

# RAMSBURY & AXFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July at 7.45pm in Ramsbury Memorial Hall

1903

### Present:

S Glass – Chair (SG)

D Barnett - Vice Chair (DB)

H Lloyd (HL)

M Tester (MT)

M Waugh (MW)

A Foale (AF)

C Morgan (CM)

G Hawes (GH)

D Edwards (DE)

E Hodgson (EH)

A Charlwood (AC) – Clerk

1. **APOLOGIES** – were received from Roger Greasley, Bernard Murray, Dawn Gill and Lynn Jauncey. **Approved**

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

### 3. THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Item 6(v)) omitted AF's report that four new emergency wardens had recently been recruited and all the vacancies had now been filled. That note having been inserted, the minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> June were approved and signed as a true record. **Proposed DE; Seconded MW. Approved.**

### 4. MATTERS ARISING

With reference to item 12(iii) MT said that while he had understood that the results of the traffic speed surveys would mean the PC would be unable to ask for any more monitoring or police action, he had not understood that the issue of a possible 20mph speed reduction would not be taken any further by the PC, as was reported in Whitton Ways. A lengthy and wide-ranging discussion ensued about

- MT's misgivings about the rationale for this
- the effectiveness (or not) of similar measures that have been adopted in Bedwyn and Lockeridge;
- the approximate cost for legal fees and changing signage (£4,000) in Ramsbury, SG having raised the matter at the last LHFIG meeting;
- whether any such measures would be value for money given that the speed survey in the High Street showed that the 85 percentile was travelling at 22.4mph with an average speed over the week of 18.1mph; it seems evident that the density of parking along there is already acting as an effective and self-enforcing speed reduction measure;
- whether a lower speed limit on Whittonditch Road would work either, given the lack of compliance of the 20mph limit that already exists on Back Lane because of the school

## 1904

SG suggested that the issue could be left on the agenda for further discussion at the next LHFIG meeting. However, MT acknowledged that there was no support for pursuing the matter further so the meeting should move on.

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

Ref. No	Date Received	June-July 2024 Correspondence	Subject *Highlighted for Discussion
*A7791	04 June	Resident (i)	Information about model railway club in the village and enquiry about PC funding. SG has replied suggesting they put in for a grant from MAB this autumn and apply to the PC for a grant in 2025.
*A7795	12 June	CPRE Wiltshire(i)	Best Kept Village first round results. Fwd. to Cllrs. See item 13. Ramsbury came second by one point. A report will go into Whitton Ways.
*A7796	15 June	Claire Costello	Responsibility for care and maintenance of RAF Ramsbury Memorial. Fwd to Cllrs. See item 13
*A7801	18 June	Resident	Reporting a potential trip hazard on Oxford Street. For information.
*A7802	18 June	Fundraising Coordinator, Prospect Hospice	Thank you for donation of £115.00 raised from collection at Cream Tea event. Fwd. to Cllrs. For information
*A7803	18 June	Emma Egan, Chair, Ramsbury PreSchool	New pre-school weekly litter-picks, to help children understand the part they play in the community. Fwd. to Cllrs. See item 13
*A7804	19 June	CPRE Wiltshire(ii)	BKV judges' report for Ramsbury. Fwd. to Cllrs. See item 13
*A7805	23 June	Resident	Reporting blocked bridleway up by Park Farm. Fwd. to Rights of Way C. LJ went to inspect but found no problems. The resident has been notified.
*A7809	26 June	Resident	HGVs on Union Street. See item 13
*A7811	28 June	Adam Flett, Estate Manager, Ramsbury Manor	Information about control of sluices gates. Fwd. to Cllrs. See item 6(v)
*A7817	02 July	Solar Together	Information about a group-buying initiative. Fwd. to Environment C. See item 6(vi). MW suggested that this information go up on the PC website. ACTION:DE/SG
*A7820	03 July	Resident	Querying June meeting draft minutes as regards recruitment of new Emergency Wardens. Fwd. to Emergency Committee. See Item 3.

## 1905

*A7824	04 July	Resident (ii)	Update re. venue and membership of model railway club. Fwd. to Cllrs. For information.
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\*The full list of incoming correspondence from 3<sup>rd</sup> June- 4<sup>th</sup> July can be viewed on the parish council website

### 6. Committee Reports:

#### 6 (i) Planning

*Diann Barnett*

#### PLANNING REPORT RAMSBURY AND AXFORD PARISH COUNCIL – July 2024

##### Planning Applications Processed since June 2024 Report

##### New applications-

- PL/2024/06429 Westfield House, Mill Lane Treework.

##### Still awaiting-

- PL/2024/04645 House on the Hill, Hilldrop Oak-framed garage and workshop

##### Decisions-

- PL/2024/02414 N&S Blocks, Whittonditch Variation of conditions-fenestration. APP
- PL/2024/02733 Doorstep Cott, Hilldrop Extension, resub of PL/2024/01188 APP
- PL/2024/03602 Hop House, Tankard Lane Front porch ext., rear utility ext. and alteration. APP
- PL/2024/03982 Mardle House, Back Lane Treework APP
- PL/2024/03995 Hop House, Tankard Lane Treework APP
- PL/2023/06108 Land NE Lamplands Siting of mobile home OBJ REFUSED
- PL/2024/04362 36 Ashley Piece, Ramsbury Single storey ext. & pitch roof to garage
- PL/2023/10639 Hilldrop Farm Extension to pool house (retro) change shoot lodge (retro) change lodge to carers accommodation APP

DB said that she had reported a number of apparent infringements of the approved plan at 42/44 Oxford Street (PL/2023/01811).

#### 6(ii) Finance

*Erica Hodgson*

##### Q1 Report

EH had circulated the report prior to the meeting and said that the figures were broadly in good order. There being no questions, the Q1 report was approved. **Prop. DB; Sec. HL.**

##### Carty's Retention Fee

SG and RG have carried out a snagging inspection and found only one item that needed fixing, i.e. that the public loo alarm was too quiet to attract anyone's attention in the event of an emergency. SG has reported the problem to Carty's but has not had a response as yet. She suggested that payment of the retention fee should be withheld until that job was completed and that was agreed.

##### Increased payroll fee

The Clerk reported that she'd noticed that the monthly payroll fee which is paid by Direct Debit had gone up in June (Invoice Ref. I4073), although no prior notification of this increase had been received. It was agreed that the June meeting minutes should be amended to reflect the amount that was debited, and the Clerk was asked to write to query the lack of any prior notice of this change. **ACTION – CLERK**

# 1906

## Quotes for pavement works

EH reminded the meeting that three quotes had been sought across six different areas of the village. Of the three contractors who had come out, two had quoted and the Finance Committee (and AF) had gone through their prices carefully. They had decided to go with the firm with the lowest price/m<sup>2</sup> who have worked for the PC previously. EH will arrange a further site visit to discuss and finalise the locations of the works. **ACTION -EH**

As yet, we are unsure if any road closures will be necessary, and SG will write to Martin Cook to seek his advice about that. **ACTION -SG**

EH sought approval for a contract sum of up to £40,000 (nett) and this was approved. **Prop. MT; Sec. GH**

## **6(iii) Rights of Way**

*Lynn Jauncey*

LJ was not at the meeting but submitted her report to SG.

- Sadly, due to wet weather, only two people turned up for the Circular Walk on 7<sup>th</sup> July. LJ expressed her thanks to EH for walking with them around Hilldrop and Bolestridge Farm. There was a discussion about whether the August walk should go ahead and EH suggested that perhaps it would be best to cancel at a time when many people will be away on holiday, with a view to resuming the monthly walks in September. She will discuss this with LJ.
- SG summarised the complicated matter of the BT wiring wound into the branches of a dead tree (scheduled for felling) by the bridge on Mill Lane, and the need to get a fallen tree removed from the river before Open Reach engineers and then the PC's tree surgeon could carry out their work. SG has been liaising with the landowner, the tree surgeon and Open Reach and is currently awaiting the outcome of the landowner's insurance claim. All being well, we hope to be in a position to proceed with getting all the work done soon.

## **6(iv) Play Areas and Seats**

*Denise Edwards*

- DE reported that two contractors, Redlynch Leisure and HAGS, had made site visits last Thursday regarding Axford and Whittonditch play equipment; both had been very interesting meetings and some beneficial ideas had been put forward. She expects to receive their quotes this coming week.
- A quote for a variety of repair works to be carried out in the Whittonditch play area was discussed. It may not be necessary to include the repair work to the bin as it is the property of Wilts CC and EH said she would try to report the damage on My Wilts. (NOTE: In the event, her report resulted in the bin repair work being done by WCC within three days.) A query was raised about the VAT amount included in the contractor's quotation and this will be checked. The nett amount of this contract is likely to exceed £1,500 so it may be necessary to seek two further quotes. **ACTION -EH/DE**

## **6(v) Emergency Committee**

*Alison Foale*

- AF reported that there had been a power outage in the Whittonditch area last Thursday and she was pleased to say that the Emergency Warden scheme had been shown to work because the local warden had been able to check on one vulnerable resident to ensure they were alright. SG will write to thank the warden. **ACTION - SG**
- AF plans to arrange a wardens' meeting in late September and will liaise with SG about that. **ACTION-AF**
- Disappointment was expressed at the difficulty being encountered with arranging a meeting with the Ramsbury Manor Trustees to discuss how they maintain and monitor the state of the bridge over the weir. SG will pursue this with them yet again. **ACTION -SG**

## **6(vi) Environment Committee**

*Maggie Waugh*

- MW said that there had been no meeting so the community orchard idea was no further forward.
- MW asked councillors if they had any useful feedback from the Street Fair about reducing the use of plastics at future events; she had not seen anything noteworthy on the day.
- The Solar Together project being offered by WCC should be promoted on the PC's website. **ACTION-MW/DE**

# 1907

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

No members of the public were present at the meeting.

### 7. AXFORD

*Diann Barnett*

- DB had nothing new to report on the car park or the acquisition of a defibrillator.
- The bus stop has been cleaned up beautifully by the owner of the neighbouring property and is looking very smart. If the PC can provide the paint, she is also keen to repaint the phone box. **ACTION- DB**
- EH enquired about re-erecting the missing 30mph roundel, noticed some time ago lying in a hedgerow. DB said that some repairs would be needed to its post, but she had an idea for how this could be done and is hopeful it can be reinstated. **ACTION- DB**

### 8. LOCAL HIGHWAYS & FOOTPATHS IMPROVEMENT GROUP

*Sheila Glass*

SG attended the meeting held online on 11<sup>th</sup> July. The matter of trying to install dropped kerbs at Isles Court has become a bit of legal quagmire and the cost of lawyers' fees is currently estimated at £8-9,000. SG will continue to pursue it although this estimate seems excessive.

SG also took the opportunity to make the case for making Union Street one-way northbound and seemed to get a cautiously positive response. She will follow up by putting in writing all the reasons for implementing this scheme, and will bring the matter up again at the next meeting. **ACTION- SG**

### 9. MARLBOROUGH AREA BOARD

*Sheila Glass*

SG did not attend the meeting.

### 10. WILTS C.C. TEAMS MEETING ON 28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

SG said there was not a lot to report from the meeting, with the exception of some potential funding being available for repairs/upgrades to village halls and this information had been passed to the Memorial Hall Trustees who may wish to apply. (NB. Applications for this money can be made by village organisations but not parish councils.)

### 11. ALLOTMENTS

*Denise Edwards*

- We currently have a waiting list for plots which DE hopes to allocate shortly. Enquiries: Dee Edwards 07867921878; [allotments@ramsbury.org](mailto:allotments@ramsbury.org)

### 12. WEBSITE

The most recent Google analytics report was discussed and MT said he was very encouraged by some of the data.

### 13. VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

- Best Kept Village Competition 2024** – Ramsbury came second, one point behind the winners.
- Pre-School Litter-Pick** – In recognition of the pre-school's initiative and enthusiasm with their weekly litter-picks and Keep Ramsbury Tidy posters SG proposed that the PC make a "thank you" donation of £100 to them. This was approved. **Prop: SG; Sec. CM.**
- Vegetation encroaching on footpaths** - SG was pleased to report that the overgrown footpaths that had caused concern at June's meeting had now all been cleared. Thanks go to the landowners concerned. MT drew attention to the vegetation encroaching on the footpath between Ashley Piece and Whitehall Close and asked whose responsibility that was. As no-one seemed sure, SG suggested that this task be added to the rota for the parish stewards' next visit in September. **ACTION:CLERK**

## 1908

- (iv) **HGV's on Union Street** – This problem was considered but no solution emerged from the discussion.
- (v) **Responsibility for war memorials** – The landowner has confirmed that he is happy to take on and look after the Ramsbury airfield runway memorial for the time being. SG will contact the Chairman of Froxfield PC with a view to notifying the resident. **ACTION- SG**

**14. MEMORIAL GARDEN** *Sheila Glass*  
Robert Copp has been asked to mend the damaged fence post.  
The automatic watering system has been turned off temporarily until a possible leak in the system can be investigated. **ACTION- SG**

**15. PARISH STEWARD'S ROTA** *Sheila Glass*  
Next visit will be on 4<sup>th</sup> September.

**16. LIBRARY**  
Three new volunteers have been recruited recently and it is hoped that it will be possible to resume full library opening hours in the not-too-distant future (i.e. pre-Covid hours).  
The children's Summer Reading Challenge started on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July and will run until Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September. The theme this year is Marvellous Makers and has a creative aspect to it. Please encourage children to participate during the school holidays. Our numbers were disappointing last year but we put this down to the excellent literacy facilities at Ramsbury Primary School.

**17. MEMORIAL HALL** *Sheila Glass/George Hawes*  
SG said that the new print of the millenium tapestry had now been reframed and looks not only beautiful but exactly like a tapestry. 50% of the total cost £150 is being covered by the Hall trustees, and SG will put in a claim for the other £75, this expenditure having been approved at the June meeting.

**18. NATURE RESERVE** *Chris Morgan*  
CM reported that the Nature Reserve had been cut back recently by Wiltshire Wildlife.

**19. POLICE CONSULTATION**  
The upcoming Police Consultation in the British Legion cafe at 11am on July 17<sup>th</sup> has been widely advertised on the website, in the shops, in the British Legion, in Whitton Ways and the Village Diary.

**20. RECREATION CENTRE** *George Hawes*  
No meeting.

**21. RAMSBURY SCHOOL** *Roger Greasley*  
No report.

**22. VANDALISM/CRIME**  
SG noticed that careless parking seems to have resulted in a **tub** outside The Cedars having been badly crushed.

**23. PATIENTS' REPRESENTATIVE** *George Hawes*  
GH reported that the annual flu vaccination programme had been deferred nationally until October, when the Covid vaccine will also be available.

## 24 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT IN JULY

Inv. No	Payments to Suppliers – July 2024	Amount	Net	VAT	Paid By	S137
I4069(ii)	Amazon – A4 lamination pouches. Paid in May	7.64	7.64	0.00	VisaDebit	No
I4083	Tesco – thank you gift to internal auditor. Paid in June	17.50	14.58	2.92	VisaDebit	No
I4084	Dobbies Garden Centre – thank you to internal auditor. Paid in June.	50.00	50.00	0.00	VisaDebit	No
I4085	Community First Insurance – additional premium for new cover in 2024. Paid in June	75.66	75.66	0.00	BACS	No
I4086	JRB Enterprises Ltd – dog poo bags. Paid in June	100.74	83.95	16.79	VisaDebit	No
I4087	Castle Water – public loo water charges in May. Paid in June	25.08	25.08	0.00	BACS	No
I4088	M J Baker Accountancy – Payroll fee for June	13.50	13.50	0.00	DD	No
I4089	HP Instant Ink – 28 <sup>th</sup> May – 27 <sup>th</sup> June	11.99	9.99	2.00	VisaDebit	No
I4090	Coral Westall – Public loo cleaning in July	180.00	180.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4091	Robert Copp – Hedge trimming in May	217.00	217.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4092	Carty’s Building Contractors Ltd – release of retention	504.59	420.49	84.10	BACS	No
I4093	Castle Water – public loo water charges 1 <sup>st</sup> -30 <sup>th</sup> June	56.69	56.69	0.00	BACS	No
I4094	Ramsbury Community Transport – re. Boundary Walk	72.50	72.50	0.00	BACS	No
I4095	Robert Copp - clearing footpath Crowood Lane to surgery	45.00	45.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4096	Sheila Glass- plants for planters	18.00	18.00	0.00	BACS	No
	<b>TOTAL TO PAY (excluding Clerk’s salary I4097)</b>	<b>£1,395.89</b>	<b>£1,290.08</b>	<b>£105.81</b>		
	<b>TOTAL AMOUNT ON DEPOSIT*</b>	<b>£122,215.81</b>				
	incl. gross interest earned to 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2024	3,215.81				
	<b>MONIES RECEIVED</b>					
	Charity shop rent	300.00				
	Sale of WWI Book	7.50				
	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£307.50</b>				
	<b>Current A/c at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024 – £6,807.70</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.

The Clerk having noticed that an invoice from Idverde for bin emptying in June for £22.20 had been omitted in error from the above list of payments, SG sought approval for a total of £1,418.09. **Prop. DB; Sec. HL. APPROVED.**

**There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.25 p.m**

**DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST at 7.45pm at Ramsbury Memorial Hall**

**ALL ARE WELCOME**