

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 18th November at 7.45pm in Axford Village Hall

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Present:

S Glass – Chair (SG)
D Barnett – Vice Chair (DB)
C Morgan (CM)
M Tester (MT)
B Murray (BM)
R Greasley (RG)

L Jauncey (LJ)
M Waugh (MW)
A Foale (AF)
D Edwards (DE)
A Charlwood (AC) – Clerk

Four members of the public were also present

1. **APOLOGIES** – were received from Dawn Gill, Helen Lloyd, George Hawes and Erica Hodgson.
Approved

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

3. **THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

A typo having been corrected under Item 6(i) – “DE said that the porch extension ...” **should read “DB said that the porch extension”** - the minutes of the meeting held on 21st October were approved and signed as a true record. **Proposed LJ; Seconded DE. Approved.**

4. **MATTERS ARISING** - None

5. **NEW CORRESPONDENCE** – Items for discussion*

| Ref. No | Date Received | October-November 2024 Correspondence | Subject *Highlighted for Discussion |
|---------|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| *A7971 | 17 Oct | Wilts CC, EV Infrastructure Strategy Lead on Major Highways Project | Ongoing survey re. future EV charging location. Fwd to Environment C for info. ACTION: SG to check if any charging cables are crossing pavements before responding. |
| *A7973 | 21 Oct | Jamie Alley, Atlas Planning Group | Consultation re. residential development at Upcot Field. Fwd to Cllrs. Discussed at Oct PC meeting. For info. |
| *A7974 | 23 Oct | Andrew Jack, Wilts CC Leisure, Culture and Communities | Latest news about refurbishment work to Marlborough Leisure Centre. Fwd to Cllrs. For info. |

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|--------|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| *A7976 | 24 Oct | Andrew Jack, Wilts CC | Promoting the Marlborough Area Board meeting on 3 rd Dec on "All things Policing". Fwd. to Cllrs. Updated notice has been posted on noticeboard |
| A7977 | 25 Oct | My Parish Council | Website audit for compliance with latest government standards and left-hand template. As many visitors to the website are doing so on mobile phones MT asked how user-friendly the website is for those people. |
| A7978 | 25 Oct | Resident (and subsequent) | Updating website for new location of the charity shops and corroborating this to Apple Maps. SG has actioned this. |
| A7980 | 28 Oct | Emily Clark, Carers Together Wilts | Promoting a Carers' Roadshow in Marlborough. Fwd to Cllrs. Posted on noticeboard |
| A7981 | 28 Oct | Joanna Smith, Wilts CC Leisure, Culture and Communities | Notes of the Town & Parish Clerks meeting on 23 rd Oct. Fwd to Cllrs. SG could not attend but summarised the topics discussed. |
| A7983 | 28 Oct | Resident | Pedestrian Crossings. See Item 14 |
| A7985 | 29 Oct | Wilts CC Financial Planning | Precepts Factsheet 2025-26. Fwd to Finance C. See item 6(ii) |
| A7986 | 29 Oct | Wilts CC Democratic & Member Services, Briefing Note 24-19 | Submission of bids by 13 th Dec. for 2025-26 Substantive Highways Scheme Fund. Fwd to Cllrs SG reminded Cllrs that there would be no applications submitted for next year. |
| A7987 | 30 Oct | Flood Wessex | Information from a Lunch & Learn meeting on Flood Action Plans. Fwd. to Emergency C. This meeting has been deferred to 03/12/24. SG will attend. |
| A7988 | 31 Oct | Alasdair Yule, Wilts CC Climate Officer | Objectives of the Marlborough Rapid Adaptation Pathway Assessment (Stage 2). See item 6(v) |
| A7989 | 01 Nov | Wilts CC Household Recycling Centres | Winter opening hours etc. Fwd. to Cllrs. This info has been posted on the website |
| A7990 | 01 Nov | Alex Rowbotham, Wilts CC EV Infrastructure Strategy Lead | LEVI survey period extended to 29 Nov. Fwd. to Environment C. for info. |
| A7992 | 05 Nov | Google Analytics | Website traffic report for Oct. Fwd. to Cllrs. For info. |
| A7993 | 05 Nov | Wilts CC, One Network | Confirmed dates for roads pre-surface dressing patching programme. Fwd to Cllrs. Only the C6 in the parish may be affected at some point. |
| A7994 | 06 Nov | Fred Rendell, Parish Steward Supervisor, Milestone Infrastructure | Works carried out by our PS at their last visit. Fwd. to Cllrs. See item 17 |

*The full list of incoming correspondence from 14th Oct- 7th Nov. can be viewed on the parish council website

SG also drew Cllrs' attention to further correspondence received since the Agenda was issued:-

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- 17th Nov from Melissa Camilleri PCSO re. a date for the next community consultation. **SG has confirmed this will be from 11-12 on 14th January in the British Legion café.**
- 18th Nov from the Wilts CC Rough Sleeper Team Leader re. the rough sleeper count and survey response. **ACTION – SG**
- 18th Nov from Emma Painter, Wilts CC Transport Planning Assistant to advise us she is transferring to another role w.e.f. 1st December. **For info.**

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

A Ramsbury resident living next to the Upcot Field site spoke about his concerns about

- the danger of the traffic access indicated at the top of the developer's current sketch plans of the site, being right on the bend on Whittonditch Road, and
- a precedent being set that could start an avalanche of applications if this development were approved as it lies outside the area for development.

These matters were discussed and SG and DB explained that the PC found it impossible to comment at this early stage as no detailed plans had yet been provided. The Planning Committee will be following this proposed development closely.

Two Axford residents spoke about their safety concerns in relation to speeding traffic through their village and whether a 20mph speed restriction could be brought in. The ensuing discussion covered the unlikely effectiveness and the unenforceability of a reduced speed limit, the density of the parking along the roadside making any sort of footpath (including a virtual footpath) impractical, a community speedwatch initiative by Axford residents, and more Walkers In Road signs.

DB was asked to contact Aster to look into whether any more parking spaces could be made available to current residents in their car park.

ACTION - DB

BM volunteered to apply for a 20mph speed limit on behalf of the residents of Axford.

ACTION - BM

6. Committee Reports:

6(i) Planning

Diann Barnett

PLANNING REPORT RAMSBURY AND AXFORD PARISH COUNCIL – Nov 2024

Planning Applications Processed since Oct 2024 Report

New applications-

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| • PL/2024/09571 | Recreation Centre | Open veranda for outdoor entertainment |
| • PL/2024/09052 | Coachman Cott, Baydon Manor | Removal of dangerous asbestos and glass from conservatory |
| • PL/2024/09704 | 1 High Street, Ramsbury | Treework |
| • PL/2024/09428 | Hilldrop Farm | Removal of passing-place condition - OPPOSE |

Still awaiting-

- | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| • PL/2024/07790(LB) | The Cedars, Scholar's Lane | Single storey ext., pool house & boundary wall |
| • PL/2024/07662 | The Cedars | Listed building for above |
| • PL/2024/07914 | Anvil Cottage Barn | Demolish and rebuild barn to family house. |
| • PL/2024/08118 | Red House, Back Lane | Replace roof. |
| • PL/2024/08967 | 7 The Square, Ramsbury | Change of use from Class E to residential |

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Decisions -

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| • PL/2024/06840 | 4 The Paddocks, Ramsbury | Single storey porch extension - APPROVED |
| • PL/2024/08295 | 6 Union St, Ramsbury | Treework - APPROVED |
| • PL/2024/09105 | Syon House, 3 High Street | Treework - APPROVED |
| • PL/2024/09187 | Spring House, Union Street | Treework - APPROVED |

Enforcement are still looking into work at 42/44 Oxford Street.

The PC are still awaiting enforcement action at Lamplands

DE said that three more applications had been submitted since her report. :-

PL/2024/09196 – Knapp House, Ramsbury

PL/2024/10122 – Red Lion, Axford

PL2024/09748 – 52 Ashley Piece

6(ii) Finance

Erica Hodgson

- 2025-26 PC budget review – EH was not at the meeting but SG asked if Cllrs. had any questions about the budget. There being no questions, approval of next year's budget and precept request will be sought at the December meeting.
- Correction to Invoice Ref. I4114 – the clerk drew councillors' attention to an error in the amount of this invoice from HP Instant Ink listed for payment at the September meeting. The total amount of the bill was £11.99, not £100.74.
- 2025 Grass-cutting quote – this contractor is the PC's only SSJ. The Finance Committee having approved his quote, the Clerk has written to accept it.
- £20,000 has been transferred to deposit a/c – for information.
- SG said that if the May 2025 parish council seats up for re-election are contested the cost to the PC will be approx. £3,500 (i.e. £1.70 per elector). This sum of money has been held in reserve from this year's budget. However, if a Wiltshire Council unitary election is also held the PC will be charged only 50% of any cost incurred.
- SG asked for Cllrs' approval to donate approx. £75.00 towards the cost of the Remembrance Day lamppost poppies this year. These can be re-used. **APPROVED – Proposed MW; Seconded MT**

6(iii) Rights of Way

Lynn Jauncey

- Monthly walk on 3rd November – was kindly lead by Ian Ritchie. There was a good turn out and everyone enjoyed some lovely tea and cake at Hilldrop. The December walk will be the Loves Wood Loop on Sunday 1st December, leaving at 2pm from The Square and returning to The Square for mulled wine and mince pies.
- Repair to the bridge at Seven Bridges – LJ said this still had not been done and the damage is worsening. LJ has chased this up with Stephen Leonard and requested the bridge is inspected urgently.
- Footpath 21 – this blocked footpath has now all been cleared.
- Footpath RAMS21 signage – has been mended but RAMS27 may not have been rectified yet. LJ will check.

ACTION - LJ

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6(iv) Play Areas and Seats

Denise Edwards

- Failed play equipment at Whittonditch play area - DE reported that the "pick-up-sticks" climbing frame has very recently collapsed, having been found to be rotting in places (a problem not evident as recently as this autumn's RoSPA safety inspection). It was immediately taped off and six danger signs mounted on it warning that it should not be used. SG and DE are anxious that this installation should be dismantled and removed very urgently, and SG will find a local contractor to carry this out asap. SG proposed that the junior swing (which was installed at the same time) should also be removed and replaced as a safety precaution. This was agreed.

ACTION – SG

UPDATE The equipment will be removed 02/12/24 and a new swing set installed soon.

- New equipment for Axford – SG will be chasing Red Lynch for a confirmed installation date, hopefully this side of Christmas – weather permitting. **ACTION - SG**
- Proposed action re. new equipment at Whittonditch – DE commented that, given the sudden failure of the wooden climbing frame noted above, much care will need to be taken about the robustness and longevity of whatever new equipment may be chosen next year.
- Tree works at Whittonditch - have been done and the ground is being left to settle.

6(v) Emergency Committee

Alison Foale

- Meeting with Ramsbury Manor Trustees – SG and AF are drafting a response to Philip Perry's last emails. **ACTION – SG/AF**
- Flooding meeting in Marlborough deferred to 3rd Dec – SG will try to attend. **ACTION - SG**
- Salt bins checked – and all are full
- Axford Village Hall generator check has been done. Ramsbury's will be checked soon.

6(vi) Environment Committee

Maggie Waugh

- Community Orchard feasibility study – MW said that the comments from November's meeting had been taken on board and a new breakdown of costs based on six apple trees (mixed varieties between 1.2 and 1.3m high) would total £650 or so. DE advised that larger trees would probably be a wiser investment, given the risk of a higher failure rate with such immature saplings, although the purchase price might double the cost. A WC grant may be obtainable towards the cost and, if not, LJ raised the possibility of local businesses being approached about sponsoring a tree each – something that had been done successfully in the past at the Recreation Centre.
- Picnic benches for the community orchard – DE and SG are investigating and will seek quotes. **ACTION – SG/DE**
- Nature Reserve photos – CM said he did not have any photos of the Nature Reserve so BM was asked to go ahead and take some for the website. **ACTION - BM**

7. AXFORD

Diann Barnett

- DE reported that there will be a power outage from 08.00-13.00 on 30th November for work on upgrading the power lines. As far as we are aware no residents will need any help with this.
- There will be Bingo in the Village Hall on 14th December.

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8. LOCAL HIGHWAYS & FOOTPATHS IMPROVEMENT GROUP

Sheila Glass

The next meeting will be on 30th January. (Ref. Union St. one-way proposal; Ref. 20mph in Axford).

ACTION - SG

9. MARLBOROUGH AREA BOARD

Sheila Glass

Next meeting on 3rd December will be on "All Things Policing" and will be attended by the Wilts PCC. SG will attend.

ACTION - SG

10. ALLOTMENTS

Denise Edwards

DE reminded councillors that the AGM will be held on 21st November at 7.00 p.m. in the Lychgate Room. Allotment plots are currently available to new applicants.

11. WEBSITE

The most recent Google analytics report had been circulated and SG had nothing else to report, except that she always found the hosts (TEEC) very helpful and quick to respond to requests for information or assistance. MT noted that 50% of the traffic is coming from mobile-phone-users so we should bear that in mind when designing the site.

12. UNION STREET ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND

Sheila Glass/Lynn Jauncey

LJ is to contact all the Union Street residents to canvas their opinions on various aspects of this proposal and will report back at the December meeting.

ACTION - LJ

13. PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS

Alison Foale

AF has been in touch with the Primary School Head and with the resident who raised this matter, about getting together to discuss practicalities and possible options, and is awaiting their replies.

14. VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

Sheila Glass

- Village general noticeboard – The PO building owner has approved one of the proposed noticeboard designs tabled at the last meeting, to be mounted on the front wall to the right of the right-hand shop window. SG will measure up and aim to get the biggest size possible to fit the available wall space. Cost will depend on the size and SG sought approval to spend up to £500 (nett of VAT). **APPROVED.** The plan is that the PO staff will be the holders of the key and will have the job of putting up and taking down notices.
- Broken bus stop sign in Oxford Street – SG said this has still not been fixed. She will chase up Stagecoach. **ACTION - SG**
- Abandoned cars in the Whittonditch recycling area – an apparently abandoned Land Rover and two SORNED cars (a VW and a BMW) have still not been removed. SG and BM are contacting MyWilts and also making further enquiries with the DVLA about the owners. **ACTION – SG/BM**
- Christmas trees – this year's trees will again be put up by Ramsbury Estates. Permission has been granted for the electrical supply to be run across the road. The trees will be up and lit by the beginning of December. Carols Around the Tree on 16th December at 7pm.
- SG will be away for the carol service on 15th December so MT kindly volunteered to go instead to do one of the readings. **ACTION - MT**

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15. MEMORIAL GARDEN

Sheila Glass

SG said the garden has been replanted with 200 daffodils and 80 hyacinths and hoped the churchyard squirrels will not eat them all, as they did last year. She expressed her thanks to Mary Holdsworth for her help with planting and putting in the Remembrance Day poppies.

16. PARISH STEWARD'S ROTA

Clerk

Next visit will be on 4th December.

ACTION – CLERK

17. LIBRARY

No report

18. MEMORIAL HALL

Sheila Glass/George Hawes

No report.

19. NATURE RESERVE

Chris Morgan

CM reported that the boardwalk is clear.

20. RECREATION CENTRE

George Hawes

No report.

21. RAMSBURY SCHOOL

Roger Greasley

RG reported that the school roll currently stands at 197, i.e. 23 less than capacity. The PTA's Christmas Market will be on 6th December from 5-7pm. The school carol service will be on Friday 20th December at 1.30. School breaks up on 20th December. New term starts on 6th January 2025.

23. VANDALISM/CRIME

Nothing to report.

24. PATIENTS' REPRESENTATIVE

George Hawes

No report

25. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT IN NOVEMBER

| Inv. No | Payments to Suppliers – November 2024 | Amount | Net | VAT | Paid By | S137 |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|-------|-----------|------|
| I4144 | SafetySigns4Less. Paid in Oct. | 26.44 | 22.03 | 4.41 | VisaDebit | No |
| I4145 | HMRC – Clerk's income tax. Paid in Oct | 359.40 | 359.40 | 0.00 | DD | No |
| I4146 | HP Instant Ink – 28 th Sept – 27 th Oct. Paid in Oct | 11.99 | 9.99 | 2.00 | VisaDebit | No |
| I4147 | M J Baker Accountancy – payroll fee for October | 11.25 | 11.25 | 0.00 | DD | No |
| I4148 | Quintessential Project Services Ltd – Work at Axford play area | 165.60 | 138.00 | 27.60 | BACS | No |
| I4149 | Ramsbury Memorial Hall – office rent and electricity Oct-Mar. | 641.25 | 641.25 | 0.00 | BACS | No |
| I4150 | TEEC Ltd – website audit and left-hand template | 60.00 | 50.00 | 10.00 | BACS | No |
| I4151 | Robert Copp – trimming beech hedge on Isles Road | 180.00 | 180.00 | 0.00 | BACS | No |
| I4152 | Coral Westall – public loo cleaning in November | 180.00 | 180.00 | 0.00 | BACS | No |

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|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------|----|
| I4153 | Idverde Ltd - Bin emptying in Oct. | 22.20 | 18.50 | 3.70 | BACS | No |
| I4154 | Castle Water – public loo water charges 1 st - 31 st Oct | 79.67 | 79.67 | 0.00 | BACS | No |
| I4155 | Jeremy Hawkins – Tree work at Whittonditch play area | 360.00 | 300.00 | 60.00 | BACS | No |
| I4156 | Robert Copp – Removing overgrown shrubs from War Memorial garden | 80.00 | 80.00 | 0.00 | BACS | No |
| I4157 | Dobbies – cyclamen for the War Memorial garden | 21.57 | 17.97 | 3.60 | VisaDebit | No |
| I4158 | BNPPRE – Playing Field rent Nov-April | 212.50 | 212.50 | 0.00 | BACS | No |
| I4159 | BT – phone and broadband 21 Oct – 31 Jan | 192.11 | 160.09 | 32.02 | DD | No |
| | TOTAL TO PAY (excluding Clerk’s salary I4160) | 2,603.98 | 2,460.65 | 143.33 | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | TOTAL AMOUNT ON DEPOSIT* | £103,082.29 | | | | |
| | incl. gross interest earned Dec 2022 to 31 st Oct. 2024 | £4,082.29 | | | | |
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| | MONIES RECEIVED | | | | | |
| | Charity shop rent | £300.00 | | | | |
| | Wilts C.C. CIL – Final instalment for Methodist Church development | 1948.81 | | | | |
| | Memorial Hall – down-payment for extended reach of B/band. Received in Oct | £17.95 | | | | |
| | Sale of AquaSacs. Received in Oct | £20.00 | | | | |
| | TOTAL INCOME | £2,286.76 | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | Current A/c at 31st Oct. 2024 – £7,135.06 | | | | | |

*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. BM; Sec. MT

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.05 p.m

**DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 9TH DECEMBER at 7.45pm at RAMSBURY MEMORIAL HALL**

ALL ARE WELCOME