RAMSBURY & AXFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 16th February 2026 at 7.45pm in Ramsbury Memorial Hall

2049

Present:

S Glass – Chair (SG)
D Barnett – Vice Chair (DB)
D Edwards (DE)
R Greasley (RG)
C Morgan (CM)
E Hodgson (EH)
M Waugh (MW)
A Foale (AF)
D Gill (DGi)
D Greenway (DGr)
B Murray (BM)
A Charlwood (AC) – Clerk

No members of the public were present

1. **APOLOGIES** – were received from Helen Lloyd and Matthew Tester. **Approved.** Bernard Murray did not attend.

2. **DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST** – None.

3. **THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**
The minutes of the meeting held on 15th 19th January were approved and signed as a true record.
Proposed DB; Seconded MW. Approved.

4. **MATTERS ARISING** – None

5. **NEW CORRESPONDENCE – Items for discussion**
***The full list of incoming correspondence from 12th Jan- 6th Feb. can be viewed on the parish council website**

Ref. No	Date Received	January-February 2026 From :	Subject *Highlighted for Discussion
A8500	27 Jan	Fred Rendell, Parish Steward Supervisor (ii)	Temporary suspension of PS visits until further notice, to attend to pothole repairs. Fwd to Cllrs. **For information**
A8509	30 Jan	Kieran Elliott, Wilts CC Democratic Services (ii)	Noting the name of the parish is Ramsbury (not Ramsbury & Axford and asking if that is a change the PC would like to make. Fwd. to Cllrs. **It was agreed that the name should be changed to Ramsbury & Axford Parish Council and SG was asked to action that change. ACTION - SG**
A8511	02Feb	Andrew Jack, Wilts CC	Ramsbury has been identified by Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure fund as a priority target area for funding of on-street EV charging. Invitation to attend a community engagement meeting on 25 Feb. Fwd. to Environment C. **See item 18.**

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A8514	03 Feb	Andy Elliott, Fire & Rescue Service Association	Asking about PC's position on the closure of Ramsbury Fire Station and what steps the PC might take to oppose what is a 16% reduction across our area, and seek more protection and resilience in this already high-risk area. Fwd to Cllrs. **See item 14.**
A8518	04Feb	Roger Turnbull	Querying whether PL/2025/09448 will be discussed at our meeting on 16/02/26. **Forwarded to DB, who has replied.**
A8519	05 Feb	Google Analytics	Website traffic report in Jan. Fwd to Cllrs. **For information**
A8520	05Feb	Clerk to Aldbourne Parish Council	Suggesting that Ramsbury and Aldbourne councils liaise to object to proposal to close Ramsbury fire Station. **See item 14**
A8523	06 Feb	Wiltshire & Swindon Community Foundation	Leaflet re 2026 University Bursaries - leaflet posted on noticeboards, and advertised on website and in WW & Village Diary. Fwd. to Cllrs. **ACTION - SG**

SG also mentioned a recent approach made to her in a telephone conversation with a resident of Swan's Close who is experiencing water coming up through the floor of her house. A surveyor has been appointed by Aster to establish the cause and hopefully propose a remedy.

In answer to a recent email from the Wilts Bobby Van Trust, SG will suggest the WI might welcome a visit/talk from them. **ACTION - SG**

6 FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT ***Erica Hodgson***

- EH explained an omission from the previous Q3 report, which added £310 to the total for Capital Expenditure and reduced the % of the annual budget remaining under this heading to 16.22%. She sought re-approval of the Q3 report with this correction. **Prop. EH; Sec. DGr. APPROVED**
- EH summarised the ballpark quotes that have come in for fencing the Ashley Piece play area. So far it seems that metal fencing for such a large area would come to about £20K. DE said she felt further advice should be sought from RoSPA about what would be involved and what we might realistically hope to achieve by spending so much money. It was agreed that this matter should be discussed at the upcoming Play Areas Committee meeting and reported back at the March PC meeting. **ACTION – EH/DE**
- EH has reviewed the Financial Standing Orders and **these were approved**. More work is required on the Asset Register and Financial Risk Analysis, and approval for these documents will sought at the March meeting. **ACTION - EH**
- EH asked for councillors' suggestions about where pavement repairs could usefully be carried out this year; DE nominated the pavements around the Knowledge Crescent play area. Other suggestions will be discussed at the March PC meeting. **ACTION - ALL**

7 PLAY AREAS REPORT ***Denise Edwards***

- DE reported that four items of rotting wood and metal seating have been dumped on the community orchard area. The PC will attempt to find out who carried out this flytipping, and why. It was agreed that it will need to be disposed of, which will be at the expense of the PC i.e. the village, if the culprit is not found.
- No other concerns have been raised about play areas this month.
- DE added to her earlier comment about fencing the play areas, that RoSPA's advice should be sought about the number of gates needed. DE to arrange committee meeting to discuss this and the repairs to ground at Whittonditch. **ACTION -DE**

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8 ALLOTMENTS *Denise Edwards*

- DE reported that three new plotholders have already been welcomed to the site this year. A few half-plots and quarter-plots are still available. Anyone wishing to view the site can do so by emailing allotments@ramsbury.org or via text 07867921878.
- The first meeting of the new Allotment Committee was held on 12th February, at which their future plans were reviewed and next steps forward were agreed.
- DE expressed her thanks to Josh Talmage for his work on the surrounding hedges, which are looking fabulous, and a further step forward in their regeneration plans.

9 RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE REPORT *Doug Greenway*

- DGr reported that the monthly circular walk on Sunday 1st February was the wettest ever but seven local stalwarts enjoyed the walk with him. The next walk on March 1st will go to Whittonditch via Marridge Hill; more details are on the website and there will be posters. **ACTION - DGr**
- DGr has checked on the state of the overgrown hedges on bridleway 28 and was pleased to say that they have been very well cut back now.
- Further preparations for this year's Boundary Walk on Sunday 3rd May have been made – Ramsbury Brewery have confirmed they can host the lunch stop, letters have gone out to all the landowners and the participation of the scouts in the walk is under discussion. (They have agreed to do bacon butties)
- SG will contact the Ramsbury Run organisers to make sure they are aware that Lofts Bridge is unlikely to be repaired and reopened in time so they will probably need to re-route this year's run. **ACTION - SG**

10 EMERGENCY COMMITTEE REPORT *Alison Foale*

- AF reported an Emergency Committee meeting was held on 11th February to primarily discuss the acquisition of two new generators for our village hubs and the quotes for the new defibrillator for Whittonditch Road.
- SG gave a detailed summary of the generator quote which suits our requirements very well. She proposed we go ahead and accept the Hampshire Generators quote for the two generators of £3,326.63 + VAT. **Prop: SG; Seconded:CM. APPROVED** **ACTION - SG TO PURCHASE**
- Arrangements have been made for the old generators to be removed prior to installation of the new ones.
- SG proposed that the quote for a new defibrillator of £1,369.99 incl. VAT should be accepted. **Prop. SG; Sec: AF. APPROVED** **ACTION - SG TO PURCHASE**
- MT was not at the meeting, but it had been unanimously agreed at the January meeting that the PC should go ahead and buy the six pack of walkie-talkies he recommended. **ACTION – AF/MT**
- The committee agreed to ask wardens to clear drain tops in their area. **ACTION – SG/AF**

11 VILLAGE MAINTENANCE *Sheila Glass*

- SG and DB had a meeting on 30th January with a representative of Redhand CCTV, who had approached us last autumn claiming to supply redeployable CCTV. It quickly became apparent that their installations are not redeployable (by our definition) at all and would be no good for our purposes so the meeting was a waste of time and SG will write to confirm we will not be taking the matter further. **ACTION – SG**
- It was agreed that a green grit bin should be purchased for approx. £120, to be located near the bench at the top of Chapel Lane. SG will order it and write to the local residents about it being their responsibility to keep it filled from the supply of bags at the Recreation Centre. **Prop. DB; Sec. CM. APPROVED** **ACTION - SG**
- After the meeting with Alex Young from Aster, there had been an improvement in the situation but SG and other councillors will continue to keep an eye on the storage of wheelie bins at Saxon Forge.

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12 NATURE RESERVE ***Chris Morgan***

- CM said he and SG had had a very useful meeting that morning with Anna Forbes from ARK and Nick Self from Wiltshire Wildlife Trust at which they discussed the current water level, and the wider issue of the way in which the water meadows protect the village from the river flooding. CM will take photos periodically to record how the water levels may rise and fall. There had also been a discussion of the way the weir behind the fire station can get blocked from time to time, and the worry this often creates for the residents of the houses on the High Street beyond the fire station. It was suggested that it might be possible to have the weir removed as it seems to serve no useful purpose, and CM and Anna Forbes will investigate this. **ACTION - CM**
- CM drew councillors' attention to the way in which the future of the fire station might be important for the Nature Reserve as the equipment used now by WWT to cut back vegetation is too bulky to be transported along the footpath and they have been permitted to bring it on site over the fire station land. SG said she would go through the archive to investigate whether that path is a right of way, or it belongs to Wilts CC. **ACTION - SG**

13 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW ***Sheila Glass***

See item 5 (A8509). SG to reply, requesting the PC name be changed. **ACTION - SG**

14 POTENTIAL CLOSURE OF RAMSBURY FIRE STATION - ***Sheila Glass***

SG confirmed that two public consultations about the closure of our fire station will be held in the Memorial Hall, one on **2nd March (6.00-8.00)** and another on **3rd March (10.30-12.30).** There will also be a dial-in session **on April 25th from 6.00-7.00p.m.** DE will post the dates of these meetings on social media and SG will publicise on the website, in Whitton Ways and on the noticeboards. **ACTION – SG/DE**

SG proposed that the PC wait to see what comes out of these meetings before starting to make representations opposing the closure.

DE confirmed that the Horticultural Society meeting on the evening of 2nd March will be re-scheduled to April 19th to avoid clashing with the fire station public meeting.

<u>There was no public forum as no members of the public were present</u>

15 AXFORD ***Diann Barnett***

Nothing to report.

16 PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT ***Diann Barnett***

PLANNING REPORT RAMSBURY AND AXFORD PARISH COUNCIL – Feb 2026

Planning Applications Processed since January 2026 report

<u>New applications-</u>

- PL/2026/00104 Knypersley, 79 High St Alterations and extension to rear.
- PL/2026/00597 Susie Watson, The Square Change of use to residential.

<u>Still awaiting -</u>

- PL/2025/01559 Upcott Field, Whittonditch Rd 9 houses and associated works. This application lay-out has been amended.
- PL/2025/08376 Crown and Anchor Delicence, change of use.
- PL/2025/08684 Land rear of 36 Oxford St Detached 3 bed bungalow.
- 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/2025/09823 1 High St, Ramsbury Change of use, remodel and conservatory

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Decisions-

- PL/2025/09502 The Old Tannery, High St Treework APPROVED
- PL/2025/06883 Coombe Farm, Axford Self-build house, garaging, tennis court with Landscaping, demolishing modern farm buildings. APPROVED
- PL/2025/09620 19 Isles Road Treework APPROVED

Since writing this report DB had been notified that PL/2025/09823 (for 1 High St, Ramsbury) had been refused. Having supported this application, the PC are puzzled by this decision.

17 ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ***Maggie Waugh***

SG, DGi and MW have signed up to attend a meeting on 25th February about funding for on-street EV chargers. **ACTION SG/DGr/MW**

18 RAMSBURY MEMORIAL HALL ***Helen Lloyd***

The next meeting of the Memorial Hall Committee will be held on 18th February.

19 LOCAL HIGHWAYS & FOOTWAYS IMPROVEMENT GROUP ***Sheila Glass***

SG attended the meeting on 5th February at which she learnt that there is only £18,000 remaining in the 25/26 budget and only £30,000 will be available in 2026/27.

20 MARLBOROUGH AREA BOARD ***Sheila Glass***

The clerk will respond to a recent email from a resident of Union Street about the one-way northbound trial currently underway. **ACTION - CLERK**

21 TOWN & PARISH CLERKS MEETING ***Sheila Glass***

SG attended the meeting on 22nd January at which it was announced that Wilts CC are proposing to increase parking charges by 20% and extend the hours to 7am – 7pm every day (including Sundays). AF asked who would see that extra revenue as it is unfair if these increased charges come into force in our neighbourhood, but all the money is invested elsewhere.

22 PARISH STEWARD'S ROTA

Parish Steward visits are currently suspended whilst they are being diverted on to repairing potholes exclusively.

23 VANDALISM/CRIME ***Sheila Glass***

SG reported that the public loo was vandalised yet again a week ago. It was agreed that the PC should make this sort of problem more widely known and DE was asked to post this sort of information on social media. SG will post on the website. **ACTION – DE/SG**

24 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT IN FEBRUARY

Inv. No	Payments to Suppliers – February 2026	Amount	Net	VAT	Paid By	S137
I4428	HMRC – PAYE & Employer's NI on Clerk's salary. Paid in Jan.	556.16	556.16	0.00	DD	No
I4429	Toolstation – New wireless doorbell for PC office. Paid in Jan.	8.99	7.49	1.50	VisaDebit	No
I4430	M J Baker Accountancy – payroll fee for January	11.25	11.25	0.00	DD	No
I4431	Idverde Ltd - Bin emptying in January	22.20	18.50	3.70	BACS	No

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I4432	Coral Westall – public loo cleaning in February	200.00	200.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4433	Postage – first class stamps x 4	6.80	6.80	0.00	VisaDebit	No
I4434	Lloyds Business Banking – Bank Charges in Feb	4.75	4.75	0.00	DD	No
I4435	Castle Water – water charges for public loo in Jan	42.82	42.82	0.00	BACS	No
I4436	BT – Phone & Broadband Feb - April	193.00	160.83	32.17	DD	No
	TOTAL (excl. Clerk's salary I4437)	**£1,045.97**	**£1,008.60**	**£37.37**		
	TOTAL AMOUNT ON DEPOSIT on 31st January 2026*	**£102,489.36**				
	incl. gross interest earned Dec 2022 to 31st Dec 2025	£6,489.56				
	INCOME					
	Charity shop rent	£320.00				
	December SO for Memorial Hall broadband	9.60				
	SSE – grant for new generators. Received in January	5789.00				
	HMRC – VAT reclaim March-December 2025	9,383.57				
	TOTAL INCOME	**£15,502.17**				
	Current A/c balance at 31st January 2026	**£9,601.39**				

***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. DB; Sec. RG

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.10pm

DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 16TH MARCH 2026 at 7.45pm at AXFORD VILLAGE HALL

ALL ARE WELCOME

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