

RAMSBURY & AXFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council Alice Charlwood c/o Council Office, Memorial Hall, High Street, Ramsbury, Wilts SN8 2PB
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Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 21st July 2025 at 7.45pm in Ramsbury Memorial Hall

1998

Present:

S Glass – Chair (SG)
D Barnett – Vice Chair (DB)
E Hodgson (EH)
R Greasley (RG)
C Morgan (CM)
D Gill (DG)

H Lloyd (HL)
D Edwards (DE)
M Waugh (MW)
E Hodgson (EH)
M Tester (MT)
A Charlwood (AC) – Clerk

Two members of the public were also present

1. **APOLOGIES** – were received from D Greenway and B Murray. **Approved.**

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

3. THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th June were approved and signed as a true record. **Proposed EH; Seconded RG. Approved.**

4. **MATTERS ARISING** – None

5. NEW CORRESPONDENCE – Items for discussion

Ref. No	Date Received	June – July 2025 Correspondence From :	Subject Highlighted for Discussion
A8240	19 June	Wilts CC Democratic Services	Briefing Note on Wilts. Community Air Network – a one-year project to monitor PM2.5 air pollution and seeking hosts for low-cost air quality sensors. Fwd. to Cllrs. SG informed the school and preschool in case they wanted to take part.
A8242	20 June	Luke Barnes, Barnes Coaches	Badly parked cars in Oxford Street making it difficult for school coaches to get through. Fwd to Cllrs. See item 14
A8243	22 June	Resident	Location of speed check on Whittonditch Road resulted in unreliable findings. Fwd. to Cllrs. SG confirmed that this opinion was expressed about the speed survey carried out in May 2024, not the one currently operating in virtually the same location.

1999

A8248	24 June	Neil Keen	Internal auditor's report. Fwd to Finance C. See item 6(ii)
A8249	25 June	Colin McMillan, SSE	Acknowledging receipt of application to Net Zero Resilience Fund. Fwd to Emergency C. See item 6(v)
A8250	25 June	Flood Wessex	Property Flood Resilience – links for information, guidance and resources. Fwd. to Emergency C. For info.
A8251	25 June	Melissa Camilleri, PCSO	Proposing next community consultation on 8 th August in the British Legion. Fwd to Cllrs. See item 16
A8252	26 June	Caroline Dunford, CPRE (i)	BKVC Judges Report. Fwd. to Cllrs. See item 14
A8255	28 June	Resident	Who is responsible for the dead ash trees beside the Mill Lane ford? See item 6(iii)
A8258	30 June	Sophie Hall	Site for a visiting burger van. Fwd. to Cllrs. See item 18
A8260	02 July	Caroline Dunford, CPRE (ii)	More information re. large villages in Kennet who entered the BKVC. Fwd to Cllrs. See item 14
A8261	03 July	Emma Morton, Wilts PCC Media	Safer Streets Summer campaign focuses on reducing crime. Fwd to Cllrs. SG summarised.
A8262	04 July	Fred Rendell, Parish Steward Supervisor	Photos of work carried out at July visit. Fwd. to Cllrs. See item 15
A8267	07 July	Jessica Emery, Community First	Quote for additional premium for zipline. Fwd to Cllrs. See item 6(iv)
A8268	07 July	Emma Gagen, Ramsbury Preschool	Have applied for a Community Air Network sensor. Fwd. to Cllrs. See item 14
A8269	08 July	Resident	Query re. the siting of new zipline. Fwd. to Cllrs. SG has replied, saying the equipment will be at the back of the site, as far from housing as possible.
A8270	08 July	Resident	Boys cycling dangerously in Isles Court. Fwd. to Cllrs. See item 21
A8275	Various	Wilts CC and BT	Various communications re. PC adoption of the telephone box in Ramsbury High Street. See item 14
A8276	10 July	Resident (phone call)	Comments re Manor footpath and gate on FP 18B. See item 6(iii)

***The full list of incoming correspondence from 9th June – 10th July can be viewed on the parish council website**

6. Committee Reports:

6(i) Planning

Diann Barnett

PLANNING REPORT RAMSBURY AND AXFORD PARISH COUNCIL – June 2025

Planning Applications Processed since June 2025 report

New applications -

- PL/2025/05273 The Old Tannery, High Street Treework
- PL/2025/05084 Isles Court, Isles Road Treework
- PL/2025/05426 6 Union Street Dormer work
- PL/2025/04558 Ramsbury Manor Demolish existing and rebuild glasshouses.

2000

Still awaiting -

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| • | PL/2024/07914 Anvil Cottage Barn | Demolish and rebuild barn for family house. |
| • | PL/2025/01559 Upcot Field, Whittonditch Rd | 9 houses and associated works |
| • | PL/2025/04197 Walled Garden, Back Lane | Garden store |
| • | PL/2025/04932 The Cedars, Scholars Lane | Treework |
| • | PL/2025/04931 Old Coach House, Scholars | Treework |

Decisions -

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|--|
| • | PL/2025/03367 52, Ashley Piece | 2 antenna in garden APPROVED |
| • | PL/2025/03259 Well House, Union St | 2-storey rear and side ext' 3 roof lights APP |
| • | 3357357 | Red Lion enforcement appeal |
| • | 3362810 | Red Lion planning appeal |
| • | 3364563 | Land north of Newtown Rd, planning appeal |

DB updated her report to say that the treework applications at Isles Court and The Cedars had recently been approved, and a new application for an extension to the Hatches House in Axford has been submitted. Still no action taken by the authorities re. the enforcement notices.

SG noted that funding for Neighbourhood Plans has been withdrawn by central government, and that apparently only 1,000 NPs have been completed in England.

6(ii) Finance

Erica Hodgson

- **Internal auditor's report** – EH summarised the three or four minor points mentioned in the auditor's report, noting that they were matters of process not inaccuracies in the accounts. SG mentioned his closing remarks that he continues "to be impressed by the way the Clerk and the members of your Council diligently and accurately carry out their duties regarding the financial affairs of the Council."
- **Approval of the Q1 report** – EH's report confirmed that spending in the first quarter was broadly on track. **The Q1 report was approved. Prop. DB; Seconded CM.**
- **Quotes for installing five new SIDs** – SG said she had approached a number of firms and sought advice from Wilts CC but that it had proved impossible to find more than one contractor to quote for this work. MT said he had discovered that it was a complex and time-consuming job and so withdrew his reservation about the cost. SG sought Councillors' approval of the Brennan's quote for £1,758 + VAT. **Prop. MW; Sec. DG.**
APPROVED

ACTION - SG

6(iii) Rights of Way

Doug Greenway

- DGr was not at the meeting so there was no report on the July circular walk. There will be no walk in August.
- SG reported that she had met with the landowner to discuss who was responsible for the dead ash trees on the verge near the Mill Lane ford. The title deeds of the property are unclear and Wilts CC Rights of Way Dept have asserted that it is not theirs. A 50/50 split of the cost of felling the trees (between the adjacent landowner and the PC) therefore seems the best solution. One quote has been received and another is being sought. Once they are felled, the landowner is proposing to use one of the trees to divert the flow and protect the north side of the riverbank from further erosion to some extent. He is asking ARK's advice about this and will report back to the PC.
- **Re. A8276 (See item 5)** – SG has been in touch with the owner of the broken gate on footpath 18B and she has replied that it will be mended. SG and several other councillors said they had walked the Manor footpath very recently and there seems to be no problem with it being overgrown; the grass and vegetation on either side of the path is cut short and it is perfectly passable.

2001

- There was a discussion about the completion of the repairs to Lofts Bridge - which seem to have been carried out over the water - but two holes (big enough to be potentially dangerous to small children and dogs) have not been fixed. SG will write to Stephen Leonard to request this repair be carried out soon so the Seven Bridges footpath can be safely reopened. **ACTION - SG**

6(iv) Play Areas and Seats

Denise Edwards

- DE reported that the new pyramid climbing frame and the cableway has been ordered and that she and SG had attended a site meeting today with the approved contractor to discuss the installation. The firm have already booked the design slot and the final design should be out for PC approval and finalisation of the order in two weeks' time. Their estimated start date for the installation is early October. The PC's insurers have quoted an additional all- risks premium for the cableway of £38.08.
- Whilst she was on site today, DE completed an inspection of the Whittonditch play area :-
 - a) Treework to remove overhanging branches behind the swings, along the hedge line and at the surgery end of the footpath should be carried out sooner rather than later.
 - b) The broken wooden step-up needs removing.
 - c) It would be a good idea to push back the charity clothing bank recycling bins which are currently overlapping the grass verge.
 - d) The bracing bar to the pull-up bar has not been completed.
 - e) Picnic benches need permanently fixing down. DE spoke to the young adults there today about where they thought would be the best locations.

DE & SG will get in touch with various contractors to arrange these works. **Action – DE/SG**
- RoSPA have notified us that their annual safety inspection will be carried out some time in September. That means the timeline is tight for repair and maintenance works to be carried out.
- SG has been in touch with Veena Nanda with some ideas/suggestions for a memorial for Peter and is awaiting her response.
- SG reported that the picnic table at Knowledge Cres has been repaired temporarily but noted that it should be replaced next year.

6(v) Emergency Committee

Alison Foale

- AF reported that two new emergency wardens have been recruited and two more are still needed.
- AF is updating the Emergency Plan and asked councillors for their ideas/suggestions and to update any changes in contact details.
- SG has submitted a grant application to SEN for two new generators, as the ones we have now are about 25 years old. How best to dispose of the old generators when the time comes will need to be arranged. **ACTION-SG**
- HL has outlined our proposals for two CPR training sessions (one in the afternoon, one in the evening) to Wiltshire Air Ambulance and has proposed some dates. She awaits their response.

6(vi) Environment Committee

Maggie Waugh

- MW reported that she has been watering the first three trees in the community orchard and they are looking good. The next three trees will go in Nov-Dec.
- SG said that both the preschool and the school will be installing air pollution monitors provided by the Wiltshire Community Air Network and may do some projects with the children linked to this.

2002

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

- (i) An Axford resident had come to the meeting to raise councillors' awareness of and express grave concern about the frequent problems being experienced by landowners, residents of nearby properties and the wider community with noise nuisance late into the night, litter, vandalism, poaching and drug peddling, indiscriminate parking and sheer overcrowding of the weir bathing place on Hoppers Lane resulting in overspill from the right of way into adjoining fields which are private property. The river itself is also being contaminated with rubbish and bottles deliberately thrown into the water and the riverbed is being destroyed by the sheer number of people wading up and down it. Noise and antisocial behaviour seems to get worse in late afternoons and into the evenings when visitors are mostly groups of young men. With one exception, appeals for help to the police have so far been fruitless; in the resident's opinion they do not want to know.

Some suggestions were raised about possible measures the PC and the community might take to mitigate these problems of major trespass, although none were thought to be particularly effective.

James Sheppard and the PCC will be contacted for advice.

ACTION – SG/DB

The resident will take all these issues to the next PCSO consultation in August and will also try to enlist the help of the Wiltshire Countryside warden. Landowners and DB are meeting in Axford on 13th August to consider all these matters.

- (ii) A Ramsbury resident asked why another traffic speed check had been set up recently on Whittonditch Road within yards of a contraflow traffic light set up to enable highway work to be carried out. A pointless exercise surely? He asked who had requested this new speed check when one had been conducted in virtually the same location only a year ago. Is it something to do with a planning application to build nine new houses where an access road is planned for that very spot? DB and SG were asked to contact the planners and the speed check people to seek more information about who had instigated it and why this was being carried out just now.

ACTION – DB/SG

7. AXFORD

Diann Barnett

DB concurred with everything that had already been said about the ruination of the wild swimming place at the weir on Hoppers Lane and confirmed the meeting to be held on 13th August.

DE was pleased to report that the Open Gardens collection in aid of the Prospect hospice had raised £150.29.

8. LOCAL HIGHWAYS & FOOTPATHS IMPROVEMENT GROUP

Alison Foale

SG pointed out that the next meeting is to be on 31st July (not 1st as listed on the agenda). She will attend and try to progress the implementation of the one-way trial on Union Street, and the B4192 speed reduction through Whittonditch.

ACTION - SG

9. MARLBOROUGH AREA BOARD

Sheila Glass

SG will attend the next meeting on 30th Sept. She reminded local groups and organisations to get their grant applications towards the cost of purchase of equipment to Andrew Jack at Wilts C.C. in good time as requests must be in at least two weeks before the meeting.

10. REPORT OF TOWN & PARISH CLERKS' MEETING ON 26TH JUNE

SG flagged up the discussions that had taken place at this meeting about the project to install air quality monitors across Wiltshire – at least three have been delivered to addresses in Ramsbury – and to the event about flood prevention which is being held in Marlborough on August 6th.

2003

11. ALLOTMENTS

Denise Edwards

SG said that the new lease (based on the wording of the old one but with a rent increase as agreed) was still being considered by the landowner's solicitor. We await their response.

12. WEBSITE

- SG said that the June traffic report had been circulated.
- Details of the Rights of Ways walks are now up on the website.
- SG has been attending TEEC free weekly webinars.

13. IMPROVING ROAD SAFETY AROUND THE SCHOOL

Sheila Glass/Alison Foale

SG said the PC is waiting for the new school sign.

14. VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

Sheila Glass

- The white gates for Newtown Road have been installed and the village sign is affixed to the westbound one.
- **See item 6(ii)** regarding installation of five new SIDs which are already on order.
- Once the phone equipment has been removed the PC's adoption of the phone box outside the Memorial Hall will be complete.
- Community Air Quality Sensors – see item 6(vi)
- SG thanked HL for her help with planting up the planters at the village entrances.
- SG thanked the resident – who wishes to remain anonymous - who had assisted with refixing the bus stop sign on Whittonditch Road.
- SG said Ramsbury came second (of 3) in the Kennet large villages section. Seend won.
- SG drew Cllrs. attention to the problems reported by Barnes coaches in negotiating the pinch points on Oxford Street where cars are densely parked. **See item 5 (A8242)**. AF observed that the public buses have not reported a problem so Barnes' difficulties are a bit puzzling as their new fleet of coaches will be no wider than they've always been. They suggest the problem stems from how cars are parked along that stretch of road. SG will respond with a suggestion that Barnes leaflet the residents about this problem. **ACTION - SG**

15. PARISH STEWARD'S ROTA

Clerk

Next visit will be on 3rd September.

ACTION – CLERK

16. POLICE COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Sheila Glass

Next consultation will be held on 08/08/25 (11am – noon) in the British Legion.

The police report for the quarter showed only 2 crimes and 2 incidents recorded in the Ramsbury Parish area. Speed enforcement in the Marlborough area had shown 144 drivers offered speed awareness courses, 26 issued a fine and points and 3 reported to court.

17. LIBRARY

The Clerk read out a report from Library volunteer Hilary Hicklin:

- Loans and renewals are 15% up on the stats from the same period last year and visitor numbers have increased by 25%. The extra session on Thursday afternoons has probably helped.
- The children's Summer Reading Challenge was very poorly supported in Ramsbury last year, with only six children taking part (compared to 30-40 in previous years) so this is puzzling. The primary school doesn't seem to promote it but hopefully we will do better this year.

2004

18. MEMORIAL HALL & MEMORIAL GARDEN

Sheila Glass

- The Secretary to the Trustees has been informed that HL is replacing George Hawes as a Trustee.
- HL and SG will attend the next Trustees' meeting on 6th August. EH asked them to raise the question of the PC new office lease at that meeting, which has not yet been received.
- SG has forwarded the enquiry from the burger van people to the Trustees – **see item 5 (A8258)** – and a trial is being suggested.

19. NATURE RESERVE

Chris Morgan

CM said that a meeting should be arranged with ARK and WWT to discuss flow anomalies in the mill stream. SG had been in touch with Anna Forbes from ARK who had indicated that she would look at the matter this week

ACTION - CM

20. RAMSBURY SCHOOL

Roger Greasley

- RG reported that the school roll numbers will be down in September to 190 (optimum is 210).
- The school hall has been refurbished thanks to donations received in memory of a parent.
- Term ends on 24th July.

21. VANDALISM/CRIME

Three separate reports have been received from residents around the village about three boys riding bicycles very recklessly whilst also trespassing on private property. Steps are being taken to identify them so that the PC can contact their parents. Concern was expressed that their actions could lead to injury to them or other road users or pedestrians.

22. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT IN JULY

Inv. No	Payments to Suppliers – July 2025	Amount	Net	VAT	Paid By	S137
I4293	Dobbies Garden Centre – begonias for planters. Paid in June	14.48	12.07	2.41	VisaDebit	No
I4294	JRB Enterprises Ltd – dog poo bags. Paid in June	111.72	93.10	18.62	VisaDebit	No
I4295	Amazon -Tippex Paid in June	4.00	3.33	0.67	VisaDebit	No
I4296	Lloyds Bank Charges – Paid in June	4.25	4.25	0.00	DD	No
I4297	Viking – Liquid hand soap for public loo. Paid in June	9.90	8.25	1.65	VisaDebit	No
I4298	Galleon Hygiene Products – Bulk pack of toilet tissue. Paid in June	30.00	25.00	5.00	VisaDebit	No
I4299	M J Baker Accountancy – payroll fee for June	11.25	11.25	0.00	DD	No
I4300	Idverde Ltd - Bin emptying in May	22.20	18.50	3.70	BACS	No
I4301	Coral Westall – public loo cleaning in July	200.00	200.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4302	BNPPRE – Playing Field rent 01/05/25 – 31/10/2025	212.50	212.50	0.00	BACS	No
I4303	Ramsbury Community Transport – Boundary Walk mileage	48.75	48.75	0.00	BACS	No
I4304	Castle Water – public loo water charges for June	42.25	42.25	0.00	BACS	No
I4305	Rockstone Surfacing Ltd – installing new white gates on Newtown Rd	1215.00	1012.50	202.50	BACS	No
I4306	Robert Copp – Hedge trimming	223.00	223.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4307	Di Barnett – Leaving card and present for George Hawes	53.25	53.25	0.00	BACS	No

2005

I4308	HP Instant Ink – printer ink subscription for 28th June – 27th July	13.49	11.25	2.24	VisaDebit	No
I4309	Paul New - Plants for Memorial Garden, Hall tubs, tubs and planters in The Square	94.00	94.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4310	Sheila Glass - plants for planters and Memorial Garden	30.00	30.00	0.00	BACS	No
	TOTAL (excluding Clerk's salary I4311)	£2,340.04	£2,103.25	£236.79		
	TOTAL AMOUNT ON DEPOSIT on 30th June 2025*	£126,454.77				
	incl. gross interest earned Dec 2022 to 30th June 2025	£5,454.77				
	MONIES RECEIVED					
	Charity shop rent	£320.00				
	July SO for Memorial Hall broadband	9.60				
	TOTAL INCOME	£329.60				
	Current A/c balance at 30th June 2025	£4,209.32				

*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. MT

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.20pm

DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 18TH AUGUST at 7.45pm in RAMSBURY MEMORIAL HALL
ALL ARE WELCOME