

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 Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 18th August 2025 at 7.45pm in Ramsbury Memorial Hall

2006

Present:

D Barnett – Vice Chair (DB)
E Hodgson (EH)
C Morgan (CM)
D Gill (DG)
H Lloyd (HL)
D Edwards (DE)

M Waugh (MW)
E Hodgson (EH)
M Tester (MT)
D Greenway (DGr)
A Charlwood (AC) – Clerk

1. **APOLOGIES** – were received from S Glass and B Murray. **Approved.** R. Greasley did not attend.
2. **DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST** – None.
3. **THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**
The minutes of the meeting held on 21st July were approved and signed as a true record. **Proposed EH; Seconded MW. Approved.**
4. **MATTERS ARISING** – None
5. **NEW CORRESPONDENCE** – Items for discussion

Ref. No	Date Received	July – August 2025 Correspondence From :	Subject *Highlighted for Discussion
A8277	10 July	Wilts & Swindon Community Alert	Devizes Police Officer nominated for National Bravery Award. Fwd to Cllrs. DB gave details of this woman police officer's citations for two separate acts of great bravery. For info.
A8278	16 July	Nicola Mundy, Wilts CC	2025-26 PEAS application form for coming winter. SG will check our salt bin stocks and return the form by 12th Sept. ACTION - SG
A8283	20 July	RoSPA Play Safety	Play areas inspection scheduled to take place in Sept. Fwd to DE/SG. See item 6(iv). For info.
A8288	24 July	Simon Garrett, Neighbourhood Policing Inspector	Response to SG's report re. crime and antisocial behaviour at Axford weir. Fwd. to Cllrs. See Item 7
A8291	29 July	Stephen Leonard, Wilts CC Countryside Access Officer	Response to SG's query about outstanding repair works needed to Lofts Bridge – the bridge is to be replaced this August/Sept. Fwd to Cllrs. See item 6(iii)

2007

A8294	30 July	Resident	Update re. removal of dead ash trees on Mill Lane. Fwd. to Cllrs. See item 6(iii)
A8295	30 July	Renate Malton, Wilts CC Flood Resilience Officer	Flood Warden trainings in August deferred to Sept. Fwd to Emergency C. For info.
A8296	31 July	Sally Madgwick, Wilts CC Definitive Map & Highways Records	Confirmation of order re. Ramsbury 9B, 44, 71 & 72. Fwd. to Rights of Way C. See item 6(iii)
A8298	31 July	Craig Harlow, Wilts CC Definitive Map Officer	Diversion Order re. Ramsbury paths 5, 6 and 8C. Fwd to Rights of Way C. See item 6(iii)
A8302	05 Aug	Google Analytics	Website traffic report for July. Fwd to Cllrs. See item 12
A8304	06 Aug	Wilts CC Rights of Way Team	Urgent closure of Footpath 30. Fwd. to Cllrs. See item 6(iii)
A8306	07 Aug	Wilts CC Passenger Transport Unit	WCC Connect Bus Service is now operational. Fwd to Cllrs. Details are now on the website.
A8307	07 Aug	Claire Costello	Signposting WW2 RAF memorials. For info
A8308	08 Aug	Wilts PCC	Campaign for fairer funding for Wilts police. Fwd to Cllrs. For info.
A8309	08 Aug	Resident	Road repairs in Axford. DB has reported all on My Wilts.
A8310	08 Aug	Paul Armour, BT	Phone kiosk decommissioning is complete. Fwd. to Cllrs. See item 13
A8311	08 Aug	Ramsbury Primary School	Thank-you card from Class R. The accompanying letter said this year's PC grant had been put towards a mud kitchen and the children are very excited, which is lovely to know.

*The full list of incoming correspondence from 9th June – 10th July can be viewed on the parish council website

6. Committee Reports:

6(i) Planning

Diann Barnett

PLANNING REPORT RAMSBURY AND AXFORD PARISH COUNCIL – Aug 2025

Planning Applications Processed since July 2025 report

New applications -

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|--|
| • PL/2025/06386 | The Old Tannery | Treework |
| • PL/2025/06467 | Westfield House | Treework |
| • PL/2025/06477 | the Old Tannery | Treework |
| • PL/2025/06387 | Kennet House | Treework |
| • PL/2025/06619 | 33 Oxford Street | Remove conservatory; replace with single storey ext. |

Still awaiting -

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|---|
| • PL/2024/07914 | Anvil Cottage Barn | Demolish and rebuild barn for family house. |
| • PL/2025/01559 | Upcott Field, Whittonditch Rd | 9 houses and associated works |
| • PL/2025/04197 | Walled Garden, Back Lane | Garden store |
| • PL/2025/04931 | Old Coach House, Scholards | Treework |
| • PL/2025/05426 | 6 Union Street | Dormer work |
| • PL/2025/04558 | Ramsbury Manor | Demolish existing and rebuild glasshouses. |
| • PL/2025/06168 | 19 The Paddocks | Conversion of garage to annexe |

2008

Decisions -

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| • PL/2025/04932 | The Cedars, Scholards Lane | Treework. APPROVED |
| • PL/2025/05273 | The Old Tannery, High Street | Treework |
| • PL/2025/05084 | Isles Court, Isles Road | Treework |

Also –

- 3357357 Red Lion enforcement appeal
- 3362810 Red Lion planning appeal
- 3364563 Land north of Newtown Rd planning appeal

DB updated her report to say that a treework application at Whiteways in Axford had been submitted. Still no action taken by the authorities re. the enforcement notices.

DB reported on her recent exchange of correspondence with the planners about the most recent traffic survey monitor (installed on 8th July) on Whittonditch Road, with roadworks and contraflow traffic lights in operation close-by from 9th – 20th July. She was pointing out that the data gathered could hardly be a true record of traffic movement or speed in that location, given the circumstances.

DB also drew planners' attention to the PC's concern (re. PL/2025/01559) that the ground absorption tests in Upcot Field by the drainage people had been conducted after two months of almost continual drought so would not be a true record of what would happen when the field is saturated, as it is in normal weather.

A response had been received from Eleanor King at the Atlas Planning Group (rather than Wilts CC planners) saying they would "carefully scrutinise the data to ensure it is still robust, and if it is directly impacted by the (traffic) lights we will redo the survey".

6(ii) Finance

Erica Hodgson

- **SIDs** – EH reported that the order would be submitted at the end of August as the installation contractor will be able to take delivery of them and carry out the work in early/mid September.
- **Hedgeworks at Whittonditch play area** – Three quotes have been received. EH gave details of the scope of works and the varying quote amounts. It was unanimously agreed that the lowest quote should be accepted and the work put in hand as soon as possible. **Prop. MT; Seconded DE. APPROVED**
DB and DE confirmed that they would be able to inspect the work upon completion and approve payment of the contractor's invoice.

6(iii) Rights of Way

Doug Greenway

- DGr said there had not been a good turnout for the July circular walk, perhaps because of rain. There was no walk in August
- SG has heard from the landowner re. the dead ash trees on the verge near the Mill Lane ford that he is away till September but will be back in touch then.
- Despite the closure of Footpath 30 councillors expressed their concerns that people are ignoring the notices and still using it. Wilts Rights Of Way Dept. say the repair work to Lofts Bridge will be carried out in September. DGr will get in touch with them to check if an extension to the closure period will be necessary.

ACTION - DGr

2009

- DGr also brought to councillors' attention some proposed changes to the definitive map re. footpaths RAMS5, RAMS6 and RAMS8C and whether the PC should be raising objections. He is also concerned about the proposed re-routing of those footpaths, which he regards as a worse option than the existing route. He will discuss this matter with the former Chair of the PC's RoW Committee, to get some background to this case, and will draft a response for councillors' comments before conveying the PC's views to Wilts CC.

ACTION - DGr

- HL mentioned a tree has come down over a footpath near Crowood Farm, although it is still passable. DGr was asked to let the landowner know.

ACTION - DGr

6(iv) Play Areas and Seats

Denise Edwards

- The three quotes for the hedge work at Whittonditch play area, to remove overhanging branches behind the swings, along the hedge line and at the surgery end of the footpath had been discussed earlier in this meeting, and the lowest quote had been accepted. (See item 6(ii))
- RoSPA have notified us that their annual safety inspection will be carried out some time in September. That means the timeline is tight for repair and maintenance works to be carried out. **Note: RoSPA were contacted after the meeting to ask if their inspection could be deferred till the end of September or early October so the new equipment being installed in September could be incorporated into this year's report.**
- DE is aware that several items of snagging work in the play areas have yet to be completed and are likely to be flagged up in this year's RoSPA report. SG has contacted the contractor for a fresh quote in this regard.
- SG has spoken to Veena Nanda about a memorial bench for Peter, and Veena has kindly offered to purchase the bench and to provide plaques for both the bench and the new picnic table.
- A new octagonal picnic bench has been purchased and was very kindly put together and installed in the community orchard by Paul Gill, with the help of several other councillors. DB expressed the PC's thanks to Gilly and to everyone else who lent a hand.
- No play area problems have been reported elsewhere.

6(v) Emergency Committee

Alison Foale

- AF reported that some new emergency wardens have been recruited and only one more is now needed, for the Atherton Close area.
- AF has updated the Emergency Plan and SG is looking at it.
- We await a response to our grant application to SSEN resilience fund for two new generators for our Village Hubs.
- The two CPR training sessions arranged for 25th September are now fully booked.
- MT has been researching two-way radios. AF will investigate the two-way radios we already have before deciding on any further action.

ACTION - AF

6(vi) Environment Committee

Maggie Waugh

- MW confirmed the new, 8-seater, octagonal picnic bench had been put up in the orchard.
- Robert Copp has been asked to quote for hedge-trimming at the surgery end of the play area and re-siting the re-cycling bins further back away from the footpath.

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

No members of the public were present.

2010

7. AXFORD

Diann Barnett

- DB reported on the neighbourhood meeting held on 13th August with the landowners affected by the trespassing, vandalism and antisocial behaviour happening around the weir. Various ideas were discussed but no obvious practical solution presented itself. **Note: A meeting with Stephen Leonard has since been arranged for 9th Sept to discuss a possible TRRO order.** ACTION - DB
- DE expressed frustration at the bureaucratic difficulties being encountered by the PC in their attempt to get some sort of 30mph reminder signs put up near the Jubilee Field. AF wondered if the minimal amount of street lighting in Axford could really be regarded as “a lighting system” from a legal standpoint, and if that should be regarded as restricting our signage options to such an extent. She will try to look into how that term is defined in law and will report back. ACTION - AF
- EH mentioned that a walker with a dog had reported having to be rescued from a field of bullocks in Axford.

8. LOCAL HIGHWAYS & FOOTPATHS IMPROVEMENT GROUP

Alison Foale

- DB read out an email from Steve Hind (Wilts CC Traffic Mangement, Principal Engineer) on 15th August, detailing “the only realistic location along Union Street” of the tubes for the mooted one-way traffic trial, the initial two-way survey to last one week followed by the one-way survey lasting another week. He estimates the cost of this to the PC would be approx. £450. Any further locations in connection with this trial would involve an increased cost.
There was a lengthy debate about the suggested location of the tubes for the trial, and the wider impact of re-routing southbound traffic along Oxford Street, into The Square and Scholards Lane. AF conjectured that most people from outside the village who use the Crowood Lane/Union Street southbound rat-run towards Springs Hill will soon stay on the B4192 to get wherever they are going. Village residents maybe more likely to turn left at the Crown & Anchor than right into Oxford Street, but that will remain to be seen and is one of the purposes of running the trial in the first place.
It was eventually agreed that, in order to learn if/how the trial might make a difference (a) to the residents of Union Street and (b) to the wider village, the PC would need to be able to compare the data on the volume of traffic in the two stages of the trial. ACTION - SG
- As regards the Whittonditch residents’ application for a speed reduction on the B4192, SG had learnt at the LHFIG meeting on 31st July that 16 other highway applications were currently being prioritised within the Group’s very limited annual budget of £25,246. Their application will remain on the list for future consideration (along with 21 others) but SG notes that the current budget will not cover all the schemes requested.

9. MARLBOROUGH AREA BOARD

Sheila Glass

SG will attend the next meeting on 30th Sept. NB. Local groups and organisations are reminded to get their grant applications towards the cost of purchase of equipment to Andrew Jack at Wilts C.C. in good time as requests must be in at least two weeks before the meeting.

10. REPORT OF TOWN & PARISH CLERKS’ MEETING ON 26TH JUNE

DB read out SG’s report from the meeting that there was still no action on election costs. There was not much else to report, apart from the Engagement Event happening at Marlborough Library (2-4pm) on 28th August to do with the Wilts CC new 5-year plan consultation. NB. A survey in this regard on the WCC website can be completed at any time.

11. ALLOTMENTS

Denise Edwards

DE said that the new lease (based on the wording of the old one but with a rent increase as agreed) was still being considered by the landowner’s solicitor and the PC await their response.

2011

12. WEBSITE

- The July traffic report had been circulated.
- SG has been reassured by the website hosts that the unusual increase in international visitor numbers in May and June is nothing to worry about.

13. VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

Di Barnett

- **See item 6(ii)** regarding installation of five new SIDs which will be ordered at the end of August for delivery direct to Brennans. Brennans will be able to dispose of the old ones for us. **ACTION - SG**
- The phone equipment has been removed and the PC's adoption of the phone box outside the Memorial Hall is now complete. Redecoration of both phone boxes in the village will be carried out soon.
- SG will contact Luke Barnes when he returns from holiday about the problems his drivers have reported in negotiating the pinch points on Oxford Street where cars are densely parked. They say the problem stems from how cars are parked along that stretch of road. SG will suggest that Barnes leaflet the residents about this problem. **ACTION - SG**
- SG has had no response from the burger van people to her invitation to come for a trial period.

14. PARISH STEWARD'S ROTA

Clerk

Next visit will be on 3rd September.

ACTION – CLERK

15. POLICE COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Sheila Glass

The consultation planned for 08/08/25 (11am – noon) in the British Legion had to be cancelled after a van demolished the front wall of the Legion, which then was forced to close. The PCSO has let us know a mobile police station will be in the square in Aldbourne on one of the weekdays w/c 25th August. Date to be confirmed but will be advertised on the Marlborough police Facebook page in advance.

Another police consultation in Ramsbury has been organised for 11am on 14th October. Venue TBA.

16. LIBRARY

No report

17. MEMORIAL HALL & MEMORIAL GARDEN

Helen Lloyd

HL and SG attended the Trustees' meeting on 6th August. HL summarised the repair work that is being done, the car park bumpers that are to be installed, the new contractual rules coming into force for hall hirers and the new limit of 100 people max., the new wifi system now up and working, and the plans for a 100th anniversary tea party for long-standing village residents on 24th March 2026.

18. NATURE RESERVE

Chris Morgan

No report.

19. RAMSBURY SCHOOL

Roger Greasley

No report.

20. VANDALISM/CRIME

Following more reports from residents around the village about a number boys riding bicycles very recklessly whilst also trespassing on private property and, we understand, other antisocial behaviour. As this looks like an escalating problem SG has sought the advice and support of the PCSO.

Steps are being taken to identify the boys involved so that the PC (who are increasingly concerned their behaviour on the road could lead to them endangering themselves or other road users or pedestrians) can contact their parents.

2012

21. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT IN AUGUST

Inv. No	Payments to Suppliers – August 2025	Amount	Net	VAT	Paid By	S137
I4312	BT Payphones – fee to acquire the Mem Hall phone box. Paid in July	1.00	1.00	0.00	VisaDebit	No
I4313	Postage – 1 st class large letter – sending BT agreement. Paid in July	3.15	3.15	0.00	VisaDebit	No
I4314	Lloyds Bank Charges in July. Paid in July	4.25	4.25	0.00	DD	No
I4315	Safety Signs for Less – notice for public loo. Paid in July	8.77	7.31	1.46	VisaDebit	No
I4316	HMRC – Clerk's income tax & Employer's NI. Paid in July	533.03	533.03	0.00	DD	No
I4317	W H Smith – 2 boxes for mailing archive material to Wilts CC. Paid in July	10.00	8.33	1.67	VisaDebit	No
I4318	M J Baker Accountancy – payroll fee for July	11.25	11.25	0.00	DD	No
I4319	Idverde Ltd - Bin emptying in July	22.20	18.50	3.70	BACS	No
I4320	Coral Westall – public loo cleaning in August	200.00	200.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4321	Memorial Hall – Electricity supply to PC office, public loo and charity shop 1 st April – 30 th June	153.36	153.36	0.00	BACS	No
I4322	Castle Water – public loo water charges for July	324.86	324.86	0.00	BACS	No
I4323	HP Instant Ink – printer ink subscription for 28 th July – 27 th Aug	13.49	11.25	2.24	VisaDebit	No
I4324	No Butts Bin Co. Ltd. – octagonal picnic table for community orchard	834.00	695.00	139.00	VisaDebit	No
I4325	BT – PC phone and broadband Aug-Oct 2025	187.43	156.19	31.24	DD	No
	TOTAL (excluding Clerk's salary I4326)	£2,306.79	£2,127.48	£179.31		
	TOTAL AMOUNT ON DEPOSIT on 31st July 2025*	£81,608.13				
	incl. gross interest earned Dec 2022 to 31st July 2025	£5,608.13				
	MONIES RECEIVED					
	Charity shop rent	£320.00				
	August SO for Memorial Hall broadband	9.60				
	TOTAL INCOME	£329.60				
	Current A/c balance at 31st July 2025	£6,263.83				

*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 £2,306.79 due for payment as detailed in the meeting agenda (see above), DB sought councillors' approval of the £3,720 which will be payable to Jeremy Hawkins upon completion of the work he will be doing before the end of August on the hedge at Whittonditch play area (see item 6(ii)). This brought the total for approval up to £6,026.79.

The Accounts were accepted and were unanimously approved. Prop. DB; Sec. EH
There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.15pm