

RAMSBURY & AXFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD ON MONDAY 22nd MAY 2006 in Ramsbury Memorial Hall

PRESENT: Anne Dixon, Cllr Susan Findlay, Sheila Glass, George Hawes, Debbie Marshall, Geoffrey Rissone, Geoffrey Treherne, Cllr Brian Twigger, Cllr Chris Humphries, Sue Arnold (clerk), & 14 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:** Mora Abell, Diann Barnett, Steve Cook, Graeme Fearon, Chris Morgan, Alan Plenderleith, Allan Davison, Ian Smith, Lyndsey Smith Mair Reed.
- 4. Adoption of the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd May 2005:** 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*
The hard standing has been laid below the recycling bins behind the garages on Axford car park. The result is less, and more manageable litter.

The plan to introduce a more effective method of reducing traffic speed in the village is on-going but static. A metro count test of traffic speed was established and before it was vandalised (not by an Axford resident) proved that not much notice of the 30-mph restriction was taken by the majority of motorists. We are hopefully awaiting some action, or at least some interest, to be taken by the authorities to find a way to avoid the inevitable accident waiting to happen.

The long-running suggestion that a few more houses, especially OAP and Starter Homes of which there are none in the village, should be built is still under discussion, but there is hope that a possible plan will be produced by the developers soon. As I reported last year this could effect the existing out-dated sewage system which still causes discomfort to many residents when the weather is warm.

The problem with retrospective planning permission for work done at Riverside House has at last been resolved with a fine to be paid by the owners for some of the illegal work done.

9. Public Conveniences

The Parish Council hopes that it will take over responsibility of the public conveniences from KDC on June 1st. After negotiations, the Parish Council succeeded in the removal of three and a half of the 4 covenants proposed by KDC. 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 she sits on the Community Development and Regulatory (or Planning), Standards and Licensing committees. On the regulatory committee she had a vote on Ramsbury matters, with roof heights being of greatest concern at the present time. She paid tribute to residents for the work they had put in to demonstrate that the foot height on the new Burdett

Mews houses were not in accordance with the approved planning application. She drew residents' attention to the fact that all planning applications are detailed on the KDC web site (<http://www.kennet.gov.uk>).

Cllr Findlay said that the Red Cross building is for sale and that the purchasers of first choice by Kennet would be another community user. She asked everyone to try to identify organisations that would want the building.

Cllr Findlay said that KDC were disposing of the public conveniences because of budget cuts.

Cllr Findlay represents KDC on the Sarsen Housing Association Board. Affordable houses for people with local connections have been built in Baydon, 4 of them with shared ownership. She requested that anybody knowing of houses that can be let for social housing, or land suitable for building should get in touch with her.

Brian Twigger focussed on the good teamwork between himself and Councillor Findlay ensuring Ramsbury & Axford's interests were looked after with no overlap.

He paid tribute to Roy Alexander as a great citizen and Parish Councillor, and thanked Matthew Tester who had stood down from the Parish Council, and welcomed the new parish council members. He also thanked G. Hawes for his work on the Parish Council planning committee and highlighted the success of the Rec. Centre, particularly the multi- activity sports cage.

Recycling increased from 9% at the start of the year to 25% in December 2005. Green wheelie bins for garden waste has been introduced throughout the District. Regarding the introduction of wheelie bins for other waste, Cllr Twigger said that people in remote spots that are inaccessible to the large waste vehicles will get a black box service. Cardboard and plastic recycling are the biggest issues. The skips at the surgery are very popular with 3 skips filled in 2.5 hours. The chairman of the Wiltshire Waste Partnership will be working to extend current services. They would like to put skips in Axford on a separate 4-weekly cycle, so that Ramsbury and Axford together can have a fortnightly service. Existing 'bring' sites are being reviewed by the district council. Everleigh is a long way from this area and he would like to see a nearer permanent site in the future.

In answer to questions Cllr Twigger said that from July all waste collection would take place on a Tuesday. He explained that the costs of a green wheelie bin had risen by 25% even though it was the most popular form of recycling in the area, because optional services should be self-financing. In calculating the original cost it had been estimated that on average green wheelie bins would contain 20kg of waste. In fact, in Ramsbury the average was 26kg meaning extra vehicles were need to provide the service. Cllr Twigger said he would investigate why the Memorial Hall was being charged a commercial rate for refuse collection.

11. County Councillor's Report:

Cllr Chris Humphries

See Appendix C.

In answer to questions Cllr Humphries said that publicity regarding Savernake Hospital had been misleading. The nearest Minor Injury Unit would be GWH at Swindon, not at Chippenham as reported.

12. Council Representatives' Reports

Various

See Appendix D.

13. Reports by village clubs and Organisations:

Various

See Appendix E.

14. Public Question Time:

Ramsbury Red Cross centre. The questioner Bill Hall was heartened that the plan was for it to be maintained for community use, and pleased to hear that the pre-school were interested in the building but expressed concerns over parking, and was anxious that development should conform to conservation area requirements. He hoped the Parish council would pay attention to the façade

of the building and noted that developers had already been onto the site expressing views that it would be developed as housing.

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

APPENDIX A

Chairman's report to Annual Parish Meeting May 2006

This has been a relatively quiet year.

In January a long serving Councillor, Roy Alexander died. He was an extremely active member of the Council and we will miss his contribution greatly. We also lost Matthew Tester-I'm happy to say a resignation-he is still alive and well. Thanks to him for his very active contribution, particularly to the Emergency committee and I hope that we may welcome him back at some time.

Roy and Matthew have been replaced by Anne Dixon and Graeme Fearon who were co-opted last week. Welcome to them.

Paul Court resigned as Parish Council Representative on the School Governing Body and we are in process of appointing a new representative.

Public conveniences seemed to dominate the agenda during the year. After protracted negotiations with KDC, as of the end of May we should become the proud possessors of such. KDC insist that they are giving us a huge asset. I wonder why the phrase "white elephant" comes to mind?

We have continued to support the Oral History project and the Ramsbury Roxy. Both projects are going well and we hope to have a CD of highlights from the Oral History by the end of the year. The multi sports cage, which we donated to project 2005, is now in existence. We nominated Project 2005 for a Queen's Award for Voluntary Service but inexplicably this was not granted-criteria for most awards like this-and for a good deal of grant aid- unfortunately includes service to groups of which we have none in Ramsbury & Axford, however I would like to congratulate the Project 2005 committee on all their continuing hard work.

Police surgeries continue to be ill attended- I would like to think that this is because we have no problems and in fact crime levels in the village are low, although we do not escape from the acts of mindless vandals-unfortunately this seems to be the same as in many other communities.

We have continued to seek grant aid to boost our funds for refurbishing the Square but for reasons referred to above we have so far been unsuccessful-many thanks to Geoff Rissone for his continuing efforts-KDC and WCC are looking favourably on our suggestions so we hope to move forward in the next year.

Other items discussed at meetings during the year include recycling, wheelie bins, crime prevention and the potential loss of Savernake hospital. This last item is of particular concern and I urge everyone to familiarise themselves with the plans of the North and West Wilts PCT to base medical services in Wiltshire in Chippenham, Salisbury, Swindon and Trowbridge. The loss of Savernake, as well as being a great inconvenience to local people would represent a criminal waste of the £10,000,000 spent on its recent refurbishment. There is a meeting in the Memorial Hall, Marlborough College 6.30pm on June 26th at which views can be expressed and details of contacts are on the PC notice board.

Finally I would like to thank your long-suffering Parish Councillors for the time and effort they have given to Council matters this year

APPENDIX B

Parish Council Committee reports

APPENDIX C

County Councillor's Report

APPENDIX D

Council Representatives' Reports

APPENDIX E

Reports by village clubs and Organisations