

RAMSBURY & AXFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council Alice Charlwood c/o Council Office, Memorial Hall, High Street, Ramsbury, Wilts SN8 2PB
Telephone: 01672 520045 (ansaphone) e-mail parishcouncil@ramsbury.org

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 20th April 2026 at 7.45pm in Axford Village Hall

2062

Present:

S Glass – Chair (SG)
D Barnett – Vice Chair (DB)
H Lloyd (HL)
C Morgan (CM)
E Hodgson (EH)

M Tester (MT)
A Foale (AF)
D Greenway (DGr)
B Murray (BM)
A Charlwood (AC) – Clerk

One member of the public was present

- 1. APOLOGIES** – were received from Denise Edwards, Dawn Gill and Maggie Waugh. **Approved.**
Roger Greasley did not attend.
- 2. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST** – None.
- 3. THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**
The minutes of the meeting held on 16th March were approved and signed as a true record. **Proposed EH; Seconded CM. APPROVED**
- 4. MATTERS ARISING** – None
- 5. NEW CORRESPONDENCE** – Items for discussion

*The full list of incoming correspondence from 9th March – 14th April can be viewed on the parish council website

Ref. No	Date Received	March – April 2026 From :	Subject *Highlighted for Discussion
A8567	18 March	Lee Wells, Ablservicesswindon.co.uk	Introducing themselves as a grounds maintenance company who also do litter/dogwaste collections. Fwd to Cllrs. We will keep their details on file.
A8568	19 March	Neil Homer, ONH: Planning for Good	Planning objections or support from councils must be “appeal-ready” w.e.f. 1 st April. Fwd. to Planning Committee. After discussion, it was generally agreed that this policy was very one-sided as the PC and others (who may be raising objections to any appeal) will be barred from submitting any additional comments or arguments at a later date, but the applicant will be allowed to do so.
A8569	20 March	Resident	On-street parking problems in Ashley Piece. Fwd. to Cllrs. See item 10.

2063

A8570	23 & 25 March	Andrea Begent, Wilts CC Senior Streetscene Engineer	Uncollected litter bin overflowing on Back Lane and proposal to relocate a ground-mounted bin from the play area on Knowledge Crescent. Fwd to Cllrs. The larger bin has now been relocated to replace the smaller one at the Back Lane end of the footpath opposite Ramsbury Hill.
A8580	01 April	Paul Armour, BT	Confirming BT have no objection to the PC installing a defibrillator in the Whittonditch Road phone box. For info.
A8581	01 April	Melissa Camilleri, PCSO	MC wishes the PC to start a traffic survey on behalf of some community members who are interested in forming a community speedwatch group. Fwd. to Cllrs
A8587	10 April	Wiltshire Council News	Waste services survey deadline 17 th April. Fwd to Cllrs. For info.
A8588	11 April	Resident	Blocked drain in Chapel Lane. Clerk has replied and will report this on MyWilts.
A8589	12 April	Melissa Camilleri, PCSO	Police report Q1. Fwd to Councillors. See Item 11.
A8591	14 April	Melissa Camilleri, PCSO	Liasing re. a date for the next police consultation. Next consultation will be on 13th May at 11.00 am in the Legion.

6 FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Erica Hodgson

- The Q4 Financial Report (circulated) was **APPROVED. Prop. EH; Sec. MT**
- EH is awaiting a further quote for the pavement repair works. She should receive it in time to report on the contractors' comparative quotes at the May PC meeting. **ACTION - EH**

7 PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Diann Barnett

PLANNING REPORT RAMSBURY AND AXFORD PARISH COUNCIL – April 2026

Planning Applications Processed since March 2026 report

New applications-

- PL/2026/01948 9 Lawrence Mead Conversion of garage, allowed under lawful development.

Still awaiting-

- PL/2025/01559 Upcott Field, Whittonditch Rd 9 houses and associated works. This application layout has been amended.
- PL/2025/08376 Crown and Anchor Delicence, change of use.
- PL/2025/09209 9 Union Street Create off-street parking
- PL/2025/09169 West House, Ramsbury Internal alterations, window change
- PL/2025/09011 West House, Ramsbury Swimming pool and garden shed
- PL/2025/09376 42/43 Oxford Street Proposed garage.
- PL/2026/00104 Knypersley, 79 High St Alterations and extension to rear.
- PL/2026/00597 Susie Watson, The Square Change of use to residential.
- PL/2026/00103 7 The Square Amendments to previous approval
- PL/2026/00995 Bungalow, Whittonditch Extension and remove S52
- PL/2026/01214 Dove Cottage, Axford Loft space conversion + dormer windows
- PL/2026/01457 33, Oxford Street Remove conservatory and replace.

Decisions-

- PL/2026/01430 33, High Street Reduce and thin weeping willow. **APPROVED**

DB reported that since compiling this report PL/2025/09209 (9 Union Street - Create off-street parking) has been refused.

- 3357357 Red Lion enforcement appeal NC
- 3362810 Red Lion planning appeal NC

The officer at the Planning Inspectorate for both these appeals has changed. I have contacted her as to why this is taking so long.

- CIL on C&A development – The owner has registered this development as a self-build and will not be liable to pay a Community Infrastructure Levy provided he resides at the property for three years once it is completed.
- Enforcement on Lamplands mobile home - Prior to the meeting photos were sent to Enforcement and DB has enquired why nothing further has been done. She has since been informed that an Enforcement Officer had visited the site recently.

8 PLAY AREAS AND SEATS REPORT

Denise Edwards

DE was not at the meeting. Her report was read by the Clerk, as follows :

- DE has not been made aware of any issues about the play areas this month. She looked around the area at Axford on 4th April and it was looking good. The grass was shabby but that is to be expected at this time of year.
- Fluorescent paint is to be ordered for marking dog poo where it is discovered fouling any of our play areas, and the Committee will be taking and using photos online to highlight the extent of the problem.

ACTION - SG

- There is a problem of rats affecting some properties on one side of the Knowledge Crescent site. Although this is a matter for Aster rather than the PC, it was agreed that it might be advisable to relocate one of the play area litter bins to the far side of the site. SG will contact Wilts Streetscene to request this be done.

ACTION – SG

- A group of councillors volunteered to help assemble the new picnic table for Knowledge Crescent. SG will liaise with them to arrange when this can be done. **ACTION – SG**

9 EMERGENCY COMMITTEE REPORT

Alison Foale

- Three sets of long-range two-way walkie-talkies have been purchased. MT offered to test them but, after discussion, it was agreed that DGr would have the perfect opportunity to practise with them on the Boundary Walk and report back on their performance at the next PC meeting. **ACTION - DGr**
- Prior to the start of the meeting, a photo was taken of the Committee alongside the new generator in the Memorial Hall which SG will send to SSE, as requested, to promote their grant scheme. **ACTION – SG**
The amount the PC can refund to SSE will be clearer once the quote comes in from the electrician who will install them.
- SG expressed her thanks to Jason Barnett who was kind enough to securely fix the generators in both village halls.

10 VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

Sheila Glass

- The new defibrillator for Whittonditch phone box has been delivered and SG is seeking a quote for its installation. **ACTION – SG**

2065

- SG reported that she found a basin tap in the public loo had been left running full-on (evidently deliberately) on the evening of Wednesday 8th April. She is seeking advice from a plumber about whether the PC could install a Watermiser, or another way of automatically limiting how much water can flow out of a tap at any one time, so as to reduce both waste of water and money literally running down the drain. In this connection there was also a discussion about either a locking system for the loo overnight, or more security/surveillance measures in the car park.
- SG thanked the WI for the work they are doing in decorating and looking after the phone box outside the Memorial Hall.
- SG has submitted the entry form for the 2026 Best Kept Village competition.
- A Freshers' Day event will be held on Saturday 25th April in the Memorial Hall at which the PC will be promoting their village Emergency Database, the upcoming Boundary Walk, and the MYWilts reporting system. Books will be for sale. EH will supply a pi chart explaining the PC's finances and will invite new spending requests from residents who come along. Any expressions of interest in joining the parish council will also be most welcome.
- With regard to the parking issue raised by an Ashley Piece resident (Ref. A8569), HL will follow up on SG's initial response and recommend the resident refer the matter to Wiltshire Highways as the PC has no powers to intervene or resolve his complaint,

11 VANDALISM/CRIME

Sheila Glass

- The police consultation on 30th March in the Lychgate Room did not go well because the PCSO did not arrive till 11.35 (having been seconded to a traffic accident emergency in Marlborough). Five residents turned up, two from Axford concerned about the misbehaviour of visitors to the weir during the summer months, and the rest complaining about speeding in Back Lane and Whittonditch Road. The idea of a Community Speed Watch Group was mooted at the consultation, and Mr. Rees subsequently offered to help with getting that off the ground. The PC will submit the necessary form in the first instance. In answer to a question from MT, SG said that there has been no data as yet from the new SIDs. **ACTION - SG**
- SG will write to Inspector Garratt to complain about the PCSO having been diverted to traffic duties when she was scheduled to attend a consultation here. **ACTION - SG**
- MT had written to the PCSO asking for more and better information about the 13 crimes and 8 incidents referred to in her Q1 Police Report for Ramsbury. She explained that ... "the statistics for this period show that the vast majority of the crimes are recorded in the category of 'Violence Against the Person'. This is a very a broad offence group covering a wide spectrum of offending, from serious violent crime through to lower harm and less serious common assault or the perception/threat of immediate violence. It also includes offences involving psychological or emotional (rather than physical) abuse, such as harassment including offences committed in domestic situations and neighbourly disputes. As a result, previously incidents that were often recorded as non-crimes are now often recorded as harassment where there is a suggestion of a course of conduct."
Whilst MT appreciated why she was unable to quote specific cases and persons involved in each report, as a parish councillor he did feel it was reasonable to request more information as to the categories of crimes included in her report, which so far have not been forthcoming.

Public Forum – Parish Council Standing Orders are temporarily suspended for this item

The member of the public had come to the meeting for an update on the proposed closure of the fire station. **See Item 16.**

12 AXFORD

Nothing to report.

Diann Barnett

ACTION – DB

2066

13 RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE REPORT

Doug Greenway

- DGr confirmed that preparations for this year's Boundary Walk on Sunday 3rd May are on target, the walk leaders having had their first practice on Sunday 19th, and a second practice planned for next weekend. SG has got the trophy and will be getting supplies nearer the time. Posters advertising the event have been put up all around the village and we hope for fine weather and a good turn-out on the day.

14 ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Maggie Waugh

- MW was not at the meeting. BM said there had been no Committee meeting recently. SG noted that the apple trees are looking good and HL said that she was pleased to see that some of the 1500 bulbs that she had helped with planting last year had started coming up around the trees.

15 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Sheila Glass

SG said there had been no progress on the PC change of name since the last PC meeting.

16 POTENTIAL CLOSURE OF RAMSBURY FIRE STATION -

Sheila Glass

- SG and DB reported on their initial investigations into similar campaigns elsewhere to oppose fire station closures and will be looking closely at a case in Oxfordshire where the council ultimately decided not to close a station and found a way to fund it instead.
- The members of Dorset & Wiltshire Fire Authority have been extremely disappointed in the lack of interest shown by the 15 MPs who represent their area. In our own constituency, repeated attempts to enlist the help of Danny Kruger apparently met with no response initially and, when he did eventually answer, it was to say that he would not be raising the matter in the House of Commons.
- SG and DB are meeting with fire station representatives next week to gather their collective thoughts and draft their arguments for the PC's letter to go out to the members of the Fire Authority before 13th May.

17 NATURE RESERVE

Chris Morgan

CM had nothing to report.

18 ALLOTMENTS

Denise Edwards

DE was not at the meeting. Her report was read by the Clerk, as follows :

- The redevelopment of the site has been remarkable and DE expressed her thanks to the Allotment Committee who have made such an effort and given so much time to improving the amenity for their community.
- Quarter plots (8x5m) and half plots (20x5) are available for anyone wanting to take on a plot. Now is an excellent time to start. Email: allotments@ramsbury.org
- The next meeting will be held in early June.

19 SCHOOL REPORT

Roger Greasley

No report.

20 RAMSBURY MEMORIAL HALL

Sheila Glass

- The next meeting of the Hall Trustees will be on 2nd June.

21 LOCAL HIGHWAYS & FOOTWAYS IMPROVEMENT GROUP

Sheila Glass

SG said that the date of the next meeting has been changed from 23rd April to 7th May, to avoid a clash with the meeting of the Marlborough Area Board.

22 MARLBOROUGH AREA BOARD

Sheila Glass

The next meeting will be held on 26th May.

23 TOWN & PARISH CLERKS MEETING*Sheila Glass*SG will attend the next meeting on 23rd April.**24 PARISH STEWARD'S ROTA**

Parish Steward monthly visits are currently suspended whilst they are being diverted on to repairing potholes exclusively. How they will catch-up on the backlog of work eventually is becoming a concern.

25 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT IN APRIL

Inv. No	Payments to Suppliers – April 2026	Amount	Net	VAT	Paid By	S137
I4385	BT – duplicate payment made in error in November. Refunded on 19/03/26 (see below)	186.25	155.21	31.04	BACS	No
I4453	Dobbies Garden Centre – narcissi for Memorial Garden. Paid in March.	12.00	10.00	2.00	VisaDebit	No
I4454	Galleon Supplies Ltd. – Bulk pack of toilet tissue for public loo. Paid in March	54.00	45.00	9.00	VisaDebit	No
I4455	M J Baker Accountancy – payroll fee for March	11.25	11.25	0.00	DD	No
I4456	Idverde Ltd - Bin emptying in March	22.20	18.50	3.70	BACS	No
I4457	Coral Westall – public loo cleaning in April	200.00	200.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4458	Castle Water – water charges for public loo in Feb.	80.70	80.70	0.00	BACS	No
I4459	Lloyds Business Banking – Bank Charges in April	4.75	4.75	0.00	DD	No
I4460	Whitton PCC – Printing 2026 Village Diary and Contact List	130.00	130.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4461	Aster Communities – Knowledge Crescent play area rent	5.00	5.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4462	Wiltshire Wildlife Trust – Nature Reserve rent	10.00	10.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4463	AbFab Loo Hire for Boundary Walk	600.00	500.00	100.00	BACS	No
I4464	WALC and NALC annual subscriptions	831.53	692.94	138.59	BACS	No
I4465	HP Instant Ink – 28 th February–27 th March	13.49	11.24	2.25	VisaDebit	No
I4466	Ramsbury Memorial Hall – Electricity to PC office, public loo and charity shop Jan-March	288.39	288.39	0.00	BACS	No
I4467	R J Talmage & Son – Hedge-cutting from Whittonditch Road to the playing field	96.00	80.00	16.00	BACS	No
I4468	Ramsbury Village Shop – A4 copier paper	42.40	35.33	7.07	BACS	No
I4469	Alice Charlwood – Clerk's mileage Oct-March	27.00	27.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4470	Radio Solutions – 6 pack of Walkie-Talkies	223.99	186.66	37.33	VisaDebit	No
	TOTAL (excl. Clerk's salary I4471)	£2,838.95	£2,491.97	£346.98		
	TOTAL AMOUNT ON DEPOSIT on 28th February 2026*	£102,603.82				
	incl. gross interest earned Dec 2022 to 28 th February	£6,603.82				

2068

	INCOME					
	Charity shop rent	£320.00				
	Cash sale of 2 x Men of WWI books	20.00				
	BT refund for payment made in error (Inv. I4385)	186.25				
	TOTAL INCOME	£526.25				
	Current A/c balance at 31 March 2026	£9,198.82				

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

NB. In addition to the £2,838.95 due for payment as set out in the meeting agenda (as above) SG sought councillors' approval of one further payment to be settled this month :-

I4472	NBB Recycled Furniture – octagonal picnic table for play area	858.00	715.00	143.00	VisaDebit	No
-------	---	--------	--------	--------	-----------	----

Bringing the total expenditure for approval up to £3,696.95

The Accounts were accepted and approved. Prop. MT; Sec. DB

There being no other business the meeting close at 9.10.

**THE PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY 18th MAY 2026 AT RAMSBURY MEMORIAL HALL
THE MEETING WILL COMMENCE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
WHICH WILL START AT 7.45pm**

ALL ARE WELCOME