

# RAMSBURY & AXFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 7.45pm in Ramsbury Memorial Hall

1950

### Present:

S Glass – Chair (SG)	M Waugh (MW)
D Barnett – Vice Chair (DB)	G Hawes (GH)
M Tester (MT)	A Foale (AF)
B Murray (BM)	H Lloyd (HL)
D Edwards (DE)	E Hodgson (EH)
R Greasley (RG)	A Charlwood (AC) – Clerk

### 5 members of the public were also present

1. **APOLOGIES** – were received from Chris Morgan, Dawn Gill and Erica Hodgson. **Approved**

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

### 3. **THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> December were approved and signed as a true record.

**Proposed BM; Seconded MT. Approved.**

4. **MATTERS ARISING** - None

### 5. **CO-OPTION OF NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR – DOUG GREENWAY**

Mr. Greenway's application to join the parish council had been circulated and was summarised by SG, who proposed he be accepted. This was unanimously welcomed, and he therefore took a seat at the table as a PC member. **Proposed:SG; Seconded:MW. APPROVED**

### 6. **NEW CORRESPONDENCE – Items for discussion\***

Ref. No	Date Received	December 2024 – January 2025 Correspondence From:	Subject *Highlighted for Discussion
*A8018	05 Dec	Helen Sparks, DEFRA Planning Inspectorate	WCC Definitive Map Modification Order Notice re. RoW Ramsbury, 9B, 44, 71 and 72. <b>See item 7 (iii)</b>
*A8022	06 Dec	Fred Rendell, Milestone Infrastructure	Photos of work done by Parish Stewards at December visit. Fwd to Cllrs. For information
*A8023	06 Dec	Sally Madgwick, WCC Definitive Map & Highway Records Manager (i)	Decision to upgrade bridleway and footpath (9A and 9B) to a restricted byway. Fwd. to Row C. <b>See item 7 (iii)</b>

## 1951

*A8024	07 Dec	Adam Flett, Ramsbury Manor Estate Manager	Environment Agency Reservoir Flood Map. Fwd to Cllrs. <b>The PC's concerns remain so it was agreed that the Emergency Committee should continue to keep this matter under review. ACTION-SG</b>
*A8027	09 Dec	Stephen Leonard, WCC Countryside Access Officer	Emergency closure of footpath RAMS30 due to the condition of the bridges over the Kennet. <b>See item 7 (iii). This bridge will remain closed until early Spring when the necessary repairs will be carried out by WCC, whose responsibility it is.</b>
*A8028	10 Dec	Resident	Assignment of a contractor to resolve overhanging tree/hedge near the bend at the bottom of Whittonditch. <b>SG had investigated and learnt that WCC had taken the necessary steps to avert the danger of the tree falling over the road.</b>
*A8029	10 Dec	Sally Madgwick, WCC Definitive Map & Highway Records Manager (ii)	Evidence of dedication and use of a byway at an earlier time trumps any later disuse in the decision to amend WCC definitive map. Fwd to RoW C. <b>See item 7 (iii).</b>
*A8031	16 Dec	Sally Canter, WCC Head of Planning Improvement & Building Control	The next Planning Town and Parish Council Forum will take place online on 11 Feb 2025 6-8pm. Fwd to Planning Committee. <b>DB will try to attend. ACTION-DB</b>
*A8033	18 Dec	Chris Pearce, WCC Highways Asset & Commissioning Technical Officer	Inspection of bridges in Ramsbury and further action to temporarily repair the deck of Lofts bridge, pending replacement in Spring 2025. <b>See A8027 above</b>
*A8035	19 Dec	Resident	At least two Christmas trees are missing in Oxford St. <b>Unfortunately, it was too late to remedy this oversight by the time the PC were made aware of it.</b>
*A8038	23 Dec	Atkins Realis	Temporary road closure for carriageway repairs C6-C190 21 <sup>st</sup> -24 <sup>th</sup> January. Fwd. to Cllrs. <b>For information.</b>
*A8041	02 Jan	Gov.UK Contract Finder	Publication on Contract Finder of documents re. 2024 repairs and reconstruction of pavements and virtual footpath in Ramsbury. <b>See Item 7(ii)</b>
*A8044	05 Jan	Resident	Co-option to parish council. Fwd. to Cllrs. <b>See item 6.</b>
*A8049	06 Jan	Fred Rendell, Milestone Infrastructure	Parish stewards' visits disrupted because of recent bad weather requiring them to cover gritting and emergency callouts. <b>For information</b>
*A8051	08 Jan	Matthew Hitch, WCC Democratic Services Officer	Invitation to parish councillors to attend the meeting of Marlborough Area Board on 11 <sup>th</sup> Feb. Fwd. to Cllrs. <b>SG will attend. ACTION-SG</b>

## 1952

*A8052	09 Jan	Jason Lucas, WCC	Extension Notice and Indicative Plan re. temporary closure of part of Bridleway 6 and part of footpath RAMS8C. Fwd. to RoW Committee. <b>SG said this would be a temporary and minor diversion only whilst work is done on the drive to Park Farm.</b>
*A8083	10 Jan	15 Letters from residents of Union Street	Responding to proposal to make Union Street one-way northbound. <b>See Item 13</b>

\*The full list of incoming correspondence from 5th Dec – 9th Jan can be viewed on the parish council website

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

One resident observed that bringing forward the scheduling of the public forum in meetings prevented the public from being able to comment on anything else on the agenda afterwards as, technically, the public can speak or ask questions only during the public forum and not during the rest of the meeting. It was explained that this had been done at the Clerk's suggestion and was intended to avoid the inconvenience to the public of having to sit through often lengthy committee reports before being able to speak. SG said the standing orders in this respect were always honoured in the breach so a comment or question would always be taken from the public provided it were genuinely relevant to the matter under discussion.

## 7. Committee Reports:

### 7(i) Planning

*Diann Barnett*

#### PLANNING REPORT RAMSBURY AND AXFORD PARISH COUNCIL – Jan 2025

##### Planning Applications Processed since Dec 2024 Report

#### New applications -

PL/2024/11458 Halfway, Whittonditch	Single storey home office in garden
PL/2024/11389 The Courtyard, Whittonditch	Demolition of and rebuild barn
PL/2024/11184 Ramsbury Manor	Work to 'Open-up' and investigate utilities/structure
PL/2025/00095 Walled Garden, Back Lane	Treework – fell beech
PL/2024/11703 Land north of Newtown Rd	PIP for a min 4/max 5 new houses.

#### 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/2024/09105 Syon House, 3 High Street	Treework
PL/2024/09052 Coachman Cott, Baydon Manor	Removal of dangerous asbestos and glass from conservatory
PL/2024/09428 Hilldrop Farm	Removal of passing place condition.
PL/2024/10122 Red Lion, Axford	Change of use to residential
PL/2024/09196 Knapp House, Ramsbury window and rooflights	External repairs and maintenance; replace gable-end
PL/2024/11202 Evelyn House	Treework

#### Decisions -

PL/2024/09704 1 High Street, Ramsbury	Treework. APPROVED
PL/2024/09571 Recreation Centre	Open veranda for outdoor entertainment. APPROVED
PL/2024/07790(LB) The Cedars, Scholars Lane	Single ext., pool house & boundary wall. APPROVED
PL/2024/07662 The Cedars	Listed building consent for above. APPROVED
PL/2024/09187 Spring House, Union Street	Treework. APPROVED
PL/2024/09748 52 Ashley Piece	2 antennas in garden. REFUSED
PL/2024/11047 Walled Garden, Back Lane	Treework (thin and crown). APPROVED
PL/2024/10489 Parliament Piece	Treework. APPROVED
PL/2024/08954 Elizabethan Cottage	Single-storey rear ext. APPROVED

## 1953

DB reported

- that PL/2024/11202 (Evelyn House: Treework) had been approved since the above report went out;
- that application PL/2024/09428 (Hilldrop Farm: Removal of passing place condition) had been withdrawn
- the owner's appeal against the refusal of the mobile home application at Lamplands should be progressed soon
- that a new application had been submitted by Ramsbury Manor for new greenhouses etc.
- yet again, no news about enforcement's investigation into the work done at 42/44 Oxford Street

The members of the public who attended the meeting were all there to voice their concerns about PL/2024/11703 - (an application for "Planning in Principle" (PIP) for a min 4/max 5 new houses on land north of Newtown Rd (unspecified). This application had been submitted to Wilts CC five days before the Christmas/New Year break and published with none of the necessary documentation attached so, given the lack of the usual necessary details and the failure to consult properly, DB has written to formally request a two-week extension of the deadline for objections which was originally set at 24<sup>th</sup> January. The PC will submit their objections to the application, but their voice carries no greater weight with the planners than any other single objection from a resident so DB encouraged all the residents at the meeting to also submit their own comments or concerns by 24<sup>th</sup> Jan.

### 7(ii) Finance

*Erica Hodgson*

- EH was unable to attend the meeting but SG confirmed that the precept request had been sent to Wilts CC.
- EH has published the relevant contract documentation relating to the 2024 pavements and virtual footpath repairs on the Contract Finder website.
- HL agreed to review the Financial Standing Orders and Risk Assessment again this year. **ACTION - HL**
- EH will be reviewing the 2025 Asset Register. **ACTION - EH**
- The Q3 report is complete and will be circulated soon along with EH's report on the figures. Approval of the Q3 will be sought at the February PC meeting. **ACTION - EH/Clerk**

### 7(iii) Rights of Way

*Sheila Glass*

- Closure of Lofts bridge at Seven Bridges – This was necessary before Christmas as the damage had become so bad as to be dangerous. Wilts CC have carried out some temporary repairs, pending getting it properly mended in the late Spring. The bridge remains closed until repairs are carried out.
- MT mentioned some fallen trees in the river elsewhere, but they are not thought to present a problem at present.
- SG explained the legal position about footpaths 9A/9B having been re-designated as a restricted byway – Wilts CC take the view that the fact of them having been used historically for wheeled traffic (no matter how long ago) "trumps" all other practical or ecological considerations apparently, despite the fact they would be impassable by any horse-drawn vehicle.
- With the newly co-opted Doug Greenway on the PC, SG hoped he would be willing to take over the Chairmanship of the Rights of Way sub-committee. DG expressed his willingness to do so and agreed to make contact with the previous chair (Lynn Jauncey) to do a handover and get briefed about the necessary preparations for the annual boundary walk. **ACTION - DGreenway**

### 7(iv) Play Areas and Seats

*Denise Edwards*

- SG reported that DB had been to the Axford play area to inspect the work and confirmed that the new swings are complete. The associated work to remove the old storage shed and reduce the width of the hedge will be done when the weather improves.
- The "pick-up-sticks" climbing frame which collapsed at the end of last year was quickly dismantled and removed, along with the frame for the junior swings. The contractor who installed the new swings at Axford has also put in an identical swing frame at Whittonditch to replace the old one but hasn't yet mounted the old, reuseable swings on the new frame. SG will chase them up about completing this part of the job.

## 1954

- DE has been researching a replacement for the old climbing frame and is likely to recommend a pyramid net, which is likely to be enjoyed by a wider age range of children. This will be discussed again at the next meeting, with the aim of putting the work in hand in the Spring. **ACTION – DE**

### 7(v) Emergency Committee

*Alison Foale*

- SG said Josh Talmage hadn't yet managed to check the generator at the Memorial Hall as he had been away on holiday. She will try to ensure it is done before the next meeting, and it will then be checked and tested before every PC meeting so it stays in good working order. **ACTION – SG**
- AF reported that three new Emergency Wardens were needed currently, and some possible new recruits were briefly discussed. It was agreed AF and SG should meet and discuss further outside this meeting. **ACTION – AF/SG**
- In the aftermath of a recent accident on Back Lane when a walker fell and suffered a broken leg, it was agreed that the emergency items stored in the PC office like silver blankets etc. should be reviewed and clearly labelled so they can be accessed more easily in future. **ACTION – SG**
- With that in mind, SG proposed that the old radios and telephones for use in an emergency be binned and the PC acquire some new, long-range walky-talkies. This was approved.
- SG will be unable to attend the next Flood meeting in Marlborough on 12<sup>th</sup> February but she has sent her apologies and asked to be kept updated about any developments.

### 6(vi) Environment Committee

*Maggie Waugh*

- Community Orchard update – MW reported that the three apple trees going in in the first phase of the orchard project will be arriving soon and MW and BM will be having a site meeting with Robert Copp tomorrow to get it up and running. The Environment Committee have applied for a grant from WCC for help with the cost of the first tranche and will have the potential to seek further funding when it comes to phase two.
- MW has learnt that thermal imaging equipment can now be hired through the library service.
- MW has become aware that the government-approved safety covering for EV charging cables crossing pavements might, in itself, be a trip hazard, especially at night.

### 8. AXFORD

*Diann Barnett*

- DB confirmed that the installation of the new swings was complete and looking good.
- The local landowner has now cut back his hedge as much as possible to make space for pedestrians to walk more safely along the road opposite the village hall.
- DB will report that one of the salt containers is empty.
- BM said that the traffic speed survey has yet to be carried out but should be done fairly soon in one of the two locations identified at either end of the village.
- DB will message the village WhatsApp group about raising money to put towards the cost of a defibrillator for the village.

### 8. LOCAL HIGHWAYS & FOOTPATHS IMPROVEMENT GROUP

*Sheila Glass*

The next meeting will be on 30<sup>th</sup> January. SG will attend.

**ACTION - SG**

### 10. MARLBOROUGH AREA BOARD

*Sheila Glass*

SG will attend the next meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> February.

**ACTION - SG**

## 1955

### 11. ALLOTMENTS

*Denise Edwards*

DE is chasing up tenancy renewals.

**ACTION -**

**DE**

### 12. WEBSITE

SG said that the December traffic report had been circulated, and she is keeping the website up to date as best she can.

**ACTION - SG**

### 13. UNION STREET ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND

*Sheila Glass*

SG reported that fifteen Union Street residents had responded to the questionnaire about this proposal. All were in favour, with ten agreeing that the one-way traffic should run south to north, four preferring north to south and one was indifferent as to the direction. SG will take these findings to the Highways and Footways department and request that they conduct a trial of the south to north option to see how it works.

**ACTION - SG**

HL asked if the rest of the village would get a chance to comment on this scheme and it was agreed that the best time to seek wider option would be after the initial trial has been completed.

### 14. PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS

*Alison Foale*

AF reported that she and SG had attended a site meeting with the resident who raised this matter, at which the practicalities and possible options for addressing her concerns were further discussed. No decision was reached.

The resident believes that two zebra crossings are needed to improve safety at school drop-off and pick-up times (across Back Lane and across Oxford Street at the corner with The Bell). The PC take the view that this would not only prove impractical to implement but also of questionable benefit for two 15-minute periods at the start and end of the school day during term times, especially in view of the very high cost of such measures. Instead, they are looking into the viability of new solar-powered flashing school warning signs which can be programmed to operate only when needed at school times. SG will write to the resident with more information about this alternative, and it was suggested that the PTA be approached about perhaps contributing towards the cost.

**ACTION - SG**

### 15. VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

*Sheila Glass*

- Village general noticeboard – SG said that the new noticeboard had been delivered and will be put up this weekend, weather permitting.
- Broken bus stop signs in Oxford Street and Whittonditch Road - Still not mended. SG will chase up again with 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. Having submitted V888s to the DVLA in an effort to get these illegally parked cars removed from privately-owned land, SG and BM are still awaiting their response. SG has brought this matter to public attention on Facebook and in Whitton Ways, and she will be raising it at the next Marlborough Area Board meeting, and will seek advice from NALC. **ACTION – SG**
- White gates on Whittonditch Road – SG sought approval to accept the quote from Barlows for one more small white gate and get them to go ahead with the work. **APPROVED. Prop. SG; Sec. DE.**
- There was a discussion about the cost and efficacy of 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 for price comparison.
- 2025 Diary dates: - the Street Fair will be held on 21<sup>st</sup> June. The PC felt it was not necessary to run a stall this year.

### 16. PARISH STEWARD'S ROTA

*Clerk*

Next visit will be 5<sup>th</sup> February. Rota request to include multiple potholes on Union Street and the one between The Bell and the old Ramsbury Building Society building.

**ACTION – CLERK**

## 1956

### 17. MEMORIAL GARDEN

*Sheila Glass*

Nothing to report.

### 18. LIBRARY

No report.

### 19. MEMORIAL HALL

*Sheila Glass/George Hawes*

SG raised the question of getting CCTV installed to cover the car park. Some alternative methods were discussed and SG will take the suggestion to the next trustees meeting.

### 20. NATURE RESERVE

*Chris Morgan*

No report.

### 21. POLICE CONSULTATION

The PCSO held a surgery in the British Legion café from 11.30-12.30 on 14<sup>th</sup> January but unfortunately arrived late because of the road closure in Axford. Her report is awaited.

### 22. RECREATION CENTRE

*George Hawes*

No report.

### 23. RAMSBURY SCHOOL

*Roger Greasley*

There are currently 195 children on the roll, i.e. 15 short. In a recent exercise to look at how many children in the school come from out of the catchment area, it was found that this was the case for about a third. Half-term will run 17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> February.

### 24. VANDALISM/CRIME

The local jokers with nothing better to do left a Christmas tree in the public loo. One of the councillors witnessed a car being broken into in Townfield at 6.30 a.m. one morning.

### 25. PATIENTS' REPRESENTATIVE

*George Hawes*

Representatives' meetings are being moved online in an effort to attract new members.

### 26. MAY ELECTIONS

SG said that all nominations have to be in by 2<sup>nd</sup> April and the forms will have to be taken, in person, to Devizes when the time comes. The forms are not out yet so this will be discussed again at the next PC meeting.

SG summarised the comparative costs to the PC of the election as follows –

If uncontested - £1.70 per elector

If contested – anything between £200-£1,100.

### 27. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT IN JANUARY

Inv. No	Payments to Suppliers –January 2025	Amount	Net	VAT	Paid By	S137
I4181	Amazon Market Place –A4 laminating pouches. Paid in Dec.	19.98	16.65	3.33	VisaDebit	No
I4182	Ramsbury Shop – card (Lynn Jauncey retirement). Paid in Dec.	2.50	2.50	0.00	VisaDebit	No
I4183	Waitrose – flowers (Lynn Jauncey retirement). Paid in Dec.	8.00	6.66	1.34	VisaDebit	No
I4184	Post Office Counters – Postage to DVLA re abandoned cars. Paid in Dec.	3.30	3.30	0.00	VisaDebit	No

## 1957

I4185	Ramsbury Shop – Envelopes. <b>Paid in Dec.</b>	3.50	2.92	0.58	VisaDebit	No
I4186	M J Baker Accountancy – payroll fee for December	11.25	11.25	0.00	DD	No
I4187	Idverde Ltd - Bin emptying in December	22.20	18.50	3.70	BACS	No
I4188	Coral Westall – public loo cleaning in January	180.00	180.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4189	Castle Water – public loo water charges 1 <sup>st</sup> - 31 <sup>st</sup> December	70.04	70.04	0.00	BACS	No
I4190	Redlynch Leisure Installations Ltd – Axford swing and Whittonditch play area swing frame	7854.00	6545.00	1309.00	BACS	No
I4191	HP Instant Ink – 28 <sup>th</sup> Dec. – 27 <sup>th</sup> Jan.	11.99	9.99	2.00	VisaDebit	No
I4192	Sheila Glass - Chair's mileage and various expenses	66.40	66.40	0.00	BACS	No
I4193	Ramsbury Shop – Clerk's 2025 diary	6.99	5.83	1.16	Visadebit	No
	<b>SUB-TOTAL (excluding Clerk's salary I4194)</b>	<b>£8,260.15</b>	<b>£6,939.04</b>	<b>£1321.11</b>		
I4195	Kingsdown Nurseries Ltd – three apple trees etc. for the first phase of the community orchard	759.70	711.58	48.12		
I4196	Office Boffins – General noticeboard for wall of the PO	519.54	432.95	86.59		
	<b>TOTAL TO PAY</b>	<b>£9,539.39</b>	<b>£8,083.57</b>	<b>£1455.82</b>		
	<b>TOTAL AMOUNT ON DEPOSIT*</b>	<b>£103,447.31</b>				
	incl. gross interest earned Dec 2022 to 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec. 2024	£4,447.31				
	<b>MONIES RECEIVED</b>					
	Charity shop rent	<b>£300.00</b>				
	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>300.00</b>				
	<b>Current A/c at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 – £10,935.42</b>					

\*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 two additional bills (I4195 and I4196) which had been added to the list for payment since the meeting agenda was sent out.

**The Accounts were accepted and were unanimously approved. Prop. SG; Sec. GH**  
**There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.15p.m**

**DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MONDAY 17<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2025 at 7.45pm at RAMSBURY MEMORIAL HALL**  
**ALL ARE WELCOME**