

RAMSBURY & AXFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 16th June 2025 at 7.45pm in Ramsbury Memorial Hall

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Present:

S Glass – Chair (SG)

D Barnett – Vice Chair (DB)

E Hodgson (EH)

R Greasley (RG)

C Morgan (CM)

H Lloyd (HL)

M Waugh (MW)

E Hodgson (EH)

M Tester (MT)

A Charlwood (AC) – Clerk

One member of the public, and Wilts County Cllr. James Sheppard was also present

Before the commencement of the meeting SG presented George Hawes who retired in April with a thank you card and a leaving present in recognition of his 35 years of service on the parish council and with many thanks for everything he has done for the village over the years. He was warmly applauded by all.

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

2. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST – None.

3. THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the AGM held on 19th May were approved and signed as a true record. **Proposed MW; Seconded EH. Approved.**

4. MATTERS ARISING – None

5. NEW CORRESPONDENCE – Items for discussion

Ref. No	Date Received	May – June 2025 Correspondence From :	Subject
A8205	12 May	Lewis Neate, Wilts CC Community Asset Officer	Confirmation of allotment land at Loves Farm as an Asset of Community Value until May 2030. Fwd. to Cllrs.
A8207	13 May	Resident	Submission of Highways Improvement Request form re. B4192 through Whittonditch. Discussed and endorsed at April PC meeting and subsequently submitted to LHFIF for inclusion in their next mtg.

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A8214	22 May	Wilts CC One Network	Anticipated dates for road surface dressing. Fwd. to Cllrs. For info.
A8222	28 May	Sue Hine, Mildenhall Parish Clerk	Feedback about zipline in Minal playground and increased cost of insurance for it. Fwd to Cllrs. The Minal Clerk confirmed they'd had no problems of antisocial behaviour connected to the zipline over the past 10 years but, purely for this item of play equipment, the PC's insurance premium had increased by approx. £200 p.a. Whilst there was general approval of the proposal to fund this new equipment at Whittonditch play area, SG has asked Ramsbury's insurers for an idea of what kind of increase we might expect before seeking formal approval of the expenditure. We await their reply.
A8226	02 June	Alex Curran, Social Value Coordinator, JN Bentley	Unable to help with painting river bridges or creating flood mitigation pond on Hilldrop Lane but still willing to help if other tasks need doing in Ramsbury. Fwd to Cllrs. HL has written to ask if they would be willing to repair and repaint the railings along The Knapp, which are rather derelict and we await their response.
A8227	05 June	Simon Bennett, Wilts CC Legal, Democracy & Governance	Report on survey on councillors' remuneration. Fwd. to Cllrs. SG summarised the "peppercorn" sums being mooted in this report (£330 p.a. for Cllrs and £660p.a. for Chairmen) and it was agreed that she should reiterate the PC's previous feedback that this level of recompense would do nothing to attract new councillors and ran the risk of creating division amongst councillors and co-opted councillors could not be paid. ACTION - SG
A8228	05 June	North Wessex Downs Landscape Trust	Summer events on North Wessex Downs. Fwd. to Cllrs. For info.
A8229	05 June	Sue Hargreaves, Caring For Care Ltd	Cost of basic CPR training courses. Fwd. to Finance C and Emergency C. See item 6(v)
A8230	05 June	Simon Day, Wilts CC Planning Support	Correction (Axford <i>not</i> Oxford) has been made to notification re. allotments status as Asset of Community Value. Fwd. to Cllrs. For info.
A8231	05 June	Joanna Smith, Wilts CC	Notes of the Town and Parish Council meeting held on 29 th May. Fwd. to Cllrs. SG drew Cllrs' attention to notes relating to fly-tipping and fly-posting, the two dog wardens for the whole county and the fact that Public Space Protection Orders had all lapsed in 2020 which has ramifications for councils' ability to bring prosecutions for dog fouling. No party holds overall control of WCC and an administration has yet to be formed, but it is business as usual.

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A8232	05 June	Wiltshire C.C.	Newsletter, incl. details of the Wilts Climate & Environment Summit 2025. Fwd. to Cllrs. See item 6(vi)
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*The full list of incoming correspondence from 10th May – 5th June 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 May 2025 report

New applications-

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| • 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 |

Still awaiting-

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|---|
| • PL/2024/07914 | Anvil Cottage Barn | Demolish and rebuild barn for family house. |
| • PL/2025/01559 | Upcott Field, Whittonditch Rd | 9 houses and associated works |
| • PL/2025/03259 | Well House, Union St | 2-storey rear and side ext'n. 3 rooflights |
| • PL/2025/03367 | 52, Ashley Piece | 2 antenna in garden |

Decisions-

- | | | |
|-----------------|---|--|
| • PL/2024/11389 | The Courtyard, Whittonditch | Demolition and rebuild of barn APP |
| • PL/2024/11184 | Ramsbury Manor | 'Open-up' work for investigate utilities/structure AP |
| • PL/2025/03125 | Ramsbury Manor | Removal or variation of condition. W/D |
| • PL/2025/03126 | Ramsbury Manor | Removal or variation of condition. W/D |
| • PL/2025/03252 | 15, Isles Road, Ramsbury | Treework APP |
| • PL/2025/02886 | 61, High Street, Ramsbury | Treework APP |
| • 3355438 | Lamplands planning appeal | Appeal dismissed |
| | | |
| • 3357357 | Red Lion enforcement appeal | |
| • 3362810 | Red Lion planning appeal | |
| • 3364563 | Land north of Newtown Rd, planning appeal | |

6(ii) Finance

Erica Hodgson

- **Quote for white gates on Newtown Road** – EH reported that the Finance Committee had approved Rockstone's quote of £1,012.50 + VAT so the work has been ordered, and the installation is expected to be carried out later this month.
- **Quote for new SIDs** – AS BM was not at the meeting, further discussion of the question he raised at the May meeting - about whether highway regulations would permit us to install a new additional SID at the Jubilee Field as a measure to prevent drivers starting to speed up along that stretch of road (where no houses are visible) before they reach the heart of the village, or if other signage would serve as a reminder of the 30mph speed limit - was deferred until the July PC meeting. Pending a decision on that, SG sought councillors' approval of the Elan City quote for the installation of 5 replacement SIDs at a cost (excluding VAT and installation) of £11,550. **Prop. SG; Sec. MT. APPROVED**

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- **Quotes for new play equipment at Whittonditch – See item 5 (A8222).** Pending a response from our insurers about the likely increased cost of adding a zipline to this play area, SG requested Cllrs' consent to discuss this via email and if it is deemed that the insurance increase is acceptable then both the climbing pyramid and the zipline will be ordered. **APPROVED** **ACTION - SG**

6(iii) Rights of Way

Doug Greenway

DGr was not at the meeting. SG reported on the Committee's meeting on 5th June which had discussed feedback from this year's Boundary Walk and agreed on some changes/improvements to how it will be organised in 2026 – e.g. take the same route the same way round but start the walk from The Square half an hour later (at 7.30am); make Preston the first stop, allow an extra ten minutes for the Stitchcombe and airfield sections; acquire more Walkers in Road signs; introduce QR codes to promotional material and print fewer flyers. It was agreed that the Ramsbury Brewery lunch stop had worked well and should continue.

- HL had attended the circular walk on 1st June and reported that five people had attended and enjoyed it.
- SG said that the next circular walk will be on Sunday 6th July, Whittonditch to Crowood Farm via Ballard Copse (4.4 miles - 1.5 hrs). The details of the rest of this year's monthly walks will be posted on the website soon. **ACTION-DGr /SG**

6(iv) Play Areas and Seats

Denise Edwards

- DE was not at the meeting so there was no report.
- SG said she had been very busy and had still to work out how to safely re-level the ground under the picnic table bench at Knowledge Crescent. **Update: now completed.** **ACTION - SG**
- There was more discussion about if/when to install a new zipline at Whittonditch play area and it was agreed that, the cost of insurance permitting, the new equipment should be installed as soon as possible. **See also item 6(ii).**

6(v) Emergency Committee

Alison Foale

- AF reported on a WCC online meeting about emergency hubs she had sat in on. From this she had learnt that, of the 275 parishes in the county, 100 have emergency hubs. Representatives from Fovent and Tockenham had reported on a very useful exercise they had run and on the action cards they were preparing for their Emergency Wardens as a result. WC are keen to promote more knowledge-sharing between neighbouring Emergency Hubs. As Aldbourne is an Emergency Hub we may be able to usefully liaise with them.
- AF said the WC representatives had told everyone at the Emergency Hubs meeting that applications for SSEN 2025 grants towards the cost of new generators would not require quotes but only an approximate price. Following a wide-ranging discussion and councillors' observations about new generators probably needing less space; stores of both petrol and diesel do go off over time so new dual-fuel generators are likely to be the best option (although fuel storage might still present problems); considering how noise reduction might be achieved (as our old ones are very noisy) and if we might realise any residual value from our old ones, it was agreed that SG should submit a grant application to SSEN for two new generators as the ones we have now are about 25 years old. **ACTION-SG**
- The PC is still seeking three new Emergency Wardens. **ACTION – AF/SG**
- SG and HL reported on their research so far into finding suitable providers of face-to-face CPR trainings. Costs differed greatly between £100 and £700 for a community event, with the cheapest (run by Wiltshire Air Ambulance) lasting only an hour and the most expensive (run by an accredited provider called Caring for Care) taking a half-day and coming with certification. Councillors discussed these comparative costs and course content and it was agreed certification was unnecessary for our purposes. HL and SG will continue to investigate our best option with a view to arranging an initial course for Emergency Wardens in the autumn, and a further course later on if there is sufficient interest from other residents. AF was asked to contact the

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Emergency Wardens Whatsapp group to determine their interest and SG will post this in Whittonways .

ACTION-SG/HL/AF

6(vi) Environment Committee

Maggie Waugh

- MW reported that although the Committee are unable to attend the Wilts CC Climate and Environment Summit they have completed the survey.
- The first three trees in the community orchard are flourishing and watering is being taken care of. Thanks to Robert Copp who has also been watering the trees. An attack of mildew has been treated. The next three fruit trees will go in in the autumn.
- MW spoke in favour of the round picnic tables that are being considered for the orchard, which look very nice. SG will continue to liaise with Veena Nandha about what we're thinking of doing, and whether she would like the PC to attach a memorial to Peter to one of the new tables, or otherwise to a nearby bench in his memory.

ACTION - SG

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

The resident at the meeting had come to raise a concern about the number of lights that are not working in the churchyard. He counted four that were not working but it seems only two of these belong to WCC and, of the other two, the one on the Lychgate is presumably owned by the church and the other, on the converted public loo, is in fact a PIR sensor for the churchyard lights. EH reported the two WCC street lights not working on MyWilts whilst the matter was under discussion.

7. AXFORD

Diann Barnett

DB reported that Axford Open Gardens ran very successfully on Sunday 8th June and raised £910 for the church and the village hall. RG also collected money for Prospect.

8. LOCAL HIGHWAYS & FOOTPATHS IMPROVEMENT GROUP

Alison Foale

AF attended the meeting of the LHFIG on 22nd May. Re the one-way trial in Union Street she suggested that a traffic survey should be carried out in order to have a baseline against which we can measure the success of the trial. Steve Hind, the Highway Engineer, suggested that the matter would have to seek funding from LHFIG. **Note: SH had been notified that the PC is willing to fully fund this project. SG will contact him to confirm this.**

ACTION - SG

9. MARLBOROUGH AREA BOARD

Sheila Glass

JS pointed out that the June meeting was held on 3rd (not 18th). He had attended the meeting and reported that Wilts police are keen to identify local traffic accident blackspots across the county and will welcome PCs' and residents' reporting these to them.

JS also reported that MAB were in a position to make grants to local groups and organisations to help towards the purchase of equipment. Applications for such funding should be submitted to Andrew Jack at Wilts C.C.

10. ALLOTMENTS

Denise Edwards

SG reported that, together with EH and DB, she had drafted a new lease based on the wording of the old one, but with a rent increase as agreed, and this had been made available to the landowner for her consideration. We await a response.

11. WEBSITE

SG said that the May traffic report had been circulated. She drew councillors' attention to the hits having gone down compared to the mysterious 97% increase in April. She will be asking the webhosts to look into what might be going on.

ACTION - SG

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12. VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

Sheila Glass

- The broken bus stop sign in Whittonditch Road has been repaired at last
- SG said the white gates for Newtown Road are ready to be installed and should go in soon by the end of June.
- **See item 6(ii)** regarding replacing the current SIDs with five newer models.
- We are not yet in a position to progress the adoption of the phone box outside the Memorial Hall.
- Councillors again discussed signage measures to try to improve road safety around the school at drop-off and pick-up times but it was generally agreed that the school and parents who come by car also need to do their bit – especially with regard to their own driving speed and where they park.

13. PARISH STEWARD'S ROTA

Clerk

Next visit will be on 3rd July.

ACTION – CLERK

14. LIBRARY

No report.

15. MEMORIAL HALL

Sheila Glass

HL has kindly offered to step in to replace George Hawes as the PC's new representative trustee.

Prop; SG Seconded DB APPROVED. The Secretary to the Trustees to be informed.

ACTION – CLERK

16. NATURE RESERVE

Chris Morgan

CM reported that WWT had given the reserve a full cut last week. He is also hoping to meet Nick Self from WWT on 26th June to inspect the flooding problem.

ACTION - CM

17. RECREATION CENTRE

SG said that she had discussed with Ian Smith whether a PC representative is actually required any longer at Rec Centre meetings, and it was mutually agreed that it was not.

18. RAMSBURY SCHOOL

Roger Greasley

RG reported that the school roll numbers will be down in September to 190 (optimum is 210) and this will mean a smaller reception class. The Summer Fair will be on 5th July and term ends on 24th July.

Some additional funding has come in as a result of donations in memory of a parent and this money will be put towards improving the school hall.

19. VANDALISM/CRIME

No report.

20. PATIENTS' REPRESENTATIVE

The PC will not continue to send a representative to surgery meetings.

21. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT IN JUNE

Inv. No	Payments to Suppliers – June 2025	Amount	Net	VAT	Paid By	S137
I4280	WH Smith – file dividers. Paid in May	7.58	6.32	1.26	VisaDebit	No
I4281	Lloyds Bank PLC – May bank charges. Paid in May	4.25	4.25	0.00	DD	No
I4282	M J Baker Accountancy – payroll fee for May	11.25	11.25	0.00	DD	No
I4283	Idverde Ltd - Bin emptying in May	22.20	18.50	3.70	BACS	No
I4284	Coral Westall – public loo cleaning in June	200.00	200.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4285	Coral Westall – PC office cleaning April - June	34.50	34.50	0.00	BACS	No
I4286	Community First Insurance –	1245.08	1245.08	0.00	BACS	No
I4287	Ramsbury Beavers – Litter-pick donation	100.00	100.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4288	Castle Water – public loo water charges for May	47.03	47.03	0.00	BACS	No
I4289	HP Instant Ink – printer ink subscription for 28 th May – 27 th June	13.49	11.25	2.24	VisaDebit	No
I4290	Dawn Gill – reimbursement for fungicide for Community Orchard	10.99	9.16	1.83	BACS	No
I4291	Sheila Glass – plants for village planters	9.00	7.50	1.50	BACS	No
	TOTAL (excluding Clerk's salary I4292)	£1,705.37	£1,694.84	£10.53		
	TOTAL AMOUNT ON DEPOSIT at 31st May 2025*	£126,243.81				
	incl. gross interest earned Dec 2022 to 31 st May 2025	£5,243.81				
	MONIES RECEIVED					
	Charity shop rent	£300.00				
	June SO for Memorial Hall broadband	9.60				
	TOTAL INCOME	£309.60				
	Current A/c balance at 31st May 2025	£6,383.66				

*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 9.10p.m

DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 21st JULY at 7.45pm in RAMSBURY MEMORIAL HALL
ALL ARE WELCOME