

RAMSBURY & AXFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 21st February 2005 in Ramsbury Memorial Hall

PRESENT: Mora Abell, Roy Alexander, Steve Cook, Paul Court, Cllr Susan Findlay, Sheila Glass, George Hawes, Fiona Kimber, Chris Morgan, Matthew Tester, Cllr Chris Humphries and 3 members of the public.

The Chairman began by paying tribute to Peter Rapson, a former chairman of Ramsbury Parish Council, who died suddenly on 5th February. She recorded his help to herself and other parish councillors in many ways, and added that he had monitored the tree, measuring its girth annually. She proposed installing a small plaque by the tree acknowledging his contribution to the village. This was unanimously agreed.

- 1 **Apologies for absence:**, Debbie Marshall, Alan Plenderleith, Geoffrey Treherne, Cllr Brian Twigger, and PC Mark Kuklinski,
- 2 **Disclosure of interest:** Roy Alexander Item 17.
- 3 **Comments from the public on revised plans for the Recreation Centre.** None.
- 4 **The minutes of the meeting held on January 17th** were approved with the following changes: page 292 item 7H – delete “*Public conveniences see later action*”.
- 5 **Matters arising:** a) **Energy Saving Campaign.** 100 completed questionnaires have been received so far.
b) **Condition of footpath between Ashley Piece and the Surgery.** The overhanging hedge has been cut back. The lengthsmen cannot do any work on the path as it does not belong to WCC. **Action: Chairman to speak to the Diocese who own the path.**
c) **Light at end of footpath at Ashley Piece.** Defective again. **Action: P. Court to report to Clarence.**

6 **New Correspondence for Discussion:**

1251	23/01/05	Sarah Rissone	Phone call re wheelie bins - Unsuitability for Ramsbury on grounds of practicality and appearance. Waste is the responsibility of Kennet DC. Although wheelie bins are not generally liked, Cllr Findlay pointed out that they may become necessary if more material is not recycled. Cllr Humphries said that where wheelie bins are not feasible, black sacks will still be provided.
1253	23/01/05	North Wessex Downs AONB	Appointment of advisory members to Council of Partners, & presentations. The Parish Council declined to nominate a member Notice of next Forum – 20 th May 2005.
1267	10/02/05	Office of Deputy Prime Minister	Discussion Documents: 1- Citizen Engagement and Public Services, 2- Vibrant Local Leadership. Action: Clerk to put on agenda for March meeting.
1269	10/02/05	WCC	Marlborough Community Area Transport Study Questionnaire – Action. F. Kimber to complete.
1274	10/02/05	CPRE	Calor Best Kept Village Competition, 2005. Ramsbury will not enter the competition this year.
1277	10/02/05	KDC	Cleansing grant for 2005/6 - £200. Action: Councillors are asked to think of ideas for spending grant to motivate people to improve the cleanliness of the village, especially the outer edges.
1284	14/02/05	Environment Agency	Flooding; be prepared – a guide for older people. Copies are available at the meeting. Leaflets will be delivered to those houses that are near the river and potentially vulnerable. Action: S. Glass

7 COMMITTEE REPORTS:**A Planning****Chairman: G. Hawes****Planning Applications returned to KDC since 17 January 2005**

K/51522/TR2 Tree works in Conservation area	Various works to trees in the garden of the property to include: Light pruning of Mulberry, Damson, Willow Leaved Pear and Laburnums. The shaping of a Holly to a conical form by trimming and the crown thinning and reduction by 40% of a Pussy Willow. 1 Back Lane, Ramsbury Mrs C Howard No objection.
K/51510/F Full Planning	Erection of a hobby workshop in front garden Sheiling, Ramsbury Mr T Barrett Comment: The Parish Council is concerned that this is over-development of a very small site.
K/51468/F Full Planning	Amended Plans/Revised details. Change of use of existing rear Utility room to Physiotherapy room. 13 Swans Close, Ramsbury Ms M Gurdon No objection
K/51572/LBC Listed Buildings Consent	Provision of insulation to form secure and temperature controlled store. Barn 1, Elmdown Farm, Ramsbury Mr R Devereux No objection
K/51587/TR2 Tree works in Conservation area	Tree works in front garden to include the reduction in height of a fir tree to about 6 ft. And the reduction in height of a Holly tree to about 8 ft. 34 Oxford Street, Ramsbury Mrs J Hierons No objection

Planning Applications Approved by KDC since 17.1.05

K/51339/CAC	Demolition of Surgery. Ramsbury Surgery, High Street, Ramsbury
K/51440/TR2 Tree works in Conservation Area	Fell and remove 3 Ash trees on boundary wall between 23 and 22 Oxford Street. The Limes, 22 Oxford Street, Ramsbury
K/51449/LBC Listed Buildings Consent	Internal alterations and erection of replacement rear porch. Downside Cottage, High Street, Ramsbury
K/51410/LBC Listed Buildings Consent	Demolish existing rear conservatory. Construct single storey extension. 20 High Street, Ramsbury
K/51372/LBC and K/51361/F	Single storey extension to annex building together with minor alterations to existing building. Whittonditch House, Ramsbury
K/51347/LBC Listed Buildings Consent	Replacement of casement windows and double doors in south elevation and remodelling of gable features. Stone House, Stone Lane, Axford
K/51309/F Full Planning	Pool-house and plant room Harbrook, Ramsbury
K/51384/COL	Use of land adjacent to dwelling house known as Elmdown Farm House as a domestic arboretum (garden) is now legal.
K/51522/TR2 Tree works in Conservation Area	Various works to trees in the garden of the property to include: Light pruning of Mulberry, Damson, Willow Leaved Pear and Laburnums. The shaping of a Holly to a conical form by trimming and the crown thinning and reduction by 40% of a Pussy Willow. 1 Back Lane, Ramsbury

K/51430/F Full Planning	Change of use from Class A1 (Retail) to Class A2 (Financial and Professional services). 7 The Square, Ramsbury
K/51468/F Full Planning	Amended Plans/Revised details. Change of use of existing rear Utility room to Physiotherapy room. 13 Swans Close, Ramsbury

Planning Applications refused by KDC since 17.1.05

K/51337/F Full Planning	Amended designs for 3, 3-bedroom houses at Ramsbury Surgery site.
K/51360/F Full Planning and K/51408/LBC Listed Buildings Consent	Demolition of existing rear conservatory and erection of rear conservatory. 5 Burdett Street, Ramsbury.

Planning Applications in Circulation/Just received

K/51627/TR2 Tree works in Conservation area	The lopping of approx. 12 inches from the top of a row of 24 Lime trees at front of property. The lopping of approx. 12ft from the top of the leylandii at rear of property. 22 Oxford Street, Ramsbury Mrs S Suchopar.
K/51628/F Full Planning	Erection of outbuildings, greenhouse and boat house Howe Mill, Ramsbury Sir Martin Arbib
K/51626/F Full Planning	Single storey bay window to west elevation (river side). Howe Mill, Ramsbury Sir Martin Arbib
K/51312/F Full Planning	Amended plans/Revised details for Ramsbury Recreation Centre.

K/51658/F Part retrospective application for small private golf course at Howe Mill This will be discussed at the full planning meeting to be held on Monday 21st February at 7.45, to which all the Parish Council are invited. John Hounslow, River Kennet warden and Mike Matthew the ARC water engineer will also be asked to attend. **Action: Clerk to inform Mr. Arbib's agent of date of meeting.**

New Houses on surgery site: It was reported that the building seems to be proceeding in accordance with amended plans before these have been approved. **Action: G. Hawes to contact Kennet Planning Dept.**

B Finance

Chairman: Steve Cook

a) No response yet to the application to the Public Works Loans Board for funding a multisports court at the Recreation Centre.

C Rights of way - nothing to report

Chairman: Geoffrey Treherne

D Play Areas and Seats – nothing to report

Chairman: Fiona Kimber

E Emergency Committee

Chairman: Matthew Tester

- a) Replacements have now been found for all wardens who are no longer able to continue.
- b) The updated Emergency Plan has been distributed to the Emergency Committee and 1 copy is in the Parish Council office.
- c) Emergency Generator at Axford – awaiting final work by Tim Pope.

F School Governor

Chairman: Paul Court

The death of Margaret Henderson, Class 1 teacher, following a short illness was reported.

G Recreation Centre

Chairman: Alan Plenderleith

The recreation centre AGM will be held in the Chapter Room of The Bell on Thursday, March 10th. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

H Policy Committee - **nothing to report**

Chairman: S Glass

8 Public Forum - Standing orders suspended for this item

- a) Ben Tottenham referred to protecting and managing wetland in an AONB, in relation to the proposed private golf course work at Howe Mill. He will draw the attention of the work to the AONB and submit comments to the Planning Committee.
- b) Ben Tottenham said the Diary will be carrying a tribute to Peter Rapson from Axford, and a message from Mrs. Rapson
- c) Speaking as president of the Legion, Ben Tottenham said that a celebratory service of the 60th anniversary of VE and VJ day will be held on the afternoon of July 10th, which is midway between the two dates. This would be followed by tea in the Memorial Hall, and Mr. Tottenham asked for the views of the Parish Council on how to involve the young in the celebrations. A film on a war theme was suggested.

Action: Parish Councillors to e-mail suggestions to Chairman or Clerk.

- d) Ben Tottenham reported that he had not yet had an answer from the planning department about the satellite dish on Saxon Forge that is visible on both sides of the road for 50 yds.
- e) Ben Tottenham reported a gully on the road by Howe Mill: **Action Clerk to report it to Clarence.**

9 Axford. Action: G. Hawes. Ask the KDC planning officer to look at the work being undertaken at Riverside House.**10 South West Regional Assembly**

Ed White from KDC has described to the Ramsbury PC Planning Committee the new system for Planning. He advised the Parish Council to prioritise their requirements in order to respond to consultations from the SW Regional Assembly. The chairman expressed concern at powers granted to the South West Regional Assembly under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The Regional Assembly, described by the chairman as a semi-autonomous quango, is based in Taunton and its remit covers from the Scilly Isles to Reading. It consists of 60 people nominated by local authorities, Kennet and Wiltshire having each provided one member. A result of the new organisation is that local plans will cease to exist but the organisation will produce a regional spatial strategy, which involves centring development on urban areas such as Swindon, Taunton and Bournemouth. It was felt that this ignored the needs of rural area in between. Cllr Humphries reported that this approach is being changed.

Action: S. Glass to write to local press expressing concerns.

11 Future of Public Conveniences.

The chairman has written to KDC expressing interest in taking over the public conveniences of Ramsbury.

12 New Mobile Library Routes Action: Clerk to put on agenda for March meeting**13 Allocation of Village of the Year prize money.**

Action: Clerk to put on agenda of March meeting

14 Beating of the Bounds – May 2nd

F. Kimber volunteered to help at the morning stop and M. Abell at the lunch stop. Any other offers to help, please contact S. Glass

Action: Clerk to put on agenda of March meeting.

15 The Amber Bus Project

Approximately 10 people visited the bus in Ramsbury.

16 The Freedom of Information Act

Sue Arnold, as Clerk, is the Freedom of Information Act officer for Ramsbury Parish Council.

17 Nature Reserve

A letter from Wiltshire Wildlife Trust's solicitors confirms the existence of a right of way through the nature reserve, although it had been unknown to the Trust. It is an enduring right of way that is not forfeited through non-use, and runs from the Fire station along the south bank of the leet to Raven House. The area to the east of the Reserve is heavily wooded with mature trees and vehicular movement along the right of way would necessitate felling.

William Charlwood of Raven House has been told informally that the Nature Reserve wishes to plant trees and shrubs along the north boundary of the Reserve but that they would be prepared to give him an alternative right of way along the already cut walkway some 20 ft. south of the current right of way. He indicated informally that this would be satisfactory. This would be most desirable in any event because traffic of vehicles along the bank of the leet would undoubtedly cause serious damage to the bank for which the user would be liable.

In accordance with the legal advice obtained, the meeting agreed that the trust should offer the alternative right of way to William Charlwood and for this to rest on correspondence in order to avoid

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the delay and expense of formal proceedings. **Action: R. Alexander to write to Wiltshire Wildlife trust asking them to formally offer the alternate right of way to Mr Charlwood.**

18 Flix in the Stix

a) It is aimed to have a trial run on March 11th, hopefully as a precursor to regular film events in the village. It is hoped that the film will be either My Big Fat Greek Wedding or Chicago. Ticket price will be £3.50 in advance or £4.00 on the night, and there will be a bar. The event is to be known as The Ramsbury Roxy. **Action: Clerk to give text publicising the event to the School for their newsletter.**

b) M. Abell reported that the Riverside Project funded via a government grant have offered to do a one-off screening in Ramsbury of a film released in the previous 6 weeks. The meeting declined the offer at present, but can review this after the trial.

19 The Square

KDC have been consulted regarding the proposal for a reinforced grass surface around the tree. They had no objection, but specified the kerbing should be of natural stone. G. Rissone is currently looking for manufacturers of the plastic material that grass grows through.

20 Police Surgery

Police surgeries will take place on the following dates: Thurs March 17th, Wed April 27th, and Thurs May 26th, all at 11.00 - 12.00.

Crime figures for January 16th - February 16th : Crimes reported in Ramsbury & Chilton Foliat Parish areas - three thefts and criminal damage to a car. Total Police calls to the police from members of the public: 36, including 8 Road traffic collisions, 4 suspicious incidents/sightings, 5 false alarm calls, 2 welfare concerns, 3 calls for animals in the road, 2 neighbourly disputes, a domestic and report of an unexploded bomb!

P. Court said that there have been 7 accidents recently on a stretch of Manor Hill.

Action: Clerk to write to WCC asking them to address this accident black spot urgently.

Parish Councillor G. Rissone was one of those involved in an accident at Manor Hill and wished to record that the conduct, efficiency and care of the police who attended the accident had been outstanding.

21 Textile Bank.

Action: S. Glass to request one for recycling area.

22 Retirement of Postman

There will be a retirement presentation to Mick Loney on 1st March at 7.30 at The Crown & Anchor.

A card to be presented from the Parish Council was circulated for signatures.

23 Oral History

The preparation work is now well under way and interviewing is scheduled to start in April.

24 Accounts for Payment – proposed by G. Rissone and seconded by S. Cook

1709	Roy Alexander - Mileage to Buckingham Nursery to purchase trees & Shrubs (110 miles @40p per mile	44.00		0	No
I710	SEC – Erect & Dismantle Christmas Lights	444.15		66.15	No
I711	Splash fund (Police-run activities for children in Summer holidays)	25.00		0	Yes
I712	BT Bill	58.18		8.66	No
I713	Sue Arnold – office supplies (paper, disks, Norton System Works)	31.18		3.13	No
I714	Martin Copeland-Green – repairs to large photocopier in PC Office	108.10		16.10	No
I715	Sheila Glass – Shelf unit & fan heater for PC office, Rail tickets for self & F. Kimber for Village of the Year award in London, drinks licence for Flix in the Stix, Registration with Filmbank for Flix in the Stix.	159.63		2.74	No

Total Paid = £870.54

PAYMENTS RECEIVED

R16	Calor Gas Ltd (village of year prize money)	500.00	31/01/05	Cheque	
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Total Received = £500.00

25 BANK BALANCE ON 4/1/04: CURRENT ACCOUNT £4,736.87

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DEPOSIT ACCOUNT £15,699.34

(£5000 transferred from deposit to current account this month)

26 OTHER CORRESPONDENCE - as listed below:

1250	23/01/05	WCC	Wiltshire & Swindon External Funding Network. Given to Sheila
1252	23/01/05	CPRE	Benefits to council of membership (Ramsbury is already a member).
1254	23/01/05	Glasdon	Street furniture Catalogue
1255	31/01/05	Thames Water	Increase in 40% in water consumption in public convenience. Sent in error. Requested copy to be sent to KDC
1256	31/01/05	The Countryside Agency	Criteria for reviewing boundaries of AONB. Given to R. Alexander
1257	31/01/05	Marlborough Community Area Members' Forum	Agenda for meeting 17 th Feb. (Sheila has separate copy)
1258	31/01/05	South East Regional Assembly	The South East Plan. On shelf in Office
1259	31/01/05	SSE Power Distribution	Re yellow danger signs on electricity poles. They have to be yellow (not green as council requested) to conform to Electricity Safety Regulations no 2665, schedule 1.
1260	31/01/05	KDC Planning Services	Re letter sent my G Rissone. 2 copies, 1 given to G. Rissone
1261	31/01/05	Calor Village of Year Competition	Feedback form
1262	31/01/05	Reaching women in Rural Communities – help line poster	Put on noticeboard
1263	10/02/05	Cllr Chris Humphries	WCC Press release – consultation on public transport in Marlborough. Given to S. Glass & copies for noticeboards
1264	10/02/05	Mark Smith , KCC	By e-mail – acknowledgement of comments sent by S. Glass on Public Conveniences
1265	10/02/05	WCC	External funding newsletter (by e-mail). Includes info on grants available for local arts, recycling, environment, trees and info on new licensing laws. Copies available by e-mail. Also funding workshop – 5/04/2005, in Devizes.
1266	10/02/05	V. Kimber KDC	Replacement of can bin at surgery with larger one.
1268	10/02/05	WALC	Newsletter. 1copy given to S. Glass, one in Office.
1270	10/02/05	Alun Michael, DEFRA	Outline of measures in Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Bill – given to S. Glass
1271	10/02/05	Alliance & Leicester	Business Deposit Account Statement - £15,699.34
1272	10/02/05	Alliance & Leicester	Current Account Statement - £4,736.87
1273	10/02/05	Alliance & Leicester	Withdrawal of free post service for paying cheques into account.
1275	10/02/05	CPRE – Wilts	Fundraising visit to Longford Ca & South West Regional Government – Swindon Council's consultation. Given to S. Glass
1276	10/02/05	KDC	Easter Waste Collection Schedule. Copies put on noticeboards, and given to diary & parish mag.
1278	10/02/05	John Lye, Ramsbury British Legion	Re Annual Village Meeting – President of RBL will speak and B. Tottenham will e-mail a report.
1279	10/02/05	Marlborough Community Area Members' Forum	Meeting 17 th Feb – further details of agenda items. Given to S. Glass
1280	10/02/05	Jeffery Charles Emmett	On Behalf of Mr Arbib, Howe Mill – plans for private golf course. Given to G. Hawes.
1281	10/02/05	Wilts Wildlife Trust	Right of way through Nature Reserve
1282	14/02/05	WCC	Marlborough Community Area Transport Strategy & questionnaire. Given to S. Glass
1283	14/02/05	Marie Curie Cancer Care	Application for Financial Assistance

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1284	14/02/05	Environment Agency	Flooding: Be prepared – a guide for older people. 1 copy to S. Glass – further copies available at meeting.
1285	14/02/05	KDC	Statement of Community Involvement, feedback form and supporting documents. Given to S. Glass
1286	14/02/05	Calor	Electronic Copy of Village of the Year feedback form. (S. Glass has copy)
1287	14/02/05	Cllr C. Humphries	Copy of KDC press release: New Building Regulations – Electrical Safety

**DATE OF NEXT MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING –MONDAY March 21st 2005 at
7.45pm Ramsbury Memorial Hall**

COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC