

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 Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 15th September 2025 at 7.45pm in Ramsbury Memorial Hall

2014

Present:

S Glass – Chair (SG)
D Barnett – Vice Chair (DB)
E Hodgson (EH)
R Greasley (RG)
M Waugh (MW)

A Foale (AF)
M Tester (MT)
D Greenway (DGr)
A Charlwood (AC) – Clerk

One member of the public was also present

- 1. APOLOGIES** – were received from H Lloyd, D Edwards, C Morgan and D Gill. **Approved.** B. Murray did not attend.
- 2. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST** – None.
- 3. THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**
The minutes of the meeting held on 18th August were approved and signed as a true record. **Proposed EH; Seconded DB. Approved.**
- 4. MATTERS ARISING** – None
- 5. NEW CORRESPONDENCE** – Items for discussion

Ref. No	Date Received	July – August 2025 Correspondence From :	Subject *Highlighted for Discussion
A8316	13 Aug	Melissa Camilleri, PCSO	Antisocial behaviour should be reported on Wilts police website rather than to her. Fwd to Cllrs. For info.
A8320	15 Aug	Steve Hind, Wilts CC Traffic Management	Traffic survey re. Union Street one-way experimental order. Fwd to Cllrs. SG has given them the go-ahead and said she was hopeful some action would have been taken on this before the next LHFIG meeting on 9th Oct.
A8321	16 Aug	RoSPA Play Safety	Play Areas inspection in Sept. Fwd to Play Areas C. SG said we are not sure if they have been to inspect but no report has been received as yet.
A8324	20 Aug	PKF Littlejohn	Audit queries re. 2025 AGAR 3. Fwd to Cllrs. See item 6(ii). The Clerk has made the three minor changes necessary, and we are told there is nothing further.

2015

A8325	27 Aug	Resident	Millstream at the small weir is badly blocked. Fwd. to CM. See item 19.
A8327	29 Aug	Matthew Hitch, Wilts C.C Democratic Services Officer	Requesting input for MAB meeting on Sept 30 th . Fwd to Cllrs. SG will attend.
A8329	02 Sept	Resident (ansaphone message)	Make firewood from Whittonditch play area available to parishioners. The caller didn't leave his number. For info.
A8334	04 Sept	Anna Forbes, ARK	Arranging meeting with WWT re problems with millstream. See item 19
A8338	05 Sept	Wilts & Swindon Community Foundation	Vocational Grants on offer to young people starting courses or apprenticeships. Fwd to Cllrs. SG asked Cllrs. to notify anyone they know who might benefit from this, and she will put the details on the noticeboard. ACTION - SG
A8339	06 Sept	Steve Oakey, Redhand CCTV	Redeployable CCTV systems to meet councils' top safety concerns. Fwd. to Cllrs. After some discussion it was agreed that it would be worth asking for more details and a demonstration. ACTION - SG

*The full list of incoming correspondence from 8th August – 7th Sept can be viewed on the parish council website

SG also drew Cllrs' attention to more recent correspondence regarding:

- North Wessex Downs Landscape Trust invitation to communities across the area to help them plant 40,000 spring bulbs in mid-October – which they will supply upon application – for the benefit of bees and other pollinators. SG was asked to apply before the deadline of 24th Sept. **ACTION - SG**
- The PC's obligations under Martyn's Law. HL and SG have been reading the material – which is to do with preparedness for terrorism – and SG suggested Cllrs. should read HL's initial comments about what might be involved so the matter can be discussed at the Oct. meeting. **ACTION - ALL**

6. Committee Reports:

6(i) Planning

Diann Barnett

PLANNING REPORT RAMSBURY AND AXFORD PARISH COUNCIL – Sept 2025

Planning Applications Processed since August 2025 report

New applications-

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|---|
| • PL/2025/06883 | Coombe Farm, Axford | Self-build house, garaging, tennis court with landscaping; demolishing modern farm buildings. |
| • PL/2025/07085 | 37a Oxford St | Treework |
| • PL/2025/05894 | Hatches House, Axford | Work to east end ext'n; new chimney and windows |

Still awaiting-

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|---|
| • PL/2024/07914 | Anvil Cottage Barn | Demolish and rebuild barn for family house. |
| • PL/2025/01559 | Upcott Field, Whittonditch Rd | 9 houses and associated works |
| • PL/2025/06386 | The Old Tannery | Treework |
| • PL/2025/06467 | Westfield House | Treework |
| • PL/2025/06477 | the Old Tannery | Treework |
| • PL/2025/06387 | Kennet House | Treework |
| • PL/2025/04931 | Old Coach House, Scholarads | Treework |

2016

Decisions-

• PL/2025/04197	Walled Garden, Back Lane	Garden store RECOMMEND
• PL/2025/05426	6 Union Street	Dormer work RECOMMEND
• PL/2025/04558	Ramsbury Manor	Demolish existing and rebuild glasshouses. APP
• PL/2025/06168	19 The Paddocks	Conversion of garage to annexe RECOMMEND
• PL/2025/06619	33 Oxford St	Remove conservatory; replace single storey ext W/D
• PL/2025/06645	Whiteways, Axford	Treework APP

Also, 3357357 (Red Lion enforcement appeal); 3362810 (Red Lion planning appeal), and 3364563 (Land north of Newtown Rd planning appeal)

DB updated her report to say:

- The three RECOMMEND decisions listed above have since been APPROVED.
- The planning appeal for new housing north of Newtown Road has been DISMISSED
- She has been in touch with Planning Enforcement about lack of action on the mobile home at Lamplands

6(ii) Finance

Erica Hodgson

The Finance Committee will meet on October 2nd to begin the precept application process. Committee chairmen are requested to assess potential committee expenditure in 25/26 and report to Finance committee.

6(iii) Rights of Way

Doug Greenway

- DGr said 7 people had accompanied him on the circular walk on Sunday 7th September. Everyone had had a good day and the feedback was good. The proposed one-way walk on October 5th will be changed because of logistical problems - details later. **ACTION - DGr**
- Arrangements have been made to fell the dead ash trees on the verge near the Mill Lane ford on 18th September.
- Noone was sure if the Lofts Bridge replacement works have been started. DGr said he would walk that way to check. **ACTION - DGr**
- Having discussed the matter with the former Chair of the PC's RoW Committee, DGr will be writing to Wilts CC Rights of Way to reiterate the PC's objections to the proposed re-routing of the footpaths across the airfield (RAMS5, RAMS6 and RAMS8C). Our view that the path north of Hens Wood should be kept remains unchanged since we last wrote to them in 2023/24. **ACTION - DGr**
- SG reported that bridleway 28 has become almost impassable because the hedges on either side have become so overgrown. DGr will contact the three landowners concerned to ask them to take steps to reduce their hedges because it is important to keep the bridleway open. **ACTION - DGr**
- Having received a few reports that the footpath gate near Riverside Cottage had become impossible to open, SG was pleased to say that the gate has now been temporarily removed until such time as the landowner can have it replaced.
- There had been an information request from a resident via the website re. the temporary footpath closure at Park Farm. DGr will reply. **ACTION - DGr**

6(iv) Play Areas and Seats

Denise Edwards

- The hedgework at Whittonditch play area has been completed and the debris cleared up.
- SG will be a site meeting with HAGS on September 17th to discuss their installation of the new play equipment.
- SG is waiting to hear from Veena Nanda about the memorial bench for Peter. VN will also be providing plaques for both the bench and the new picnic table. The PC will be writing to thank Veena for her generous donation towards the cost of the new picnic table at the community orchard. **ACTION - CLERK**
- RoSPA's annual report following their inspection has yet to be received.

2017

6(v) Emergency Committee

Alison Foale

- SG's comments on the updated Emergency Plan will be returned to AF without delay. **ACTION – SG/AF**
- We expect a response at the end of September to our grant application to SEN resilience fund for two new generators for our Village Hubs. SG said the PC should start looking into sourcing the models we want.
- AF will send out reminders to everyone booked to attend the CPR training sessions arranged for 25th September. **ACTION - AF**
- A new Emergency Warden is still needed for the Atherton Close area. **ACTION - AF**
- Discussion of the PC's obligations under Martyn's Law was deferred till the next meeting.

6(vi) Environment Committee

Maggie Waugh

- MW has had reports that litter was becoming a problem in the orchard – lots of bottles! Currently there is no bin at that end of the play area so it was agreed that one was needed and the job of emptying it should be added to the PC's contract with Idverde. **ACTION - CLERK**

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

The member of the public did not wish to raise any matter

7. AXFORD

Diann Barnett

- DB reported on the meeting between Stephen Leonard and local landowners and residents living close to the weir held on 9th September, which she had found very helpful. Although there are many things we cannot do legally, the Wilts CC Safety officer and their Legal Department are being asked to advise on steps we might be able to take re. restricting access to the weir between May and September next year. This is a work in progress.
- A Harvest Festival will be held in the church on 28th September in memory of Pauline Read.

8. LOCAL HIGHWAYS & FOOTPATHS IMPROVEMENT GROUP

Sheila Glass

SG will attend the next meeting on 9th October.

9. MARLBOROUGH AREA BOARD

Sheila Glass

SG will attend the next meeting on 30th Sept. NB. Local groups and organisations are reminded to get their grant applications towards the cost of purchase of equipment to Andrew Jack at Wilts C.C. in good time as requests must be in at least two weeks before the meeting.

10. TOWN & PARISH CLERKS' MEETING ON 18th SEPT

SG will attend.

11. ALLOTMENTS

Sheila Glass

SG has, again, been chasing up a response to the new lease which has been with the landowner and her solicitor for several months now.

12. WEBSITE

The August traffic report had been circulated. SG said it looked alright.

13. VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

Sheila Glass

- Brennans have taken delivery of the new SIDs and will be installing them in two weeks' time. Brennans will be able to dispose of the old ones for us.
- SG wrote to Luke Barnes suggesting that they leaflet the Oxford Street residents about their drivers' problems negotiating the bottom of Oxford Street.

2018

- SG has heard from Coveys that the re-painting of the phone boxes has been delayed by the amount of rain recently but they expect to be able to complete the job soon.
- SG was asked to contact Alistair Ewing re. arrangements for village Christmas trees this year. **ACTION - SG**

14. PARISH STEWARD'S ROTA

Clerk

Next visit will be on 6th October.

ACTION – CLERK

15. POLICE COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Sheila Glass

The next police consultation in Ramsbury has been organised for 11am on 14th October at the British Legion.
N.B. AF confirmed that a grand re-opening of the British Legion will be held at 3pm on 4th October. All are welcome.

16. LIBRARY

The Clerk read the library report:

- The children's Summer Reading Challenge was poorly supported again this year, which was very disappointing. However, they are pleased to say that visitor numbers continue to be good and they could use a few more volunteers – generally this would amount to one two-hour library duty per month.

17. MEMORIAL HALL

Sheila Glass

SG will be attending the upcoming Trustees' meeting to discuss their plans for a 100th anniversary tea party for village residents, provisionally scheduled for 24th March 2026.

18. MEMORIAL GARDEN

Sheila Glass

SG will be ordering plants and bulbs soon.

ACTION - SG

19. NATURE RESERVE

Sheila Glass

CM was not at the meeting but SG reported on the actions to be taken by ARK (in conjunction with WWT) to clear the blockage from the millstream weir. We wait to hear the outcome of their discussions.

20. RAMSBURY SCHOOL

Roger Greasley

RG reported that the school roll at the beginning of autumn term stood at 188 – its lowest in recent years – which will effectively reduce their budget by 10% also. This is concerning but there seems little to be done about it and it reflects a general trend across the country.

The school have been advertising (unsuccessfully so far) three vacancies – they need an admin officer, a part-time teacher and a lunchtime assistant.

21. VANDALISM/CRIME

Littering around the picnic table in the community orchard – see item 6(vi).

22. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT IN SEPTEMBER

Inv.	Payments to Suppliers – September 2025	Amount	Net	VAT	Paid By	£137
I4327	JRB Enterprises Ltd – dog poo bags? Paid in Aug	70.56	58.80	11.76	VisaDebit	No
I4328	Postage – PC meeting minutes to Wilts CC archive. Paid in Aug	16.38	16.38	0.00	VisaDebit	No
I4329	W H Smith – 2 boxes for mailing archive material to Wilts CC. Paid in Aug	10.00	8.33	1.67	VisaDebit	No
I4330	Bank Charges. Paid in Aug	4.25	4.25	0.00	DD	No

2019

I4331	Postage – PC meeting minutes to Wilts CC archive. Paid in Aug	8.19	8.19	0.00	VisaDebit	No
I4332	M J Baker Accountancy – payroll fee for August	11.25	11.25	0.00	DD	No
I4333	Idverde Ltd - Bin emptying in August	22.20	18.50	3.70	BACS	No
I4334	Coral Westall – public loo cleaning in Sept	200.00	200.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4335	Coral Westall – office cleaning July - Sept	34.50	34.50	0.00	BACS	No
I4336	Castle Water – public loo water charges for August	80.70	80.70	0.00	BACS	No
I4337	Jeremy Hawkins – hedgework at Whittonditch play area	3720.00	3100.00	620.00	BACS	No
I4338	ElanCityUK – supply of five solar radar speed signs	13860.00	11550	2310.00	BACS	No
I4339	Brennans of Wiltshire – installation of SIDS	2109.60	1758.00	351.60	BACS	No
I4340	Covey's Painting & Decorating Ltd – repainting phone boxes	1560.00	1300.00	260.00	BACS	No
I4341	Robert Copp - watering community orchard apple trees	100.00	100.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4342	Robert Copp - removal of damaged exercise equipment W'ditch	125.00	125.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4343	Sheila Glass - omitted from resignation gift to G Hawes	8.75	7.23	1.52	BACS	No
	TOTAL (excluding Clerk's salary I4344)	£21,941.38	£18,381.13	£3,560.25		
	TOTAL AMOUNT ON DEPOSIT on 31st August 2025*	£121,803.06				
	incl. gross interest earned Dec 2022 to 31st July 2025	£5,803.06				
	MONIES RECEIVED					
	Charity shop rent	£320.00				
	August SO for Memorial Hall broadband	9.60				
	Donation towards cost of picnic bench	695.00				
	TOTAL INCOME	£1,024.60				
	Current A/c balance at 31st August 2025	£4,808.45				

*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. As well the £21,941.38 due for payment as set out in the meeting agenda (as above), SG sought councillors' approval for four further payments to be settled before the end of this month:-

I4345	Jeremy Hawkins – felling Mill Lane ash trees	960.00	800.00	160.00	BACS	No
I4346	Wiltshire air ambulance – for CPR trainings on 25 th Sept	200.00	200.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4347	Microsoft 365 annual subscription	84.99	84.99	0.00	VisaDebit	No
I4343	Clerk's expenses – mileage April - September	27.00	27.00	0.00	BACS	No

Bringing the total expenditure for approval up to £23,213.37

The Accounts were accepted and were unanimously approved. Prop. EH; Sec. AF

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.45pm

DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 20th OCTOBER at 7.45pm at RAMSBURY MEMORIAL HALL

ALL ARE WELCOME