

RAMSBURY & AXFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 9th December 2024 at 7.45pm in Ramsbury Memorial Hall

1943

Present:

S Glass – Chair (SG)
D Barnett – Vice Chair (DB)
C Morgan (CM)
M Tester (MT)
B Murray (BM)
R Greasley (RG)
L Jauncey (LJ)

M Waugh (MW)
A Foale (AF)
D Gill (DG)
H Lloyd (HL)
E Hodgson (EH)
A Charlwood (AC) – Clerk

- APOLOGIES** – were received from Denise Edwards and George Hawes. **Approved**
- DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST** – None.
- THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**
The minutes of the meeting held on 18th November were approved and signed as a true record. **Proposed CM; Seconded RG. Approved.**
- MATTERS ARISING** - None
- NEW CORRESPONDENCE** – Items for discussion*

Ref. No	Date Received	November - December 2024 Correspondence	Subject *Highlighted for Discussion
*A7997	08 Nov	Wilts CC Traffic Order Team	Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) for part of Burdett Street w.e.f. 23 Jan 2025. Fwd to Cllrs. SG said we must check this closure is signed correctly when we get nearer the time.
*A8006	15 Nov	Wiltshire Council News	Update on elections to be held in May 2025. Fwd to Cllrs. SG said that the election will be on 1st May and nominations have to be in by 2nd April
*A8007	17 Nov	Melissa Camilleri, PCSO	Date options for community consultation in January. See item 20.
*A8013	26 Nov	Lynn Jauncey	Resignation from the parish council. SG said LJ would be much missed and thanked her for all her work.

*The full list of incoming correspondence from 8th Nov. – 3rd Dec can be viewed on the parish council website

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

No members of the public were at the meeting

6. Committee Reports:

6(i) Planning

Diann Barnett

PLANNING REPORT RAMSBURY AND AXFORD PARISH COUNCIL –Dec 2024

Planning Applications Processed since Nov 2024 Report

New applications-

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| • PL/2024/09820 | N&S block, Beeches Farm | Material operations for PL/2024/02414 |
| • PL/2024/10489 | Parliament Piece | Treework |
| • PL/2024/09748 | 52 Ashley Piece | 2 antennas in garden |
| • PL/2024/10122 | Red Lion, Axford | Change of use to residential |

Still awaiting-

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| • PL/2024/07790(LB) | The Cedars, Scholar's Lane | 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 for family house |
| • PL/2024/08967 | 7 The Square, Ramsbury | Change of use from E to residential |
| • PL/2024/09187 | Spring House, Union Street | Treework |
| • PL/2024/09571 | Recreation Centre | Open veranda for outdoor entertainment |
| • PL/2024/09052 | Coachman Cott, Baydon Manor | Removal of dangerous asbestos, glass from conservatory |
| • PL/2024/09704 | 1 High Street, Ramsbury | Treework |
| • PL/2024/09428 | Hilldrop Farm | Removal of passing place condition. |

Decisions -

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| • PL/2024/08118 | Red House, Back Lane | Replace roof. WITHDRAWN |
| • PL/2024/09105 | Syon House, 3 High Street | Treework APPROVED |

DB reported that a public meeting was held in Axford on 2nd December regarding the application for change of use to residential from the Red Lion. 22 residents attended and all were there to oppose the application. They were advised to submit their own objections in writing. The Parish Council have lodged objections.

With regard to the enforcement notice for siting of a mobile home at Lamplands, the applicant has applied to the Planning Inspectorate to appeal Wiltshire Council's decision to refuse.

Enforcement are looking into work at 42/44 Oxford Street; still nothing heard.

DE said that three more applications had been submitted since her report. :-

PL/2024/09196 – Knapp House, Ramsbury (External repairs and maintenance, replace gable end window and roof-lights)

PL/2024/11047 – Treework at the walled garden, Back Lane

PL/2024/11202 – Treework at Evelyn House

1945

6(ii) Finance

Erica Hodgson

- Approval of 2025-26 PC budget and precept request – EH summarised next year’s budget proposal, which represents an oncost to parishioners of 5.61%. This would amount to an annual increase next year of £4.54 (or £0.38 per month) for a Band D, or for a Band H property an annual difference of £9.08 (or £0.76 per month). Cllrs. had no questions about the figures. Therefore councillors’ approval of next year’s budget and precept request of £81,086.50 was sought. With the exception of one councillor who voted against, the precept was approved. **Proposed:EH; Seconded DB.**
- VAT reclaim – the clerk confirmed that the amount claimed back for the period March – October was £9,555.24 and this had been received
- Derelict play equipment emergency action – **See Item 6(iv)**

6(iii) Rights of Way

Lynn Jauncey

- Monthly circular walk on 1st December – Eight people turned up to do a shorter circular walk and enjoyed mulled wine and mince pies in The Square afterwards. There will be a walk on Sunday January 5th - details TBA. Watch out for notices and updates on the website www.ramsbury.org.uk
- Repair to the bridge at Seven Bridges –LJ has chased this up with Stephen Leonard and requested the bridge is inspected urgently but we still have no inspection report. Many councillors expressed concern about the danger of a very serious accident happening at the bridge and it was agreed that LJ should contact Wilts CC immediately to request that they take action to close the bridge without delay. **ACTION - LJ**
- Footpath RAMS27 signage – has all been fixed.
- Fallen tree on RAMS6 – LJ has contacted the landowner about having this removed. She will check again this week that the work has been done. **ACTION - LJ**

6(iv) Play Areas and Seats

Denise Edwards

- New equipment for Axford – DE was not at the meeting but SG reported that the old storage shed will soon be removed from the site and the hedge will be cut back to tidy up the whole area.
- Failed play equipment at Whittonditch play area - The “pick-up-sticks” climbing frame which recently collapsed has now been dismantled and removed, along with the frame for the junior swings. A new swing frame will be installed very soon and the old swings can be re-used. Some ideas for a new piece of equipment to fill the space left by the removal of the climbing frame were briefly discussed. This work will probably be put in hand in Spring 2025.

6(v) Emergency Committee

Alison Foale

- Meeting with Ramsbury Manor Trustees – the Ramsbury Manor Estate Manager has referred the PC to Environment Agency maps of Ramsbury Manor Lake. These are several years out of date however and probably do not reflect the more severe rainfall and higher water table levels we are now experiencing and might potentially worsen in coming years. SG will contact the EA and ask if a newer version of the relevant reservoir flood map is available. **ACTION – SG**
- MT pointed out that the newest draft of Wilts C.C.’s own Local Plan Review (as submitted to the Secretary of State) mentions the risk of flooding east of Marlborough from the Ramsbury Manor lake.

1946

- Flooding meeting in Marlborough on 3rd Dec – SG attended and reported it was a fairly dispiriting meeting because there is no sure-fire solution to the threat we face of future flooding because no two floods are the same. The Environment Agency do not measure ground water at the moment, but have said they will be trying to get data on this in future because it could prove useful. SG added that attenuation ponds were the buzz words at the flooding meeting and she proposed that the PC consider reinstating the old pond that historically lay on the bend on Hilldrop Lane, near the scout hut, as this could help in slowing down the water that cascades down Hilldrop Lane and would also remove some of the silt which blocks the drains at the bottom. SG was asked to contact the scouts and the landowner about this idea. **ACTION - SG**
- Storm Bert – the torrential rain on the night of 24th November caused some flooding in Mill Lane and SG expressed her thanks to AF and her husband, and Robert Copp for the work they did that night on trying to clear the two gulleys there that always get blocked. AF described the difficulty they had in locating the gulleys in the dark because they were unsure of exactly where they were. She suggested that, for future reference, some marks (e.g. some downward arrows) should be painted on the walls to point to where they are. SG agreed to contact the homeowner on whose wall the sign would be placed. **ACTION - SG**
- SG has asked Josh Talmage to check the generator at the Memorial Hall after Christmas.

6(vi) Environment Committee

Maggie Waugh

- Community Orchard feasibility study – MW reported on a site visit by the Committee that was also attended by DE. From the useful discussions on that day, BM has compiled an amended orchard proposal that takes account of purchasing larger trees and hardier varieties and puts the total cost at £1,900. It is suggested that the planting is done over three years in three phases, the first three trees to go in early in 2025 at a cost of £825.70. **Proposed:MW; Seconded: LJ. APPROVED** Another two trees are planned for Year 2, and the final two in Year 3. MW has been in touch with WCC to enquire about any grants that might be available towards these costs and will also contact the Tree Foundation. Later on, there is still the possibility of local businesses being approached about sponsoring a tree each – something that had been done successfully in the past at the Recreation Centre.
In Spring 2025 the intention is to purchase one or two round picnic tables (of recycled plastic for durability) for the orchard area, the money for which will come from the Play Areas' budget. It was agreed that another litter bin should also be purchased if it can be added to Idverde's contract.
- Nature Reserve photos –BM confirmed that he has started to compile a series of pictures of the reserve through the various seasons which will create a collage for the website. **ACTION - BM**

7. AXFORD

Diann Barnett

- DE reported that she has spoken to a local houseowner about cutting back his hedge as much as possible to make space for pedestrians to walk more safely along the road opposite the village hall.
- DE has been in touch with Aster about current availability of space in their car park. She has been advised that spaces are no longer allocated to specific residents, so it is now a free-for-all.
- As regards measures to reduce speeding through Axford, BM reported that he had submitted an application for a traffic survey and received a notification that it has been scheduled to be carried out in the next batch of surveys, in one of the two potential locations at either end of the village.

8. LOCAL HIGHWAYS & FOOTPATHS IMPROVEMENT GROUP

Sheila Glass

The next meeting will be on 30th January.

9. MARLBOROUGH AREA BOARD

Sheila Glass

SG attended the meeting on 3rd December on "All Things Policing" at which the Wilts PCC was pleased to report that his area was now ranked as outstanding, having gone from being in special measures at their last assessment. They are also pleased with their recent successes in dismantling and prosecuting County Lines gangs and are continuing to work hard on tackling rural crime, e.g. the people responsible for the theft of tools from vans in Axford recently have been arrested. Local police are currently making arrests in 50% of reported shop crime and generally are improving CCTV and other crime detection measures. Overall, SG felt the picture was quite positive.

10. ALLOTMENTS

Denise Edwards

No report.

11. WEBSITE

There was a discussion about whether the PC should consider swapping to a .gov.uk domain. It was agreed that this was unnecessary.

SG said that the recent storm warnings had all been posted on the website.

12. UNION STREET ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND

Sheila Glass/Lynn Jauncey

LJ has now contacted all the Union Street residents to canvas their opinions on various aspects of this proposal and has asked for their responses as soon as possible. So far one resident has replied.

13. PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS

Alison Foale

AF has been in touch again with the resident who raised this matter, about getting together to discuss practicalities and possible options. She expects they will arrange a meeting early in the New Year.

14. VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

Sheila Glass

- Village general noticeboard – SG has identified a possible problem with fixing the board because a reinforcing bar on the area of wall might get in the way. Alternative options were discussed. NOTE: since the meeting SG has looked at the wall again with Andrew and they agreed that slightly lowering the board would not actually be a problem so that course of action was agreed.
- Broken bus stop sign in Oxford Street – SG said this had still not been fixed and, since the last meeting, another had come down in Whittonditch Road. She will chase up Stagecoach.

ACTION - SG

- Abandoned cars in the Whittonditch recycling area – an apparently abandoned Land Rover and two SORNED cars (a VW and a BMW) have still not been removed. SG and BM have submitted V888s to the DVLA in an effort to get these illegally parked cars removed from privately-owned land.

ACTION – SG/BM

- Christmas trees – this year's trees were again put up by Ramsbury Estates and SG expressed the PC's thanks to Mary Askew for her brilliantly efficient work in getting this done.
- White gates on Whittonditch Road – SG has agreed with Rockstone that this work will be put in hand early in the New Year.
- 2025 Diary dates: - the Street Fair will be held on 16th June.

1948

15. MEMORIAL GARDEN

Sheila Glass

Nothing to report.

16. PARISH STEWARD'S ROTA

Clerk

The date of their January visit has yet to be confirmed.

ACTION – CLERK

17. LIBRARY

The library is now open four days a week (Mondays and Thursdays 2.00-4.00; Wednesdays and Saturdays 10.00-12.00). Visitor numbers have been improving in recent months.

18. MEMORIAL HALL

Sheila Glass/George Hawes

SG reported that the new projector is now up, and hall users have been reporting that broadband speed has vastly improved since the PC added BT discs to their broadband network.

19. NATURE RESERVE

Chris Morgan

Nothing to report.

20. POLICE CONSULTATION

The PCSO will be in the British Legion café from 11.30-12.30 on 14th January.

21. RECREATION CENTRE

George Hawes

No report.

22. RAMSBURY SCHOOL

Roger Greasley

The school carol service will be on Friday 20th December at 1.30. School breaks up on 20th December. New term starts on 6th January 2025.

23. VANDALISM/CRIME

- Although litter bins are provided only few yards away, we continue to find dozens of crisp packets, drinks cans and other detritus left strewn about – we can only assume by the young people who still gather round the picnic table at Whittonditch play area late into the evenings. Whoever is responsible, we do not understand why they are incapable of binning their rubbish as they leave.

24. PATIENTS' REPRESENTATIVE

George Hawes

No report

25. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT IN DECEMBER

Inv. No	Payments to Suppliers – December 2024	Amount	Net	VAT	Paid By	S137
I4161	Ramsbury Post Office – postage to HMRC Vat 126 Paid in Nov.	1.65	1.65	0.00	VisaDebit	No
I4162	Ramsbury Shop – envelopes. Paid in Nov.	7.45	6.20	1.25	VisaDebit	No
I4163	HP Instant Ink – 28 th Oct – 27 th Nov. Paid in Nov.	11.99	9.99	2.00	VisaDebit	No
I4164	RBL Poppy Appeal – Remembrance Day wreaths. Paid in Nov.	55.00	55.00	0.00	Cheque	No
I4165	Donation for roadside poppies. Paid in Nov.	71.25	71.25	0.00	Cheque	No

1949

I4166	JRB Enterprises Ltd. – dog poo bags. Paid in Nov.	100.74	83.95	16.79	VisaDebit	No
I4167	M J Baker Accountancy – payroll fee for November	11.25	11.25	0.00	DD	No
I4168	Idverde Ltd - Bin emptying in Nov.	22.20	18.50	3.70	BACS	No
I4169	TEEC Ltd. – Website hosting	511.19	425.99	85.20	BACS	No
I4170	Coral Westall – public loo cleaning in December	180.00	180.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4171	Coral Westall – office cleaning Oct - Dec	34.00	34.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4172	Castle Water – public loo water charges 1 st - 30 th Nov	66.33	66.33	0.00	BACS	No
I4173	HP Instant Ink – 28 th Nov - 27 th Dec.	11.99	9.99	2.00	VisaDebit	No
	SUB-TOTAL (excluding Clerk's salary I4174)	£1,085.04	£974.10	£110.94		
I4175	Jeremy Hawkins – Remove damaged play equipment	468.00	390.00	78.00	BACS	No
I4176	Paul New – supplying plants for summer and autumn	232.00	232.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4177	Robert Copp – annual grass cutting	3,016.00	3,016.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4178	Alice Charlwood – clerk's mileage April - December	40.50	40.50	0.00	BACS	No
I4179	Waitrose – Christmas PC meeting wine	33.96	28.30	5.66	VisaDebit	No
I4180	Ramsbury Shop – Christmas PC meeting mince pies	14.85	14.85	0.00	VisaDebit	No
	TOTAL TO PAY (excluding Clerk's salary)	£4,890.35	£4,695.75	£194.60		
	TOTAL AMOUNT ON DEPOSIT*	£103,268.60				
	incl. gross interest earned Dec 2022 to 30th Nov. 2024	£4,268.60				
	MONIES RECEIVED					
	Charity shop rent	£300.00				
	VAT owed for down-payment on Memorial Hall broadband	3.59				
	VAT reclaim – March- October 2024	9,555.24				
	Memorial Hall broadband payment (incl. VAT) (2of 24)	9.60				
	TOTAL INCOME	9,868.43				
	Current A/c at 30th Nov. 2024 – £15,893.07					

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

SG and the Clerk drew councillors' attention to the following changes since the meeting agenda was sent out :

- six additional bills (I4175 – I4180) which had been added to the list for payment, and
- the amended figures for amount of money on deposit and amount of deposit interest earned

The Accounts were accepted and were unanimously approved. Prop. MW; Sec. HL

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.05p.m

DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 20th JANUARY 2025 at 7.45pm at RAMSBURY MEMORIAL HALL
ALL ARE WELCOME