

RAMSBURY & AXFORD PARISH COUNCIL

**Clerk to the Council: Sue Arnold, c/o Parish Council office, Memorial Hall, High Street,
Ramsbury**

Tel no. 01672 520045 (answerphone)

E mail parishcouncil@ramsbury.org

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD ON MONDAY 23rd MAY 2005 in Ramsbury Memorial Hall

PRESENT: Diann Barnett, Steve Cook, Cllr Susan Findlay, Sheila Glass, George Hawes, Debbie Marshall, Chris Morgan, Alan Plenderleith, Geoffrey Rissone, Geoffrey Treherne, Cllr Brian Twigger, Cllr Chris Humphries, Sue Arnold (clerk), PC Bayliss & 10 members of the public.

1. **Reading of the notice convening the meeting.**
2. **Welcome by the Chairman:** The chairman welcomed members of the public present.
3. **Apologies for absence:** Roy Alexander, Paul Court, Debbie Marshall, Alan Plenderleith, Matthew Tester.
4. **Adoption of the minutes of the meeting held on 10th May 2004:** The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting were approved as a correct record and were signed by the chairman.
5. **Matters Arising:** None.
6. **Chairman's report:** The report is attached in Appendix A *Sheila Glass*
7. **Parish Council Committee reports:** attached in Appendix B *Various*
8. **Axford Ward Report** *Geoffrey Treherne*

There has been a constant problem with litter behind the garages. Sarsen have been contacted and suggested a hard standing is installed under the bins. Action is awaited.
Two separate families housed by Social Service in Sarsen-owned homes caused havoc. While both have now moved on, their damage is still in the community.
No planning application has been received to build new houses in Axford, contrary to the impression given in a letter to a local newspaper.
Axford Sewage Works still cause problems.
While correspondence regarding speeding in the village is on-going, there is no progress to report at present.
9. **Public Conveniences**

KDC notified the Parish Council in December 2004 that from April 2006 they will no longer fund and maintain the public conveniences in Ramsbury. Should the Parish Council choose to take over the responsibility for the toilets, they will be given the freehold of the building once they have maintained them for a year. This arrangement allows the building to be used for another purpose, should the Parish Council so wish, once the initial year has elapsed.
The cost of maintaining and cleaning the public loos is approximately £9000 p.a. of which about £2000 is rates. Increasing the Parish Council precept to covering the costs of maintaining and cleaning the loos would increase Council Tax on a band D house by approximately £9 p.a.
The chairman is to attend a meeting with KDC on 1st July 2005.
10. **District Councillors' Report:** *Susan Findlay & Brian Twigger*

Susan Findlay reported that Kennet District Council has 28 Conservative councillors, 9 Independents, 3 Lib Dems, 1 Labour and 1 UKIP.
It has been another good year for Kennet with the Council being recognised as one of the leaders for affordable housing.
The Planning Departments was awarded a grant of £613,000 from the government for exceeding performance targets.

The Kennet web site provides information for residents and visitors (<http://www.kennet.gov.uk>). Cllr Findlay has been a member of the Recycling Working Party chaired by Brian Twigger. Her main committees this year are Community Development and Regulatory (or Planning). She has spoken at the committee on the Recreation Centre Development and the Surgery (new and old sites). She has also lobbied on Tottenham House and St John's School buildings. Cllr Findlay invited anyone with a view on the Chopping Knife Lane site at Marlborough to comments, because it is linked to the final state of the new St. John's School, which most Ramsbury children attend. Cllr Findlay represents KDC on the Sarsen Housing Association Board and the new Aster (previously Silbury) Board. The Group has enlarged with the Andover Housing Association joining (Testway). As both a Parish and District councillor, Cllr Findlay said she is happy to act as a 'go-between' when needed.

Brian Twigger has served on the Resources Committee and worked on Human Resources. He is Kennet Council's recycling champion and chaired the Recycling Sub Committee. This year he is serving on the Community Development Committee, and described the effective working partnership that he and Cllr Findlay have there, with himself focusing on Waste while Cllr Findlay focuses on Housing. Summarising the year's achievements, Cllr Twigger said that the introduction of Broadband had made home-working a reality. The campaign against Wind Turbines had been effective – the applicant listened to the views of the village. More than 300 residents responded to the Care energy saving initiative, and he thanked the council for their support in this. Finally Cllr Twigger described giant steps in recycling, with the recycling site at the new surgery, kerbside recycling and the introduction of green wheelie bins for garden waste.

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| 11. County Councillor's Report:
See Appendix C. | <i>Cllr Chris Humphries</i> |
| 12. Council Representatives' Reports
See Appendix D. | <i>Various</i> |
| 13. Reports by village clubs and Organisations:
See Appendix E. | <i>Various</i> |
| 14. Public Question Time:
There were no questions. | |

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.00 pm.