

RAMSBURY & AXFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 20th FEBRUARY 2017 in Ramsbury Memorial Hall

PRESENT: Diann Barnett, Terence Brown, Denise Edwards, Graeme Fearon, Susan Findlay, Sheila Glass (Chairman), George Hawes, Erica Hodgson, Helen Lloyd, Christopher Payne, Michael Waite, Ron Young, S. Arnold (Clerk) and 10 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence for approval:** Chris Morgan, Simon Smith.
2. **Disclosures of interest:** Susan Findlay – Item 4 no 1761 and Item 19.
3. **The minutes of the meeting held on 16th December** were approved. Proposed – D. Edwards, Seconded – T. Brown.

4. NEW CORRESPONDENCE FOR DISCUSSION

A1725	06/02/17	Ms M. Dixon	Offering PC reels of film of Ramsbury and village events from the 60s. Accepted. Action: Clerk / Chairman to arrange transfer to CD
A1726	06/02/17	Mr T. Gauntlett	Letter reiterating his objections made at PC meeting on 16/01/17 to SID at western entry to the village. Forwarded to all councillors. See no A1816 and Public Forum item b.
A1727	06/02/17	Ramsbury Pre-School	Offering to do lunch time drinks and afternoon teas at Boundary Walk. Accepted.
A1737	06/02/17	Idverde	2 quotes for repairs to footpath on Back Lane. PC would need to put in request to CATG for Highways to undertake the work at the PC's expense. Post meeting update: there is some money in the CATG 2017-8 budget for pavement repairs. Action: S. Glass to investigate possibility of going through CATG to get WC doing the work if the PC pays.
A1738	06/02/17	Messagemaker	Commissioning of SIDs – could not complete because: all had depleted batteries; 2 SIDs (1 of Minal's and 1 in Axford) had solar panels directly facing trees – will need to move posts or remove trees. Also standard warranty for parts and labour is for 2 years on a return to base basis. However this may not be practical so PC could take out full on-site warranty agreement for 2 years, or pay for travel time for individual call outs @ £315 for half day or £615 for full day. Action: Finance Committee to include SID maintenance in future budgets. Note the timers have been set for British Summer Time, to avoid having to reset them in March. It may be possible to extend their operational hours to 7.00 to 7pm when the days are longer and light levels higher. Action: D. Edwards to put info on operational hours on Facebook.
A1744	06/02/17	WC	Annual Highways meetings - nearest is Kennet House, Devizes on 24/05/17. Forwarded to all councillors. S. Glass is unable to attend. Action: Any Councillor willing to attend to contact clerk or chairman for details.
A1745	06/02/17	Idverde	Quote to move Axford SID on 30/01/17
A1751	06/02/17	Messagemaker	Final payment for SIDs overdue. Responded – awaiting commissioning of SIDs and corrected final bill
A1755	06/02/17	Idverde	Relocation of Axford SID completed
A1756	06/02/17	Messagemaker	Cancelling appointment to commission SIDs on 01/02/17. Will come on 03/02/17
A1757	06/02/17	Bath and West of England Society	Nominations open for Prince of Wales awards. Forwarded to S. Glass

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A1759	06/02/17	Messagemaker	Cancelling appointment to commission SIDs on 03/02/17 due to forecast of bad weather.
A1761	06/02/17	ARK	Suggests no benefit in putting boards alongside Footpath at Mill Lane Bridge – will monitor it.
A1765	13/02/17	Mrs S. Arnold	Resignation as Parish Clerk from 30/06/17. A clerk from another PC in the area has expressed interest in the post. Notices of the vacancy have been posted on PC notice boards, Facebook and will appear in the March diary and Parish mag. Action: Finance Committee to discuss salary. There is provision in the 2017/8 budget for an overlap in employment of the current and a new clerk for a hand-over period.
A1776	13/02/17	Mrs J. McQue	On behalf of Skate Park Group. Will not be giving a presentation at the February PC meeting as too much on at present to manage skate park project. Will inform PC if situation changes
A1787	13/02/17	Santander	Security information to allow clerk to view only bank statements online
A1793	13/02/17	Cognatum	Re hedge on Isles Road. Suggesting 2 feet removed from 3 sides of hedge before they take over maintenance. Clarification requested on who will pay for initial work. Forwarded to S. Glass
A1808	20/02/17	Cognatum	Confirming intended PC to pay for initial cut of Isles Road hedge. Forwarded to S. Glass. A quote has been obtained which is considerably less than Cognatum's. The PC agreed to take over maintenance of this hedge. Action: S. Glass to contact contractor to arrange an initial cut.
A1810	20/02/17	Messagemaker	Confirmation that SIDs now working and link to manual to change operating times http://www.produktinfo.conrad.com/datenblaetter/600000-624999/610371-da-01-en-Digitale_Uhr.pdf
A1811	20/02/17	Cognatum	Quote for initial cut of Isles Road hedge. Forwarded to S. Glass
A1812	20/02/17	Mr T. Gauntlett	Correcting agenda item 4 no A1726 to add that his letter contains additional information following his discussion with Highways after the last PC meeting. Forwarded to S. Glass
A1816	20/02/17	WC	Licensing Act – Midway Stores. Application to amend license for sale of alcohol to 07.00 - 23.00 Monday to Sunday. Forwarded to all councillors.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A Planning

Chairman: Susan Findlay

a. Planning Applications Processed since January 2017 Report

16/00119/FUL	The House on the Hill, Hildrop Lane, Ramsbury Amendments to approved elevations of barn being converted to dwelling (see 14/08822/FUL)
PC Comment WC	No objection
16/10483/FUL	Woodlands Farm, Whittonditch, Ramsbury Demolish bungalow and re-build new house
PC Comment WC	No objection Refused
16/10866/FUL	4 Union Street, Ramsbury Erection of Garden Shed
PC Comment WC	Did not object to a garden shed but thought this particular building oversized for plot in conservation area Refused
16/09617/FUL	52 Whittonditch Road, Ramsbury Erection of two storey extension & new detached garage.
PC Comment WC	No objection Approve with conditions
16/12164/OUT	Loves Farm, Ramsbury Outline planning permission for permanent equestrian worker dwelling.

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PC Comment WC	Withdrawn
16/11944/CLE	Land north-east of Belan, Witcha Farm, Witcha Ramsbury Certificate of Lawfulness for existing borehole and associated shed
PC Comment WC	In circulation
16/12500/VAR	Land at Rudge Farm, Rudge, Marlborough Application of planning permission E/2012/0946/FUL to extend the permitted operational period of Rudge Manor Solar Farm
PC Comment WC	Asked that the time scale remain at 25 years.
16/12112/FUL	Watersmeet, Mill Lane, Ramsbury Creation of parking area within residential cartilage including new fence and gates
PC Comment WC	No objection providing flood mitigation measures are taken
17/00044/FUL	Hails Grove, SN8 2HG Retrospective application for a shepherd's hut (proposed use of the building being for storage of goat wool and various equipment)
PC Comment WC	In circulation
16/12082/FUL	Hails Grove, SN8 2HG Retrospective application for wooden shed containing equipment and tools used in woodland management
PC Comment WC	In circulation
17/00359/TCA	The Old Tannery, High Street, Ramsbury Fell Yew Tree
PC Comment WC	No objection providing the removal is not detrimental to the street scene and conservation area No objection
17/01072/TCA	36 High Street, Ramsbury Removal of Leylandii hedge

- b. **Appeal APP/Y3940/W/16/3156940 – Land at Newtown Road.** Appeal dismissed.
- c. **Appeal APP/Y3940/W/16/3158921- Glenafon, High Street, Ramsbury. Replacement dwelling.** Appeal dismissed.
- d. **Solar Farm Planning Application.** There has been an application to extend the life of the solar farm on land between Ramsbury and Froxfield from 25 to 30 years. It is within the Froxfield Parish with planning gain money as an incentive. Froxfield PC has withdrawn its objection.
- e. **Neighbourhood Plan.** Nothing to report.
- f. **Housing Supply.** The Eastern Area of Wiltshire (in which Ramsbury & Axford are located) has 8.1 years' housing supply against the requirement of 5 years.

B Finance

Chairman: Erica Hodgson

- a. **Internal Audit 2016-7. Action: Clerk to write to Mrs R. Winter to ask if she would act as internal auditor to the PC again this year.**

C Rights of way. Nothing to report

Chairman: Terry Brown

D Play Areas and Seats.

Chairman: Simon Smith

New equipment. It has been suggested that the new equipment should include exercise equipment suitable for adults and teenagers. **Actions: 1. S. Smith to put together a display for Village Open Day on 11/03/17. 2. S. Glass to ask Minal PC how much use their adult exercise equipment gets.**

E Emergency Committee.

Chairman: Diann Barnett

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- a. **Emergency Plan.** This is almost finished with just 1 road still needing an emergency warden. **Actions: 1. C. Payne to ask Mrs Payne if she would continue as warden for Burdett Street. 2. S. Glass and D. Barnett to organise wardens' meeting.**
- b. **Generators.** Chargers have been fitted to the generators.

F Recreation Centre.

George Hawes

- a. **Car parks and track through the Rec. Centre.** A temporary upgrade to these has been approved.
- b. **MUGA.** The surface needs repainting and the end walls need replacing.
- c. **Funding.** The Rec. Centre is currently running in surplus.

G Policy Committee. Nothing to report

Chairman: Sheila Glass

Public Forum - Standing Orders Suspended for this item.

- a. **Appeal APP/Y3940/W/16/3156940 – Land at Newtown Road.** Mrs C. Springfield thanked the PC for its input to the appeal, which was dismissed. She asked when the village boundary consultation is to be held. S. Findlay replied that we have no information as yet. It was noted that the current village envelope was supported as a factor in the dismissal of the appeal, but that it was necessary to be vigilant regarding any future development proposals.
- b. **SID at entry to village on road from Axford.** Mr Gauntlett said that following the last meeting he had spoken to Cllr Philip Whitehead, WC Cabinet member for Highways. Mr
- c. Gauntlett reported that Cllr Whitehead had said that he was surprised by the installation of SIDs in Ramsbury as they were usually installed in more urban areas, that they should be moved every 3 weeks to be effective, and are not supported by WC. Mr Gauntlett said it is not possible to speed anyway in the location where this SID is installed, and asked if it could be moved to Back Lane. He would prefer to see 20mph signs throughout the village.

S. Glass responded that she has also spoken to Mr Whitehead, including on many occasions at the CATG meetings where the SIDs had been discussed. Wiltshire Police do not support SIDs, as they do not provide an income for them. Speed cameras need moving every 3 weeks as they are designed to catch offenders speeding as evidence for prosecution and drivers quickly learn to slow down in their location. SIDs are designed to remind drivers of a speed limit within the built-up location that they are entering. Ogbourne St Andrew and Minal have SIDs and Aldbourne are planning to have them.

Mr Gauntlett said the SID dominates one side of his property, shines in sunlight and damages the amenity of his property, and invited councillors to visit to see it for themselves. (See item 8.a)

Mrs Andrews asked if the sign had to be so big. S. Glass responded that the size of the solar panel determines the size of the sign.

Mrs McCall asked if a chicane could be installed instead of the sign. S. Glass responded that Baydon is considering replacing their chicane with SIDs.

Mrs Andrews asked if the sign could be moved. S. Glass responded that it has to be within the 30mph limited area.

Mrs C. Springfield said that she is glad of the one in Whittonditch which she considers to be effective.

Mrs. Glass said that Mr Gauntlett's objection had been the only one to the SIDs that the PC has received. Mr Gauntlett responded that Sir Martyn Arbib would be responding when he returns to Ramsbury.

Mr C. Glass said that WC Highways was defective in many ways in administering the county's road system, and that a permanent warning sign was a better solution than the occasional use of cameras to catch speeding drivers.

Mr R. Daniel said that he regularly attends PC meetings and that he is often the only member of the public showing interest in PC matters. He said that SIDs have been on the agenda and on notice boards for many months. He thanked the PC for their work and said it was a thankless task as people only turned up to PC meetings to complain.

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Mr Gauntlett replied that he had thanked the PC for their work, but that the SID has a huge effect on his property.

NB – See Item 8.a for action re SIDs.

6. **Axford.**
Broadband. There has been a small amount of progress with BT but things are moving slowly.
7. **Marlborough Area Board.** Our Community Matters Conference will be held Tuesday 21 February 2017 from 6:30pm - 9:00pm. **Action: H. Lloyd & S. Glass to attend.**
8. **CATG**
 - a. **Speed Indicator Devices (SIDS).** **Action: Clerk to write to Mr Gauntlett accepting his invitation to one or more councilors to view the SID at the west end of the Village from his property and asking him to advise of a convenient date and time within the sign's operating hours.**
 - b. **Pavement Repairs.** See Item 4 no A1737.
9. **Councillor Training.** C. Payne and S. Glass attended a 'Negotiate a Better Planning Outcome' workshop on Feb 13th. Neither thought the course good value for money. The information presented in the morning session could have been condensed into a short document, and the simulation exercise in the afternoon was not useful. The message from the session was that PCs are of little significance to development companies, and may not be informed about plans until late in the process. It was suggested that PC's need to be alert for potential development in their area. Concerns were raised that, although developers are required to agree to put money into the local community when a project is approved, once the project is underway they can apply for an S73 change to void the agreement, with no possibility of appeal should the request be granted.
10. **Clerk's Resignation.** See Item 4 no A1765.
11. **Parish Council Elections - May 2017.** Anyone who wishes to stand for election, including current councillors, must submit nomination papers. The details of this will be available via e-mail and notice boards when the election is announced. Please note that it is not permitted for the Clerk to give assistance with nomination papers to candidates wishing to stand for election, other than to supply the electoral roll numbers for themselves and their proposers that they need for the form.
12. **Village Open Day and Volunteers Events 11/03/17.** The Village Open Day Event will run from 11 – 3 and 38 village organisations will have stalls. Set up is from 10.30. **All residents are invited to drop in to see the activities available in the village.** Councillors are needed to help man the PC's stall. **Actions: 1. Councillors who can help set up or man the stall to contact S. Glass for a slot on the rota. 2. Clerk to invite any applicants for Clerk's job to the event.** Following the Village Open Day event, volunteers from village organisations have been invited for drinks and nibbles at 6pm. **Actions: 1. Any Parish Councillor who would like to attend should contact S. Glass.**
13. **Parish Steward Scheme.** Crowood Lane was cleared effectively during the Stewards' last visit. **Actions: 1. S. Glass to put litter on verge near sewage works on list. 2. Anyone with any other items for the list to inform S. Glass by 28/03/17 for next visit.**
14. **Bins in Streets.** **Action: Letters to be sent to people who leave bins out on streets other than on collection days.**
15. **Review of Standing Orders.** It was agreed to add at the end of Item 8 of Financial Standing Orders the following: 'supported by receipts of the applicable expenditure which can be viewed upon request'. **Action: Clerk to update document and put on March agenda for approval and signing.**
16. **Pre-School.** Nothing to report
17. **Website.** The new site is due to go live at the end of February.
18. **Great British Clean-up.** The cleanup will take place between 10 and 12 on Saturday March 4th. It will be cancelled in case of heavy rain. **All residents are invited to take part. Meet at the Square at 10.00.** **Actions: 1. S Glass to publicise via posters. 2. D. Edwards to publicise via Facebook.**

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19. ARK Projects. Work on The Kennet Triangle is finished. **Action: Clerk to write to ARK to thank them.**

20. Library. No report

21. Allotments. Nothing to report

Denise Edwards

22. Boundary Walk. Preliminary arrangements have been made. Leaders and backstops are organised. This year walkers will meet in The Square from 6.45 with the walk starting from Crooked Soley at 7.30am to allow The Flyer to do more runs. Awaiting confirmation from Scouts re provision of bacon butties at the morning coffee stop. Squash and biscuits will be available at Stitchcombe and tea and cakes at the airfield.
Action: S. Smith to organise signs. M. Hodgson is organising new boards for the Square.

23. Telephone Kiosks. Nothing to report

Graeme Fearon

24. Nature Reserve. Nothing to report

Chris Morgan

25. Tree Lights. Nothing to report

26. Vandalism. Nothing to report

27. Memorial Hall. A new notice board has been purchased and will be in place soon.

28. Public Conveniences.

a. Gift for Cleaner. The gift and thank you card agreed at the January meeting have been given to the cleaner – see Item 31 no I2638.

b. Enquiry from Avebury PC. The National Trust toilets are open for very restricted hours, and Avebury asked for details of how Ramsbury PC manages its public conveniences. Responded.

29. Kennet Triangle. See item 4 no 1684.

30. Patients' Rep. Nothing to report

George Hawes

31. Accounts for Payment

Ref	Item	Total	VAT	S137	Incl in budget
I2632	British Gas- Electricity for Public Conveniences. (DD2) Bill is £23.79 in credit	29.00	1.38	No	Y
I2633	BT – telephone bill (DD3)	76.54	12.76	No	Y
I2634	PlusNet - Broadband Service(DD4)	12.99	2.16	No	Y
I2635	S. Arnold – 2 books 2 nd class stamps = 1book 1 st class stamps	20.88	0	No	Y
I2636	S. Arnold – 1&1 Internet – managed WP Plus	4.79	0.80	No	Y
I2637	S. Glass – card for contractor who cleans public conveniences	2.20	0	No	Y
I2638	S. Glass – cash gift for contractor who cleans public conveniences (authorised at meeting on 16/01/17)	30.00	0	No	Y
I2639	Messagemaker – final payment for SIDS. (It was agreed to hold back this cheque until it's clear that the SIDS are all working properly.)	8581.50	1,430.25	No	Y
I2640	WALC- Negotiate a Better Outcome in Planning Training Course for 2 people	228.00	38.00	No	No*
I2641	WC –contribution to Back Lane 20mph speed limit	444.00	0	No	Y

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I2642	Thusanish Private Ltd (Midway Store) Newspapers for Library 02/12/16 – 18/02/17	30.60		0	No	Y
I2643	Idverde – move SID in Axford	219.88		36.65	No	Y
I2644	D Arnold – 10 x packets of 500 sheets of computer paper.	62.91		10.49	No	Y

*This payment will be covered from reserves carried forward from last year.

TOTAL PAYMENTS = £9,743.69 of which £1,542.49 is VAT. Proposed – D. Barnett seconded H. Lloyd. All in favour.

32. Payments Received

R453	Santander – Interest on Business Savings account on 02/01/17	2.68	02/02/17	Direct Transfer	
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TOTAL PAYMENTS RECEIVED = £2.68

33. Bank Balance ON 03/02/17 CURRENT ACCOUNT £23,579.06

ON 06/02/17 BUSINESS SAVINGS ACCOUNT - £31,514.12

These figures include ring-fenced funds of £792.05 from defibrillator fund, plus allocated budget for year, funds for long-term capital projects and contingency.

DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 20th MARCH 2017

at 7.45pm

in

**THE LYCHGATE ROOM
RAMSBURY MEMORIAL HALL**

YOU WILL BE VERY WELCOME - PLEASE COME

Residents are reminded that they can automatically receive agendas & minutes of monthly PC meetings by email. Contact parishcouncil@rambury.org if interested.

ALL PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC