

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 14th April 2025 at 7.45pm in Ramsbury Memorial Hall 1974

Present:

S Glass – Chair (SG)
D Barnett – Vice Chair (DB)
D Greenway (DGr)
M Tester (MT)
D Edwards (DE)
C Morgan (CM)

R Greasley (RG)
H Lloyd (HL)
E Hodgson (EH)
D Gill (DG)
A Charlwood (AC) – Clerk

Ten members of the public were also present

- APOLOGIES** – were received from A Foale, M Waugh, and G Hawes. **Approved.**
- DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST** – None.
- THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**
The minutes of the meeting held on 17th March were approved and signed as a true record.
Proposed SG; Seconded BM. Approved.
- MATTERS ARISING** - None
- NEW CORRESPONDENCE** – Items for discussion*

Ref. No	Date Received	March – April 2025 Correspondence From :	Subject *Highlighted for Discussion
*A8130	10 March	Resident	Offering help with proposal to install solar-powered illuminated school signs on Back Lane. See item 13
*A8131	10 March	Sally Madgwick, Wilts CC Definitive Map & Highways Records Manger	Confirmation of footpaths 9A and 9B Definitive Map and Statement Modification Order. Fwd. to Rights of Way Committee. For info.
*A8134	13 March	Resident	Points raised with planners re. application for new houses on Upcot Field. Fwd to Planning C. For info.
*A8135	13 March	Resident	Comments on application for new houses on Upcot Field. Fwd. to Planning C. For info.
*A8139	18 March	Wilts CC Rights of Way	Improving the Rights of Way network at a local level. Fwd. to Rights of Way Committee. For info. See item 6 (iii)
*A8142	24 March	Planning Portal	Upcoming planning application fee increases. Fwd. to Planning C. For info.

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*A8143	25 March	PKF Littlejohn	Instructions to enable compliance with regulations regarding 2024-25 accounts and audit. Submission deadline for AGAR is 1 st July. For info.
*A8144	27 March	Raquel Leonardo, Wilts CC Strategic Programmes Manager	Acknowledging the PC's declaration of interest in adopting the payphone kiosk outside the Memorial Hall. SG will be pursuing this matter. ACTION - SG
*A8145	28 March	Simon Day, Wilts CC Planning Support Manager	The PC's request to renew the listing of the allotment land at Loves Lane as an Asset of Community Value for five more years. See item 10
*A8146	28 March	Steve Hind, Wilts CC Principal Engineer, Traffic & Network Mngmt	Options and comparative costs re. a trial experimental order for Union Street. See item 12
*A8150	01 April	Gail Davies, Aster Senior Neighbourhood Officer	Maintenance and repairs to be carried out in Atherton Close. Aster confirm they will be carrying out the necessary clean-up and repairs.
*A8151	01 April	Caroline Dale, North Wessex Downs National Landscape	Various aspects of the public consultation for their Management Plan Review which closes on 30 th April. Fwd. to Cllrs. For info.
*A8153	02 April	Resident	Pile of used tyres dumped on Swan's Bottom. Cllrs. believe that, although unsightly, this is not fly-tipping as the tyres are on private ground.
*A8154	02 April	Jason Lucas, Wilts CC Traffic Order Team	TTRO for part of C189 in Aldbourne commencing 3 rd June for Thames Water. Fwd. to Cllrs. For info.
*A8155	03 April	Jason Lucas, Wilts CC Traffic Order Team	Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) for Chapel Lane commencing 9 th June for Thames Water to carry out a main clamp in the road. Fwd to Cllrs. This work has just been rescheduled to commence on 15th April.
*A8156	03 April	Wilts CC Planning Appeals Dept.	Notification of Written Representation Appeal re. The Red Lion Change of Use application. Fwd to Planning Committee. See Item 6
*A8158	03 April	NHS	Survey to understand more about why people go to A&E. Fwd to Cllrs. For info.
*A8159	03/04 April	Resident	Exchange of emails about registering village's four defibrillators on defibfinder.uk . Dave Arnold has written to the resident to explain any call to 999 will be advised of the location of their nearest defib. and the relevant access code if it is deemed necessary.

***The full list of incoming correspondence from 7th March-7th April can be viewed on the parish council website**

6. Committee Reports:

6(i) Planning

Diann Barnett

PLANNING REPORT RAMSBURY AND AXFORD PARISH COUNCIL –April 2025

Planning Applications Processed since March 2025 report

New applications-

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|----------|
| • PL/2025/03252 | 15, Isles Road, Ramsbury | Treework |
| • PL/2025/02886 | 61, High Street, Ramsbury | Treework |

Still awaiting-

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|--|
| • PL/2024/07914 | Anvil Cottage Barn | Demolish and rebuild barn for family house. |
| • PL/2024/11389 | The Courtyard, Whittonditch | Demolition and rebuild of barn |
| • PL/2024/11184 | Ramsbury Manor | ‘Open-up’ work to investigate utilities/structure |
| • PL/2025/02040 | 36, High St, Ramsbury | Remove detached single storey shed and replace with 2 storey and glazed walkway. |
| • PL/2025/01559 | Upcot Field, Whittonditch Rd | 9 houses and associated works |

Decisions-

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|--|
| • PL/2025/01846 | 31 High Street, Ramsbury | Treework APPROVED |
| • PL/2025/01658 | The Boot, Scholarads Lane | Treework APPROVED |
| • PL/2024/0902 | Coachman Cott, Baydon Manor | Removal of dangerous asbestos, glass from conservatory APPROVED |
| • PL/2024/08967 | 7 The Square, Ramsbury | Change of use from E to residential APPROVED |
| • PL/2025/01929 | Forge Cottage, Crowood | Discharge of planning obligation. RECOMMEND’NS |

DB said that three new applications had come in since her report above, one from Union Street, one from Ashley Piece and one from Ramsbury Manor.

DB has been reviewing the paperwork on the Lamplands enforcement notice and believes that a drainage report may mean their appeal may be approved.

The Red Lion appeal is ongoing and the paperwork on the file now runs to 135pp. It can all be found on the WCC website. The current deadline is 8th May.

6(ii) Finance

Erica Hodgson

SG read out EH’s Q4 report. MT raised a question about the unspent £3,000 set aside last year to cover possible election expenses. SG said we may yet be billed for some element of the upcoming election but, as yet, have no idea how much, or if any costs will be incurred at all. There being no other questions, the Q4 2024-25 report was approved. **Prop. SG; Sec. DB.**

- The Asset Register, with some minor updates, has been circulated to the Finance Committee and approved. The approval of the full parish council will be sought at the May meeting. **ACTION - EH**
- SG had previously circulated two quotes for new SIDs to the Finance Committee and has now received one more. She has learnt that the cheapest of the three supplied the SIDS in Chilton Foliat so she has written to the Chair of that parish council to ask if they would recommend the company. We await his reply. A finance Committee meeting will be held after Easter to discuss these quotes **ACTION -SG/EH**
- The internal audit of the PC accounts for 2024-25 will take place on 12th May. **ACTION – CLERK**

6(iii) Rights of Way

Doug Greenway

- DGr reported that the circular walk on 6th April had been enjoyed by 10-12 people and he had had good feedback. He has prepared a timetable for the monthly walks for the rest of this year and will begin publicising it next month, after the Boundary Walk
- Leaflets and posters for the Boundary Walk on Sunday May 4th have been printed and will be going up soon. The check walks have been done, walk leaders and back-markers have been organised and the timings on the day have been slightly modified from last year's. Now we only need some good weather. **ACTION-DGr**
Please see Whitton Ways, the website the Village Diary and notices in the Square for further information.
- As this year's walk will start from The Square RG was asked to approach the school to seek their permission for the public to be able to use their car park on the day of the walk, and also if they would circulate Boundary Walk information on their parentmail. **ACTION - RG**
- DGr has been attending WC rights of way sessions online, as well as additional presentations, and has found them very useful. He said he was surprised but very pleased to learn that over 800 miles of footpaths in Wiltshire have been reclaimed in recent years.
- DGr acknowledged receipt of template letters to landowners which can be used as an informal approach if there are problems with Rights of Way.

6(iv) Play Areas and Seats

Denise Edwards

- Having received an email on 31st March from a resident who was concerned about the state of the seesaw and picnic bench at Knowledge Crescent, DE reported that she has inspected both items and found no problems with the seesaw (although she did oil it during her visit); however the ground seems to have become undermined beneath one corner of the bench so it may need moving in order to repair the ground.
- DE also found that a middle slat on the fort needs replacing during her inspection.
- DE is awaiting a third quote for new equipment for Whittonditch play area and will bring the matter back for discussion at the next meeting. **ACTION – DE/SG**
- SG said that she was investigating the vandal damage to the picnic table bench at Knowledge Crescent (someone appears to have jumped on it) to see if it is repairable. **ACTION -SG**

6(v) Emergency Committee

Alison Foale

- SG said that she is seeking another contractor to check the generator at the Memorial Hall **ACTION-SG**
- AF is still seeking three new Emergency Wardens. **ACTION – AF/SG**

6(vi) Environment Committee

Maggie Waugh

BM said their next task is to source some recycled plastic benches like the ones on the Nature Reserve, for the community orchard. The three trees already planted are doing well and he will be preparing a pdf for the website to set out their plans for the development of the orchard in its next three stages. **ACTION – BM**

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

Union Street

A group of residents from Union Street made various representations about the two options set out in Steven Hinds' letter to the PC dated 28th March (Ref A8146). Some expressed concern about elements of the proposals that were not ideal for them personally but there was a consensus about the danger of the speed of traffic using the road – which has no pavement - as a rat run and the need for some sort of traffic calming. It was not immediately clear whether the group wanted either of the two options being presented by Wilts Highways but eventually they all indicated with a show of hands that they did have a preference for a trial of Option 1 (south-to-north). **See Item 12.**

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Speed of traffic on the B4192 through Whittonditch

A resident gave a detailed account of her serious concerns about the danger of the current speed limit (60mph), concerns she says are shared by others who live there. She acknowledged the PC had tried before to address this issue (including a traffic speed survey, white gates, SLOW signs on the road and refurbishment of white lining at the junction) but she maintained that the current measures like the white gates are not working because 60mph is too fast through a residential area, albeit a hamlet. She made the point that the straight stretch of road through Whittonditch has become an overtaking zone, increasing the likelihood of accidents, and she called for other preventative measures now.

From her recent research she believes that local authorities now have more discretion in setting speed limits and asked the Chair to raise the matter of lowering the speed limit to 40mph at the next Highways group meeting. SG responded that she wasn't sure that Wilts CC would agree with the points that had been made and pointed out that the compliance of drivers with speed limits (whatever they were) could not be guaranteed. Nevertheless, she said while a reduced speed limit is not in the gift of the Parish Council, we can but ask. SG suggested that the resident submit the necessary form (which she would send her) to the Parish Council for endorsement and forwarding to LHFIG. Another Whittonditch resident said the PC's support in this endeavour would be welcomed.

7. AXFORD

Diann Barnett

DB reported that the Games Café and Bingo Night had raised £120 and £215 respectively towards the cost of a defibrillator for the village and she was delighted to say that Smith's of Axford had very generously offered to donate the remainder of the sum needed to make the purchase. She will therefore be able to place an order without any further delay and expects the defibrillator to be installed very soon.

ACTION - DB

8. LOCAL HIGHWAYS & FOOTPATHS IMPROVEMENT GROUP

Sheila Glass

The next meeting of the LHFIG will be held on 22nd May.

9. MARLBOROUGH AREA BOARD

Sheila Glass

SG reported that the meeting scheduled for 18th March has been cancelled due to the election on May 1st.

10. ALLOTMENTS

Denise Edwards

SG confirmed that the nomination form for listing the allotment land as an Asset of Community Value had gone in. DE said plots are currently available. Contact allotments@ramsbury.org

11. WEBSITE

SG said that the March traffic report had been circulated.

DE encouraged all village organisations to send in notices about their upcoming events for inclusion in the website events calendar. (Please email either Denise.Edwards@ramsbury.org or Sheila.Glass@ramsbury.org)

12. UNION STREET ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND

Sheila Glass

Following the discussion of this matter in the Public Forum, DGr commented that the PC should discuss what they felt a successful trial of the preferred Option 1 would look like at their next meeting. The item will be listed on the May agenda.

ACTION - CLERK

SG sought Cllrs. approval of the expected costs (>£3,000) likely to be incurred in asking the Highways Dept. to take the steps necessary to implement a six-month trial of Option 1. **APPROVED. Prop. SG; Sec. HL.**

ACTION – SG

13. PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS

Alison Foale

SG awaits the comments of the resident who raised this matter to the PC's proposals contained in the email she sent to her on 9th February. The school sign needs refurbishing

ACTION – SG

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14. SPEED OF TRAFFIC ON B4192 THROUGH WHITTONDITCH

Following discussion of this matter in the Public Forum SG agreed to send the resident a link for the application form to go to LHFIFG and it was agreed that the PC would support the application. **ACTION-SG**

15. VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

Sheila Glass

- The broken bus stop sign in Whittonditch Road has still not been repaired. She has reported it on the Mywilts system
- SG has painted the additional white gate for Newtown Road and both are ready to be installed. SG will liaise with AF regarding location and contact the contractor re installation **ACTION-SG/AF**
- **See item 6(ii)** regarding replacing the current SIDs with five newer models that are capable of data collection which can be made available to the police. SG will circulate all the quotes to the Finance Committee and the matter will be discussed when they meet after Easter. **ACTION – SG/EH**
- SG said the entry to the Wiltshire Best Kept Village competition is ready to go in. RG was asked to contact the primary school and preschool to see if the children could produce some Keep Ramsbury Tidy-type posters again this Spring, and/or organise a litterpick to spring clean the village in time for the BKV inspectors' visit. **ACTION – SG/RG**
- SG is pursuing the PC's adoption of the old BT phone kiosk outside the Memorial Hall and is meeting a painter for a quote to get both kiosks in Ramsbury re-painted inside and out. **ACTION – SG**
- DE reminded Cllrs. about the 7.30pm service in The Square on 8th May to mark the anniversary of VE Day and said there would also be a tea party from 2-6 on Saturday 10th May in the Memorial Hall organised by the D Day 80 group. Cllrs' donations for the tombola would be gratefully received. **ACTION-ALL**

16. PARISH STEWARD'S ROTA

Next visit will be on 4th June.

Clerk

ACTION – CLERK

17. MEMORIAL GARDEN

SG reported that poppies will be planted in time for VE Day.

Sheila Glass

18. LIBRARY

No report.

19. MEMORIAL HALL

Sheila Glass/George Hawes

SG reported that the Memorial Hall have installed a Hive system to control their heating system.

20. NATURE RESERVE

No Report

Chris Morgan

21. RECREATION CENTRE

No report.

George Hawes

22. RAMSBURY SCHOOL

No report as the school is on holiday.

Roger Greasley

23. VANDALISM/CRIME

MT reported that another car had recently been broken into on Back Lane.
The picnic bench at Knowledge Crescent play area has been damaged.

24. PATIENTS' REPRESENTATIVE*George Hawes*

No report.

25. MAY ELECTIONS

SG noted that since only 13 nominations (2 from Axford, 11 from Ramsbury) had been received all 13 would be elected unopposed.

SG said that she would circulate a Nil Return of Election Expenses form which all Cllrs. must complete by May 29th as it is a legal requirement.

ACTION – SG/ALL**26. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT IN APRIL**

Inv. No	Payments to Suppliers – April 2025	Amount	Net	VAT	Paid By	S137
I4223	Bank Service Charges in March. Paid in March	4.40	4.40	0.00	DD	No
I4224	Dobbies Garden Centre – plants for memorial garden	19.80	16.50	3.30	VisaDebit	No
I4225	M J Baker Accountancy – payroll fee for March	11.25	11.25	0.00	DD	No
I4226	Idverde Ltd - Bin emptying in March	22.20	18.50	3.70	BACS	No
I4227	Coral Westall – public loo cleaning in April	180.00	180.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4228	R. J. Talmage & son – Hedgecutting along path to playing field	96.00	80.00	16.00	BACS	No
I4229	Whitton PCC – Printing of Village Diary 2025-26 & Contacts List	130.00	130.00	0.00	BACS	Yes
I4230	WALC + NALC annual subscriptions	843.32	702.77	140.55	BACS	No
I4231	HP Instant Ink – printer ink subscription 28th March-27 th April	11.99	9.99	2.00	VisaDebit	No
I4232	Bank Service Charges in April	4.40	4.40	0.00	DD	No
I4233	Chair's expenses - S Glass delivery of Cllrs. nomination papers	27.00	27.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4234	Expenses - SG re painting of white gate for Newtown Road	15.99	13.33	2.66	BACS	No
I4235	Ab Fab Loos toilets for Boundary Walk	600.00	500.00	100.00	BACS	No
I4236	CH Plumbing repair to taps in public loo	90.00	90.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4237	Copy Colour Ltd. – Boundary walk printing	103.00	97.00	6.00	BACS	No
I4101	Correction : 50% reimbursement agreed was £75, not £50 as listed in error in August 2024 Agenda. Difference to approve:	25.00	25.00	0.00	N/A	N/A
	TOTAL (excluding Clerk's salary)	£2,184.35	£1,910.14	£274.21		
	TOTAL AMOUNT ON DEPOSIT at 31st March 2025*	£95,938.48				
	incl. gross interest earned Dec 2022 to 31st March 2025	£4,938.48				
	MONIES RECEIVED					
	Charity shop rent	£300.00				
	Sale of Walks Books. Received in March	15.00				
	April SO for Memorial Hall broadband	9.60				
	First tranche of 2025/26 precept from Wilts C.C.	40,543.25				

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	Castle Water refund – public loo	86.21				
	TOTAL INCOME	£40,954.06				
	Current A/c balance at 31st March 2025 – £7,952.13					

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

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

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.00p.m

DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS
MONDAY 19th MAY at 7.45pm at RAMSBURY MEMORIAL HALL

THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY WILL COMMENCE AT 7.45pm
AND WILL BE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED BY A FULL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

ALL ARE WELCOME