

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 18th May 2026 at 8.55pm in Ramsbury Memorial Hall

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Present:

D. Barnett (DB) – Chairman
H Lloyd (HL) – Vice Chairman
S Glass (SG)
E Hodgson (EH)
M Tester (MT)

M Waugh (MW)
D Greenway (DGr)
B Murray (BM)
R Greasley (RG)
A Charlwood (AC) – Clerk

One member of the public was present

- 1. APOLOGIES** – were received from Chris Morgan, Dawn Gill and Alison Foale. **Approved.**
Denise Edwards did not attend.
- 2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**
There had been six nominations for Diann Barnett, and there being no other nominees, the Clerk announced that Diann Barnett was therefore duly elected as Chairman.
- 3. ELECTION AS VICE CHAIRMAN**
There had been seven nominations for Helen Lloyd, and there being no other nominees, the Clerk announced that Helen Lloyd was therefore duly elected as Vice Chairman.
- 4. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST** – None.
- 5. THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**
The Clerk having corrected the record as regards the venue of the April meeting (which was held in Ramsbury Memorial Hall, not at Axford Village Hall), and the figures shown in item 23 for amounts of reserves held on deposit at 31st March, the minutes of the meeting held on 20th April were approved and signed as a true record. **Proposed MW; Seconded BM. APPROVED**
- 6. MATTERS ARISING** – None
- 7. NEW CORRESPONDENCE – Items for discussion**

*The full list of incoming correspondence from 15th April – 8th May can be viewed on the parish council website

Ref. No	Date Received	April - May 2026 From :	Subject *Highlighted for Discussion
A8595	16 April	Melissa Camilleri, PCSO	How crimes and incidents are recorded has changed and may be distorting the statistics for Ramsbury. Fwd to Cllrs. Discussed at the April meeting

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A8598	21 April	Stephen Leonard, Wilts CC Countryside Access Officer	Lofts Bridge replacement work due to start on 5 th May. Fwd. to Cllrs. DB said she had been down to have a look and the work was not yet finished. NB. We have since had an email from Stephen advising us that the next bridge is also being rebuilt and all should be finished in 2-3 weeks.
A8599	21 April	Resident	Effect on the natural habitats of timber and fencing having been left on the water meadow. Fwd. to SG&DB DB reported that builders' debris had been left on the water meadow but the landowners had given assurances that it would be removed in the near future. NB. As at 1 st June, not all removed.
A8603	28 April	Andrew Rae	Pilot poetry readings for PCs to host. Fwd to Cllrs. This information has been circulated to village groups but no interest has been expressed.
A8604	28 April	Resident	Reporting on the cleaning jobs she has done for BKV at Whittonditch play area and outside The Bell, and plans to do on a sign on Duck Bridge. Fwd to Cllrs. The clerk was asked to write to thank her. ACTION - CLERK
A8605	28 April	Resident	Removal of vehicle parked on Ashley Piece. Fwd to Cllrs. See item 13. The vehicle in question has now been moved.
A8606	28 April	National Allotment Society	Survey into allotment provision, demand and management across England. Fwd. to DE. See item 11. ACTION – SG.
A8608	29 April	WALC	April Newsletter. Info re Practitioners Guide. Fwd to Cllrs. See item 8 (i). SG reported that she and DB were working through this document to ensure the PC's compliance. ACTION – EH working on privacy/GDPR policy
A8609	30 April	Tom Ince, Wilts CC Events Authorising Manager	Application for the annual Trailbreak Ramsbury Triple BBB – any concerns? Fwd to Cllrs. See item 8 (iii)
A8612	30 April	Resident	Steps are being taken for the removal of detritus from the water meadow. Fwd. to Cllrs. (See I8599 above)
A8618	11 May	Fred Rendell WC	Parish Steward visits resuming on June 1 st . See Item17

8 COMMITTEE REPORTS

(i) FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Erica Hodgson

- EH said that approval of the 2025-26 AGAR Annual Governance Statement Section 1 and Accounting Statement Section 2 would need to be deferred until the June meeting pending Finance Committee approval of the recent updates made to the Asset Register policy relating to the exclusion of installation costs from the total sums expended on play equipment.
- EH summarised the terms and premium quotation (£1,278.27 with a £100 excess) to renew the PC's insurance policy for a further three years. This is cheaper than last year's premium so she proposed it be accepted. **Prop. EH; Sec. DGr. APPROVED**

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- Having received one contractor's quote and another having declined to quote, EH will need to seek one further quote for this year's pavement repair works. She hopes to receive it in time to report on the contractors' comparative quotes at the June PC meeting. **ACTION - EH**

(ii) PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Diann Barnett

PLANNING REPORT RAMSBURY AND AXFORD PARISH COUNCIL – May 2026 Planning Applications Processed since April 2026 report

New applications-

No new applications this month.

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/2025/09169 West House, Ramsbury Internal alterations, window change
- PL/2025/09011 West House, Ramsbury Swimming pool and garden shed AMENDED
- PL/2025/09376 42/43 Oxford Street Proposed garage. AMENDED
- PL/2026/00104 Knypersley, 79 High St Alterations and extension to rear. AMENDED
- PL/2026/00995 Bungalow, Whittonditch Extension and remove S52
- PL/2026/01214 Dove Cottage, Axford Loft space conversion + dormer windows

Decisions-

- PL/2025/09209 9 Union Street Create off street parking REFUSED
- PL/2026/00597 The Old Est Office, The Square Change of use to residential. APPROVED
- PL/2026/00103 7 The Square Amendments to previous approval APPROVED
- PL/2026/01457 33, Oxford Street Remove conservatory and replace. APPROVED
- PL/2026/01948 9 Lawrence Mead Conversion of garage. APPROVED

- 3357357 Red Lion enforcement appeal NC
- 3362810 Red Lion planning appeal NC

The officer at the Planning Inspectorate for both these appeals has changed. I have contacted to ask why this is taking so long. No response as yet.

Land at Lamplands - On 22nd April 2026 an Enforcement Notice was served on the land as well as the owners and any persons with a connection to the land. Due to planning law the notice takes effect on the 23rd May 2026 (they have to be given a 28 day period to appeal the notice), if no appeal is received then the works to clear the land must be completed within 6 months from the effective date.

DB said that two updates had come in since her report above.

- PL/2025/09209 (9 Union Street) are appealing
- An application had been received from Knighton for a change of use to a barn

(iii) RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE REPORT

Doug Greenway

- DGr had nothing to add to the report he had read out at the Annual Parish Assembly (held immediately prior to the AGM).
- It was proposed that the PC make a donation of £170 to the British Legion in appreciation of the teas they provided after the Boundary Walk. **Prop. SG; Sec. EH. APPROVED** **ACTION – CLERK**

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- DGr said he had no objection to the proposed route of the Trailbreak Ramsbury BBB but SG had written to the organisers to point out a short section of the route along RAMS 34 was a footpath so bikes would need to be pushed rather than ridden along there. DGr wondered why they might have elected to change from their previous routes and will contact the Brewery to query this. **ACTION - DGr**

(iv) PLAY AREAS AND SEATS REPORT

Denise Edwards

DE was not at the meeting. No report.

SG thanked all the councillors and residents who had helped to assemble and set up the new picnic table at Knowledge Crescent play area. Whilst they were there they discussed the proposed relocation of one of the rubbish bins but decided to leave it where it is.

SG is sourcing some green fluorescent paint for highlighting dog mess left by dog owners on our play areas.

ACTION – SG

(v) EMERGENCY COMMITTEE REPORT

Alison Foale

- AF was not at the meeting. MT reported that the claimed 5-8Km range has been overstated by the makers of the long-range two-way walkie-talkies recently purchased by the PC. This is disappointing. However, they were found to work OK when used by the Boundary Walk front and back markers and MT will do some more research and report again at the next meeting. **ACTION - MT**
- There is still some uncertainty about the amount the PC might be able to refund to SSE as the quote from the electrician has yet to come in.

(vi) ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Maggie Waugh

MW said she had nothing to add to her report to the Annual Parish Assembly, except to say that a rota for watering the apple trees through the current heatwave is being compiled.

ACTION - ALL

Public Forum – Parish Council Standing Orders are temporarily suspended for this item

A member of the public had come to listen to the proceedings but did not wish to say anything.

9 POTENTIAL CLOSURE OF RAMSBURY FIRE STATION -

Sheila Glass

SG said that she and DB had attended many many meetings prior to putting their heads together to draft a series of bullet points summarising the PC's objections to the proposed closure, which was circulated to the PC for their comments. Having taken those into account, the final document was sent to the survey as well as to the 18 members of the consultation committee. Of the responses from them so far, they seem not to agree to the closures but all we can do now is wait and see. We have done our best.

10 AXFORD

Diann Barnett

DB had nothing to report other than the matters included in her APA report.

11 ALLOTMENTS

Denise Edwards

DE was not at the meeting. No report.

SG will contact the Chairman of the Allotment Association about completing a survey.

ACTION – SG

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12 VANDALISM/CRIME

Sheila Glass

MT met with the PCSO at the public consultation on 13th May seeking more and better information about the breakdown of the crime statistics for the first quarter of 2026, which she recently published. With her help he is now able to access the monthly figures online and will digest and report on the April figures as soon as they are published.

MT also mentioned a recent accident on Oxford Street when a resident was hit by a car on the pull-in outside Midway Stores.

13 VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

Sheila Glass

- SG reported that whilst the Freshers' Day event had been busy, she thought only ten newcomers had turned up and was left with a concern that it was missing the people it is aimed at. There was a discussion about the need to publicise this very worthwhile community event better in future and perhaps do more leafletting.
- The Best Kept Village judges were seen in village on 14th May.
- The PC are grateful to the cubs for litter-picking around the village on 14th May and it was unanimously agreed that they be given a donation of £100 in appreciation of their hard work. **APPROVED.**
- A new set of taps which turn off automatically to prevent wasting water and to deter vandalism has been fitted to the whb in the public loo.
- The derelict bench on the corner of Back Lane and Knowledge Crescent is repairable, and Clive Glass thinks he can source and fit some wood-effect slats to the seat and the back at a cost of approx. £230 (including a £100 donation to the charity shop). **APPROVED**
- A tree alongside that bench just by the Back Lane bus stop (on land owned by Aster) has been inspected by a tree surgeon and needs to be taken down as it is dead. At the same time, he also found a dead tree in The Paddocks (originally planted by Mr Harry Hyams of Ramsbury Manor many years ago) which should also be taken out. The PC has his quote for carrying out the work but it was agreed that, as the trees are theirs, Aster and the Manor trustees should be contacted and asked to cover the costs of removal.
ACTION – DB/CLERK
- Vehicle parked at Ashley Piece has been removed.

14 LOCAL HIGHWAYS & FOOTWAYS IMPROVEMENT GROUP

Sheila Glass

The next meeting will be held on 10/09/26

15 MARLBOROUGH AREA BOARD

Sheila Glass

DB and SG will attend the meeting on 26th May in the interests of good networking.

ACTION – DB/SG

16 TOWN & PARISH CLERKS' MEETING

Sheila Glass

SG and DB plan to attend the meeting on 20th May in order to bring up the problems being created by incremental planning applications. **NB. On the day there was a flaw in the online link to attend and we were told it had been cancelled.**

ACTION – SG/DB

17 PARISH STEWARD'S ROTA

Parish Stewards' monthly visits have been suspended since January whilst they were diverted on to repairing potholes exclusively. However, they will be resuming their normal duties w.e.f. 1st June and we expect them to visit on 3rd June. There will be quite a backlog of work to catch-up on.

ACTION - CLERK

18 POLICE COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Sheila Glass

Inspector Garrett has responded to SG's complaint about the PCSO being delayed in attending the consultation on 30th March and expressed his intention to improve communications in future. However, unfortunately the PC was unable to contact the PCSO on 13th May in time to let her know that the venue had had to be moved to the Lychgate Room at very short notice due to staff sickness at the British Legion

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because she is unwilling to let us know her phone number. Parish councillors MT and HL were the only people to attend.

19 RAMSBURY MEMORIAL HALL

Sheila Glass

- The next meeting of the Hall Trustees will be on 2nd June.
- SG thanked Mary Holdsworth and Erica Hodgson for their help in tidying the Memorial Garden and planting up the tubs in The Square respectively.

20 NATURE RESERVE

Chris Morgan

No report

21 SCHOOL REPORT

Roger Greasley

RG reported on the difficulties being encountered by the governors with the recruitment of a new Head and Deputy Head for the September terms.

22 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Sheila Glass

SG said there had been no progress on the PC change of name but will chase it up.

ACTION - SG

23 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT IN MAY

Inv. No	Payments to Suppliers – May 2026	Amount	Net	VAT	Paid By	S137
I4472	D & D International Ltd (via Amazon) – Insulated cups for Boundary Walk. Paid in April	21.04	17.53	3.51	Visa Debit	No
I4473	NBB Recycled Furniture – Octagonal picnic table for play area. Paid in April	858.00	715.00	143.00	VisaDebit	No
I4474	HMRC – Income tax and Employer’s NI on Clerk’s salary. Paid in April	556.36	556.36	0.00	DD	No
I4475	Easygift Trading Ltd (via Amazon) – 10 litre water containers for Boundary Walk. Paid in April	25.98	21.64	4.34	VisaDebit	No
I4476	Diann Barnett – Land Registry Search Fee. Paid in April	14.00	14.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4477	Jason Barnett – Materials for securing new generators. Paid in April	110.95	110.95	0.00	BACS	No
I4478	HP Instant Ink 28th March – 27th April. Paid in April	13.49	11.24	2.25	VisaDebit	No
I4479	Trophy Store – Boundary Walk. Paid in April	41.39	34.49	6.90	VisaDebit	No
I4480	JRB Enterprises Ltd – Dog poo bags. Paid in April	100.74	83.95	16.79	VisaDebit	No
I4481	Coral Westall – public loo cleaning in May	200.00	200.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4482	Castle Water – water charges for public loo in April	43.46	43.46	0.00	BACS	No
I4483	Lloyds Business Banking – Bank Charges in May	4.25	4.25	0.00	DD	No
I4484	Director Payroll Ltd – payroll service April-July	72.00	60.00	12.00	BACS	No
I4485	Ramsbury Electrical Ltd – connecting tree lights & time clock	240.14	200.12	40.02	BACS	No
I4486	Copy Color Ltd – A1 posters and A3 boards for boundary wall	126.00	105.00	21.00	BACS	No
I4487	Ramsbury Memorial Hall – PC office rent April-September	591.25	591.25	0.00	BACS	No
I4488	Ramsbury Memorial Hall – public loo bin-emptying charge for the year to 28 th Feb 2026	124.80	124.80	0.00	BACS	No
I4489	Strutt & Parker – BNPPRE S&P Playing Field rent May-Oct	212.50	212.50	0.00	BACS	No

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I4490	Ramsbury Primary School – Grant	500.00	500.00	0.00	BACS	Yes
I4491	Ramsbury Pre-School - Grant	500.00	500.00	0.00	BACS	Yes
I4492	Ramsbury Scouts Cubs & Beavers - Grant	480.00	480.00	0.00	BACS	Yes
I4493	Ramsbury Silver Band - Grant	400.00	400.00	0.00	BACS	Yes
I4494	Ramsbury Model Railway Club - Grant	500.00	500.00	0.00	BACS	Yes
I4495	Ramsbury & Aldbourne Bowls Club - Grant	500.00	500.00	0.00	BACS	Yes
I4496	Axford Village Hall - Grant	300.00	300.00	0.00	BACS	Yes
I4497	Ramsbury Cricket Club - Grant	500.00	500.00	0.00	BACS	Yes
I4498	Ramsbury Football Club - Grant	500.00	500.00	0.00	BACS	Yes
I4499	Ramsbury Netball Club - Grant	500.00	500.00	0.00	BACS	Yes
I4500	Ramsbury Memorial Hall - Grant	500.00	500.00	0.00	BACS	Yes
I4501	Ravensbury Players - Grant	300.00	300.00	0.00	BACS	Yes
I4502	Ramsbury Tennis Club - Grant	500.00	500.00	0.00	BACS	Yes
I4503	Ramsbury & Axford LCC - Grant	750.00	750.00	0.00	BACS	Yes
I4504	Action for the River Kennet River School - Grant	500.00	500.00	0.00	BACS	Yes
I4505	Ramsbury Community Charity Shop	120.00	120.00	0.00	BACS	Yes
I4506	Midway Stores – Boundary Walk supplies	7.91	7.91	0.00	VisaDebit	No
I4507	Tesco – Boundary Walk supplies	10.95	10.95	0.00	VisaDebit	No
I4508	Dobbies – plants for tubs	18.49	15.40	3.09	VisaDebit	No
I4509	Ramsbury Village Shop – Boundary Walk Supplies	20.42	20.42	0.00	VisaDebit	Np
I4510	Trophy Store – medals for Boundary Walk	41.39	34.49	6.90	VisaDebit	No
	TOTAL (excl. Clerk's salary I4511)	10,805.51	10,545.71	259.80		
	TOTAL AMOUNT ON DEPOSIT on 30th April 2026	£132,854.59				
	incl. gross interest earned Dec 2022 to 30 th April 2026	£6,854.59				
	INCOME					
	Charity shop rent	£320.00				
	Wilts C.C. – first tranche of precept. Received in April	40,430.00				
	Memorial Hall share of broadband	9.60				
	TOTAL INCOME	£40,759.60				
	Current A/c balance at 30 April 2026	£15,743.99				

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

NB. In addition to the £10,805.51 due for payment as set out in the meeting agenda (as above) SG sought councillors' approval of two further payments to be settled this month :-

I4512	Community Heartbeat – two new defib electrodes	140.94				
I4513	C H Plumbing – new whb taps in the public loo	238.00				

Bringing the total expenditure for approval up to £11,184.45

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The Accounts were accepted and approved. Prop. EH; Sec. DGr

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.05p.m.

**DATE OF THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 15TH JUNE 2026 AT 7.45pm at RAMSBURY MEMORIAL HALL**

ALL ARE WELCOME

DRAFT