

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 Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 17th February 2025 at 7.45pm in Ramsbury Memorial Hall

1958

Present:

S Glass – Chair (SG)

H Lloyd (HL)

D Barnett – Vice Chair (DB)

E Hodgson (EH)

A Foale (AF)

A Charlwood (AC) – Clerk

D Greenway (DGr)

Wilts. Cllr James Sheppard was also present

- APOLOGIES** – were received from Chris Morgan, Dawn Gill, Matthew Tester. Maggie Waugh, George Hawes and Bernard Murray. **Approved** Denise Edwards and Roger Greasley were not present.
- DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST** – None.
- THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**
The minutes of the meeting held on 20th January were approved and signed as a true record.
Proposed DB; Seconded EH. Approved.
- MATTERS ARISING**
Following his co-option as a parish councillor Doug Greenway signed his acceptance of office form.
- NEW CORRESPONDENCE – Items for discussion***

Ref. No	Date Received	January - February 2025 Correspondence Received From :	Subject *Highlighted for Discussion
*A8055	10 Jan	Wilts CC Traffic Order Tea,	Blanket TTRO 10 th Feb-17 th March covering the Gazette & Herald advertising area. Fwd to Cllrs. SG said she thought we were not affected by these works.
*A8056	10 Jan	Richard Clewer, Leader of WCC	Update on WCC's request to be part of future Wessex devolutionary plan. Fwd. to Cllrs. CllrJS reported that although WC had submitted their documentation on time the Wessex group had not been accepted as a priority group for devolution and therefore would not be eligible for any funding.
*A8057	12 Jan	Resident	Request to notify Highways Dept. that there are 34 potholes between Ramsbury and Marlborough. We notified the Highway engineer and a great many of those potholes have now been repaired.

1959

*A8062	14 Jan	Derek Walters, Wilts Cllr for Corsham Without	Wiltshire speed survey report. Fwd. to Cllrs. For information.
*A8063	15 Jan	Mike Manson, CPRE	Entry guidelines for 2025 Best Kept Village Competition When we receive the application form SG will submit an entry form.
*A8065	17 Jan	Debbie Evans, WCC Community Infrastructure Levy Officer	Guidance Notes for CIL receipts 2024-25. EH will submit the necessary form.
*A8070	23 Jan	Nicola Hillier, Grants Manager, Wiltshire Community Foundation	Publicising WCF is offering university bursary grants to eligible young people. Fwd. to Cllrs. SG will post a notice about the bursaries on the noticeboard.
*A8075	27 Jan	Resident	Fallen trees blocking footpath behind Parliament Piece. Fwd. to RoW C. HL reported that she had walked this path and found no blockage so the landowners must have cleared it quite quickly.
*A8076	27 Jan	Mary Askew, Ramsbury Estates Manager	Provision of Christmas trees and battery light sets. SG said the Estates Manager has written to assure the PC there would be no missing trees next Xmas and that new batteries will be put in when the trees go up and will then be replaced halfway through the holiday to keep them well-lit.
*A8078	28 Jan	Martin Cook, WCC Area Highway Engineer	Disabled bay marking on Isles Road. SG said a resident had evidently sought permission from Northern Highways for this bay but appears to have employed their own contractor to delineate the bay or done the work themselves. As the bay clearly does not comply with the relevant regulations Cllr JS said he will speak to Martin Cook about the resident's responsibility for getting it put right.
*A8079	29 Jan	Wilts CC Traffic Order Team	Blanket TTRO 18 th March-31 st May covering the Gazette & Herald advertising area. Fwd to Cllrs SG said only a repair on Stock Lane will fall within our area.
*A8081	31 Jan	Mike Ferris, Ramsbury Memorial Hall	Prevention of further damage to the hall wall on the car park side – who owns the land? SG has advised RMH that the PC, as the custodian trustee, is the landowner and the Memorial Hall trustees should liaise with the PC if they wish to submit an application.
*A8082	31 Jan	John Herbertson, R. Mem. Hall	Wifi coverage in Lychgate. SG said the hall trustees wish to extend their wifi coverage to the Lychgate building so as to use a Hive system there. SG provided them with another BT disc but this did not give sufficient coverage.
*A8083	31 Jan	Simon Bennett, WCC Legal, Democracy & Governance Dept.	Publication of Independent Remuneration Panel report on an allowance scheme deferred until after May elections.
*A8084	31 Jan	Joanna Smith, WCC	Notes of the Town & Parish Clerks Council meeting on 29 th Jan. Fwd to Cllrs. For information

1960

*A8086	03 Feb	Lisa Grant, WCC Public Protection Officer (Licensing)	Post Office premises licence application. Fwd. to Cllrs. See item 6 (i)
*A8087	03 Feb	Matt Hitch, WCC Democratic Services Officer	WC legal team seeking information about land ownership re. removal of abandoned cars. See Item 9
*A8088	04 Feb	Toni Evans, Wilts Bobby Van Trust (ii)	Venue change for free events on cyber crime and cyber security. Fwd. to Cllrs. HL raised a query about the email describing the events as free (with donations appreciated) but the link taking applicants to a booking page with a £35 charge. SG to query with WBVT
*A8091	04 Feb	Northern Highways, Wilts CC	Discretionary Gully Service programme 2025. Fwd. to Cllrs. SG noted that our visit is not scheduled to happen until around Christmas.
*A8092	04 Feb	Non-resident	Enquiring about whereabouts of Jasmine Cottage, Whittonditch in 1970s. DB and DG volunteered to look back at old maps and old photos to try to find it. UPDATE: Jasmine Cottage is 33 Oxford St.; the enquirer has been notified.
*A8094	05 Feb	Layla Hill, WCC	Invitation to attend hybrid meeting of the OFGW Southern Flood Working Group on 12 th Feb. Fwd. to Emergency Committee. SG pointed out the correct date of the meeting is 19th Feb. SG will attend.
*A8095	05 Feb	WCC Traffic & Network Management Team	Urgent closure of Oxford Street w/e/f 21 st Feb for surface repatching and associated works. Fwd. to Cllrs. For info
*A8096	05 Feb	Fred Rendell, Milestone Infrastructure	Photos of work carried out during parish stewards' visit. Fwd. to Cllrs. For information
*A8101	09 Feb	Resident	One way traffic in Union Street. Fwd to Cllrs. See item 12
*A8102	10 Feb	Resident	Traffic speed on B4192 through Whittonditch. SG said she had met the resident and reported what the PC has done in the past to try to address this issue. There are too few house frontages on to the B4192 to justify any further calming measures to the current speed limit of 60mph and there is excellent visibility in both directions to any driver emerging on to the road; it is their responsibility to emerge with due care.

*The full list of incoming correspondence from 10th Jan – 10th Feb 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 present.

6. Committee Reports:

6(i) Planning

Diann Barnett

PLANNING REPORT RAMSBURY AND AXFORD PARISH COUNCIL – Feb 2025

Planning Applications Processed since Jan 2024 Report

New applications-

- PL/2024/11667/00253 Ramsbury Manor Walled garden, greenhouse and associated.
- PL/2025/00368 Farmers House, Dyers Yd Treework
- PL/2025/00601 Holy Cross Treework
- PL/2025/00484 6 Union Street Renew and add dormer windows to loft conversion
- PL/2025/00672 Downside, 4 High St Treework

Still awaiting-

- PL/2024/07914 Anvil Cottage Barn Demolish and rebuild barn for family house.
- PL/2024/08967 7 The Square, Ramsbury Change of use from Class E to residential
- PL/2024/09052 Coachman Cott, Baydon Manor Removal of dangerous asbestos, glass from conservatory
- PL/2024/10122 Red Lion, Axford Change of use to residential
- PL/2024/11389 The Courtyard, Whittonditch Demolition of and rebuild barn
- PL/2024/11184 Ramsbury Manor 'open-up' work to investigate utilities/structure
- PL/2025/00095 Walled Garden, Back Lane Treework – fell beech
- PL/2024/11703 PIP North of Newtown Rd Min 4/max 5 new houses.

Decisions -

- PL/2024/09196 Knapp House, Ramsbury External repairs and maintenance, replace gable end window and rooflights **APPROVED**
- PL/2024/11202 Evelyn House Treework. **APPROVED**
- PL/2024/09428 Hilldrop Farm Removal of passing place condition. **WITHDRAWN**
- PL/2024/09105 Syon House, 3 High Street Treework. **APPROVED**
- PL/2024/11458 Halfway, Whittonditch Single-storey home office in garden. **RECOMMEND**

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

DB reported that two new decisions had been published on the following applications since her February report :-

- PL/2025/00368 Farmers House, Dyers Yd Treework. **APPROVED**
- PL/2025/00095 Walled Garden, Back Lane Treework – Fell beech. **APPROVE**

A new application had been submitted for a single storey garden room etc. to the rear of the existing house at The Farmhouse, 4 Whittonditch.

The owner of the Red Lion has lodged an appeal against their enforcement order. The PC will respond to the appeal refuting some of the statements. **ACTION - DB**

There has been no decision as yet, as regards the landowner's appeal to the Planning Inspectorate about Wiltshire Council's refusal of his application for a mobile home on land at Lamplands.

1962

DB also gave a report on a WALC webinar on planning matters held on 31/01/25:-

DB and SG attended a webinar run by WALC at which a report was given by the Community Land Trusts - a group who determine housing need, look for suitable locations for new builds and endeavour to link local housing associations with what gets built in communities, and where. Their aim is to involve communities with new housing schemes in their neighbourhood in a way that provides the sort of housing that the community actually needs. Some delegates from Seend said this had been successfully achieved there but it took 7 years to accomplish. Nevertheless, DB and SG came away from the webinar with some food for thought, especially in the light of Ramsbury's given target of 35 new houses in the village by 2038 (only 13 years away).

DB said the PC has no objection to the Post Office's recent application for a licence

6(ii) Finance

Erica Hodgson

- EH sought approval of the Q3 report. **Approved. Prop:EH; Sec:AF.**
- SG proposed that the Single Source Justification in respect of Robert Copp's grass-cutting and hedge trimming be renewed for another two years. **Prop:SG; Sec:EH. Approved**
- HL reported on her review of the Financial Standing Orders and Risk Assessment. She is proposing two or three minor changes to tighten up on some elements of the Risk Assessment and will put these before the Finance Committee at their next meeting. Approval of the Parish Council will be sought at the March meeting. **ACTION – HL/EH**
- EH is reviewing the Asset Register and will circulate to the Finance Committee for approval. **ACTION – EH**
- SG is in talks with the Memorial Hall trustees about what is owed to them for electricity supplied to the public loo, the charity shop and the PC office. She will attend a meeting with them on 19th Feb. but she needs to discuss the matter with the Finance Committee before discussing it with the trustees. A Finance Committee meeting will be called asap. **ACTION-SG/EH**

6(iii) Rights of Way

Doug Greenway

- DGr summarised the plans for a new route for the Boundary Walk on Sunday May 4th. Instead of starting from Crooked Soley as in previous years, he proposes this year's walk should start from the tree and end at about 6pm at the British Legion. This will have the benefit of not needing the Ramsbury Flyer to transport walkers to the start of the walk. This year's lunch stop will be at Ramsbury Brewery which will be more comfortable, convivial and will mean we do not need to hire toilets for the lunch stop. A new route map is being prepared. **ACTION - DGr**
- There will be a circular walk on Sunday 2nd March. DGr will advise SG of where it will be going so notices can go up and to publicise it on the website. **ACTION – DGr/SG**
- DGr is considering widening the scope of the circular walk idea in future to take in possible radial walks and other alternatives that might be more interesting.

6(iv) Play Areas and Seats

Denise Edwards

- DE was not at the meeting but SG reported that the junior swings have been put up on their new frame at Whittonditch play area. The £1900 retained from the contractor's invoice (approved in Jan) will now be paid.
- DE and SG met a supplier to discuss acquiring a pyramid net for Whittonditch (which is likely to be enjoyed by a wider age range of children) and the likely cost. It will be necessary to seek two other quotes from alternative suppliers for such an expensive piece of play equipment, with the aim of putting the work in hand in the Spring. **ACTION – DE/SG**

1963

6(v) Emergency Committee

Alison Foale

- SG said the contractor still hadn't managed to check the generator at the Memorial Hall. She will try to ensure it is done before the next meeting, and it must then be tested and run before every PC meeting so it stays in good working order. **ACTION – SG**
- AF said that three new Emergency Wardens still need to be recruited. **ACTION – AF/SG**
- The PC understands that a planned power cut will affect some properties at the west end of the village between 0800-1600 on 22nd Feb. Vulnerable residents appear to have received notice of this.

6(vi) Environment Committee

Maggie Waugh

None of the Emergency Committee were at the meeting but AF said that the first three trees had been very well planted and were looking good.

7. AXFORD

Diann Barnett

DB has messaged the village WhatsApp group about fundraising for a defibrillator for the village. The first of several ideas put forward will happen on Saturday 8th March 2.00-5.00 when a Games Café will be held in the village hall. Cost : £5 for adults. Kids go free. DB is also pursuing a prospective free defibrillator from the British Heart Association.

The Chair will write to express the PC's thanks to the Axford resident who has worked so hard on tidying up the bus shelter and the phone box. **ACTION-SG/CLERK**

8. LOCAL HIGHWAYS & FOOTPATHS IMPROVEMENT GROUP

Sheila Glass

SG attended the meeting held on 30th January when the question of trialling a one-way system in Union Street was discussed. She was informed that the cost of a six month trial was likely to be approximately £3,000, and the PC would be liable for £750 of that cost. As no more information was forthcoming about what the village would get for that amount of money Cllr JS said he would take this up with Andrew Jack and report back to us. **ACTION – JS/SG**

AF pointed out the importance of proper research into and monitoring of any such trial for it to be worth doing at all.

9. MARLBOROUGH AREA BOARD

Sheila Glass

SG attended the meeting held on 11th February. She had requested that the removal of vehicles from private land be an agenda item (See item 14). In the event, the Chairman passed this matter to local police Inspector Simon Garrett who, after taking note of actions so far taken, advised that WC has a statutory responsibility to remove vehicles from private land. Since the land in question is leased from Salisbury Diocese SG was advised to contact them to obtain permission to make a request for removal of a vehicle. **ACTION - SG**

10. ALLOTMENTS

Denise Edwards

No report.

11. WEBSITE

SG said that the January traffic report had been circulated.

12. UNION STREET ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND

Sheila Glass

See Item 8.

13. PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS

Alison Foale

SG has written to the resident who raised the matter and is awaiting their response.

1964

14. VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

Sheila Glass

- Village general noticeboard – SG said that she had been initially worried that the new noticeboard seemed to be leaking but it now seems OK. She will keep an eye on it.
- The broken bus stop sign in Oxford Street has been mended at last, but not the one on Whittonditch Road. SG will chase up again with Wiltshire Passenger Transport, whose job it is. **ACTION - SG**
- Abandoned cars in the Whittonditch recycling area – see Item 9.
- White gates on Whittonditch Road – SG has ordered the new gate and will collect the other one from the local resident who has been storing it.
- Nothing more has been done recently about replacing the current SIDs with five newer models that are capable of data collection which can be made available to the police. SG will continue to investigate and seek more quotes and will report back to the March meeting. **ACTION - SG**
- EH raised concern about the need to re-do the white lines along Isles Road.
- HL mentioned one of the planters by the speed sign on Whittonditch seemed to falling apart and will need replacing.

15. PARISH STEWARD'S ROTA

Clerk

Next visit will be on 5th March.

ACTION – CLERK

16. MEMORIAL GARDEN

Sheila Glass

Nothing to report.

17. LIBRARY

No report.

18. MEMORIAL HALL

Sheila Glass/George Hawes

The next Trustees meeting will be held on 19/02/2025.

19. NATURE RESERVE

Chris Morgan

SG informed the meeting that CM has reported a bolt missing on the boardwalk to WWT who had promised to take early remedial action.

20. RECREATION CENTRE

George Hawes

No report.

21. RAMSBURY SCHOOL

Roger Greasley

No report.

22. VANDALISM/CRIME

Nothing reported.

23. PATIENTS' REPRESENTATIVE

George Hawes

No report.

24. MAY ELECTIONS

CLlr JS said that parish councillor application forms are now available from WCC Electoral Services. He will forward the link to the Clerk.

Action CLlr JS

1965

25. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT IN FEBRUARY

Inv. No	Payments to Suppliers –February 2025	Amount	Net	VAT	Paid By	\$137
I4197	HMRC – Clerk’s income tax deductions. Paid in Jan.	444.60	444.60	0.00	DD	No
I4198	Barlows & Sons – New white gate for Newtown Road. Paid in Jan.	314.80	262.33	52.47	BACS	No
I4199	Tesco – Chair’s thank you to G. Curtis for IT help. Paid in Jan.	18.00	15.00	3.00	VisaDebit	No
I4200	Tesco – Thank you gift to C. Glass for help putting up the PO noticeboard. Paid in Jan.	11.99	9.99	2.00	VisaDebit	No
I4201	M J Baker Accountancy – payroll fee for January	11.25	11.25	0.00	DD	No
I4202	Idverde Ltd - Bin emptying in January	22.20	18.50	3.70	BACS	No
I4203	Coral Westall – public loo cleaning in February	180.00	180.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4204	Castle Water – public loo water charges 1 st - 31 st January	66.83	66.83	0.00	BACS	No
I4205	BT – Phone and Broadband Feb - April	183.14	152.62	30.52	DD	No
I4206	JRB – dog poo bags	100.74	83.95	16.79	VisaDebit	No
I4207	Robert Copp – planting apple trees in community orchard	150.00	150.00	0.00	BACS	No
	TOTAL (excluding Clerk’s salary I4208)	£1,503.55	£1,395.07	£108.48		
	TOTAL AMOUNT ON DEPOSIT*	£98,622.13				
	incl. gross interest earned Dec 2022 to 31st Jan 2025	£4,622.13				
	MONIES RECEIVED					
	Charity shop rent	£300.00				
	Sale of Aquasacs. Received in January	20.00				
	Late broadband instalments for Memorial Hall Broadband	19.20				
	Feb instalment for Memorial Hall broadband	9.60				
	TOTAL INCOME	£348.80				
	Current A/c at 31st January 2025 – £7,314.92					

*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. EH; Sec. HL

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.30p.m

DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 17th MARCH at 7.45pm at AXFORD VILLAGE HALL

ALL ARE WELCOME

