

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 15th December 2025 at 8.00pm in Ramsbury Memorial Hall

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Present:

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| S Glass – Chair (SG) | M Waugh (MW) |
| D Barnett – Vice Chair (DB) | D Gill (DGi) |
| H Lloyd (HL) | M Tester (MT) |
| D Edwards (DE) | D Greenway (DGr) |
| C Morgan (CM) | A Charlwood (AC) – Clerk |
| E Hodgson (EH) | |

No members of the public were present

The chair began the meeting by thanking Denise Edwards for setting up the hall for the meeting. Matthew Tester and Doug Greenway were also thanked for providing mince pies and mulled wine.

1. APOLOGIES – were received from Roger Greasley, Chris Morgan, Alison Foale and Bernard Murray. **Approved.**

2. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST – None.

3. THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th November were approved and signed as a true record. **Proposed HL; Seconded EH. Approved.**

4. MATTERS ARISING – None

5. NEW CORRESPONDENCE – Items for discussion

| Ref. No | Date Received | November-December 2025 From : | Subject *Highlighted for Discussion |
|---------|---------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A8416 | 06 Nov | Fred Rendell, Parish Steward Supervisor | Photos of work done at November visit. Fwd. to Cllrs. For info. |
| A8420 | 11 Nov | Nick Self, WWT | ARK's recent survey relating to past and potential flooding problem near the Nature Reserve. See item 21 |
| A8424 | 17 Nov | Sharon Kirwan, SW Ambulance Service | Provision of a 1 hour CPR/defibrillator awareness session. Fwd to Cllrs. It was agreed SG should ask them to run a training session for us in the New Year. ACTION - SG |
| A8428 | 18 Nov | Fred Rendell, Parish Steward Supervisor | PS's scheduled visits maybe cancelled or interrupted due to gritting and emergency callouts. Fwd to Cllrs. For info |

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|-------|--------|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A8430 | 18 Nov | Resident | Police response to reported burglary at the Walled Garden construction site. SG gave further details about this incident. |
| A8431 | 18 Nov | Resident | Dangerous parking at junctions and traffic speed on Whittonditch Road. Fwd. to Cllrs. SG has replied. |
| A8435 | 20 Nov | Louis Shortall, Wilts CC | Estimate of rough sleepers across Wiltshire on the night of 23/24 November. Fwd. to Cllrs. SG said there were none in our neighbourhood that we know of. |
| A8438 | 21 Nov | Melissa Camilleri, PCSO | Report of a firearms incident. Fwd to Cllrs. See item 23 |
| A8441 | 24 Nov | David Wilmot, South Western Ambulance Service | Recruitment of a small Community First Responder team locally. Fwd. to Cllrs. After discussion it was suggested that people who attended the recent CPR trainings might be contacted and asked if this is something they'd be interested in doing. ACTION - AF |
| A8444 | 25 Nov | Wilts CC Traffic Order Team | TTRO for Union Street w.e.f. 20 th Jan to erect a sign pole and associated works. Fwd. to Cllrs. See item 17 |
| A8446 | 25 Nov | Wilts CC | Proposals and representations sought re. the Community Governance Review 2025/26. Fwd to Cllrs. SG said she had been through the document and believes we are unlikely to be affected as the number of electors in our wards is not predicted to vary significantly between now and 2030. If there are any proposals, then there will be a public consultation. See item 12 |
| A8448 | 01 Dec | Philip Wilton, The Planning Inspectorate | Re. RAMSBURY FOOTPATHS 5, 6 & 8C. Fwd. to Rights of Way Committee. See item 9 |
| A8451 | 01 Dec | Stephen Leonard | Suggesting organisers of 2026 Ramsbury Run reroute as Lofts Bridge may still be closed. Fwd. to Cllrs. See item 9 |
| A8453 | 01 Dec | James Gill, HAGS UK Project Manager | Agreeing a reduction of invoice amount to cover cost of PC contractor making adjustments to uneven grass matting and adjustment covers. Fwd. to Cllrs. HL queried if this solution might affect the warranties for the equipment as supplied and installed. SG thinks not as James Gill has confirmed that the equipment is compliant, and this seems the easiest way to remedy the impasse over the minor adjustments needed to the places where the grass matting and adjustment covers are uneven. SG is arranging a local contractor to carry out the work asap. |
| A8454 | 02 Dec | Judy Jones, Wilts CC Highways, Assets & Commissioning | Local Highways & Footways Improvement Group (LHFIG) Survey for submission before 19 th Dec. ACTION - SG |

*The full list of incoming correspondence from 6th Nov-5th Dec can be viewed on the parish council website

A more recent email from a resident about the frequent pinchpoint problems in the High Street (roughly between No. 16 and Oakes House) cropping up when large vehicles cannot get through and are forced to reverse – sometimes as far as The Square - because cars have been parked on opposite sides of the road, leaving too narrow a gap through the middle. This matter was briefly discussed and SG will reply.

ACTION - SG

6 FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Erica Hodgson

- The updated 2025-26 budget report has been approved by the Finance Committee and EH sought Cllrs' approval for the precept request of £80,860.00 which is revenue neutral so will result in no change to the Parish Council aspect of the council tax charge. The precept request will be sent to WC before the deadline in January **Prop. EH; Sec. DE. APPROVED** ACTION -CLERK/SG
- Further to the discussion at the November meeting re. the Ashley Piece play area, which may need fencing to keep out dog walkers as they seem oblivious to the NO DOGS signs, it was agreed that EH should look into the likely cost. ACTION - EH
- SG reported on her conversation with Dave Arnold, who monitors the village's defibrillators, in which he confirmed his belief that they are owned by the PC. DB was asked to contact the residents who donated the lion's share of the cost of the defibrillator installed in Axford this year, to seek their agreement to the PC taking formal ownership of that one, along with the four in Ramsbury. The Axford defibrillator must also be added to the insurance schedule. EH will check if any defibrillators are already included in the PC's asset register; if not, they will need adding when it is next updated. SG has ascertained that there is currently an electricity supply to the Whittonditch road phone box and she will now get on with sourcing a new defibrillator for installation there. ACTION – SG/DB/EH/CLERK

7 PLAY AREAS AND SEATS

Denise Edwards

DE said that she had started to inspect the Knowledge Crescent play area on Monday but had been called away before she was finished. However, no concerns had been reported to her this month on any of our sites. In preparation for tonight's meeting she did inspect Whittonditch Road play area yesterday and her findings are still as previously reported to the council. Whilst there, she also informed a dogwalker (who seemed unaware of the fact) that his two dogs are not permitted on the play area. As regards the HAGS £75 credit, DE thought it best that the committee should meet to discuss a plan of action. ACTION - DE

- DE also reported that there is now another apparently abandoned vehicle on land owned by the PC behind the surgery. SG will check up on them and report them to DVLA and Wilts CC. ACTION - SG

8 ALLOTMENTS

Denise Edwards

- DE reported that a new Committee had been formed at the AGM held on Thursday 5th December, and she hopes everyone will have settled into their new roles by the Spring. Plans have been made for future works to the site, and Robert Copp has been asked to quote for works which will be itemised at our site meeting in early January 2026.
- We look forward to welcoming new plot holders very soon. Now is a great time to get on board your allotment journey. Anyone wishing to view the site can do so by emailing allotments@ramsbury.org or via text 07867921878.
- DE had some questions about the new lease, the allotment agreement between the Parish Council and the Allotment Association (which is an Appendix to the lease), and the Community Asset order and it was agreed that the Association should have copies of the latter two for their records.
- SG confirmed that the lease had been signed now and the £100 back-rent owed for 2025 is on the payment list for this month. **See item 24 (I4400)**

9 RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE REPORT

Doug Greenway

- DGr reported on the December monthly walk and confirmed that there would be no walk in January. Next one will be on Sunday 1st February. The 2026 walk dates and routes will be publicised early in the New Year. ACTION – DGr
- The change to the footpath route across the airfield (RAMSBURY 5, 6 & 8C) has gone to the Secretary of State, presumably because of objections. We await the outcome of that deliberation.
- Tree surgeon Jeremy Hawkins has been called in to inspect the condition of the tree that leans over the footpath from Whittonditch Road to the Ashley Piece play area. Whilst he acknowledges the tree is dead in some places, he does not think it is unsafe or in need of felling at the present time. He submitted a quote in case the PC decides the work needs to be done some time in the future.

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- Several councillors have walked the footpath to Crowood recently without encountering a fallen tree across the path so we assume the landowner must have removed it.
- DGr will check on whether the overgrown area of Bridleway 28 has been cleared.

ACTION – DGr

10 EMERGENCY COMMITTEE REPORT

Sheila Glass

- SG summarised her investigations so far into three possible generator suppliers, bearing in mind that inverter generators seem best suited to our needs, if/how they provide after-sales service, and balancing the need of sufficient power with how noisy the generators might be in use. At present a supplier from Hampshire seems to fit the bill, both from a professional know-how perspective and the price they are quoting for supplying in January, which would be more than covered by the amount of the grant we can claim from SSE. SG will report to SSE accordingly.
- The PC's Emergency database is still incomplete, apparently because many residents are wary of sharing their name, address and email with us. This is frustrating as the purpose of holding this data is purely so we could contact anyone likely to be at risk in the event of a critical incident or an emergency. There is an online form on the community noticeboard on the PC website www.ramsbury.org.uk which can be completed and submitted by any residents who would like to be included. Data is held securely on a password-protected system. DB undertook to review the information we currently hold to identify where there are gaps and report back to the next meeting.
- AF is looking into acquiring new walkie-talkies.
- In order to mitigate potential flood risk throughout the village, SG proposed that the Emergency Wardens be asked to do a regular monthly check of the drains/gullies in their "patch" and quickly report any apparent blockages to the Clerk. This will enable her to flag up the necessary work to the Parish Steward without delay, and might prevent an emergency situation arising beyond the blockage in the event of torrential or prolonged rainfall. She will discuss how best to implement this idea with AF.
- SG also suggested that if wardens are looking out for blocked drains, perhaps they could also report potholes at the same time.
- SG also sought Cllrs' views on whether the PC should hold a supply of face masks which they could make available in the event of a future shortage. This was discussed and agreed since a stock of 500 can be bought for less than £20. SG will go ahead and purchase. **APPROVED.**

ACTION – DB

ACTION - AF

ACTION – SG/AF

ACTION - SG

There was no Public Forum as no members of the public attended the meeting

11 AXFORD

Dianne Barnett

DB said all is well in Axford apart from some potholes which she has reported on My Wilts.

12 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Sheila Glass

Discussed under Item 5 (A8446).

13 VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

SG will make an appointment for a redeployable CCTV demo for councillors in the New Year.

ACTION-SG

14 MEMORIAL HALL

Helen Lloyd

HL had nothing to report.

PLANNING REPORT RAMSBURY AND AXFORD PARISH COUNCIL – Dec 2025
 Planning Applications Processed since November 2025 report

New applications -

| | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • 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/2025/09502 | The Old Tannery, High St | Treework |
| • PL/2025/09376 | 42/43 Oxford Street | Proposed garage |

Still awaiting -

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| • PL/2025/06883 | Coombe Farm, Axford | Self-build house, garaging, tennis court with landscaping & demolishing modern farm buildings |
| • PL/2025/01559 | Upcott Field, Whittonditch Rd | 9 houses and associated works. The layout of this scheme has been amended |
| • PL/2025/08332 | Chandlers Barn, Hilldrop | Change of use to 8-bed conference/event centre. |
| • PL/2025/08376 | Crown and Anchor | De-licence, change of use. |
| • PL/2025/08514 | Windsor House, Square | Treework. |
| • PL/2025/08591 | Richmond Cottage | Treework. |
| • PL/2025/08738 | Westfield Farmhouse | Treework. |
| • PL/2025/08861 | Stone House, Axford | Treework. |
| • PL/2025/08684 | Land rear of 36 Oxford St | Detached 3-bed bungalow. |

Decisions -

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| • PL/2024/07914 | Anvil Cottage Barn | Demolish and rebuild barn for family house. APP |
| • PL/2025/08186 | 3 Orchard Close | Treework. APP |
| • PL/2025/08341 | Church Rooms, Back Lane | Treework APP |
| • PL/2025/08342 | Kennet House, High St | Treework APP |
| • PL/2025/08554 | Vine Cottage, Union St | Treework. APP |
| • PL/2025/07997 | Parliament Piece, Back Lane | Treework in conservation area. APP |
| • 3357357 | Red Lion enforcement appeal NC | |
| • 3362810 | Red Lion planning appeal NC | |
| | Land at Lamplands, enforcement notified, but no response to date. | |

Since compiling the above report, DG said that three treework applications had been approved - PL/2025/08591, PL/2025/08738, and PL/2025/08861 – and one new application for treework at 19 Isles Road had been submitted.

MW reported that three more apple trees have been purchased for the community orchard and are being planted now.

SG has requested another traffic speed survey on the B4192 through Whittonditch.

The trial on a northbound one-way traffic system will come into force towards the end of January 2026.

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18 MARLBOROUGH AREA BOARD

SG had attended the meeting held in Minal on 18th November. There was nothing much to report but she had taken the opportunity to raise some concerns with Inspector Garratt about the burglary at the walled garden on Back Lane, and recent incidents of vandalism and antisocial behaviour at the Recreation Centre. WCC gave a presentation on the problems associated with signing for road works and keeping abreast of works which overrun.

19 TOWN & PARISH CLERKS' MEETING

Sheila Glass

The next meeting will be held on 18th December. SG will attend.

20 PARISH STEWARD'S ROTA

Next scheduled visit will be on 7th January, gritting permitting.

21 NATURE RESERVE

CM was not at the meeting, but SG confirmed that a meeting with residents to discuss flood risk to properties on the High Street will be arranged in the New Year.

ACTION - CM

22 LIBRARY REPORT

The Clerk read out a report from Hilary Hicklin, summarising the very encouraging information given to library volunteers at their meeting on 28th November for the period April-October 2025 compared with the same period in 2024, as follows :-

Membership – up 3.8%

Active Users – up 1.5%

Issues & Renewals – up 21.2%

Visitor Nos. – up 17.5%

NB. These figures are likely to be on the conservative side as digital downloads are not included.

HH also reminded us that library members have free access through the Libby App to an enormous range of magazines (including back issues). With print subscriptions becoming ever more expensive this is a way of cutting costs.

23 VANDALISM/CRIME

- There was a discussion about the circumstances of and police response to a reported gun shot incident on one of the properties adjoining the water meadows on the night of Friday 21st November.
- There has been an exchange of correspondence between SG and the contractor at the site of the burglary from the walled garden on Back Lane.
- A pop-up police surgery at the Ramsbury fire station on 2nd December was advertised on Facebook but we have not received a report as yet so are unaware of any issues raised.

24 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT IN DECEMBER

| Inv. No | Payments to Suppliers – December 2025 | Amount | Net | VAT | Paid By | S137 |
|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|-------|-----------|------|
| I4391 | JRB Enterprises Ltd – dog poo bags. Paid in Nov. | 100.74 | 83.95 | 16.79 | VisaDebit | No |
| I4392 | Dobbies Garden Centre – cyclamen for Memorial Garden. Paid in Nov. | 8.00 | 6.67 | 1.33 | VisaDebit | No |
| I4393 | M J Baker Accountancy – payroll fee for November | 11.25 | 11.25 | 0.00 | DD | No |
| I4394 | Idverde Ltd - Bin emptying in Nov. | 22.20 | 18.50 | 3.70 | BACS | No |
| I4395 | Coral Westall – public loo cleaning in December | 200.00 | 200.00 | 0.00 | BACS | No |

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|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|----------------|-----------|----|
| I4396 | Coral Westall – PC office cleaning Oct-Dec | 34.50 | 34.50 | 0.00 | BACS | No |
| I4397 | TEEC Ltd. – website hosting, security and services | 511.19 | 425.99 | 85.20 | BACS | No |
| I4398 | Royal British Legion – donation for Remembrance Day hospitality | 250.00 | 250.00 | 0.00 | BACS | No |
| I4399 | Kingsdown Nurseries – more trees for Community Orchard | 708.82 | 590.68 | 118.14 | BACS | No |
| I4400 | Janet Talmage – 2025 Allotment rent shortfall | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | BACS | No |
| I4401 | Robert Copp – Annual fee for grass-cutting | 2,475.00 | 2,475.00 | 0.00 | BACS | No |
| I4402 | Lloyds Business Banking – Bank Charges in Dec. | 4.25 | 4.25 | 0.00 | DD | No |
| I4403 | Castle Water – water charges for public loo in Nov | 29.62 | 29.62 | 0.00 | BACS | No |
| I4404 | HP Instant Ink 28 th Oct – 27 th Nov | 13.49 | 11.24 | 2.25 | VisaDebit | No |
| I4405 | HP Instant Ink 28 th Nov – 27 th Dec | 13.49 | 11.24 | 2.25 | VisaDebit | No |
| I4406 | Ramsbury Allotment Association - compost for tree planting | 38.00 | 38.00 | 0.00 | BACS | No |
| I4407 | Tesco – hospitality for December PC meeting** | 39.37 | 32.81 | 6.56 | VisaDebit | No |
| I4408 | Doug Greenway – expenses for December walk refreshments | 20.25 | 20.25 | 0.00 | BACS | No |
| TOTAL TO PAY (excluding Clerk's salary I4409) | | £4,580.17 | £4,343.95 | £236.22 | | |
| | | | | | | |
| TOTAL AMOUNT ON DEPOSIT on 30th Nov 2025* | | £112,218.44 | | | | |
| incl. gross interest earned Dec 2022 to 30 th Nov 2025 | | £6,218.44 | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| INCOME | | | | | | |
| Charity shop rent | | £320.00 | | | | |
| December SO for Memorial Hall broadband | | 9.60 | | | | |
| Allotment Association – 2025 rent shortfall due to landowner | | 100.00 | | | | |
| Allotment Association – 2026 annual rent | | 700.00 | | | | |
| TOTAL INCOME | | £1,129.60 | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| Current A/c balance at 30th Nov 2025 | | £26,388.13 | | | | |

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

It was agreed that SG should take two bottles of wine from this Tesco purchase and gift them to Roz at The Bell as a thank you for having watered the tubs outside the pub throughout the drought this summer. **ACTION - SG

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

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.40pm

**DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 19TH JANUARY 2026 at 7.45pm at RAMSBURY MEMORIAL HALL**

ALL ARE WELCOME