RAMSBURY & AXFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD ON MONDAY 10th MAY 2010 in Ramsbury Memorial Hall

PRESENT: Diann Barnett, Alistair Ewing, Alderman Susan Findlay, Graeme Fearon, Sheila Glass, Olwynne Goodrich, George Hawes, Erica Hodgson, Helen Lloyd, Tim McQue, Chris Morgan, Geoffrey Rissone, Simon Smith, Ian Ritchie, Cllr Humphries, PCSO Mills, Sue Arnold (clerk) and 26 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 and thanked them for attending. The Councillors and Clerk introduced themselves.

3. **Apologies for absence:** None

4. **Adoption of the minutes of the meeting held on 11th May 2009:** The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting were approved as a correct record and were signed by the chairman**. (Proposed Ben Tottenham, Seconded Peter Kearns)**

5. **Matters Arising:** None.

6. **Parish Council Reports:**
   Chairman's & Parish Council Committee's reports:
   The reports are attached in Appendix A *Sheila Glass*

7. **Axford Ward Report** *Diann Barnett*

Axford has this year seen Sarsen put in its plans for the car park, with public meetings and the support of the parish council the parking needs of the village have been met, although nothing has yet been done and there is no information as to when work will start.

The usual problem throughout the area of speeding still affects the village, and parking on bends in the village is becoming dangerous.

There are no other major problems.

8. **County Councillor's Report:** *Cllr Chris Humphries*

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

Councillor Humphries apologised for the non-attendance of the Highways engineer who had been due to attend the meeting. He explained his role as a Wiltshire County Councillor and as Chairman of The Marlborough Area Board and the availability of grants from the Area Board to village organisations.

Following his report (see Appendix F) Cllr Humphries answered questions:
Ian Ritchie asked where the financial figures could be seen as they were not included in the written report. Cllr Humphries responded that they were available via the

www.wiltshire.gov.uk website and that he would arrange for a financial statement to be sent to the PC.

A number of residents asked questions about the recycling service. These included why the cardboard and plastic recycling skips had been replaced by a lorry which holds less than the skips, if that lorry could come for a longer time period and more frequently, and if the waste was sorted. In relation to the cardboard and plastic recycling service Cllr Humphries responded that he had asked for the lorry to come earlier, but resources were limited. Waste is separated at the Compton Bassett site.

9. Reports by village clubs and Organisations: *Various*

Reports were received from:

- Allotment Association
- Amenity Group
- Baby and Toddler Group
- Bella Voce
- Bowls Club
- Community Bus
- Community Policeman (see Appendix G)
- Friends of Holy Cross Churchyard
- Holy Cross PCC (which also covered Axford Churchyard)
- Horticultural Society
- Junior Football Club
- Luncheon Club
- Meals on Wheels
- Memorial Hall
- Nature Reserve
- Oral History
- Parish Charities
- Pre-School
- Ramsbury Roxy
- Ramsbury School PTA
- Recreation Centre
- Royal British Legion – Ramsbury Club
- Royal British Legion – Women's Section
- School Governor
- Scout group
- Silver Band
- Women's Institute

See Appendix E.

10 Public Question Time:

The new rector, Simon Weedon introduced himself. He has moved from Hampshire and said he has the impression of a vibrant village and appreciated the newcomer's pack provided by The Amenity Group.

Ben Tottenham thanked the PC for their hard work on behalf of the village and said that, as an older resident how would like to thank all the volunteers who ran the various village organisations

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending. The chairman closed the meeting at 10.10 pm.

APPENDIX A

Chairman's report to Annual Parish Meeting May 2010

Slight change of plan this year - my report includes the reports from committee chairmen so it's a bit longer than usual but there are no committee reports. I would ask reps to confine themselves to two minutes speaking time-I have a stopwatch-and hopefully we'll be home before midnight.

The biggest change affecting the Parish Council since the last Annual Meeting is the change of Wiltshire Council to Unitary status. I'm tempted to ask for a minute's silence in memory of Kennet District Council.

The implementation of unitary status lead to the formation of Area Boards. We come under Marlborough Area Board-and I wish I could find something good to say about the system, although we did get 50% of the cost of Axford's new notice board as a grant from them. Wiltshire based their bid for unitary status on an assumption that having cut the District Councils out of the equation they would rely on Parish Councils' input for local information. They dispensed with allowing Parish Councils to vote on any aspect despite vociferous objections, so not surprisingly attendance of PCs at MAB meetings is sparse.
Diann and I decided that we would continue to attend meetings and Diann also attends MAVCAP meetings.

Before last year we had a County Councillor and two District Councillors, one of whom, Sue Findlay was a Parish Councillor, so we had good liaison with KDC and she had a monthly briefing from the PC. Now we have one County Councillor, Chris Humphries, who does sterling work in acting at WC on our behalf but there is only one of him and there are lots of PCs. Contact with WC is usually to a Trowbridge office where the location of Ramsbury is as foreign as that of Ulan Bator. I could bore you with details of some of the discussions I've had about lighting and skips but I'll spare you that. Letters seem to drop into a black hole somewhere. Right that's the moan over.

The Parish Council has welcomed two co-optees in the last year Simon Smith replaced Geoff Treherne as an Axford representative in May last year and Olwynne Goodrich replaced Paul Court last month. I'd like to welcome them and to thank Geoff and Paul for their hard work - in Geoff's case going back into the mists of time, and Paul's very useful local knowledge - we'll miss them both.

George Hawes the Planning Committee Chairman reports that the Planning Committee's work has been made easier since we have now moved to an internet based system. The Committee still gets paper plans which are circulated for comment after the members have carried out site visits to assess impact. The most controversial application was one to redevelop Axford car park with five houses which was subsequently approved after we held two dedicated meetings in Axford and were successful in increasing the number of public car parking spaces provided.

The Finance Committee Chairman Ian Ritchie, with invaluable help from Erica Hodgson, has overhauled the internal procedures, Financial Standing Orders, Risk Analysis and internal Audit Plan. Thanks to Erica and to Sue Arnold our clerk who does stalwart work on the accounts and understands the VAT return and also to Simon Blunt our internal auditor who keeps us on the straight and narrow.

We gave £4,000 to the school's Great New Space and made grants to 18 village organisations as well as paying the legal fees for the new allotments.

The final balance at year end 2008/9 was £15,547. The accounts that you have are for that year as these are the last audited accounts available.

The Rights of Way Committee Chairman, Graeme Fearon says that his main concern continues to be dog fouling on footpaths and roadways. Please pick up after your dog and let the PC know of offenders who don't - there is a fine of up to £1000 if prosecuted. A subcommittee of ROW organises the Boundary Walk. Thanks to Graeme for the informative booklet and to Ian Ritchie and Steve Doone who led last year's walk when 41 people completed the whole walk and to George Hawes for the traffic control Fiona Kimber and Debbie Marshall for the coffee and the pre-school for wonderful cake and tea. Without all the background help the walk would not be as enjoyable. It doesn't actually come under this year's remit but while it's fresh in our minds I would like to thank Ian and Peter Howard who led this year's walk in almost Arctic conditions in spite of which 51 hardy souls started and 22 did the whole walk.

We invested money in play equipment at Knowledge Crescent; the money was a grant originally meant to pay for a new fence but the utility companies could not tell us whether or where there were pipes and wires so we had permission to spend on play equipment instead. We are looking for larger grants this year to add to the existing equipment - it's all very expensive. Swings at Ashley Piece were vandalised. This cost £800 to repair. Insurance covered all but £150 but this means less money to spend on new things. Petty vandalism has occurred in spates through the year culminating in criminal damage on Hallowe'en. Police follow up these activities and action has been taken against some individuals.

The Emergency Committee Chairman Chris Morgan and I (separately I might add) chose to holiday in January and February so we missed the Great Snow. Erica Hodgson and John Peck and the Street Liaison Wardens handled the matter well. Vulnerable people were checked and information was posted. We also arranged collection of medicines if necessary in the Swine Flu non-epidemic.

Sustainable Community committee Chairman Ian Ritchie issued two newsletters last year and initiated what turned out to be a lengthy search for land for allotments and we are grateful to Janet Talmage for agreeing to lease the land. He then very kindly turned the matter over to me. Legal processes were protracted but the land is now being worked by 27 plot holders. The Parish Council paid the legal fees but the project is now self financing and a loan from the Parish Council has been repaid.

I persuaded the PC to back an idea that I had for a Charity Shop in Hills Stores and pay the rent for three months if needed but the project took off well and didn't need to draw down the help. Over £5,000 has been raised for local organisations since the shop opened in September. We won the District round of the BKV competition and came second with a cheque for £75 in the County round. We have entered the competition again this year and I would like to organise a clean up on June 5th in conjunction with the cubs and scouts. There is normally a dearth of people around when we do this and it would be nice to see some new faces so watch for notices and try to give an hour or so on that day.

We acquired two telephone boxes, one in Axford by the Red Lion and one in Whittonditch Road. We are working on ideas as to uses for them but any brainwaves would be gratefully received.

As a result of the demise of KDC we also became proud owners of the Ramsbury Flyer. It continues to be run very efficiently by the Bus Committee headed by Chris Morgan. We added £4,000 to the precept this year to begin a sinking fund for replacement when necessary. Helen Lloyd has been dealing with youth matters. I am conscious that the teenage age group is one which we do not serve well. I would appreciate advice as to how best to contact the

village teenagers. The PC is willing to pay for the Flyer if anyone wishes to organise outings to things like the Blues'n'Zuz disco or films at St John's. One proviso is that the driver has to be CRB checked.

Finally, the Area Board requires that we produce a Village Statement in order to highlight plans for the future so Diann and Helen Lloyd began the process with a questionnaire at last year's Summer Show. They have analysed replies and will give some of you a sheet of findings and they ask that you ask your organisations to make further comment before they develop the statement.

I'd like to finish by thanking all of the Council for their work this year, and thanks also to Sue our clerk who keeps things running smoothly - we did buy her a new photocopier this year.