

RAMSBURY & AXFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD ON MONDAY 11th MAY 2009 in Ramsbury Memorial Hall

PRESENT:, Diann Barnett, Paul Court, Cllr Susan Findlay, Graeme Fearon, Sheila Glass, George Hawes, Erica Hodgson, Chris Morgan, John Peck, Geoffrey Rissone, Ian Ritchie, Cllr Brian Twigger, Cllr Humphries, PC Batchelor, Sue Arnold (clerk) and 47 members of the public.

Presentations. Prior to the meeting proper Mrs Glass presented the following boys of the Ramsbury Junior Football Club with certificates in recognition of their sportsmanship which a senior FA referee described as outstanding: George Lance, Sam Tuttle, Robert Fraser, Dave West, Benjamin Jones, Andrew Wallis, Harry Dawson, Charlie Green, George Hall, Ben Kempster, Alex Davies. Oliver Tuttle, Oliver King, Finn Tuttle, Daniel Wood. The PC was thanked on behalf of the team by their coach Mr Tuttle. Susan Findlay was also thanked for her service in representing Ramsbury as a KDC Councillor for 22 years.

Police Report. In order to allow him to return to duties PC Batchelor the Community Beat Manager for Froxfield, Chilton Foliat, Baydon, Ramsbury, Axford and Aldbourne gave his report prior to the main meeting. This can be found in Appendix G.

- 1. Reading of the notice convening the meeting.**
- 2. Welcome by the Chairman:** The chairman welcomed members of the public present and thanked them for attending. The Councillors and Clerk introduced themselves.
- 3. Apologies for absence:**, Helen Lloyd, Tim McQue, Michael Edmonds, Simon Blunt and Brian Twigger.
- 4. Adoption of the minutes of the meeting held on 15th May 2008:** The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting were approved as a correct record and were signed by the chairman. **(Proposed John Peck, Seconded Diann Barnett)**
- 5. Matters Arising:** None.
- 6. Chairman's report:** The report is attached in Appendix A *Sheila Glass*
- 7. Parish Council Committee and reports:** attached in Appendix B *Various*
- 8. Axford Ward Report** *Diann Barnett*
As per norm throughout the Parish, Axford's main problem during the last year has been the continuing problem of speeding. We now have 'Take care – No Pavements' signs which we hope people will take notice of.

We had a successful fete last summer with our continued thanks to Stefan Persson and Ramsbury Estates for the continued use of the fields and the river, and their continued support of the village.

We still have the garages, which have not been demolished.

Hoppers Lane has been repaired and we have also had much needed work done on the river recently, restoring it to the state that a renowned chalk stream in an SSSI should be.

9. District Councillors' Reports:

Susan Findlay

KDC has been in existence since 1974 when the rural district councils amalgamated and offices were established in Devizes.

This has been a sad final year yet despite many members and officers spending a lot of time working towards the establishment of the new authority, KDC have maintained and delivered good standards to customers. The recycling rate has risen to 50% and less household waste is being collected which means less rubbish in landfill. We achieved our target of over 400 new affordable homes between 2004 and 2008. Street cleaning has improved. Turnaround time benefits reduced. The usual work of food safety , returning dogs to owners, pest control, noise and smell complaints etc. has continued and I hope will work as efficiently with the new Council.

During the year the committee work diminished except the Regulatory Committee which continued to meet at three week intervals and is continuing as a WC interim committee with KDC members being co-opted, until the elections when the new members will take over. We will be in the Eastern area and meetings will still be in Devizes.

It has been a sad year seeing the demise of an extremely good council. Some very good staff have left, others have jobs in the New Council and some (as of a couple of weeks ago) still do not know their future.

One positive action taken by councillors over the last two years has been the distribution of community grants and we have benefited from this in the village with the Memorial Hall and Recreation Centre received considerable amounts and other organisations getting smaller amounts.

I thank you all for the help you have given me during my years as your District Councillor. I have found it most rewarding, interesting and enjoyable but as most of you know I am not standing for election to the New Council. From June the ward will be represented by one councillor and cover the existing villages plus Aldbourne (previously we had two district councillors plus our county councillor). I hope the new Council and the new Councillor are able to support the villages in same way as KDC and once more I thank you for your support.

10. County Councillor's Report:

Cllr Chris Humphries

Cllr Humphries provided a comprehensive report on Wiltshire County Council's activities - see Appendix F.

11. Reports by village clubs and Organisations:

Various

Reports were received from:

- Amenity Group
- Baby and Toddler Group
- Bella Voce
- Bowls Club
- Community Bus
- Community Policeman (see Appendix G)
- Fire Station
- Holy Cross PCC
- Horticultural Society
- Junior Football Club

Link
Luncheon Club
Meals on Wheels
Memorial Hall
Nature Reserve
Netball Club
Oral History
Parish Charities
Pre-School
Ramsbury School PTA
Ravensbury Players
Recreation Centre
Ramsbury Roxy
Royal British Legion – Ramsbury Club
School Governor
Scout group
Silver Band
Youth Club
Women's Institute

See Appendix E.

12 Public Question Time:

G. Treherne said that the Priory and River Kennet in Axford had featured in the Mail on Sunday.

Ben Tottenham questioned the width of the carriageway between the Bell and the tree. He said that cars frequently parked by the tree at lunchtimes and evenings and that he felt the PC should discuss with Highways a change to the dimensions of the lanes. Mrs Glass responded that this would prove difficult for vehicles turning left from Oxford Street. However the police have agreed to attend the site occasionally and the Bell is to be given a notice to display regarding possible ticketing of vehicles which park by the tree.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending. She said that the reports from Societies and Organisations showed there was a lot going on in the village and was heartened that there is a lot for young people who are its future. Mrs Glass asked all organisations to contribute to the village web site and said the Pre-school site, which is available via www.ramsbury.org or directly at www.ramsburypreschool.org, is an excellent example of what can be done. The chairman closed the meeting at 10.10 pm.

APPENDIX A

Chairman's report to Annual Parish Meeting May 2009

We didn't have any new councillors this year but we did have a baby-Erica gave birth to Thomas Edward.

The last year has been unusual because March saw the final and much lamented demise of Kennet District Council to be replaced by a Unitary Council-Wiltshire Council-let's hope the initials don't say it all.

The vice chairman and I have attended several meetings concerned with the changeover-several of a pilot Marlborough Area Board (MAB) which is the mechanism by which Wiltshire Council will maintain contact with the community, and also MCASP (Marlborough Community Area Partnership) which has evolved into MAVCAP (Marlborough and Villages Community Area Partnership). I like to think that Diann and I were instrumental in having the villages bit added. Diann is now vice chairman of MAVCAP. This is the group which will liaise with Parish Councils to inform MAB about funding requirements for projects, about satisfaction or not with WC decisions and generally feed information about community feeling so that MAB can inform WC-if something about big fleas and little fleas springs to mind.....

Meanwhile back at the coal face the Parish Council has been trying to attend to really local issues. As a result of the demise of KDC they decided to give away all their assets rather than pass them on and Ramsbury benefited from their generosity. The Memorial Hall, the Church and the Recreation Centre all had substantial grants and the Parish Council benefited to the tune of around £3,000. We spent some upgrading Hopper's Lane, upgraded Manor footpath and bought new play equipment for all three play areas. We've also continued with the rolling programme to replace sodium lamps with lanterns. This has been the year of the footpath-we had a smart new tarmaced path at Ashley Piece play area courtesy of SEC, the probation service cleared the footpath across the play area to the surgery and we had Manor footpath upgraded.

We entered Best Kept Village Competition, the school did an excellent clear up and we came 1st in the district round and 4th in Wiltshire. We have entered again this year-judging will be soon - the school are going to do another clear up so please help by tidying up and clearing any weeds or litter near your house, and who knows we might win the whole thing.

As has become usual, speeding, dog mess and vandalism figured in our discussions-I'm glad to report that arrests have been made re the sports pavilion criminal damage.

The year was also unusual in that we had a protracted period of snow and ice in February which was coped with by the usual Ramsbury combination of good sense and good neighbourliness.

There was a degree of disruption-severe to those who live south of the river- while the bridges were brought up to European standard. The PC was instrumental in bringing the work time down by a couple of weeks and in getting a footway on each side.

We also adopted the new Freedom of Information Act-I'm now searching for ways to have councillors submit expense claims of a size that would warrant national coverage-but I don't think any of them should contemplate second homes at present.

As well as Susan Findlay's retirement as District Councillor which we have marked, we lost a Parish Councillor this year- Geoffrey Treherne from Axford retired in December after so

many years service that we'd all lost count. I'd like to thank him for his tireless work over those umpteen years. We are hoping to co-opt to replace him soon.

The various committee Chairmen will be giving details of other activities during the year, and this will make evident how much time and effort has been expended by them all on your behalf.

This next year will a leap in the dark in many ways. I hope we can continue to be proactive in working for the village-we will give consideration to a Parish Plan and will look forward to working with Wiltshire Council for good or ill.

I would like to close by thanking all the Parish Councillors and the clerk for their hard work and diligence which is much appreciated .