

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 16th Sept. at 7.45pm in Ramsbury Memorial Hall

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Present:

S Glass – Chair (SG)

D Barnett – Vice Chair (DB)

D Gill (DG)

M Waugh (MW)

M Tester (MT)

G Hawes (GH)

D Edwards (DE)

E Hodgson (EH)

A Charlwood (AC) – Clerk

- 1. APOLOGIES** – were received from Helen Lloyd, Roger Greasley, Lynn Jauncey, Chris Morgan, and Alison Foale. Bernard Murray also did not attend. **Approved**
- 2. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST** – None.
- 3. THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**
The minutes of the meeting held on 19th August were approved and signed as a true record. **Proposed EH; Seconded DE. Approved.**
- 4. MATTERS ARISING** - None
- 5. NEW CORRESPONDENCE** – Items for discussion*

Ref. No	Date Received	August-Sept. 2024 Correspondence	Subject *Highlighted for Discussion
*A7876	09 Aug	Jennie Shaw, Wilts Bobby Van Trust	Appeal for financial help with over-60s Stay Safe Online initiative. SG summarised the WBVT's activities and there was a discussion about how their project to extend and develop what they are already doing might help our residents avoid becoming victims of cyber crime and/or improve their home security. SG was asked to write to ask for further information. DE suggested the Bobby Van might like to visit the village on the morning of 12th Oct. for the Horticultural Society Autumn Show.

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*A7877	12 Aug	Stephen Leonard, Wilts C. C. Country-side Access Office	Monitor bike and horse riders abusing RAMS4 footpath. Fwd to Rights of Way C. Article in WW requested info about anyone experiencing problems. No more problems reported so no further action to be taken at this time.
*A7880	14 Aug	Melissa Camilleri PCSO	Response to PC's query re. suggestion that Ramsbury might have a village traffic warden. Fwd to Cllrs. SG had queried this with Northern Highways and been informed that only 22 traffic wardens are employed to cover the whole of Wiltshire so they have to focus on the big towns and cannot cover little villages.
*A7889	19 Aug	Resident (via PC Facebook page)	Complaint about enormous lorries on Back Lane using Knowledge Crescent to turn around in order to access the walled garden building site. No more complaints have come in about this. The problem seems to have resolved itself since the excavation work has been completed.
*A7890	19 Aug	Alistair Ewing, Ramsbury Estates Ltd	Organising Christmas trees. AE confirmed that Ramsbury Estates will do this.
*A7895	22 Aug	Resident (ii)	Tree surgeons work to remove fallen trees at Mill Lane to commence on 29 th Aug. Fwd. to Cllrs. SG confirmed the fallen tree across the river has been removed and that Openreach will be coming to mend the BT wiring tomorrow. Once completed, SG will contact the tree surgeon again about the removal of the dead tree beside the bridge.
*A7902	28 Aug	Resident	Noisy and antisocial activity late at night at Ashley Piece play area. Fwd. to Play Areas C. See item 6(iv).
*A7905	30 Aug	Resident	Noisy and antisocial behaviour late at night at Ashley Piece park. See item 6(iv)
*A7906	30 Aug	Andrew Jack, Wilts CC Leisure, Culture & Communities	Invitation to Cllr. Richard Clewer's "Ask the Leader" event on 17 th Sept. Fwd. to Cllrs. SG cannot go but invited other councillors to attend.
*A7907	30 Aug	Sally Madgwick, Wilts CC Definitive Map & Highways Records Manager	Application to upgrade paths RAMS9A and RAMS9B to restricted byways. Fwd. to RoW Committee. See item 6(iii)
*A7908	30 Aug	Nikki Morgans, Forestry England	Work on thinning trees restarting on 3 rd Sept in Savernake Forest. Fwd. to Cllrs. For info.
*A7909	01 Sept	Resident	Clearing drains and re-whitening lines at bottom of Loves Lane. SG has replied and confirmed that the two blocked drains are clear, and the white lines will be redone when the Highways Dept. can next reschedule the work.

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*A7912	03 Sept	Debbie Cloke, SSEN	Invitation to a review webinar on 3 rd Oct. re. their Consumer Vulnerability Strategy. Fwd. to Emergency Committee. SG will try to attend. In answer to a question from MT about how the database was progressing, DB said that some wardens' areas seemed to be well-covered whilst others were less so. Further details will be furnished at the Emergency Wardens' meeting to be held on 23rd Sept.
*A7916	03 Sept	Resident	Need to repair BT line on Mill Lane. See item 6(iii). SG has let them know that BT will be carrying out the necessary repairs on 17/09.
*A7921	06 Sept	Steve Hind, Wilts CC Principal Engineer	PC's contribution to cost of Isles Court dropped kerbs. See item 6(ii)
*A7922	06 Sept	Resident (iii)	Confirming the fallen tree across the river has been removed. See item 6(iii)
*A7923	06 Sept	Resident	Concern about High Street pavement repairs and other issues. SG has replied.
*A7924	07 Sept	Melissa Camilleri, PCSO	Date of next village consultation. See item 18.
*A7925	08 Sept	Resident	Pavement work on Whittonditch Road. SG has replied with advice to follow up an earlier planning application with Wilts CC.

*The full list of incoming correspondence from 9th August – 9th Sept can be viewed on the parish council website

SG also sought councillors' views about how she should respond to a survey being conducted by the Independent Remuneration Panel (received on 16th September) on the subject of town and parish councillors being paid allowances. This was discussed and it was unanimously agreed that this PC was not interested in granting allowances. SG said she would fill in the survey to convey that. **ACTION -SG**

6. Committee Reports:

6(i) Planning

Diann Barnett

PLANNING REPORT RAMSBURY AND AXFORD PARISH COUNCIL –Sept 2024

Planning Applications processed since Aug 2024 Report

New applications-

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|--|
| • PL/2024/07169 | 61 High St, Ramsbury | Treework |
| • PL/2024/07790(LB) | The Cedars, Scholars Lne | Single storey ext., pool house & boundary wall |
| • PL/2024/07662 | The Cedars | Listed building for above |
| • PL/2024/07914 | Anvil Cottage Barn | Demolish and rebuild barn to family house. |

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Still awaiting -

- PL/2024/04645 House on the Hill, Hilldrop Oak-framed garage and workshop
- PL/2024/06742 Sawyers Cottage, Axford 2 storey side and rear extension
- PL/2024/06840 4 The Paddocks, Ramsbury Single storey porch extension
- PL/2024/07169 61 High St, Ramsbury Treework in conservation area

Decisions -

- PL/2024/06429 Westfield House, Mill Lane Treework.

NB. Enforcement are looking into work at 42/44 Oxford Street.

DB said that the treework application at 61 High Street had been approved since this report. Also, a new application had been submitted for the overall reduction of a large sycamore on the boundary of 6 Union Street.

She is pursuing the planners yet again regarding what action, if any, is being taken about the enforcement notices on the Red Lion, Axford and the mobile home at Lamplands.

SG reported that she had written to the planning department for further information in connection with another Planning Application (PL/2024/05656) which is to do with “improvements” to the sewage works on the B4192, and whether or not they are environmentally impactful. They replied with details of their decision process. Some local residents have contacted the PC with their concerns that, despite the planners’ contention that the sewage works would still be fully screened from view, Thames Water’s stated intention to remove the big trees along the boundary of the sewage works with their properties (which is not mentioned in their application) would inevitably mean that the works would no longer be fully screened. The issue is ongoing but the PC is not officially involved.

6(ii) Finance

Erica Hodgson

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The Clerk reported that the external auditors had completed their work on last year’s account and signed off their report and certificate, having recently raised a further query about an omission to do with our not having restated the prior year’s accounts on a receipts and payments basis for comparative purposes (the 2022-23 accounts having been prepared on an income and expenditure basis). The PC’s internal auditor had provided a lengthy explanation of why this happened, in the changeover from one accounting basis to another, and will not happen again in future years.

The external auditors have submitted their invoice in the sum of £378.00 and SG sought councillors’ approval to settle this account along with the other payments to be made this month. **Prop. SG; Seconded DG. APPROVED.**

Update on pavement repairs

EH reported that Rockstone were hoping to have the pavement repairs completed by the end of this week, weather permitting. As the PC would like to settle their invoice fairly quickly when it comes in, she sought councillors’ approval to pay up to £39,940 (excl VAT), when the invoice is received. Funds will be available from our 32-day deposit account by 7th October. **Prop. EH; Sec. MT. APPROVED.**

SG took the opportunity to explain the new posts outside Kennet House had been installed by the pavement contractor but at the expense of the householders.

Quotes for new equipment for play areas

See item 6(iv)

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Dropped kerbs at Isles Court

SG reported that she had inadvertently underestimated the oncost of the WCC lawyers' involvement in this matter. She is now advised by LHFIG that the total is likely to be closer to £10,000 (compared with the £8,000 she'd assumed), and LHFIG have written to confirm they actually require "a total commitment of £2,500" from the PC. Cognatum have already agreed to contribute £1,000 of this and the PC Finance Committee have now agreed to cover the rest. We understand that instructions went out on 10th September for the work to go ahead.

6(iii) Rights of Way

Lynn Jauncey

LJ was not at the meeting but SG gave the following report:

- The removal of the fallen tree from the river at Mill Lane and the repairs to be made to the BT line have already been discussed. **See item 5.**
- The next monthly walk will be held on Sunday 6th October and will be led by Lynn Jauncey. A back-marker has yet to be recruited but may not be needed if the group is small. A map of the route will be posted on the website soon and details published in Whitton Ways and the diary. **ACTION – LJ /SG**
- LJ will be writing to object to the application to upgrade footpaths RAMS9A and RAMS9B (near Axford) to byways on the grounds that, whilst they might be suitable as bridleways, they are far too narrow for wheeled vehicles. **ACTION - LJ**
- SG is chasing up Wilts C RoW officer Stephen Leonard about the dilapidated condition of the Seven Bridges bridge as the need to repair it has become much more urgent. **ACTION – SG**
- SG was pleased to report that the blockage to Footpath 21 has been removed by a local landowner. However, the footpath sign has mysteriously disappeared and will need to be replaced. **ACTION – LJ/SG**

6(iv) Play Areas and Seats

Denise Edwards

New play equipment for Axford

- DE said that the installation of a new swing set in a slightly different location had been very well-received at the Axford fete last Saturday. She is awaiting a revised quote solely for the swings from the preferred contractor before that work can proceed. She anticipates the cost will be in the region of £4,000.
- Axford Village Hall will need a replacement store, as the Wendy house that is currently being used for the purpose will soon have to be removed as part of the reconfiguration of the play area. DE has sourced a suitable metal, outdoor garden store at a cost of £169.99 and she sought approval to purchase this. **Prop. DE; Seconded MW. APPROVED**
- The hedgerow behind the nest swing will have to be cut back before the works start.
- A quote for snagging works at the Axford play area has been accepted.

Whittonditch Road play area

- An amended quote (covering just tree work and the repair of the area around the base of the slide) has been requested from the contractor.
- After much upset and debate, the sofa (reported at last month's meeting) has been removed. Unfortunately there is an ongoing problem of littering however, and some local residents have expressed concern about noise and drug-taking around the play area late at night. It was agreed that SG would consult our PCSO for advice about these issues. **ACTION - SG**
- The Play Areas Committee continue to work on a vision for this site for the benefit of the village children.

RoSPA safety inspection

Is due any time now and DE will re-visit the snagging needed at Whittonditch, Knowledge Crescent and at Axford, once the RoSPA report is received. **ACTION - DE**

SG mentioned that she had reported a vehicle that appeared to have been abandoned near the surgery. There was a discussion about the number of vehicles that seem to have been there for some time and MT volunteered to monitor the situation and report back at the next meeting. **ACTION - MT**

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6(v) Emergency Committee

Alison Foale

- AF was not at the meeting but SG reported that an Emergency Wardens' meeting had been scheduled for Monday 23rd Sept and an email invitation to the wardens was about to be issued. **ACTION - SG**
- Once again, SG reported that, despite months of trying to arrange a meeting with the Ramsbury Manor Trustees to discuss how they maintain and monitor the state of the bridge over the weir, they continue to be evasive. However, she will continue to pursue the matter with them. MT said that he had been unable to find anything that related to Ramsbury Manor's present reservoir plans on the Environment Agency's website and SG was asked to write to the EA to request disclosure of any information they may hold. **ACTION - SG**

6(vi) Environment Committee

Maggie Waugh

- MW said that the feasibility study for a community orchard was still being worked on and the Environment Committee were beginning to get a better handle on all the aspects of such a project that needed consideration before embarking on any grant application. There was a discussion about possible sites for the trees and there was eventual agreement that a suggestion from SG that the parish council's own land behind the surgery might be the best of the options. The benefits of that piece of land were that the PC already owns it so there would be no dispute, nor any need to negotiate with anyone else to get the necessary permission; the land is not currently being used and there are no services underneath it; a picnic bench could also be part of the scheme and make the area more of an asset to the local residents and visitors. Work on the feasibility study will continue. **ACTION - DG**
- DG said that it would be a good idea to talk to the people involved with the Marlborough Community Orchard, and the Albourne Carbon Neutral Group who are currently promoting their Apple Day in October.

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

No members of the public were present

7. AXFORD

Diann Barnett

- DG said that the Axford fete had gone very well, the weather had been kind, and they had raised £1,200.
- Future diary dates : Harvest Supper on 29th September
Bingo night on 19th October

8. LOCAL HIGHWAYS & FOOTPATHS IMPROVEMENT GROUP

Sheila Glass

SG will attend the next meeting on 17th October.

ACTION - SG

9. MARLBOROUGH AREA BOARD

Sheila Glass

SG will try to go to the next meeting on 1st October.

ACTION - SG

10. ALLOTMENTS

Denise Edwards

DE said two new allotment plot holders had been welcomed over the weekend. Plots do remain available (in various sizes ranging from single plots measuring 1.5mx5.0m up to half plots measuring 20.0mx5.0m) for anyone living in the parish who might like to grow their own. Now is a great time to start an allotment plot and we are looking forward to autumn. Allotment Enquiries: Dee Edwards 07867 921878; allotments@ramsbury.org

The Allotment Association are organising a new load of compost (Sinclair's multi-purpose £9.50 x 75L and Bulrush peat free £5.50 x 40L). To order yours, contact candsglass@btinternet.com

11. WEBSITE

The most recent Google analytics report had been circulated and SG said there was nothing else to report.

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12. VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

- (i) **Bike racks in the car park** – SG said she had purchased two galvanised steel, wall-mounted bike racks for less than £50. Once they have been installed, she is hoping there will be enough room for another rack to go alongside them on the side wall of the charity shop.
- (ii) **Village general noticeboard** – SG and AF have checked the proposed location of the noticeboard and realised that the side wall of the post office is not ideal because too many wheelie bins are likely to get in the way. She is now hoping to find another better location for it on the other side of the entry to Carters Court and will seek the permission of the houseowner there. The likely cost of a good quality noticeboard is approx. £500. **ACTION - SG**
- (iii) **Bus stop sign on Oxford Street** - SG has written to SSE, whose operatives removed the bus stop from one of their telegraph poles and then failed to replace it.
- (iv) **Gully clearing** – The PC has been notified that another discretionary gully service visit will be happening during the week commencing 7th October. The Clerk was asked to draw up a schedule of the 5 gullies we'd like them to clean. **ACTION - CLERK**

13. MEMORIAL GARDEN

SG said the garden would be replanted in the next few weeks.

Sheila Glass

14. PARISH STEWARD'S ROTA

Next visit will be on 3rd October.

Clerk

ACTION – CLERK

15. LIBRARY

As yet no formal decision has been taken to open the library again on Thursday afternoons from 2-4pm w.e.f. October but, as several new library volunteers have been recruited recently, they are hopeful it might prove possible.

16. MEMORIAL HALL

No meeting.

Sheila Glass/George Hawes

17. NATURE RESERVE

MT commented that he thought that some areas of the Nature Reserve around the margins of the water had become so overgrown with foliage that the river was now barely visible from either of the benches. He felt that the reserve might attract more visitors if something could be done about this, and had written to WWT along those lines, but had had no response so far. SG suggested that he discuss it with CM. **ACTION – MT/CM**

Chris Morgan

18. POLICE CONSULTATION

The PC have had no feedback following the most recent police mobile station attendance on 29th August. The next PCSO visit will be on Oct 16th from 11-12 in the British Legion café.

19. RECREATION CENTRE

No meeting.

George Hawes

20. RAMSBURY SCHOOL

No report.

Roger Greasley

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21. VANDALISM/CRIME

SG has publicised the problems of anti-social behaviour late at night on the Whittonditch play area in the September edition of Whitton Ways. Children's swings have been vandalised, quantities of litter left strewn around on several occasions, and suspected drug-taking has been reported.

22. PATIENTS' REPRESENTATIVE

George Hawes

The next meeting of the representatives will be held in October. Date to be confirmed.

23. DATES OF 2025 PC MEETINGS

These will be held on the third Monday of each month in the Memorial Hall – except for the March meeting which will be held in Axford Village Hall. SG asked for councillors' thoughts on the PC possibly vacating the Memorial Hall (which is more spacious than we really need) and moving their meetings into the Lychgate Room instead. This was discussed and was thought to be a good idea. SG will talk to the hall trustees about this and proposed that the PC might try out meeting in the Lychgate Room next month.

24 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT IN SEPTEMBER

Inv. No	Payments to Suppliers – September 2024	Amount	Net	VAT	Paid By	S137
I4112	Post Office – postage to Community First. Paid in Aug.	0.85	0.85	0.00	Visa Debit	No
I4113	British Legion – Refreshments for WWT staff working on Nature Reserve. Paid in Aug.	5.60	5.60	0.00	Visa Debit	No
I4114	HP Instant Ink – 28th July – 27th Aug. Paid in Aug	11.99	9.99	2.00	VisaDebit	No
I4115	Robert Copp – replacing fence posts and repairing footpath barrier.	121.00	121.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4116	M J Baker Accountancy – Payroll fee for August	11.25	11.25	0.00	DD	No
I4117	Coral Westall – Public loo cleaning in September	180.00	180.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4118	Coral Westall – office cleaning July - Sept	34.00	34.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4119	Idverde Ltd - Bin emptying in August	22.20	18.50	3.70	BACS	No
I4120	Castle Water – public loo water charges 1 st -31 st August	124.62	124.62	0.00	BACS	No
I4121	Robert Copp - expenses removing sofa from play area	30.00	30.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4122	Microsoft 365 annual subscription	59.99	59.99	0.00	Visa Debit	No
	TOTAL TO PAY (excluding Clerk's salary I4123)	601.50	595.80	5.70		
	TOTAL AMOUNT ON DEPOSIT*	£122,687.71				
	incl. gross interest earned to 31st August 2024	3,687.71				
	MONIES RECEIVED					
	Charity shop rent	300.00				
	Ramsbury Village Store – Sale of Walk Books	15.00				
	TOTAL INCOME	315.00				
	Current A/c at 31st Aug 2024 – £3,875.88					

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

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SG requested approval to pay an additional £378.00 (I4124) to the auditors PKF (**See item 6(ii)**), making a total of £1,068.25.

The Accounts were accepted and were unanimously approved. Prop. EH; Sec. DB

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.15 p.m

**DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 21ST OCTOBER at 7.45pm at Ramsbury Memorial Hall**

ALL ARE WELCOME