

# 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 21<sup>st</sup> October at 7.45pm in the Lychgate Room, Ramsbury

1926

### Present:

S Glass – Chair (SG)	L Jauncey (LJ)
D Barnett – Vice Chair (DB)	H Lloyd (HL)
D Gill (DG)	G Hawes (GH)
M Tester (MT)	D Edwards (DE)
B Murray (BM)	E Hodgson (EH)
R Greasley (RG)	A Charlwood (AC) – Clerk

1. **APOLOGIES** – were received from Chris Morgan and M Waugh. **Approved**

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

### 3. THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> September were approved and signed as a true record. **Proposed DE; Secoded EH. Approved.**

4. **MATTERS ARISING** - None

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

Ref. No	Date Received	Sept-October 2024 Correspondence	Subject *Highlighted for Discussion
*A7927	10 Sept	Steve Hind, Wilts CC Principal Engineer (i)	Confirming instruction to go ahead with installing Isles Court dropped kerbs. <b>See A7964 (below)</b>
*A7930	11 Sept	PKF Littlejohn LLP	Completion of 2023-24 audit. <b>For info.</b>
*A7932	12 Sept	Helena Carney, Wilts CC Planning Officer	Ramsbury Sewage Works Environmental Impact Assessment. <b>The neighbouring residents are dealing with Thames Water about this.</b>
*A7935	13 Sept	Flood Wessex	Online seminar on Risks and Hazards and Staying Safe – on 19 <sup>th</sup> Sept. Fwd. to Emergency C. <b>SG attended but learnt nothing new from this seminar.</b>
*A7938	16 Sept	Sarah Radcliffe, Wilts C. C.	Discretionary Gully Clearance Crew visit w/c 07 October. Fwd to Cllrs. <b>The works requested appear to have been done well.</b>

## 1927

*A7939	18 Sept	Steve Hind, Wilts CC Principal Engineer	Matters for consideration before making Union Street one-way north bound. Fwd. to Cllrs. <b>See Item 13</b>
*A7940	19 Sept	Jennie Shaw, Wilts Bobby Van Trust	Details of WBVT outreach in Ramsbury. Fwd. to Cllrs. <b>See item 6(ii)</b>
*A7942	24 Sept	Alasdair Yule, Wilts CC Climate Officer	Invitation to workshop on 30 <sup>th</sup> Sept. on flood risks and measures available in the* Marlborough area. Fwd. to Emergency C. <b>SG will attend the afternoon session; AF will do her best to be there in the morning.</b>
*A7943	25 Sept	Robert Osmond, Memorial Hall Trustees	Trial of PC meetings moving to the Lychgate Room. Fwd. to Cllrs. <b>See item 26.</b>
*A7948	01 Oct	Resident	Reporting blocked drains on Isles Road. <b>SG confirmed this work has been done.</b>
*A7949	03 Oct	Resident	Suggestion for a bench to go outside the surgery. <b>SG referred this idea to the surgery as the landowners.</b>
*A7950	03 Oct	Sylvia Wyatt, Great Green Bedwyn	Poster to advertise free showing of film "6 inches of soil" at 6.45 on 11 Oct in Great Bedwyn Village Hall. Fwd. to Cllrs. <b>For info.</b>
*A7955	07 Oct	P. Wilkinson, PCC for Wilts & Swindon	Inviting public feedback on the proposed Police & Crime Plan for 2024-29. Fwd to Cllrs. <b>For info.</b>
*A7958	08 Oct	Melissa Camilleri	Quarterly police report for Ramsbury. Fwd. to Cllrs. <b>See item 20</b>
*A7959	09 Oct	Resident	Pedestrian crossings outside the school and in The Square. Fwd. to Cllrs. <b>SG read out this letter and the practicalities of the suggestion, and likely very high cost involved, were discussed. It was agreed that the PC could not support anything that was likely to be more dangerous than what exists already and some alternative, perhaps more achievable measures, were mooted. AF will talk to the Head and the matter will be discussed again at the PC's next meeting. SG will respond to the resident's letter. ACTION-AF/SG.</b>
*A7960	09 Oct	Parish Steward Supervisor, Milestone Infrastructure	Photos of works carried out during their Oct. visit. Fwd. to Cllrs. <b>For info.</b>
*A7964	11 Oct	Steve Hind, Wilts CC Principal Engineer (ii)	Cognatum are not pursuing the dropped kerbs at Isles Court (see A7961) after all. Fwd to Cllrs. <b>For info.</b>
*A7967	14 Oct	Resident	Query re. Road Closed signs on Back Lane (see A7970). <b>See A7970 (below)</b>
*A7970	14 Oct	Wilts C.C. Traffic & Network Management	Road closure signs are to do with Burdett Street, NOT Back Lane. Fwd. to Cllrs. <b>For info.</b>

**\*The full list of incoming correspondence from 10th Sept – 14<sup>th</sup> Oct can be viewed on the parish council website**

## 6. Committee Reports:

### 6(i) Planning

*Diann Barnett*

#### PLANNING REPORT RAMSBURY AND AXFORD PARISH COUNCIL –Oct 2024

##### Planning Applications Processed since Sept 2024 Report

#### New applications-

- |                 |                            |   |
|-----------------|----------------------------|---|
| • PL/2024/08118 | Red House, Back Lane       | Replace roof                              |
| • PL/2024/08967 | 7 The Square, Ramsbury     | Change of use from Class E to residential |
| • PL/2024/08295 | 6 Union St, Ramsbury       | Treework                                  |
| • PL/2024/09105 | Syon House, 3 High Street  | Treework                                  |
| • PL/2024/09187 | Spring House, Union Street | Treework                                  |

#### Still awaiting-

- |                     |                           |  |
|---------------------|---------------------------|--|
| • PL/2024/06840     | 4 The Paddocks, Ramsbury  | Single storey porch extension              |
| • PL/2024/07790(LB) | The Cedars, Scholars Lane | Single ext., pool house & boundary wall    |
| • PL/2024/07662     | The Cedars                | Listed building for above                  |
| • PL/2024/07914     | Anvil Cottage Barn        | Demolish and rebuild barn as family house. |

#### Decisions-

- |                 |                             |   |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|---|
| • PL/2024/04645 | House on the Hill, Hilldrop | Oak-framed garage and workshop APP        |
| • PL/2024/06742 | Sawyers Cottage, Axford     | 2-storey side and rear extension. W/drawn |
| • PL/2024/07169 | 61 High St, Ramsbury        | Treework APPROVED                         |

DB said that the porch extension at 4 The Paddocks had been approved since the above report. Also, two more applications have gone in, one for treework in Tankard Lane and the other an extension at Elizabethan Cottage.

The roof height of the outbuilding at 42/44 Oxford Street seems to have been reduced but does not seem to have been tiled. We are still waiting for update on enforcement A-7032 - Lamplands

Planning application PL/2024/05656 Sewage Works – Environmental Impact Assessment.

SG confirmed that this dispute with Thames Water is now being dealt with by the neighbouring residents.

There was a brief discussion about an email received today from a Senior Planner at the Atlas Planning Group who are acting on behalf of Rivar Ltd. and seeking comments in connection with a housing development proposal at Upcot Field, off Whittonditch Road. DB will respond.

**ACTION - DB**

### 6(ii) Finance

*Erica Hodgson*

- Q2 report - There being no questions about the Q2 report, it was approved. The Clerk was asked to look into the non-payment (so far) of the balance of the CIL due on the Methodist Church redevelopment **ACTION - CLERK**
- Report on Finance Committee Meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> Oct. – the first draft of the 2025-26 budget had been discussed at the sub-committee meeting and opinion was divided about whether a small increase in next year's precept request was justifiable. Pending formal notification of this year's tax basis, EH asked Cllrs. for their views and several argued for small justifiable annual increments, given that our costs are bound to go up over the next 18 months. One councillor voted against, but the majority were in favour of a 2025-26 budget increase of approx. 5% (which would amount to £4p.a. more for a Band D property). This will be reviewed when the tax basis figure comes in.

## 1929

- Quotes for play area equipment and maintenance work at Ashley Piece play area – **See Item 6(iv)**
- Donation to Wilts Bobby Van Trust – the extent of the WBVT's outreach to the parish was discussed and it was agreed that it didn't seem to warrant a PC donation at present.
- Provision of broadband to Memorial Hall – the Hall Trustees sought the PC's help to extend the reach of broadband into the hall by upgrading their current network. This involved a more expensive two-year contract, and the trustees have agreed to cover the PC's cost (totalling £201.95) in this regard.

### 6(iii) Rights of Way

*Lynn Jauncey*

- The dead tree by the river at Mill Lane has now been removed.
- Report on monthly walk on October 6<sup>th</sup> – 10 people attended, and the weather was fairly kind. It has been decided to grade the ease/difficulty and include an estimate of the distance on the posters for future walks.  
The next walk will be on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November and will start at 2pm (NOT 2.30), to take account of the clocks going back and the darker evenings. Ian Ritchie will lead the walk, which will be doing the Hilldrop Loop and will take in a classic car show at Hilldrop along the way.
- Application to upgrade footpaths RAMS9A/9B to restricted byways – LJ is awaiting a response to her email objecting to the proposed restricted byway as it is too narrow for wheeled access but is wide enough for horses. Our preference would be to upgrade to a bridleway rather than a restricted byway.
- Bridge repair at Seven Bridges – has not yet been done and we have heard no more about it. LJ will follow up with Stephen Leonard **ACTION - LJ**
- Footpath 21 – the landowner has informed the PC that the blockage has been cleared. LJ will check. **ACTION - LJ**
- Footpath signage – LJ has written to Wilts CC and has sent picture of where new signs are needed.

### 6(iv) Play Areas and Seats

*Denise Edwards*

- RoSPA safety inspection feedback - DE confirmed that there was nothing in the report that we did not already know about and taken action on.
- New equipment for Axford – this had been discussed and agreed at the recent Finance Committee meeting and DE sought approval to accept a contractor's quote for £4,645 + VAT to remove the existing swing, supply and install a new timber swing set (including one cradle seat and one standard set) along with 21m<sup>2</sup> of grass matting. This project is cheaper than originally envisaged because of the lack of sufficient space to add any other equipment. **Proposed DE; Seconded SG. APPROVED.**

The metal legs will aid grass maintenance, and the mixed construction should eliminate the safety inspection problems which we have encountered before. The location will be set back behind the fort and rotated to increase the swing space. The old Wendy house/store will be removed, and the hedge cut back but this will be under a separate quote. We have purchased a replacement storage bin for Axford Village Hall so they have not lost any storage space.

- Proposed action re. new equipment at Whittonditch – to be revisited next Spring.
- Quotes for tree works at Whittonditch - the lowest quote for the removal of stumps has been accepted.
- Dog signs – two NO DOGS IN THE PLAYGROUND signs have been purchased and put up.

## 1930

### 6(v) Emergency Committee

*Alison Foale*

- Meeting with Ramsbury Manor Trustees – SG reported on the most recent exchange of emails with the trustees. After examination of the Environment Agency’s flood zone maps (circulated) it was noted that the two maps show potential flooding on the water meadows if the dam at the manor bridge were to be breached, but that the EA acknowledges that these maps are based on present-day flood risk and do not take account of any change in future due to climate change. SG was asked to contact the trustees again to ask if any other map were available that indicated the potential extent of sudden catastrophic flooding if the bridge were to collapse (this being the PC’s main concern) and to ask what actions the Trustees have taken to monitor changes in the bridge/dam as a result of excessive rainfall - which seems to be becoming the norm. **ACTION - SG**
- Report on Emergency Warden’s meeting on September 23<sup>rd</sup> – AF said there had been a good turnout at the meeting. Each warden was given a map of their own area and their role was explained, as well as a demonstration of how to use Aquasacs. An Emergency Warden’s WhatsApp Group has been set up.
- Aquasacs – the PC has 400 aquasacs available. Residents wanting to acquire some in advance of a flooding event (Cost: 3 for £10) should contact the Clerk.
- Flooding meeting Marlborough November 13<sup>th</sup> – SG and AF will try to attend. UPDATE The date of this meeting has been changed to December 3<sup>rd</sup>. SG will attend.
- Salt bins checked – and all are full . SG will report this to Streetscene. **ACTION -SG**
- Axford Village Hall and the Memorial Hall generators will be checked soon.
- SG also reported on some of the useful information she had gleaned from attending an SSE online seminar on safeguarding vulnerable people.

### 6(vi) Environment Committee

*Dawn Gill*

- Community Orchard feasibility study - After some discussion with Robert Copp, who will be planting the trees for us, the area at the far end of the Ashley Piece playing field (next to the car park) has been suggested as the site for a community orchard. This area is currently unused, without problems of utilities running under the ground, and is away from the football area itself which might have impacted on the safety and growth of the trees.  
The committee has obtained two estimates and one written quote for fruit trees in this area, all of which are very similar being less than £500 for 7 trees including labour and delivery. It had previously been suggested that one picnic table could be sited there also.
- Questions were raised at the meeting about the age of the new trees, rootstock etc, and also placing two picnic benches on the site. These will be further investigated by the sub-committee and brought back to the PC for discussion at the next meeting.
- Nature Reserve photos for the website – CM was not at the meeting, so no report.

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

No members of the public were present

# 1931

## 7. CONSIDER MOVING PUBLIC FORUM TO THE FIRST ITEM ON FUTURE PC MEETING AGENDA

The Clerk had raised a question about the scheduling of the public forum. SG asked for councillors' views. Opinions differed but, after some discussion, it was agreed to bring the Public Forum forward in future meetings to Item 6 of the Agenda, to immediately follow the discussion of incoming correspondence and to precede the sub-Committee reports.

**ACTION - CLERK**

## 8. AXFORD

DE had nothing to report.

*Diann Barnett*

## 9. LOCAL HIGHWAYS & FOOTPATHS IMPROVEMENT GROUP

SG attended the meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> October. She asked councillors' opinion on whether or not they wished the LHFIG to keep a village-wide speed limit of 20mph on their agenda for the next Group meeting. DE summed up the general opinion that it seemed fruitless to pursue this when, whatever steps the PC might try to take to slow traffic down, there would be no effective enforcement measures.

**ACTION - SG**

*Sheila Glass*

## 10. MARLBOROUGH AREA BOARD

SG was unable to go to the meeting on 1st October but she drew councillors' attention to some interesting/useful matters that were included in the minutes.

**ACTION - SG**

*Sheila Glass*

## 11. ALLOTMENTS

DE said that the AGM would be held on 21<sup>st</sup> November at 7.00 p.m. in the Lychgate Room.

*Denise Edwards*

## 12. WEBSITE

The most recent Google analytics report had been circulated and SG had nothing else to report.

## 13. UNION STREET ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND

LJ is to canvass all the Union Street residents' opinions on various aspects of this proposal and will report back at the November meeting.

**ACTION - LJ**

*Sheila Glass/Lynn Jauncey*

## 14. COUNCILLORS' ALLOWANCES SURVEY

SG revisited this survey and sought councillors' views on two or three specific questions before submitting the PC's response. After a brief discussion it was agreed that the PC viewed the introduction of allowances as not only unwarranted, but potentially inequitable and thus very divisive. SG will include these comments in her submission.

**ACTION - SG**

## 15. VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

*Sheila Glass*

- Visit from Gully Clearance Crew – as far as we know all the scheduled work was done.
- Bike racks in Memorial Hall car park – have been installed.
- Village general noticeboard – subject to the agreement of the building owner, it is thought that a better position for this would be on the front wall of the post office to the right of the right-hand shop window. SG circulated illustrations and details of two possible types of noticeboard for councillors' comments. Owner's comments are being sought before the matter can be progressed.
- Broken bus stop sign in Oxford Street – SG has no response from SSE. It was suggested that she try taking it up with Thamesdown.

**ACTION - SG**

## 1932

- Signage – signs have been put up about advisory parking restrictions in the area in front of the lychgate and about no dogs in the Ashley Piece play area.
- Abandoned cars in the Whittonditch recycling area – an apparently abandoned Discovery and two SORNED cars (a blue VW Reg PE53CFM and a black BMW Reg HG56EOF) on PC land have been reported to the PCSO. The Parish Council would appreciate information about ownership of the vehicles.
- Pavements – this year’s repairs have now been completed and it was agreed that Rockstone had done an excellent job. SG will write to express the PC’s thanks for a job well done. **ACTION - SG**

### 16. MEMORIAL GARDEN

*Sheila Glass*

SG said the garden would be replanted and the Remembrance Day poppies would go in in the next few days.

### 17. PARISH STEWARD’S ROTA

*Clerk*

Next visit - 6<sup>th</sup> November. Please notify Clerk by 30<sup>th</sup> Oct. of any works to be done.

**ACTION – CLERK**

### 18. LIBRARY

The Clerk was notified after the meeting that the library will be opening on Thursday afternoons 2-4pm, in addition to their current opening hours, with effect from Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November.

### 19. MEMORIAL HALL

*Sheila Glass/George Hawes*

Apart from the improved broadband coverage in the hall, nothing to report.

### 20. NATURE RESERVE

*Chris Morgan*

No report.

MT said he had had a response from WWT about clearing a lot of the overgrown vegetation from the margins of the landings and they have already come and made a very good job of opening up the views at the edge of the river. He expects them to return at the beginning of November to work on clearing the water from the other landing.

### 21. POLICE CONSULTATION

Two residents attended the consultation on Oct 16<sup>th</sup> from 11-12 in the British Legion café.

### 22. RECREATION CENTRE

*George Hawes*

No meeting.

### 23. RAMSBURY SCHOOL

*Roger Greasley*

No report.

### 24. VANDALISM/CRIME

SG mentioned the number of recent car thefts and burglaries/attempted burglaries from houses, vans, sheds and lock-ups. She urged everyone to take note and please take steps to improve security, especially key-free cars, wherever possible.

**25. PATIENTS' REPRESENTATIVE***George Hawes*

GH reported that uptake of vaccinations had been good so far, three clinics being offered in October and a further one planned for November.

The surgery is considering changing the format of patient representatives' meetings in order to try to widen the reach and make it easier for younger people to take part.

**26. FUTURE VENUE FOR PC MEETINGS**

Tonight's meeting had been held in the Lychgate Room to see if using a smaller space was a viable alternative to meeting in the Memorial Hall. All agreed that the space had proved to be too small, and that future meetings should return to the hall, but with the tables laid out in a similar way to tonight's meeting, i.e. closer together, as everyone felt that this had facilitated better discussion.

**27. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT IN OCTOBER**

Inv No	Payments to Suppliers – September 2024	Amount	Net	VAT	Paid By	£137
I4124	PKF Littlejohn LLP. <b>Approved and paid in Sept.</b>	378.00	315.00	63.00	BACS	No
I4125	Amazon – Parking restrictions in Lychgate car park sign. <b>Paid in Sept</b>	14.29	2.38	11.91	Visa Debit	No
I4126	Screwfix – 2 Bike racks for car park. <b>Paid in Sept</b>	48.58	40.59	8.09	VisaDebit	No
I4127	SafetySigns4Less – Second parking restrictions sign for Lychgate car park. <b>Paid in Sept</b>	32.54	27.12	5.42	VisaDebit	No
I4128	JRB Enterprises Ltd – dog poo bags. <b>Paid in Sept.</b>	100.74	83.95	16.79	VisaDebit	No
I4129	Living And Home Trade Co. Ltd. – storage shed for Axford Village Hall. <b>Paid in September</b>	169.99	141.66	28.33	VisaDebit	No
I4130	J. Parker Dutch Bulbs Ltd – spring planting. <b>Paid in Sept</b>	252.00	210.00	42.00	VisaDebit	No
I4131	HP Instant Ink – 28 <sup>th</sup> Aug – 27 <sup>th</sup> Sept. <b>Paid in Sept</b>	11.99	9.99	2.00	VisaDebit	No
I4132	Galleon Supplies Ltd. – bulk packs of loo rolls for public loo. <b>Paid in Sept</b>	48.00	40.00	8.00	VisaDebit	No
I4133	Dobbies Garden Centre – Cyclamen bulbs for Memorial Garden. <b>Paid in Sept</b>	18.00	15.00	3.00	VisaDebit	No
I4134	M J Baker Accountancy – payroll fee for September	11.25	11.25	0.00	DD	No
I4135	Idverde Ltd - Bin emptying in Sept	22.20	18.50	3.70	BACS	No
I4136	Castle Water – public loo water charges 1 <sup>st</sup> -30 <sup>th</sup> Sept	59.90	59.90	0.00	BACS	No
I4137	Playsafety Ltd – RoSPA annual play areas inspection fee	362.40	302.00	60.40	BACS	No
I4138	Community Heartbeat Trust – replacement defibrillator battery	357.00	297.50	59.50	BACS	No
I4139	Rockstone Surfacing Ltd. – pavements & virtual footpath repair	50,160.96	41800.00	8360.16	BACS	No
I4140	SafetySigns4Less – No dogs in the play area sign	26.44	22.03	4.41	VisaDebit	No
I4141	Coral Westall – public loo cleaning in October	180.00	180.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4142	Jeremy Hawkins – removal of dead tree by bridge on Mill Lane	1140.00	950.00	190.00	BACS	No
	<b>TOTAL TO PAY (excluding Clerk's salary I4143)</b>	<b>£53,016.28</b>	<b>£44,211.87</b>	<b>8,803.71</b>		
	<b>TOTAL AMOUNT ON DEPOSIT*</b>	<b>£82,848.46</b>				
	<b>incl. gross interest earned to 30<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2024</b>	<b>£3,848.46</b>				



# 1934

<b>MONIES RECEIVED</b>					
Charity shop rent	300.00				
Wilts C C Precept – second tranche	38,190.00				
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£38,490.00</b>				
<b>Current A/c at 30<sup>th</sup> Sept 2024 – £40,196.39</b>					

\*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. EH; Sec. RG**

**There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.55 p.m**

## **DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**MONDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER at 7.45pm at AXFORD VILLAGE HALL  
ALL ARE WELCOME**