

# **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](mailto:parishcouncil@ramsbury.org)

**708**

## **MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 15<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2010 in Ramsbury Memorial Hall**

**PRESENT:** Diann Barnett Graeme Fearon, Sheila Glass (Chairman), Alderman S Findlay, Erica Hodgson, Helen Lloyd, Tim McQue, Chris Morgan, John Peck, Geoff Rissone, Sue Arnold (clerk), Cllr Humphries, PCSO Jonathan Mills, Mike Mills of Wiltshire Fire Service plus 3 members of the public.

- 1 **Apologies for absence for approval:** George Hawes, Ian Ritchie, Simon Smith - Approved.
- 2 **Disclosures of interest:** None
- 3 **The minutes of the council meeting held on January 18<sup>th</sup> 2010** were approved (Proposed C. Morgan. Seconded G. Rissone).
- 4 **Police Report** **PCSO Mills**
  - a. **Rural Thefts.** There is an increasing number of thefts from rural properties.
  - b. **Parking in the High Street.** On 10<sup>th</sup> February the Ramsbury Fire Brigade was delayed in responding to a call as parking prevented it getting through the High Street. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> time in the last 10 months that this has occurred. **All residents are asked to ensure their own and their visitors parked cars do not hinder the fire engine and anyone aware of a problem should call the police. Action: 1. PCSO to provide leaflets on police headed note-paper to put on the windscreen of offending vehicles.** (See also item 5b)
  - c. **Other parking problems.** Residents have reported problems parking at the junction with Chapel Lane and in the Square. PCSO Mills stressed that while parking in the village can be difficult the police do not condone parking within 10 metres of a junction.
  - d. **Ramsbury Policing Priorities.** These are currently vandalism in the churchyard and toilets and underage drinking.
- 5 **Wiltshire Fire Service** **Mr. M. Matthews**
  - a. **Services for Residents.** Mr Matthews is the case officer for Wiltshire East and his role includes trying to reduce the risk of fire and injuries, and promoting preventative measures such as home safety fire checks, smoke detectors, and chimney cleaning. He said that East Wilts has the highest ratio of thatched properties in the country and these together with empty buildings are at risk of fire and therefore also a risk to firemen. Mr Matthews left cards which enables residents to request checks. He said that free smoke detectors are available to vulnerable groups such as single pensioners, and those on low income or disabled. He left some literature and said that it is available in other forms such as Braille. He showed a small jar which the emergency services recommend keeping in the fridge. In it can be store information for the emergency services such as medication being taken and contact details of relatives. A sticker displayed on the fridge or elsewhere can alert the emergency services to the presence of this information. These have been funded by the Marlborough Lions.
  - a. **Parking in the High Street.** Mr Matthews said that the delays that have occurred 4 times in the last 10 months have delayed the arrival of the fire brigade at an emergency. While there had not been any fatalities in this period, he stressed that a few minutes delay could be the difference between life and death. He said that organisers of Memorial Hall and Church events must be aware of the dangers and suggested that considerate parking should be an item in the Memorial Hall booking contract. He also suggested cones should be available to deter parking at the narrowest area by the Memorial Hall. **Action: PCSO J Mills to deliver some cones and leaflets to distribute to residents.**
  - b. **Lack of gritting in the High Street during the period of snow and ice.** On one occasion the fire engine could not get out. Mr Matthews has raised this at MAVCAP and MAB and requested that the PC also exerted pressure on Highways to include the High Street in the gritting schedule. **Action: Clerk to write to Wiltshire Highways.**
  - c. **Staffing the Fire Station.** Mr Matthews said that the Fire Brigade is struggling to get enough retained fire fighters because of the lack of affordable housing and the tendency of local people to work outside the village. He asked the PC to do anything they could to improve this.
  - d. **Presentation to Village.** It was agreed to invite a representative of the Fire Brigade to make a presentation at the Annual Parish Assembly on May 10<sup>th</sup>. **Action: Clerk to e-mail a request for a representative to attend.**
- 6 **Matters arising:**
  - a. **Telephone Boxes.** The PC has now applied to purchase the boxes in Whittonditch Rd and Axford (without telephone equipment) for £1 each. BT will provide electricity for an unspecified period and at some stage terminate it at their expense. Red paint and spare parts are available from BT. The box on Whittonditch Road may need some refurbishment. **Action: Anyone with any suggestions for uses for the boxes should contact the PC.**

- b. **Resignation of councillor.** Paul Court has resigned and the Wiltshire Council Electoral officer has been notified. **Actions:**  
**1. Clerk to put up formal notices when they are received. 2. S. Glass to advertise vacancy in Parish Magazine.**

#### 7 NEW CORRESPONDENCE FOR DISCUSSION

4984	01/02/10	Ramsbury Meals on Wheels	Thanks for support of PC during last year
4986	01/02/09	Mr R. Price	Response to letter re section 96 agreement. Given to S. Glass
4987	01/02/10	WC	Grit bin review. Given to S. Glass. It was stressed that grit bins are intended for use by residents to clear public roads only, and are not for use on private drives. <b>Action: PC to respond with list.</b>
4988	09/02/10	Sarsen	One of chains on small swing not attached correctly to seat in Hilldrop Playground. Given to S. Glass
4991	09/02/10	British Gas	Statement 03/02/10. Amount in debit £255.43 (No direct debit taken this months following request to increase amount to £35.00)
4994	09/02/10	Community First	Request for local people to become volunteers to help vulnerable and need people with TV digital changeover. Training given. If you are interested e-mail of Ramsbury will be going digital on 25 <sup>th</sup> March, but not all residents in the area have had an information pack. <b>Action: S. Glass to check with Community First why some residents haven't received packs.</b>
5000	09/02/10	Ms. E. Cullen Ramsbury School	Asking when play equipment children asked to help choose will arrive. S. Glass has responded and play equipment is now installed (delayed by snow)
5003	09/02/10	Mrs. S. Crompton	Request for grit box in Chapel Lane. Cars parking in Chapel Lane near the junction with Oxford Street. Swans Bottom to fields footpath overgrown. Dog fouling on Swan's Bottom and footpath above. The PC has put up notices and can only take action against offenders if they have names. Action: S. Glass to put article in parish magazine asking for information and saying that the PC will follow up any reports where names of offenders are provided. Anyone able to provide this information should leave a message on 520045 of e-mail <a href="mailto:parishcouncil@ramsbury.org">parishcouncil@ramsbury.org</a> <b>Action: Clerk to respond to Mrs. S. Crompton</b>
5005	09/02/10	MAB	Asking if PC will contribute half of cost of notice board for Axford as per grant rules. S. Glass has responded. MAB is providing the other half of the cost.
5010	09/02/10	Mr B. Tottenham	Response to letter re section 96 agreement. Given to S. Glass
5014	09/02/10	Great Bedwyn Train Group	Agreeing that PC should not pay for delivery of timetables as they have not been delivered by the Hungerford & Marlborough Advertiser to each household in the village
5024	09/02/10	Mrs M. Cook	Copy of e-mail to WC re their article in parish mag on recycling consultation
5025	09/02/10	Mrs J Handford	Petty vandalism at church. Someone climbed over locked church porch gate, removed notices from board and left empty cider bottle left behind. <b>Action: Clerk to add to vandalism log.</b>
5037	09/02/10	Clear Copying Company Ltd	Copy meterage and maintenance agreement for new photocopier. <b>Action: Clerk &amp; S. Glass to check, sign &amp; return</b>
5033	15/02/10	CPRE	Best village competition 2010. Given to S. Glass. <b>Action: S. Glass to complete entry form.</b>
5034	15/02/10	Victim Support	Appeal for donation.
5035	15/02/10	Wilts Air Ambulance	Recycling clothes and shoe bank scheme. Request for site for clothing and shoe bank containers. Given to S. Glass. <b>Action: Clerk to respond that the PC will take part in the scheme for as long as there is a recycling centre at the surgery which is dependant on the area remaining tidy with no fly tipping.</b>

## 710

5037	15/02/10	WC	Questionnaire – delegation of services to town and parish councils. Forwarded to S. Glass. S. Glass completed the form during the meeting indicating that the PC either maintains or is interested in maintaining footpaths, bridleways, roadside verges, street furniture and road safety and traffic calming measures . <b>Action: S. Glass to return form.</b>
5038	15/02/10	BT Payphones	Confirmation that phone boxes are not on private land and request to choose electricity option
5040	15/02/10	Mrs O. Goodrich	Expressing interest in becoming a parish councillor. Forwarded to S. Glass
5041	15/02/10	BT Payphones	Wrong contract agreement signed. <b>Action: Clerk to print off replacement contract and send signed contract with details of electricity option and cheque for £2</b>
5042	15/02/10	Mr S. Blunt	Overgrown shrubs on left hand side of Newtown road, leaving village, 200 yards before Knighton crossroads. Forwarded to S. Glass. The PC has contacted Crowood Estate

### 8 COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### A Planning

**Chairman: George Hawes**

#### Planning Applications Processed since January 2010 Report

Plan number	N details name and address
E/09/1553/FUL	Single storey extensions to club pavilion Ramsbury Football Club, Recreation Centre, Hilldrop Lane, Ramsbury
PC Comment	No objection The Parish Council strongly supports this application.
Wilts Decision	Disclosure. The Parish Council has provided Grant Aid to the Recreation Centre. Granted with conditions
E/09/1483/FUL	Removal of gravel surfacing and replacement with cellular grass reinforcement grid. Witcha House, Marring Hill, Witcha, Ramsbury. Mr P W Nelson
PC Comment	Object. Whilst the Parish Council welcomes the proposal to remove the gravelled area, this application does not resolve our previous reasons for objection in that the parking area will still be in a very prominent position in the landscape and the entrance is on a bend and concealed. We repeat the suggestion that the parking area be created below the new entrance to the house and grounds where it will not be so visible and the entrance will be safer.
Wilts decision	Granted with following conditions: Within 3 months the gravelled surface will be replaced with cellular grass reinforcement as specified. The hard-standing will be used solely for parking of vehicles required for field maintenance between 0800 and 18.00 Mon- Fri and 0800 – 13.00 Sats with no parking on Suns or Bank Holidays The hard-standing will not be used for parking of domestic vehicles associated with Witcha House. Reason unrestricted parking on this prominent site would be detrimental to the scenic quality of the North Wessex Downs AONB. Decision relates to documents/plans already submitted, amendments may require a further application. Failure to comply may result in enforcement action and may lead to prosecution.
E/09/1646/FUL	Demolish and replace existing general purpose agricultural building with new grain store. Improve entrance onto B4192. Home Farm, Crowood Estate, Crowood, Ramsbury. Mr John Dennis
PC Comment	No objection
Wilts Decision	Granted with conditions
E/09/1647/TCA	T1-All holly shrubs, laurels that overhang road, cut back hard to wall. T2-Holly, cut back to the wall up to 18ft T3- Two Leylandii, reduce by third cut back branches overhanging the wall Parliament Piece, Back Lane, Ramsbury. Mrs Pinches
PC Comment	No objection
Wilts Decision	Granted

## 711

E/10/0005/FUL	Replacement single and two storey rear extensions Granary House, The Square, Ramsbury. Mrs Rose Foulds
PC Comments Wilts Decision	No objection Granted
E/09/1041/LBC	Two-storey rear extension [renewal of existing permission K/50975/LBC] Brick Kiln Cottage, Loves Lane, Ramsbury. Mr James Bristow
PC Comment Wilts Decision	No objection Approve with conditions
E/09/1172/TCA	Fell one Lawson Cypress, Fell one Norway Spruce Knapp House, The Knapp, Ramsbury. Mr M Paterson
PC Comment Wilts Decision	No objection Approve with conditions
E/09/1165/FUL	RETROSPECTIVE APPLICATION for retention of hard standing Witcha House, Marridge Hill, Ramsbury. Mr P W Nelson
PC Comment  Wilts Decision	Object. The Parish Council considers that this hard standing creates a negative visual impact on the surrounding area. We suggest that it be re-sited below the driveway gate where it would sit much lower in the landscape and would be a safer highway solution than the present hidden access WITHDRAWN see E/09/1483/FUL
E/10/0132/FUL	Single storey rear extension The Old Police House 19 Oxford street Mr & Mrs John Banovic
PC Comment Wilts decision	No objection
E/10/0054/TCA	Work to trees in a conservation area Ramsbury Holy Cross churchyard
PC Comment Wilts decision	No objection awaited
E/10/0048/FUL	Proposed single garage conversion and two storey rear extension 93 High Street Mr & Mrs Hall
PC Comment  Wilts decision	The Parish Council has no objection to the rear extension but we object strongly to the proposed garage conversion with the consequent loss of off street parking in an area of the village where parking is already very congested near a bend in the road Awaited
E/10/0156/TCA	Work to trees in a conservation area Stone House Stone Lane Axford Mr Robson
PC Comment Wilts decision	In circulation

**B Finance**                      No report

**Chairman: Ian Ritchie**

**C Rights of way**              Nothing to report

**Chairman: Graeme Fearon**

**D Play Areas and Seats.**

**Chairman: Graeme Fearon**

- a. New equipment for Knowledge Crescent Play Area.** This has now been installed, but one item has not been installed as per the brochure. **Action: S. Glass to contact supplier.** One item needs a safety surface. Sand has been put down as in interim measure.

**E Emergency Committee**

**Chairman: Chris Morgan**

- a. Snow situation.** S. Glass thanked E. Hodgson and J. Peck for their work during the snow. It was stated that the main role of the emergency committee is to co-ordinate help when WC is not coping with a situation. In this case, WC was providing help in the form of 4WDs to get supplies to shops and help to the vulnerable if necessary. **Actions: 1. S. Glass to organise a debrief meeting for the emergency committee. 2. C. Morgan & E. Hodgson to provide a list of wardens' e-mail addresses for future use.**
- b. Wardens ID badges.** **Action: J. Peck to complete the photos.**

**F School Governor.**

**Governor: S. Findlay**

- a. 'Our Great News Space'.** This was formally opened on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> January.
- b. Roll.** There are now 205 children on the roll.
- c. Caretaker.** Bob Foale has now taken over from I. Ritchie.

**G Recreation Centre.** No report  
**H Policy Committee.** Nothing to report

**Chairman: George Hawes**  
**Chairman: Sheila Glass**

**I Sustainable Community Committee**

**Chairman: Ian Ritchie**

**Charity Shop at Hills Stores.** £95 takings plus £25 float was stolen between Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> and Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February. A meeting will be held on March for the next distribution of funds to village organisations.

**Public Forum– Parish Council Standing Orders temporarily suspended for this item**

- a. **Dog mess and parking in the High Street.** Mr. B Tottenham read out proposed text for inclusion in the diary on these two topics covered earlier in the meeting.
- b. **Paving around tree in Square.** Mr B. Tottenham requested that the area be treated with weed killer. S. Glass responded that this will be done when the weather is better
- c. **White Lines.** Mr. G. Ellis said that white lines in the village are ignored. He requested lines at the Chapel Lane junction. S. Glass responded that white lines are only advisory.
- d. **Becoming a councillor.** Mr. G. Ellis asked how one becomes a councillor. S. Glass responded that a vacancy has just arisen and anyone who is interested in becoming a councillor should e-mail [parishcouncillor@ramsbury.org](mailto:parishcouncillor@ramsbury.org) saying why they wish to become a councillor and what skills they can offer to the PC. See also item 6b.
- e. **Use of telephone boxes.** Mr G. Ellis suggested the boxes could be used as a book exchange or internet access point. S. Glass said that BT removed all telephony systems from the boxes before handing them over, and the contract stipulates that other equipment cannot be fitted so the latter would not be possible.
- f. **Grit bins.** Mr G. Ellis said that the public did not understand that they were for residents to use, rather than Highways. S. Glass answered that this was not the PC's experience.
- g. **Cat mess.** Mr G. Ellis said that this was a problem in gardens. It was suggested that deterrent crystals are effective and available from garden centres.
- h. **Public Conveniences.** Mr G. Ellis suggested a pay system to deter vandals.

**9 Axford.**

- a. **The Red Lion.** D. Barnett reported that there were concerns in Axford about the pub's future.

**10 Marlborough Area Board**

- a. **Last Board meeting.** This focussed on youth issues. (See also Item 20) The possibility of running a cinema was discussed, but the board was unaware of the cost of an operation such as The Ramsbury Roxy. It was suggested that the Roxy equipment could be used for an event for young people from outlying villages. **Action: H. Lloyd to contact Ramsbury Youth Club to see if they would like a film.**
- b. **Next Board Meeting.** This will take place on 13/04/10 and is also the AGM.
- c. **Grants.** PCs need matched funds for all applications up to a maximum of £5,000. Other organisation can request grants to cover 100% of expenditure up to a maximum of £1,000. **Action: S. Glass to suggest this as a source of funding to the Allotment Association.**
- d. **MAVCAP.** The next meeting will take place on 16//03/10. PCs may also apply to MAVCAP for grants.
- e. **Questionnaires for School pupils.** MAVCAP has sent questionnaires to schools to find out what facilities young people would like. MAVCAP will supply the PC with the results from Ramsbury pupils. Generally responses focused on the need for better transport, and small shops, plus opportunities for Saturday jobs for older school pupils and jobs for school leavers.

**11 Parish Plan / Statement.**

**Parish Survey.** **Action: Clerk, S. Glass and S. Findlay to check if they have a copy of the last survey's questions to give to H. Lloyd.**

**12 Allotments**

**Sheila Glass**

**Lease.** This has still not been signed. The original term of 15 years with breaks at 5 and 10 years proposed by the PC was not acceptable and the PC is awaiting a response on an amendment that would give the PC an initial 5 year lease renewable annually thereafter for a further 10 years.

**13 Nature Reserve.** Nothing to report .

**Chris Morgan**

**14 Kennet Triangle at 2 Bridges, Mill Lane.** Nothing to report

## 713

**15 Route to Victory.** There are two websites that provide information on the event: The Ramsbury British Legion's site is at <http://www.ramsburylegion.org.uk/RTV.php> , and the organiser's site is [www.routetovictory.co.uk](http://www.routetovictory.co.uk) In addition to the information on those 2 sites, The Ramsbury Roxy will show films relating to the war on the Friday and Saturday evenings.

**16 PC Newsletter Delivery Schedule. Action: G. Hawes to divide into areas for newsletter distribution.**

**17 Walking Maps.** S. Glass is liaising with S. Orton on the updates to the map folder.

**18 Community bus.** Nothing to report

**Chris Morgan**

**19 Youth Involvement**

**Helen Lloyd**

**a. Village Event.** It was agreed to ask MAVCAP for a grant to put on an event in the village for young people. **Action: S. Glass & H. Lloyd to make a grant application for £250. ( See also item 10)**

**b. Transport to Marlborough for Bluez & Zuez. Action: S. Glass & C. Morgan to investigate possibility of using flyer before 25<sup>th</sup> Feb.**

**20 Parish Stewards & Streetscene Cleaning**

This is now operating under the new arrangements whereby stewards identify and carry out necessary work.

**21 Vandalism. 1 Item o see item 7 no 5025.**

**22 Memorial Hall.**

**a. Parish Council meetings.** The heating needs to come on earlier on the evenings when there is no ballet. **Action: S. Glass to request this.**

**b. Bookings.** The trustees are looking at providing an on-line enquiry service for bookings.

**23 Oral History.** 2 new transcripts have been received this month.

**24 Street Lighting.**

**a. The light at junction of Newtown Road with Union Street.** This is not working and has been reported.

**b. Four lights out in the Square.** These were reported in December but have not been repaired. **Action: S. Glass to report again.**

**c. Lights not working.** Lamppost number 53 in Whitehill Close has been reported.

**d.**

**e. List of lamppost locations and numbers. Action: S. Findlay to provide clerk with photocopy of this.**

**25 Public Conveniences.** The PC is investigating locking the toilets overnight. E. Hodgson offered to help with this. **Action. S. Glass to provide E. Hodgson with a key.**

**26 Accounts for Payment**

I1395	WC - Rates on public conveniences (DD1)	72.00		0	No
I1396	British Gas - Electricity for Public Conveniences. (DD2)	35.00		1.75	No
I1397	PlusNet - Broadband Service. (DD4) (17.5% VAT)	9.99		1.49	No
I1398	Thames Water -Water rates for Public Conveniences from Feb 2010 (DD6)	35.89		0	No
I1399	S. Arnold – ink for printer (17.5% VAT)	48.95		7.29	No
I1400	S. Arnold – stamps, day book, envelopes	22.08		0	No
I1401	SEC – Erect & dismantle Christmas tree lights(17.5% VAT)	141.00		21.00	No
I1402	Clear Copying Company Limited – Cannon Photocopier(17.5% VAT)	621.58		92.58	No
I1403	BT – Telephone (DD3)	70.81		10.48	No
I1404	S. Arnold – File dividers for Accounts files	1.58		0	No
I1405	BT Payphones – adoption of 2 phone boxes	2.00		0	No

**Total Payments: £ 1,060.88.** Proposed – D. Barnett, Seconded –H. Lloyd. Approved.

**NB.**

## 714

- a. **Cancelled Payment.** Payment I1394 (£35) to Bedwyn Trains Passenger Group for the delivery of Rail timetable to every house in village with Hungerford & Marlborough Advertiser (approved subject to delivery last month) was cancelled with the agreement of the Bedwyn Trains Passenger Group as the timetables were not delivered to Ramsbury.
- b. **Lost Cheque.** Approval was given for the replacement of a cheque for the value of £702.65 issued to a supplier in October and lost. The original cheque has been cancelled at no cost to the PC.

### 27 Payments Received

R112	Alliance & Leicester. Interest on instant reserve account January 1 <sup>st</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> due for payment 15 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2010	1.84	15/02/10	Direct Transfer	
R113	The Crown & Anchor – Sale of 11 walking maps	38.50	15/02/10	Cash	

**Total payments received: £40.34**

- 28 **Bank Balance on 01/02/10** CURRENT ACCOUNT: - £4,352.45  
on 06/01/10 COMMUNITY RESERVE ACCOUNT - £23,020.25(NB February statement not yet received)

## **DATE OF NEXT MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING**

**MONDAY 15<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2010**

**at 7.45pm in**

**RAMSBURY MEMORIAL HALL**

**ALL PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**YOU WILL BE VERY WELCOME - PLEASE COME**