

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 Parish Council Annual General Meeting held on Monday 10th June at 7.45pm in Ramsbury Memorial Hall

1895

Present:

S Glass – Chair (SG)
D Barnett - Vice Chair (DB)
R Greasley (RG)
M Tester (MT)
L Jauncey (LJ)
A Foale (AF)

D Gill (DG)
G Hawes (GH)
D Edwards (DE)
E Hodgson (EH)
A Charlwood (AC) – Clerk

- APOLOGIES** – were received from Bernard Murray, Maggie Waugh, Helen Lloyd and Chris Morgan.
Approved
- DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST** – None.
- THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**
The minutes of the meeting held on 20th May were approved and signed as a true record. **Proposed DB; Seconded EH. Approved.**
- MATTERS ARISING** – None
- NEW CORRESPONDENCE** – Items for discussion*

| Ref. No | Date Received | May-June 2024 Correspondence | Subject *Highlighted for Discussion |
|---------|---------------|---|---|
| *A7754 | 08 May | Resident | Enquiry re. teaching an open-air yoga class on Whittonditch play area. See item 6 (iv) |
| *A7756 | 09 May | Jason Lucas, Wilts CC Highways | Confirming approval of temporary closure of High Street on 22 nd June. For info. |
| *A7758 | 14 May | Stephen Leonard, Wilts C. C. Countryside Access Officer | Repairs needed to bridges at “Seven Bridges”. Fwd to Rights of Way Committee. SG reported WCC Rights of Way Dept. had advised that this work will be done in due course. |

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|--------|--------|---|---|
| *A7759 | 15 May | Craig Harlow, Wilts C.C. Definitive Map Officer | Postponement of meeting to consider footpath diversions to 13 th June. Fwd. to Rights of Way C. SG said that the PC would not be attending the meeting as they had no objection to this application. |
| *A7761 | 17 May | Neil Keen | Internal auditor's report for y/e 31 st March 2024. Fwd to Cllrs. For info. |
| *A7762 | 18 May | Anna Forbes, ARK | Fallen trees in the river at The Triangle. SG has replied to say the landowner has undertaken to put this work in hand once water levels have dropped. SG will also contact BT to investigate the BT wiring and box that seems recently to have been wrapped around a dead tree scheduled for felling. ACTION – SG. |
| *A7764 | 20 May | Resident (i) | Request to remedy beeping defibrillator at top of Mill Lane. SG confirmed this had been done quickly. |
| *A7766 | 20 May | Ron Bailey, Researcher for Lord Foster and advisor to Electrical Safety First | Campaign to promote parliamentary Bill to ensure greater safety in the use and disposal of lithium batteries. Fwd. to Cllrs. MT observed that this bill is now dead because parliament has been prorogued. Nevertheless, after some discussion of the evident danger of house fires it was agreed that SG should reply expressing support. |
| *A7767 | 21 May | Renate Malton, Wilts C.C. | Availability of aquasacs later this summer. For info. |
| *A7770 | 21 May | Resident | Unauthorised vehicular access on Whittonditch Road – complaint referred to WCC planning enforcement team. SG confirmed the PC would therefore leave this matter in the hands of WC. |
| *A7773 | 22 May | Resident (ii) | Noisy defibrillator at top of Mill Lane fixed. For info. |
| *A7775 | 24 May | Claire Costello (i) | Transfer of RAF Ramsbury Runway memorial to the PC as an asset. SG said she had heard nothing more on this since the last meeting. |
| *A7776 | 24 May | Melissa Camilleri, PCSO | Arrangement for next community consultation in July. See item 19. |
| *A7777 | 25 May | Claire Costello (ii) | The question of who takes responsibility and acts as custodian of the memorial in future. No further news on this to date. |

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Still awaiting -

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|-----------------|---|---|
| • PL/2024/03602 | Hop House, Tankard Lane | Front porch ext., rear utility ext. and alteration. |
| • PL/2024/03982 | Mardle House, Back Lane | Treework |
| • PL/2024/03995 | Hop House, Tankard Lane | Treework |
| • PL/2023/06108 | Land NE Lamplands | Siting of mobile home OBJ |
| • PL/2024/10639 | Hilldrop Farm | Extension to pool house (retro) change shoot lodge |
| | (retro) change lodge to carer's accommodation | |
| • PL/2024/02414 | N&S Blocks, Whittonditch | Variation of conditions-fenestration. |
| • PL/2024/02733 | Doorstep Cott, Hilldrop | Extension, resub of PL/2024/01188 |

Decisions -

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|--|
| • PL/2024/01516 | Gilwell House, 19a High St | Rear single-storey extension and glazed link APP |
| • PL/2024/01684 | 61, High St | Rooflight, single-storey ext., garden studio APP |

DG updated the meeting on decisions that had been made since she produced the above report, as follows :

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|-----------------|-------------------------|----------|
| • PL/2024/03602 | Hop House, Tankard Lane | APPROVED |
| • PL/2024/03982 | Mardle House, Back Lane | APPROVED |
| • PL/2024/03995 | Hop House, Tankard Lane | APPROVED |
| • PL/2023/06108 | Land NE Lamplands | REFUSED |

She also spoke about the problems that would arise in our parish if we tried to explore the ideas set out in WC's new Planning Enabling System initiative, because there are simply no suitable sites within our existing development area. There was also a wider discussion about the feasibility of any such proposals whilst Right To Buy would inevitably defeat the object of the exercise.

6(ii) Finance

Erica Hodgson

Community First Insurance Renewal

EH reminded the meeting that the terms of the renewal quote had, in fact, been approved at the May meeting but, since then, she and SG had been looking into (a) deleting some existing cover for office furniture and two-way radios, and (b) increasing the cover for play area equipment to £80,000 in line with the updated fixed asset register. She reported that the Committee had agreed to increase the current value of the public loo building to more closely reflect the value of the building for insurance purposes

The insurers' quote for these changes came in at (a) - £20.10 and (b) + £95.76 and had been accepted and paid for on 6th June, as the extra outlay of £75.66 fell within the margin for the premium already approved at May's meeting. Cover for contract disputes had been considered but was thought not to be useful for our purposes.

Fixed Asset Policy

EH said that the internal auditor raised some queries re the asset register that we hold. She had therefore created an Asset Register Policy as a guide about what items should be included (or excluded if costing <£100), and how we should represent their value over the years. This had been circulated to the Finance Committee for their comments and approval. She summarised the policy to the meeting. **This was unanimously approved. Prop. RG.**

Sec. MT

Fixed Asset Register amendments

In the event no amendments were necessary but the adoption of the process and timings of the FAR necessitated a change to Pt. 13 of the Financial Standing Orders. EH sought approval for this amendment.

APPROVED. Prop. DE., Sec. DG

All assets added to the register in future will comply with this policy and any items valued at <£100 in the past will be left on the register until they are disposed of, for full transparency.

Quotes for pavement works

EH is still awaiting the quote from the second contractor and is seeking a third to submit a quote.

ACTION - EH

Thank you to Internal Auditor

EH expressed her appreciation of the work done by Neil Keen and SG was asked to buy him a thank you gift.

ACTION - SG

6(iii) Rights of Way

Lynn Jauncey

- LJ reported that 19 people had joined the start of the inaugural monthly Circular Walk – the Littlecote Loop – on Sunday 2nd June and it proved to be a very sunny, sociable and enjoyable occasion. The next one is planned for 7th July – starting at 2.30pm at The Tree – with route yet to be confirmed.
- LJ thanked everyone who had turned up and/or who had helped with the organisation of the June walk. She also thanked the PC for supplying the cream teas afterwards. SG was pleased to confirm that donations from the cream teas raised £115 and this had been donated to Prospect Hospice – See Item 24.
- The British Legion provided excellent teas for the Boundary Walk. SG proposed a donation of £150 to the Legion, as has been usual practice in the past. **APPROVED. Prop. SG., Sec. LJ.**

6(iv) Play Areas and Seats

Denise Edwards

The meeting was concerned to learn of yet more vandalism in the form of graffiti at the Whittonditch play area. The parish stewards have made an attempt to remove what they could, but more work will be needed. The PC is seeking more information about the perpetrators.

6(v) Emergency Committee

Alison Foale

- AF reported that four new emergency wardens had recently been recruited and all the vacancies had now been filled.
- AF had nothing new to report as regards the search for Flood Wardens since the last meeting.
- There was nothing further to report about meeting the Ramsbury Manor Trustees to discuss how they maintain and monitor the state of the bridge over the weir.
- The updated Emergency Plan is complete and has been published on the website.

6(vi) Environment Committee

Maggie Waugh

No report.

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 was congratulated on how lovely the new seat for the war memorial bench looks, since she has repaired and reinstated it.
- DB has had no time, as yet, to do anything about a new defibrillator for the village hall. She is chasing up what has transpired since the problems which arose earlier this year in the car park.

8. LOCAL HIGHWAYS & FOOTPATHS IMPROVEMENT GROUP

Sheila Glass

Next meeting will be held on 11th July.

9. MARLBOROUGH AREA BOARD

Sheila Glass

The next meeting will be held on 18th June.

10. ALLOTMENTS

Denise Edwards

DE reported that the young people doing their Duke of Edinburgh's award schemes had come recently and made a good start on tidying up the site and will hopefully continue their good work on their next visit on June 17th. Some allotment plots are still available. Any resident wanting to apply should contact allotments@ramsbury.org.uk or phone Dee Edwards on 07867 921878.

11. WEBSITE

SG reported on a recent glitch with the PC's email inbox. We thought the problem had been fixed but it seems to have just come back. She and the Clerk are investigating and seeking help to quickly remedy the problem.

12. VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

- (i) **Best Kept Village Competition 2024** –Nothing new to report. **Update** - we came 2nd in the first round.
- (ii) **Scouts Litter-Pick** – In recognition of the Scouts' and the Beavers' enthusiastic work during their separate litter-picks SG proposed that the PC make a "thank you" donation to each group. This was approved. See Item 24. **ACTION - Clerk**
- (iii) **20mph update** - SG said the recent traffic speed survey reports had now been received and circulated and that she had been rather amazed at the number of traffic movements identified during the period they were in situ. In the ensuing discussion of the findings, councillors said they were not surprised that the survey calculated the average speed down High Street was 22mph, as they had always maintained that mostly the density of the parking quite effectively regulated and reduced the speed of traffic along there. However, it was acknowledged that a question remained about whether or not the chosen location for the survey on Whittonditch Road meant its findings - average speed 29mph - were unrepresentative. Since the results of the traffic surveys do not meet the criteria for further action SG proposed that no further action be taken. **ALL AGREED**
The residents who raised the matter will be notified. **ACTION -Clerk**

13. MEMORIAL GARDEN

Sheila Glass

SG said that poppies from Remembrance Day will be left in the garden until the Street Fair.

GH reported some recent vandalism in the churchyard had resulted in a fence post in the Memorial Garden being knocked down and two solar lamps in the churchyard being knocked over.

A request was made that the lights should be left up around the tree in The Square until Armed Forces Day and this was agreed.

14. D-DAY 80

Sheila Glass

Cream Teas in The Square on 2nd June

Discussed under Rights of Way – see Item 6(iii)

Report on D-Day Events

SG congratulated the D-Day80 organisers and the British Legion for everything having been so brilliantly well done. DE said that more than two thousand people had attended the event on the airfield, that the flower festival in the church had been beautiful and raised £400 in donations, and she thanked the PC for providing the bunting and the lights in The Square.

Arrangements for manning the PC stall at the Street Fair were briefly discussed.

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15. PARISH STEWARD'S ROTA

- Next visit will be on 3rd July.
- Several councillors expressed concern about some footpaths which are becoming so seriously overgrown by vegetation beneath hedges that pedestrians are being forced to walk out in the road. Scholards Lane, Back Lane and around the junction of Townfield and Crowood Lane were particularly mentioned as a danger to the children and families on their routes to and from school. SG said she would try to make contact with the relevant property owners. MT agreed to contact the Townfield owner. **ACTION – SG/MT**

16. LIBRARY

No report.

17. MEMORIAL HALL

Sheila Glass/George Hawes

- GH reported that Robert Osmond has resigned as Chair of Trustees and Kingsley Setter has now taken over. There will be a handover period between those two.
- SG said that the print of the millenium tapestry was now so badly faded that a new print had been commissioned and produced on fade-free vinyl and was being reframed. This work would cost £150, 50% of which was being covered by the Hall trustees, and SG sought approval for the PC covering the other £75. This was approved. **Prop. SG; Sec. GH.**
- The hall trustees plan to hang the refurbished millenium tapestry alongside the other lovely tapestry done by Tessa Rissone for the Horticultural Society.

18. NATURE RESERVE

Chris Morgan

No report.

19. POLICE CONSULTATION

The idea of leafleting drivers who are noticed persistently parking dangerously or inconsiderately was again discussed. There will be a Police Consultation in the British Legion cafe at 11am on July 17th.

20. RECREATION CENTRE

George Hawes

No meeting.

21. RAMSBURY SCHOOL

Roger Greasley

RG said that Reception Class and Year 1 will both be full when autumn term commences in September.

He also mentioned that some of the children would be using the Ramsbury Flyer with a designated driver to get to a cricket tournament the following week. (He explained that the Flyers' insurers are suddenly refusing to provide cover for self-drive hirers any longer and he anticipates this will quite quickly start to have an impact on the income from the Flyer.)

22. VANDALISM/CRIME

The PC are concerned at the amount of litter that is being left by groups of kids congregating in the evenings in the play areas. This is careless and annoying because plenty of bins are provided. Swings are also being vandalised.

23. PATIENTS' REPRESENTATIVE

George Hawes

No date has yet been fixed but the next meeting is due to be held in July.

24 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT IN JUNE

| Inv. No | Payments to Suppliers – June 2024 | Amount | Net | VAT | Paid By | S137 |
|---------|--|-------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------|------|
| I4069 | HP Instant Ink – 28 th April – 27 th May. Paid in May | 11.99 | 9.99 | 2.00 | VisaDebit | No |
| I4070 | Coral Westall – Public loo cleaning in June | 180.00 | 180.00 | 0.00 | BACS | No |
| I4071 | Coral Westall – PC office cleaning April - June | 34.00 | 34.00 | 0.00 | BACS | No |
| I4072 | Idverde Ltd – bin emptying in May | 22.20 | 18.50 | 3.70 | BACS | No |
| I4073 | M J Baker Accountancy – Payroll fee for May | 11.25 | 11.25 | 0.00 | DD | No |
| I4074 | Midway Stores - milk for cream teas | 9.00 | 9.00 | 0.00 | VisaDebit | No |
| I4075 | Sheila Glass – Cream Teas in The Square expenses | 12.60 | 12.60 | 0.00 | BACS | No |
| I4076 | Community Heartbeat – replacement 4-year life defib. battery for Mill Lane | 357.00 | 297.50 | 59.50 | BACS | No |
| I4077 | Donation to British Legion café for Boundary Walk | 150.00 | 150.00 | 0.00 | BACS | No |
| I4078 | Donation to Scouts for Village Spring Clean | 50.00 | 50.00 | 0.00 | BACS | No |
| I4079 | Donation to Beavers for Village Spring Clean | 50.00 | 50.00 | 0.00 | BACS | No |
| I4080 | Donation to Prospect Hospice from Cream Teas | 115.00 | 115.00 | 0.00 | BACS | No |
| I4081 | Sheila Glass – mileage for Boundary Walk | 32.40 | 32.40 | 0.00 | BACS | No |
| | | | | | | |
| | TOTAL TO PAY (excluding Clerk's salary I4082) | £1,035.44 | £970.24 | £65.20 | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | TOTAL AMOUNT ON DEPOSIT* | 122,000.76 | | | | |
| | incl. gross interest earned to 31st May 2024 | 3,000.76 | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | MONIES RECEIVED | | | | | |
| | Charity shop rent | 300.00 | | | | |
| | Sale of Walks Book | 5.00 | | | | |
| | CIL payment (2of 3) on redevelopment of Methodist Hall | 1948.81 | | | | |
| | Income from Cream Teas in The Square (see I4080 above) | 115.00 | | | | |
| | TOTAL INCOME | 2,368.81 | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | Current A/c at 31st May 2024 – £8,207.38 | | | | | |

*This includes monies held in reserve for parish initiatives such as the Ramsbury Flyer, defibrillators, provision of play equipment, pavement and road repairs, etc.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.00 p.m

DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 15th JULY at 7.45pm at Ramsbury Memorial Hall

ALL ARE WELCOME