

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 Meeting held on Monday 16th October 2023 at 7.45pm in the Memorial Hall

1830

Present:

S Glass – Chair (SG)
D Barnett - Vice Chair (DB)
L Jauncey (LJ)
A Foale (AF)
R Greasley (RG)
G Hawes (GH)

B Murray (BM)
H Lloyd (HL)
E Hodgson (EH)
M Tester (MT)
C Morgan (CM)
A Charlwood (AC) – Clerk

Eight members of the public were also present

1. **APOLOGIES** – were received from Dawn Gill, Denise Edwards Maggie Waugh, and Ron Young -
Approved
2. **DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST** - None
3. **THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**
A member of the public pointed out an error on page 1827 under the heading Closure of Local Pubs (where the words “.... The Pelican will be closing” should have said “.... The Pelican will soon be under new management but will be remaining open”).
With that correction, the minutes of the meeting held on 18th September 2023 were approved and signed as a true record. **Proposed RG; Seconded EH. Approved.**
4. **MATTERS ARISING** – not included in the Agenda
 - (i) **(page 1825) : Environment Committee’s draft policy document** – MT noted that this had not been circulated to councillors prior to this meeting. BM assured councillors that it will be done before the November meeting. **ACTION - BM**
 - (ii) **(page 1821) Overgrown trees on Ashley Piece** – HL asked if Wilts CC had been contacted about getting the canopies of the large whitebeam trees reduced. SG apologised that this had not yet been done but wanted to first discuss with DG whether it would be better to consider having them felled and replaced with more manageable silver birches instead. She will get on to it. **ACTION - SG**

5. NEW CORRESPONDENCE – Items for discussion*

Ref. No	Date Received	Sept-October 2023 Correspondence	Subject Highlighted for Discussion*
A7483	13 Sept	Resident	Horses on Springs Hill. Fwd. to Rights Of Way C. SG said that there was nothing further to report and no further action required at this time.
A7490	19 Sept	PKF Littlejohn LLP	Closure/completion of 2022/2023 external audit. SG congratulated the clerk and confirmed there had been no queries or problems with these documents and that they have been published on the website and noticeboards
A7491	19 Sept	Isles Court Estate Manager	Cognatum is willing to make a contribution towards the cost of dropped kerbs on Isles Road. SG is taking this matter to the next Local Highways meeting on 19 th October.
A7493	21 Sept	Resident	Request for PC support in making application to National Lottery Community Fund to build some bike jumps. See this item under Public Forum
A7497	22 Sept	Resident	Enquiry about fluctuating PO opening hours. SG has replied to this concern and explained that we are hopeful things will return to normal before too long.
A7498	25 Sept	Resident	Blocked gullies. SG has reported to MyWilts.
A7503	27 Sept	Resident	Suggestion for an outdoor Xmas Fair. The practicalities and affordability of this idea was discussed at some length and SG will write a reply.
A7504	28 Sept	Isles Court Estate Manager	Thank you for support re. request for dropped kerbs. For information
A7505	28 Sept	Melissa Camillieri, Wilts Police Community Support Officer	Date options for police surgery in December. See item 19.
A7506	30 Sept	Resident	Blocked gullies on Stone Lane, Axford. SG has reported.

*The full list of incoming correspondence from 8th September – 9th October can be viewed on the parish council website

6. Committee Reports:

6 (i) Planning

Diann Barnett

PLANNING REPORT RAMSBURY AND AXFORD PARISH COUNCIL - October 2023

Planning Applications Processed since September 2023 Report

New applications-

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|---|
| • PL/2023/02960 | 33, Oxford St, Ramsbury | Internal work, windows and rear door. |
| • PL/2023/07798 | Orchard Cott, Chapel Lane | Single storey rear ext. /external material change |

Still awaiting –

• PL/2022/08705	Coombe Farm, Axford	New house, dwelling, Est yard and ancillary. N/O
• PL/2023/05245	Crown and Anchor	Chalet bungalow, drive, parking, garden. OBJ
• PL/2023/06108	Land NE of Lamplands	Siting of mobile home OBJ
• PL/2023/06332	14/15 Union St	Side and rear ext., 3 dormer windows N/O
• PL/2023/07407	1 The Square, Ramsbury	Change of use bowls green-garden + s'house N/O
• PL/2023/07436	Meadow Fm Stud SN8 2PP	Varying of conditions. N/O
• PL/2023/07250	Newtown Lodge, Newtown	Treework N/O
• PL/2023/07297	Hop House, Tankard Lane	Resubmission of 18/00532/FUL N/O
• PL/2023/07437	Land south of Back Lane	Single storey eco house, access, boundary wall work

Decisions-

• PL/2022/05380	Ramsbury Manor SN8 2RG	Exhibition centre, estate yard and car park APP
• PL/2022/04972	Ramsbury Manor SN8 2RG	Exhibition centre, estate yard and car park APP
• PL/2023/04271	Ramsbury Methodist Chapel SN8 2PG	Amendments to change of use privacy boundary windows. APP
• PL/2023/05852	3 Maslin Close, Back Lane	Roof conversion with dormer. APP
• PL/2023/06141	Peach Tree Cott, Lamplands	Conversion of garage and link extension APP
• PL/2023/05902	Snellswood Dairy, Whittonditch	Build farmhouse for agricultural workers W'DRAWN
• A-7081	Red Lion, Axford	Planning contravention notice served.

DB reported that four new treeworks applications had been submitted since the above report.

With regard to the Red Lion planning contravention notice, and in answer to a query from MT, DB said that when any further action would be taken is unknown; she has written to the Planning Dept. asking for clarification in this regard but has had no response so far.

SG reported that she had attended the Local Plan Consultation in Marlborough Library and learned that Ramsbury has been designated for 37 new houses to be built in the next 15 years, of which two have been built. A discussion ensued about the PC's frustration at their complete lack of influence about where and what might get built. Whilst small houses and social housing is genuinely needed, and would be welcomed, there is no effective mechanism for prioritising any such developments over yet more of the kind of large and expensive executive homes we already have more than enough of. The Local Plan Consultation document has been posted on the website and comments are invited from councillors and parishioners before the deadline of 22nd November.

6(ii) Finance

Erica Hodgson

- Public loo – see item 16.
- The first 2024/25 budget meeting was held on 5th October and a first draft has been circulated for comments. A question was raised about the Election Costs budgeted for, and EH confirmed that if that sum is not actually required when the time comes it will simply be retained by the PC.
- EH summarised the notes appended to the Q2 report that had been circulated to councillors in advance of the meeting and confirmed that spending is broadly on track in this financial year.
- HL suggested some thought should be given to any other things we might want/need to spend money on, and it was agreed that councillors should send their ideas in this regard to EH.

6(iii) Rights of Way*Lynn Jauncey*

- The one rock which remains on the edge of the highway in Union Street seems to be protecting the corner of the verge in a position which should not present any risk to passing traffic or pedestrians, so it was felt that no further action is required.
- LJ proposed reinstating a monthly local walk in our parish and it was agreed that this should be discussed further at the next RoW Committee meeting on Sunday 22nd October. (Update - meeting now deferred to 28th Oct). It was suggested that a collaboration might be possible with Peter Marren's occasional Nature Walks. **ACTION - LJ**
- SG reported that two quotes have been received so far for the removal of the dangerous ash tree on the far side of the first bridge on Mill Lane. One quote is pending, and she will chase it up so the matter can be discussed and a decision taken at the Committee meeting on 28th Oct. **ACTION - SG**

6(iv) Play Areas and Seats*Denise Edwards*

- DE has still not yet heard from the RoSPA inspector about arranging a site meeting. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact RoSPA again to try to get a firm meeting date arranged (Update - inspection due on October 23rd). **ACTION - CLERK**
- Nothing has been reported to DE to investigate since the last meeting.
- Week-ending 15 October the grass was cut on the Knowledge Crescent site and is looking good. Children have been using the equipment every time DE has been that way in the last week.
- Week-ending 8 October DE stopped by the Axford site and found nothing to report.

6(v) Emergency Committee*Alison Foale*

- AF reported that a meeting is to be arranged, provisionally scheduled for the evening of Thursday 26th October but TBC. She will present her updated Emergency Plan at that meeting.
- HL asked if an item could be added to next year's draft budget for hospitality at the annual Emergency Wardens' meeting. **ACTION - EH**
- SG reported that some more aquasacs had been acquired and are stored in the PC office.
- SG will be appealing for a volunteer to conduct a monthly generator test to ensure everything is in working order. DB agreed to organise a similar check on the Axford generator. **ACTION - SG/DB**

6(vi) Environment Committee*Bernard Murray*

- BM reported that the Green Committee's document setting out their vision, policy and approach to environmental matters was still with MW and DG who were unable to be at the meeting. It has already been agreed that this draft should be circulated to the councillors before the next meeting in case they had any comments or ideas that might be incorporated into the final version. **ACTION - BM/DG/MW**
BM mentioned that his name was not listed on the website as a member of this Committee. SG apologised for this oversight and will make sure his name is added. **ACTION - SG**

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

Six members of the public attended the meeting in support of a young resident's appeal for the PC's permission and support in creating a bike jump somewhere in the village. Questions were asked about what form they thought this might take, what it would look like, and where it might be located bearing in mind the need to avoid potential disturbance to nearby residents. After some wide-ranging discussion a possible site was mooted on an area of grass owned by the PC close to the surgery and this might be considered. The question of public liability for this activity could be a problem and one of the appellants volunteered to investigate what councils may have done about that in creating similar facilities elsewhere. It was agreed this idea should be given further consideration at the next meeting.

Two other members of the public reported that two new 30mph signs had been erected recently on Whittonditch Road, near the surgery, and are now much more visible. They also confirmed that residents had tidied up the Memorial Garden on the weekend. The PC's gratitude was expressed to the people who had kindly done that work.

7. AXFORD

Diann Barnett

Nothing to report.

8. LOCAL HIGHWAYS & FOOTWAYS IMPROVEMENT GROUP

Sheila Glass

SG will be attending the next meeting to be held on 19th October.

9. MARLBOROUGH AREA BOARD

Sheila Glass

SG attended the meeting held on 10th October which was addressed by the new Chief Constable of Wiltshire. Matters such as the increase in rural crime and police efforts to crack down on speeding were covered. It was disappointing that there was no mention of providing more law enforcement personnel in the community.

A report was also presented on various initiatives to tackle deprivation in Marlborough.

SG also mentioned that grants monies were distributed at the meeting to local groups who fall into three broad categories, i.e. Youth; Older and Vulnerable Adults; Community. As a PC we are not eligible to apply for such monies but will keep these categories in mind when funds are being sought by our village groups in future.

10. ALLOTMENTS

Denise Edwards

Sadly, one of our original plot holders has tendered notice after very nearly 14 years because life has taken over and left no time for the allotment. However, there is a steady supply of interest in acquiring allotments and the AGM is approaching at which we hope to welcome new plot holders.

We have had our last compost delivery for the year and hope that the winter is kind to us. In the meantime, we look forward to Ramsbury Horticultural Society Autumn Show on October 21st.

11. WEBSITE

DE urged all village organisations to update their listings and send us details of their upcoming events to be listed.

12. VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

(i) Blocked gullies – Have been reported. Please continue to advise the PC of any others in need of clearing.

(ii) White gates on Newtown Road – SG has been informed that Idverde no longer carry out this sort of work but she will take up the matter with her contact in the company to see if they can be persuaded to do this for us. A decision has yet to be made about whether to place an order for a second white gate (to make up a pair with the one that was left unused at Whittonditch.) **ACTION - SG**

(iii) SIDs – There is a fault in the SID in Axford and on Whittonditch Road which will probably require a call-out. SG has written to the Minal PC to see if it's possible to liaise with them and share the call-out charge for the repairs needed to our respective SIDs, but so far has had no response. She will chase it up.

ACTION - SG

(iv) Christmas tree and Christmas lights - SG has purchased some uplighters and experimented with them to see if they will be suitable for illuminating the tree in The Square at Christmas. She thought they worked well and proposed that she acquire more as we will need four in all at a cost of approx. £100. This was agreed. SG will contact Ed Pope to discuss the necessary electrical installation. **ACTION - SG**

Alongside the tree, Alistair Ewing will provide one 10-12' Christmas tree with fairy lights, supported by the post that has already been installed on a corner of the Square.

13. MEMORIAL GARDEN

Bob Foale has offered to look at the gate with a view to renewing it in the near future. The PC's thanks were expressed, and we wait to hear from him.

SG confirmed that the poppies are in hand for Remembrance Day.

14. PARISH STEWARD'S ROTA

Following our frustration that some jobs had not been carried out at their August visit, with no explanation, the Clerk wrote to Northern Highways asking for feedback in future about the reason why some tasks are not carried out, should this happen again in future. There has been no response. It was infuriating that the job was also not carried out on the September visit after extraordinary efforts had been made to ensure there would be no parked cars on the stretch of the High Street between the junction with Back Lane and the top of Mill Lane, where an accumulation of storm debris is causing a potential severe flood hazard. SG raised this matter at the Marlborough Area Board meeting, and it will be investigated further by them.

The Parish Stewards' next scheduled visit is Thursday 26th October. (Update – the Parish Steward has contacted SG to say that a sweeper will attend on October 26th).

15. LIBRARY

Nothing to report.

16. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

RG has arranged to meet the contractor on Wednesday 18th October to finalise the contract. Work has paused temporarily while we await delivery of the doors and windows. **ACTION - RG**

17. MEMORIAL HALL

Sheila Glass/George Hawes

SG reported that the old oven had been removed and the entire space has been thoroughly cleaned but, with a busy festive season hire period fairly imminent, the trustees had decided that the rest of the planned refurbishment should be deferred until January.

(Post-meeting update) – SG has learned that the contractor has been in touch to confirm that the work can commence at the end of October and should take no more than a week, which would be acceptable to the trustees.

18. NATURE RESERVE

Chris Morgan

CM reported that some work had been done recently on clearing and tidying.

19. POLICE SURGERY

SG reported that the next police surgery will be held in the Lychgate Room at 7pm on Thursday 7th December. This will be widely publicised, and people are encouraged to come along. SG has booked the room and will liaise with Melissa Camilleri.

20. RECREATION CENTRE

George Hawes

No meeting.

21. RAMSBURY SCHOOL***Roger Greasley***

RG reported no change in the school roll (194). Half-term holidays will run from 19th to 27th October and term will end on 21st December.

22. VANDALISM

Whilst not exactly vandalism, DB reported a spate of thefts from vans in broad daylight in Axford. There were also thefts from vans in Ramsbury and Chilton Foliat on the same day.

23. PATIENTS REP***George Hawes***

GH referred people to the website for updated information to do with the surgery. Another meeting of patients representatives will be held before Christmas.

24. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT IN OCTOBER

Invoice No	Payments to Suppliers – October 2023	Amount	Net	VAT	Paid By	S137
I3908	JRB Enterprises – dog poo bags. Paid in Sept	100.74	83.95	16.79	VisaDebit	No
I3909	J.Parker Dutch Bulbs Ltd. – Spring bulbs for tubs. Paid in Sept	293.88	244.90	48.98	VisaDebit	No
I3910	PKF Littlejohn LLP – External audit & AGAR fee	378.00	315.00	63.00	BACS	No
I3911	Amazon - Uplighters for tree	50.56	42.13	8.43	VisaDebit	No
I3912	Amazon - Uplighters for tree (returned)	33.14	27.62	5.52	VisaDebit	No
I3913	Idverde Ltd – bin emptying in Sept	15.00	12.50	2.50	BACS	No
I3914	M J Baker Accountancy – payroll processing in Aug.	11.25	11.25	0.00	DD	No
I3915	Community Heartbeat – two defib. electrodes	106.74	88.95	17.79	BACS	No
I3916	Community Heartbeat – G3 battery	357.00	297.50	59.50	BACS	No
I3917	Coral Westall – public loo cleaning in October	180.00	180.00	0.00	BACS	No
	TOTAL OUTGOINGS excluding Clerk's salary (Ref. I3918)	£1526.31	£1303.80	£222.51		
	TOTAL AMOUNT ON DEPOSIT*	£151,366.14				
	*incl. gross interest earned to 30th Sept 2023	£1,366.14				
	MONIES RECEIVED					
	Wilts C. C. – precept (2 nd tranche)	£34,972.50				
	TOTAL INCOME	£34,972.50				
	Current A/c balance at 30th Sept 2023 – £5,113.78					

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

The Accounts were accepted and were unanimously approved. (Prop. EH; Sec. CM)

DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING - MONDAY 20th Nov. at 7.45pm at Axford Village Hall
ALL ARE WELCOME