

RAMSBURY & AXFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 21st September 2026 at 7.45pm in Ramsbury Memorial Hall

2100

Present:

D. Barnett (DB) – Chairman
H Lloyd (HL) – Deputy Chairman
B. Murray (BM)
E Hodgson (EH)

M Tester (MT)
D Greenway (DGr)
D Edwards (DE)
A Charlwood (AC) – Clerk

Wiltshire Councillor James Sheppard + 7 members of the public were also present

- 1. APOLOGIES** – were received from Sheila Glass, Roger Greasley, Dawn Gill, Maggie Waugh, Alison Foale and Chris Morgan. **Approved.**
- 2. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST** – None.
- 3. THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**
The minutes of the meeting held on 17th August were approved and signed as a true record. DE queried that her reports were not in the minutes, they had not been available at the meeting. **Proposed BM; Seconded EH. APPROVED**
- 4. MATTERS ARISING** - None
- 5. NEW CORRESPONDENCE** – Items for discussion

***The full list of incoming correspondence from 5th August- 5th Sept. can be viewed on the parish council website**

Ref. No	Date Received	August-September 2026 From :	Subject *Highlighted for Sept. meeting Agenda
A8728	06 Aug	Deborah Laycock, Neighbourhood Police Team	Apologising for PCSO's lack of attendance at the last police consultation and booking another date: 30th Sept TBC. See Item 12
A8729	11 Aug	Resident	Blocked drains on Back Lane. Clerk replied and has reported the matter to the parish stewards.
A8730	11 Aug	Stephen Hind, Wilts CC Principal Traffic Engineer	PC's decision to retain the Union Street one-way experiment, or not? Fwd. to Cllrs. See Item 6
A8732	13 Aug	Martin Cook, North Wilts Area Highway Engineer	Resident's concern about flood risk from storm water drainage from the Axford Village Hall access track. See item 8
A8733	13 Aug	Resident	Prevention of accidents at the Crowood Lane crossing point. Fwd. to Cllrs. This was discussed at the August meeting and DB has responded.
A8737	24 Aug	Resident	30mph speed sign needed in Union Street. See item 6

2101

A8738	24 Aug	Wilts CC Democratic & Member Services	Briefing Note detailing WCC consultation on a new Freight Action Plan setting out how freight and HGVs should be routed across the country. Fwd. to Cllrs.
A8739	24 Aug	Resident	Need to remove a fallen tree from the Nature Reserve across the mill stream. CM reported to WWT
A8741	25 Aug	Resident	Suspected abandoned car in The Square. See item 10
A8742	26 Aug	Jason Lucas, Wilts CC Traffic Order Team	TTRO for temporary closure of Orchard Close for Openreach works commencing 19 th Oct. Fwd to Cllrs. For info.
A8743	27 Aug	Wilts Council News	Local Plan public scoping consultation will run 02-30 Sept – a toolkit for Town & Parish councils. Fwd to Planning Committee.
A874	02 Sept	Wilts CC Strategic Planning Team	Inviting views on six questions about what the Wilts Local Plan should contain and how WCC should engage with communities and stakeholders whilst preparing the Plan. Fwd. to Planning Committee. See Item 7(ii)

DB said that all correspondence on matters requiring discussion or a decision had been itemised on the agenda, so nothing needed to be said at this point in the meeting.

6 PERMANENT ADOPTION OF UNION STREET ONE-WAY EXPERIMENT

- Seven residents of Union Street had come to the meeting to say how happy they were with the one-way trial. DB said that the PC had received 13 letters and a poem very much in favour of the experiment during the trial period. Both the PC and Wiltshire Highways had received only one objection to the scheme from a resident whose narrow pull-in meant the northbound direction of travel made it more difficult for her to get in and out of her car. However, councillors and neighbours have noticed that that particular parking problem seems to have been overcome lately so DB will write to her again.
ACTION - DB
- In view of the success of the experiment and the evident reduction in traffic volume and noise and increased safety for residents and walkers, the PC were unanimous in their resolution to make the northbound one-way scheme permanent. **Prop. MT; Sec. EH. APPROVED**
- DB will inform Stephen Hind of this. **ACTION - DB**
- A resident drew the PC's attention to the fact that residents still see drivers going the wrong way down Union Street, despite all the no entry symbol signage at the junction with Oxford Street. This was discussed and DB will talk to the Traffic Engineer about adding the words NO ENTRY on signs beneath the symbol signs. Once the one-way scheme has been adopted permanently and officially by Wilts CC the PC will inform satnavs that Union Street is one-way which might also help. Meanwhile it was proposed that registration numbers of vehicles seen travelling in the wrong direction should be reported to the police.
- A resident told the PC that, despite all the potholes, some drivers are exceeding 30mph and he requested a sign should be erected to reinforce the speed limit. **ACTION - DB**

7 COMMITTEE REPORTS

(i) Finance

Erica Hodgson

- Quotes for pavement repairs will be discussed at the next meeting of the Finance Committee on the 5th October and EH will report back to the next full parish council meeting. **ACTION – EH**
- Wilts CC have let town and parish councils know that they will continue to provide grit/salt for WCC's bins but their current scheme to provide sandbags, gel sacks and salt/grit for PC-owned bins will cease at the end of March 2027; thereafter it will be up to each council if they choose to take on these Emergency Assistance measures. Importantly, WCC reinforce the point that responsibility for protecting private property from flooding ultimately rests with the property owners.

The Finance Committee will consider this at their next meeting. WCC will be circulating price lists, equipment lists and supplier information in the coming weeks.

- The Clerk reported that the auditors had signed off on the PC's 2025-26 accounts and that the second tranche of this year's precept should be received before the end of this month.

(ii) **Planning**

Diann Barnett

PLANNING REPORT RAMSBURY AND AXFORD PARISH COUNCIL – Sept 2026

Planning Applications Processed since Aug 2026 report

New applications-

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|---|
| • PL/2026/04856 | 1 Orchard Close, Ramsbury | Single-storey ext. front & 2 nd storey to rear |
| • PL/2026/04987 | 11, High St, Ramsbury | Single-storey rear ext., 2 nd floor ext., dormer |

Still awaiting-

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|--|
| • PL/2025/01559 | Upcott Field, Whittonditch Rd | 9 houses and associated works. This application layout has been amended. |
| • PL/2025/09169 | West House, Ramsbury | Internal alterations, window change |
| • PL/2026/00995 | Bungalow, Whittonditch | Extension and remove S52 |
| • PL/2026/01214 | Dove Cottage, Axford | Loft space conversion + dormer windows |
| • PL/2026/03590 | Riverside Cottage, Axford | Retrospective 6 ft fence |
| • PL/2026/04025 | 1, High St, Ramsbury | Change of use of shop + conservatory |
| • PL/2026/04174 | Whittonditch House | Single storey extension |
| • PL/2026/04655 | Manor Farm, Ramsbury | Glazed extension. |

Decisions-

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|---|
| • PL/2026/04359 | Maslin Close, Ramsbury | Treework. APPROVED |
| • PL/2026/04230 | The Boot, Scholards lane | Treework. APPROVED |
| • PL/2026/03716 | 51, High St, Ramsbury | Remove existing outhouse and rebuild APP |
| • PL/2026/04088 | Downside, 4, High St, | Pollard willow. APPROVED |
| • PL/2026/04114 | Holy Cross, Ramsbury | Treework. APPROVED |
| • PL/2026/04526 | Snellswood Dairy. W'ditch | Lean-to extension to animal unit. NOT NEEDED |

- ❖ The appeal for 9 Union St was dismissed.

DB reported that one new application had been received since she published the planning list above –

Reference:	PL/2026/05580 - Householder planning permission
Site Location:	61 High Street, Ramsbury, Marlborough, SN8 2QN
Proposal:	Replace canopy above front door

DB summarised some of the salient points contained in the new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) as they might affect Ramsbury and Axford and which WCC Planners must take into account from 17th August 2026. James Sheppard also commented on how WCC's current lack of a Local Plan is likely to hamper our ability to object to future planning applications from developers and home-owners both within and outside the villages – probably for at least the next three years until a new Plan is ratified. However, in his view a recognition of the settlement boundary seems to be holding and our location with the North Wessex Downs National Landscape still seems to be protective to some extent, although it is possible that government policy may lessen such protection before long.

HL sat in on a webinar on WCC's Local Plan scoping consultation on 17th Sept. and reported on the proceedings as follows:-

- *The overall focus of the Scoping Consultation is to get our input into what we want from the Local Plan and not to let it be "done to us", without actually having given our views on it. The process will have three stages and each stage will produce a report. We are currently in the scoping stage which ends on 30 Sept.*
- *The new govt. rules are that Wiltshire will need to build 3500 new houses every year, almost doubling their current target of 1,800 p.a. They are seeking as many views on this as possible, as there is currently no plan to comment upon. At this stage they want to know what Wiltshire residents and communities would like to see, and anyone can comment.*
- *There is an opportunity to include any local issues and locally-specific policies we would like.*
- *The webinar included questions raised about a cap on houses in villages; another on the regs on the protection of the National Landscape; those are not to be lessened as they are statutory, but we could reinforce them by commenting on this.*
- *Extending the village envelopes was raised and the response was that no views have been formed on that yet so they urge the PC to get into the discussion and put our point of view.*
- *Another query was on housing targets in rural parishes and affordable housing - again views still to be formed so if we want to influence the outcome we need to input. N.B. The mandatory requirement for developers to provide a quota of affordable housing within new developments of 5 houses or more has been discarded.*
- *Most of the info is online - [Scoping consultation - Wiltshire Council](#)*

It was agreed that the Planning Committee should meet to go through the NPPF document and to discuss how the PC might want to respond. **ACTION - DB**

MT and DE commented on WCC's provision of council houses, and Aster's policy of selling their properties.

(iii) Rights of Way

Doug Greenway

- An objection having been made about the diversion of the airfield footpaths 6 and 8C, DGr attended a site meeting on 16th September, along with a number of other interested parties, to discuss it with the Rights of Way Case Officer. In the light of that meeting, the PC's view remains unchanged i.e. they have no objection to the proposed diversion.
- The September circular walk was well-attended. The next one will be on Sunday 4th October to the House on the Hill.

(iv) Play Areas and Seats

Denise Edwards

- DE said she had not been party to the talks on planned works or vandalism so was unable to comment on the play areas this month.
- This year's ROSPA reports have been received but due to changes in access she had so far been unable to access the documents. The Clerk will send her pdf copies so DE can report at the October PC meeting. **ACTION - CLERK/DE**
- The Knowledge Crescent nest swing is to be taken down without delay as the age and design of its timber frame is giving the PC some concern. DB is seeking a quote for a replacement and will report to the upcoming Committee meeting. **ACTION - DB**
- The Clerk mentioned that one of the pads covering one of the moorings to the Ashley Piece tangle tree climbing frame appeared to have been displaced. MT said he would go and have a look and report back. **ACTION - MT**

(v) Emergency Committee

Alison Foale

- Generator fuel – DB had purchased 5l of fuel. Following a discussion about how long this amount might be expected to last it was agreed that another 2 x 5l of fuel should be acquired asap, as well as 2 lots of gas to ensure there was a sufficient supply for both of our emergency hubs. **ACTION - DB**

- The sub-committee met on 7th September and agreed to organise another two community CPR training courses in October. HL will be contacting Wiltshire Air Ambulance to try to arrange two sessions on 29th October (4-5pm and 6-7pm) – TBC. **ACTION - HL**
- The committee is seeking one more Emergency Warden.
- DB explained that WCC Crisis & Resilience Fund is the body which could provide crisis payments for eligible low-income residents towards the cost of heating oil.
- HL reported on three aspects of PC to-dos that she had taken away from sitting in on a Flood Wardens Lunch & Learn session on 17th Sept., that might need our consideration and action:
 - (i) The committee might need to think about creating and rehearsing a flood action plan event
 - (ii) Does the PC's public liability insurance cover all councillors and volunteers?
 - (iii) It is important to have something in the foreground when taking photos of any emergency both at the time of the event and then re-take afterwards to give a sense of scale. Copies of photos should be sent to Wilts CC for their records.

(vi) Environment Committee

Maggie Waugh

- The committee are still watering the community orchard.

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

James Sheppard (Wilts CCLr) raised the matter of the speed check request on the B4192 at Whittonditch from the community who are seeking a reduction of the speed limit through there. After some discussion DB was asked to contact Steve Hinds to see if this has been carried out recently and to get his view on whether or not their aim to get the speed limit reduced is likely to fulfil any of the criteria. DB will report back at the November meeting. **ACTION - DB**

8 AXFORD

Di Barnett

DB reported that the matter of the drainage from the village hall access track had been dealt with, the gully having been cleared.

9 ALLOTMENTS

Denise Edwards

DE reported that new enquiries had been received recently and seven new ploholders had joined this season.

10 VANDALISM/CRIME

Di Barnett

DB said the suspected abandoned vehicle in The Square had, in fact, been taxed and insured so was legally parked on the highway; in any event it had recently been removed. Dawn Gill had very kindly cleaned up the dog mess smeared all over the seat of the zip wire at Ashley Piece. The Clerk reported some new graffiti on the fort at Ashley Piece. This area seems to be becoming a bit of a hot spot for vandalism and antisocial behaviour.

11 VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

Di Barnett

HL put a piece in Whitton Ways and the Village Diary about the idea of a village scheme for residents to adopt a bench or a planter and maintain it; so far, the PC has received no messages expressing interest in the proposal.

DB had looked into the WCC Freight Plan but found that it probably couldn't be applied to our High Street as we are unlikely to see more than 25 HGVs daily. She added that we were also unlikely to be granted funding for signage to re-route HGV through-traffic away from the High Street because WCC Highways' budget for signage is already overspent.

DB said that WCC Public Space Protection Orders (PCSOs) intended to keep dogs off recreation grounds and play areas is a work in progress but could become an option for this PC in future.

DB had not yet had time to go to The Triangle to look at the dead trees reported to the PC but will do so in the near future. **Note: Subsequent to the meeting DB found that some trees are leaning into river (as are many that have been left to die) but if ARK don't have a problem with them then we will leave them alone.**

12 EXTERNAL MEETINGS

Di Barnett

- DB had attended the Local Highways & Footways Improvement Group meeting on 10/09/26 and reported that they are waiting for the outcome of this PC meeting before finalising the Union Street one-way system legalities. Also, the B4192 speed survey request is very unlikely to go through as it is against Highways procedures.
- DB will attend the next Town & Parish Clerks' Meeting on 24th Sept. **ACTION - DB**
- Marlborough Area Board meeting will be held on 6th Oct at Winterbourne Monkton
- The next PCSO public consultation will be held in the British Legion 10.30-12.00 on 30th Sept.

NOTE: Unfortunately, Emily was unable to attend on the day for medical reasons. We were notified about this beforehand.

13 PARISH STEWARD'S ROTA

The next visit is scheduled for 6th October.

ACTION - CLERK

14 MEMORIAL HALL AND MEMORIAL GARDEN

Helen Lloyd

There was nothing to report about the Memorial Hall. Mary Holdsworth has kindly weeded the Memorial Garden.

15 NATURE RESERVE

Chris Morgan

CM was not at the meeting but has undertaken to chase up the removal of the fallen tree from the mill stream with WWT when he returns from holiday.

16 SCHOOL

Roger Greasley

No report

17 LIBRARY

Di Barnett

For information - DB reported that it is now possible to hire/borrow activity tracker watches, blood pressure monitors and thermal imaging cameras from some of the larger libraries such as Wootton Bassett and Devizes. **Note: Hilary Hicklin had let the PC know that only 8 children signed up to Summer Reading Challenge this year but, although this is a disappointingly low number, it is a small increase on 2025 when only six took part. She also gave details about the new Adult Reading Challenge running 5th Sept – 5th Dec.**

18 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT IN SEPTEMBER

Inv. No	Payments to Suppliers – September 2026	Amount	Net	VAT	Paid By	S137
I4557	Coral Westall – public loo cleaning in September	225.00	225.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4558	Coral Westall – PC office cleaning July-Sept (inc. back-pay)	37.50	37.50	0.00	BACS	No
I4559	Castle Water – water charges for public loo in August	96.88	96.88	0.00	BACS	No
I4560	HP Instant Ink – 28 th July – 27 th August	13.49	11.24	2.25	VisaDebit	No
I4561	Lloyds Business Banking – Bank Charges in Aug	4.25	4.25	0.00	DD	No

2106

I4562	Microsoft 365 annual subscription	84.99	70.83	14.17	VisaDebit	No
I4563	JRB Enterprises Ltd – Dog poo bags	100.74	83.95	16.79	BACS	No
I4564	HP Instant Ink – 28 th August – 27 th Sept	13.49	11.24	2.25	VisaDebit	No
	TOTAL (excl. Clerk's salary I4565)	£576.34	£540.89	£35.45		
	*TOTAL AMOUNT ON DEPOSIT on 31st August 2026	£128,521.94				
	incl. gross interest earned Dec 2022 to 31st August 2026	£7,521.94				
	INCOME					
	Charity shop rent	£320.00				
	Memorial Hall share of broadband	9.60				
	TOTAL INCOME	£329.60				
	Current A/c balance at 31st August 2026	£4,189.47				

*This sum 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 £576.34.40 due for payment as set out in the meeting agenda (as above) DB sought councillors' approval for four further payments to be settled this month:-

I4566	T H White Ltd – 5l generator fuel for emergency hubs	24.50	20.42	4.08	VisaDebit	No
I4567	RoSPA Playsafety Ltd – annual play areas inspection fee	380.40	317.00	63.40	BACS	No
I4568	Robert Copp – grass cutting and hedge-cutting	228.00	228.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4569	PKF Littlejohn LLP – auditors' AGAR fee for y/e 31 st March 2026	378.00	315.00	63.00	BACS	No

Bringing the total expenditure for approval up to £1,587.24

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

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.20p.m.

DATE OF THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 19th OCTOBER 2026 AT 7.45pm at RAMSBURY MEMORIAL HALL
ALL ARE WELCOME