aug.	9.99	8.32	1.67	VisaDebit	No
I3901	Coral Westall – office cleaning July – Sept	34.00	34.00	0.00	BACS	No
I3902	Coral Westall – public loo cleaning in September	180.00	180.00	0.00	BACS	No
I3903	Swindon Memorials – WWII inscription added	396.00	330.00	66.00	BACS	No
I3904	M J Baker Accountancy – payroll processing in Aug.	11.25	11.25	0.00	DD	No
I3905	HP Instant Ink – 28 <sup>th</sup> August to 27 <sup>th</sup> Sept	9.99	8.32	1.67	VisaDebit	No
I3906	Alice Charlwood – Aug 2022 to July 2023 mileage. Paid in August	45.00	45.00	0.00	BACS	No
	<b>TOTAL OUTGOINGS excluding Clerk’s salary (Ref. I3907)</b>	<b>£1,079.73</b>	<b>£1,010.39</b>	<b>£69.34</b>		
	<b>TOTAL AMOUNT ON DEPOSIT*</b>	<b>£121,265.73</b>				
	<b>*incl. gross interest earned to 18<sup>th</sup> Sept 2023</b>	<b>£1,265.73</b>				
	<b>MONIES RECEIVED</b>	<b>0.00</b>				
	<b>Current A/c balance at 31<sup>st</sup> Aug 2023 – £1,714.71</b>					

\*This includes monies held in reserve for parish initiatives such as the Ramsbury Flyer, defibrillators, provision of play equipment, pavement and road repairs, refurbishment of the former public loos, etc.

The Accounts were accepted and were unanimously approved.

Prop. HL; Sec. DE

**DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING - MONDAY 16<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER at 7.45pm  
at Ramsbury Memorial Hall**

**ALL ARE WELCOME**