

RAMSBURY & AXFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council Alice Charlwood c/o Council Office, Memorial Hall, High Street, Ramsbury, Wilts SN8 2PB
Telephone: 01672 520045 (ansaphone) e-mail parishcouncil@ramsbury.org

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 16th March 2026 at 7.45pm in Axford Village Hall

2055

Present:

S Glass – Chair (SG)

D Barnett – Vice Chair (DB)

D Edwards (DE)

R Greasley (RG)

C Morgan (CM)

E Hodgson (EH)

M Tester (MT)

A Foale (AF)

D Gill (DGi)

D Greenway (DGr)

B Murray (BM)

A Charlwood (AC) – Clerk

One member of the public was present

1. **APOLOGIES** – were received from Helen Lloyd and Maggie Waugh. **Approved.** Bernard Murray did not attend.

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

3. THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th February were approved and signed as a true record.

Proposed EH; Seconded CM. APPROVED

4. **MATTERS ARISING** – None

5. NEW CORRESPONDENCE – Items for discussion

*The full list of incoming correspondence from 6th Feb-9th March can be viewed on the parish council website

Ref. No	Date Received	February – March 2026 From :	Subject Highlighted for Discussion
A8528	12 Feb	Steve Oakey, Redhand CCTV	Proposal for Redeployable CCTV camera. Fwd to Cllrs. SG & DB had a site meeting with Mr. Oakey. Their product is not suitable for our purposes. See Feb mtg minutes Item 11.
A8535	19 Feb	Graeme Morrison, Wilts CC Strategic Engagement & Partnerships Manager	Further information about the LEVI (Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure) project and specific proposals for our area. Fwd. to Environment Committee. SG & DGi attended an online consultation, hoping to see if any sites in the village might be suitable for accessible EV charging points and qualify for WCC funding. See item 11
A8536	20 Feb	Resident	Arranging setting up the new grit bin at the top of Chapel Lane. This work has been completed by local residents.

2056

A8537	20 Feb	Resident	Seeking advice about whether the overhanging branches of a large tree outside his property are a danger, and warrants cutting back to avoid damage to property or injury to residents. Fwd. to Cllrs. SG has replied.
A8538	22 Feb	Resident	Possible vacancy for a new PC councillor. SG has replied.
A8540	23 Feb	Samuel Stevens Contracts Manager, Idverde Ltd.	Termination of litter bin collection service on 31 March. Fwd. to Cllrs. See item 11
A8544	25 Feb	Resident	Seeking advice about pruning weeping willow by the mill stream at 33 High Street. For information.
A8545	26 Feb	Resident	Reporting a dog attack on footpath 19 at Eastridge. Fwd to Cllrs. See item 15
A8548	02 March	Stephen Neate, Wilts CC Highways & Transport Enforcement Officer	Removal of abandoned vehicle on PC land behind the surgery. Fwd to Cllrs. See item 11
A8553	05 March	Rose Howe, Ramsbury D-Day Committee	Involving local groups in D-Day Walk of Remembrance on 6 th June and fund-raising for Help4Heroes etc. Fwd. to Cllrs. SG suggested Cllrs. who may want to take part contact Ms. Howe direct.
A8554	05 March	Adrian Hampton. Wilts CC Highways Operations	Options available to PCs with the termination of Idverde's litter bin collection service. Fwd. to Cllrs. See item 11
A8556	06 March	Danny Austin, CPRE Wiltshire	Entry forms for 2026 Best Kept Village Comp. Fwd to Cllrs. SG will submit the entry form. ACTION - SG
A8557	06 March	Lisa Alexander, Wilt CC Legal & Governance	Meeting of the Electoral Review Committee on 26 March. Fwd. to Cllrs. This PC is not taking part in the CGR scheme.
A8558	06 March	Resident	Parking space problem since one-way trial started. Fwd. to Cllrs. The Clerk has replied.
A8559	06 March	SSE Unmetered Supply team	Festive lights. Fwd. to Cllrs. SG explained that a bill might come in in due course.
A8560	07 March	Resident	Requesting details of 2026 Boundary Walk. SG has replied.
A8561	09 March	Resident	Night-time closure of Oxford Street and noise from Thames Water emergency repair works. Fwd to Cllrs. SG explained why the repair of a dropped manhole was carried out as an emergency and will respond.
A8562	09 March	Andrea Begent, Wilts CC Streetscene Engineer	Requesting location of public litter bins impacted by Idverde terminating their contract to empty them, to identify those which WC may be willing to take over. SG has replied and WC have agreed to take over the bin at Seven Bridges.

6 FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Erica Hodgson

- The spending proposal to fence the Ashley Piece play area was discussed under Item 7.
- EH had circulated the 2026 Asset Register and Financial Risk Analysis. In an answer to a query from MT, EH explained that the Asset Register valuations were not always directly linked to the sums they are insured for, and confirmed that our cover is on a "new for old" basis. There being no more queries, EH sought approval of the Asset Register and Financial Risk Analysis (which was unchanged from 2025). **Prop. EH; Sec. MT. APPROVED.**

2057

- Having received no alternative suggestions, EH proposed that she seek quotes to repair the pavements around the Knowledge Crescent play area (with the addition of a dropped kerb), and to extend the 2025 pavement repair campaign further down Whittonditch Road. **APPROVED** **ACTION - EH**

7 PLAY AREAS REPORT

Denise Edwards

- DE reported that the Committee met on 3rd March. The space net installation at Whittonditch was discussed and a plan of action for levelling the ground around it was agreed. **ACTION - SG**
- The Committee also discussed the suggestion that the play areas might be fenced to try to reduce the problem of dog fouling where children are playing. The cost of fencing such a large area is so high that, for the time being, it was agreed that the public will be asked to come forward to the PC with evidence of dog owners who are responsible for this nuisance, and some new customised signs are being considered. The Committee will review this matter in September.
- It is proposed that a ballshot be purchased for Whittonditch play area.
- The nest swing, picnic table and a couple of the boards on the fort at the Knowledge Crescent play area need replacing and DE will seek quotes for this expenditure. **ACTION - DE**

8 ALLOTMENTS

Denise Edwards

- DE reported that another session to tidy and clear the site will happen soon.

9 RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE REPORT

Doug Greenway

- DGr reported that the monthly circular walk on Sunday 1st March was a bit rainy, but ten locals enjoyed the walk with him. The monthly walk in April has been cancelled.
- DGr confirmed that further preparations for this year's Boundary Walk on Sunday 3rd May are well in hand.

10 EMERGENCY COMMITTEE REPORT

Alison Foale

- The old generators in our village hubs have been removed prior to getting the new ones wired in and secured. SSE have requested a report on our experience of their grant application process and SG and the clerk will respond. SG estimates that, once installation and fuel costs are added to the cost of the generators themselves, we are likely to be able to refund SSE approx. £1,000 of the £5,789 grant the PC received in January.
- AF and MT will liaise about the purchase of the six pack of walkie-talkies he recommended at the January meeting. **ACTION – AF/MT**

11 VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

Sheila Glass

- A new green grit bin has been purchased and installed beside the bench at the top of Chapel Lane.
- AF said that the broken signs lying in the grass at the junction of Newtown Road and the B4192 have been reported repeatedly to MyWilts but, as they are still just about legible, are probably not regarded as a priority. We will keep trying though.
- The discontinuation of Idverde's litter bin emptying service was discussed. SG has heard from Wilts Streetscene that they are willing to add the bin on Newtown Road to the WCC collection schedule. Unfortunately any bin the PC might purchase for the orchard picnic area would be on private land and therefore Streetscene cannot offer to include that in their collection.
- SG confirmed that the new defibrillator for Whittonditch phone box has been delivered and she will be arranging for its installation. **ACTION – SG**
- SG and DGi were disappointed not to have learnt anything new from the online consultation on EV chargers (**see Item 5: A8535**) and there seem to be no realistic answers to the problem of provision of accessible EV charging points for residents who do not have off-street parking.
- DE reported that the abandoned vehicle on the PC's land behind the surgery has been moved to a resident's drive.

2058

12 NATURE RESERVE

Chris Morgan

- CM had nothing to report, except that he had sent a batch of photos to SG.

13 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Sheila Glass

See item 5 (A8557). SG has set the ball rolling about getting the PC name changed, which can be achieved easily without involving us in the CGR as such.

14 POTENTIAL CLOSURE OF RAMSBURY FIRE STATION -

Sheila Glass

- SG reported that two public consultations about the closure of our fire station were held in the Memorial Hall, one on **2nd March (6.00-8.00)** and the other on **3rd March (10.30-12.30)**. In her view they were not particularly well-attended. She was interviewed after the meeting on 3rd March by BBC Points West.
- Several councillors observed that some of the information included in the fire authority's booklet (made available at the meetings) – most particularly about the likely call-out response times from Marlborough, Swindon, Stratton and Pewsey, and the unfair cost they were attributing to each Ramsbury Fire Station call-out – was highly misleading and should be part of the PC's objections to the proposal.
- DB said she has asked the fire station for further particulars and better data on their call-outs in the past year so, if it is relevant, that information could be incorporated into the PC's written response.
- MT commented on what he considered the misleading and damning cost-per-callout attributed to Ramsbury Fire Station; he also observed that the fire authority's changes to the on-call firefighters' contracts can only have discouraged their retention and recruitment – another factor in undermining the ability of the Ramsbury crew to turn out to a shout perhaps, and probably skewing the figures in calculating their cost-effectiveness.
- SG said she was surprised to learn at the meeting that the Fire Service owns the land that Ramsbury Fire Station stands on.

Public Forum

A member of the public closely associated with the Fire Station had a number of points to make with regard to the Fire Authority's proposal to close it, including:

- He recommends all letters should be sent to all the members of the fire authority whose addresses are listed on the Dorset and Wilts Fire & Rescue Authority website
- He urged everyone to complete the online survey - notices with QR code to link to the survey are up around the village
- He was also concerned about the misleading response times published in their booklet
- He reiterated that D&WFA are not meeting their 10 minute response time to primary fires now, so how much worse might it get if these cuts are implemented.
- The second fire appliances at Swindon and Stratton are both manned by on-call fire fighters which only adds to their response time to call-outs
- SG urged all the councillors to write personally on these matters.

ACTION - ALL

15 VANDALISM/CRIME

Sheila Glass

- SG drew everyone's attention to the move of the police consultation on 30th March to the Lychgate Room because the Legion café does not open on Mondays.
- The resident who experienced the dog attack at Eastridge has reported the incident to the WCC dog warden, and they have contacted the owner of the dogs who carried out the attack.

16 AXFORD

Diann Barnett

Nothing to report. A meeting of the landowners around the footpath will be arranged.

ACTION – DB

2059

17 PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Diann Barnett

PLANNING REPORT RAMSBURY AND AXFORD PARISH COUNCIL – Mar 2026

Planning Applications Processed since February 2026 report

New applications-

- PL/2026/00995 Bungalow, Whittonditch Extension and remove S52
- PL/2026/01214 Dove Cottage, Axford Loft space conversion + dormer windows
- PL/2026/01430 33, High Street Reduce and thin weeping willow.
- PL/2026/01457 33, Oxford Street Remove conservatory and replace.

Still awaiting-

- PL/2025/01559 Upcott Field, Whittonditch Rd 9 houses and associated works. This application layout has been amended.
- PL/2025/08376 Crown and Anchor Delicence, change of use.
- PL/2025/09209 9 Union Street Create off street parking
- PL/2025/09169 West House, Ramsbury internal alterations, window change
- PL/2025/09011 West House, Ramsbury Swimming pool and garden shed
- PL/2025/09376 42/43 Oxford Street Proposed garage.
- PL/2026/00104 Knypersley, 79 High St Alterations and extension to rear.
- PL/2026/00597 Susie Watson, The Square Change of use to residential.
- PL/2026/00103 7 The Square Amendments to previous approval

Decisions-

- PL/2025/08684 Land rear of 36 Oxford St Detached 3 bed bungalow APPROVED
- PL/2025/09823 1 High St, Ramsbury Change of use, remodel and conservatory REFUSED
- 3357357 Red Lion enforcement appeal NC
- 3362810 Red Lion planning appeal NC
Land at Lamplands, enforcement notified and in progress.

MT asked the meaning of “in progress” regarding Lamplands. DB reviewed the protracted history of the case, which was infuriatingly ineffective and said she would chase it up yet again. **ACTION - DB**

18 ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Maggie Waugh

No report.

19 RAMSBURY MEMORIAL HALL

Sheila Glass

- A meeting of the Memorial Hall Committee was held on 18th February at which it was decided to carry out some external cleaning of the hall and to draw up a 5-year plan for further refurbishments.
- The hall’s centenary celebrations went really well, as did the re-dedication of the memorial cross with some hymns and readings. HL and DB had worked enormously hard to curate the exhibition and it was suggested that some of the pictures from the exhibition be published online. MT expressed thanks to the councillors for the work they had put in to make it such a good event.

20 LOCAL HIGHWAYS & FOOTWAYS IMPROVEMENT GROUP

Sheila Glass

SG will attend the next meeting to be held on 23rd April.

2060

21 MARLBOROUGH AREA BOARD

Sheila Glass

The next meeting will be held on 26th May.

22 TOWN & PARISH CLERKS MEETING

Sheila Glass

SG reported that a discussion with Adrian Hampton from Streetscene re. Idverde withdrawing their bin collection service had resulted in WCC taking over some bins which was mentioned under item 11. He was also very helpful re. the abandoned car at the surgery. The next meeting will be on 26th March.

23 PARISH STEWARD'S ROTA

Parish Steward visits are currently suspended whilst they are being diverted on to repairing potholes exclusively.

24 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT IN MARCH

EH pointed out that the total amounts to pay as shown on the Agenda needed correction. (This is reflected in the following list). **ACTION - CLERK**

Inv.	Payments to Suppliers – March 2026	Amount	Net	VAT	Paid By	S137
I4439	British Heart Foundations Shops Ltd – new defib for phone box. Paid in Feb.	1369.99	1141.66	228.33	VisaDebit	No
I4440	Hampshire Generators – 2 new village hub generators. Paid in Feb.	3991.96	3326.63	665.33	BACS	No
I4441	Roadware Ltd – New grit bin for Chapel Lane. Paid in Feb.	129.54	107.95	21.59	VisaDebit	No
I4442	Tesco – 2 reams of A4 paper. Paid in Feb.	7.00	5.83	1.17	VisaDebit	No
I4443	Trophy Store – Boundary Walk trophy. Paid in Feb.	13.44	11.20	2.24	VisaDebit	No
I4444	M J Baker Accountancy – payroll fee for February	11.25	11.25	0.00	DD	No
I4445	Idverde Ltd - Bin emptying in February	22.20	18.50	3.70	BACS	No
I4446	Coral Westall – public loo cleaning in March	200.00	200.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4447	Coral Westall – PC office cleaning Jan - March	34.50	34.50	0.00	BACS	No
I4448	Castle Water – water charges for public loo in Feb.	32.71	32.71	0.00	BACS	No
I4449	Lloyds Business Banking – Bank Charges in March	4.25	4.25	0.00	DD	No
I4450	Wiltshire Council – 100% of cost of implementing Union Street one-way experimental order	3800.00	3800.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4451	HP Instant Ink – 28 th January to 27 th February	13.49	11.24	2.25	VisaDebit	No
	TOTAL (excl. Clerk's salary I4452)	£9,630.33	£8,705.72	£924.61		
	TOTAL AMOUNT ON DEPOSIT on 28th February 2026*	£102,603.82				
	incl. gross interest earned Dec 2022 to 28th February	£6,603.82				
	INCOME					
	Charity shop rent	£320.00				
	HMRC VAT reclaim Jan-Feb 2026	982.17				
	TOTAL INCOME	£1,302.17				
	Current A/c balance at 28th February 2026	£12,650.92				

2061

*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. CM

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.10pm

**DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 20th April 2026 at 7.45pm at RAMSBURY MEMORIAL HALL**

ALL ARE WELCOME