

## **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)

**477**

### MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY JUNE 18<sup>th</sup> 2007 in Ramsbury Memorial Hall

PRESENT: Paul Court, Graeme Fearon, Cllr. Sheila Glass (Chairman), George Hawes, Chris Morgan, Geoffrey Rissone, Ian Ritchie, Geoffrey Treherne, Sue Arnold (Parish Clerk), and 4 members of the public.

- 1 Apologies for absence for approval:** Susan Findlay, Tim McQue, Geoff Treherne. **Approved.** Belated apologies – Diann Barnett. Apologies were also received from Cllr. Brian Twigger.
- 2 Disclosure of interest: Item 6 – P. Court**
- 3 The minutes of the meeting held on May 21<sup>st</sup>** were approved unanimously (Proposed – G. Hawes, Seconded – C. Morgan)
- 4 Matters arising:**
  - a. Parish Plans.** As no information has yet been received, it was agreed to defer this until the next meeting. **Action: Clerk to put Parish Plans on July agenda.**
  - b. Wiltshire's bid for unitary authority status.** The Parish Council agreed to support KDC's opposition to this. **Action: Chairman to write to Unitary Structures Consultation team saying that the PC does not think WCC's financial analysis is valid and supporting the status quo with improved co-operation between district councils especially in the procurement area.**

#### **5 NEW CORRESPONDENCE FOR DISCUSSION**

2537	04/06/07	Community First	Community Champions – Climate Change – forwarded to I. Ritchie
2540	04/06/07	B. Tottenham	Observations on PC Meeting 21 <sup>st</sup> May. S. Glass has responded
2550	04/06/07	S. Judge	Phone Call asking if PC /Wilts Wildlife trust could buy piece of amenity woodland for sale by 2 bridges, Mill Lane. Price is offers over £35K. See item 7
2553	18/06/07	<u>WCC</u>	Post office Closures – Govt's proposals and petition. Given to S. Glass. Further petition in Post Office. <b>Actions: 1. S. Glass to collect and send in time to meet 29<sup>th</sup> June deadline. 2. Clerk to suggest post office displays a poster in the window inviting people to sign petition.</b>
2554	18/06/07	<u>Erica Hodgson</u>	Letter expressing interest in being co-opted as parish Councillor. Given to S. Glass. See item 12.
2560	18/06/07	<u>BT</u>	Must change to Direct Debit or Monthly Payment plan to avoid charges of £1.50 per month. Given to S. Glass. <b>Action: Clerk to authorise direct debit.</b>
2563	18/06/07	<u>S. Judge</u>	Ramsbury Amenity Woodland for sale by 2 bridges, Mill Lane. Given to S. Glass. See item 7
2565	18/06/07	<u>KDC</u>	Arrangements for advertising adoption of model code of conduct as required by law. See item 11.
2569	18/06/07	<u>Joan Davies Marlborough Area Forum</u>	Closure of parts of Savernake hospital. <b>Action: Councillors and residents are asked to write to PCT giving their views.</b>

#### **6 COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### **A Planning**

**Chairman: George Hawes**

##### **Planning Applications Processed since May Report**

K/56577/F	Renewal of planning permission K/43266 for alterations to farm building to form a dwelling. Coombe Farm, Axford. J .S. Burrows
PC Comment	No objection
KDC Decision	Awaited

## 478

K/56672/LBC	Internal alterations to ground and first floors and provision of new double doors to front elevation Dairy Cottage, Stone Lane Axford Mr and Mrs Young
PC Comment KDC Decision	No objection Awaited
K/56444/F	Installation of 2 dormers to roof. 2 no conservation style roof lights to house and 1 no conservation roof light to annex. Hilldrop Corner, Hilldrop Lane Ramsbury. Mr and Mrs S Scupham
PC Comment KDC Decision	No objection Granted
K/56467/F	Rear two storey extension 14 Oxford Street, Ramsbury. Mr and Mrs Nandha
PC Comment KDC Decision	The Parish Council strongly supports this application and welcomes the investment in the village infrastructure/facilities Granted
K/56684/F	Single storey conservatory extension to existing bungalow Bridge Farm Bungalow, Elmdown, Ramsbury Mr C S E Persson
PC Comment KDC Decision	In circulation Awaited
K/55483/LBC	Internal alterations, refurbishment & re-servicing. Window enlargement to rear. 81, High Street, Ramsbury. H. J. Hyams
PC Comment KDC Decision	No objection Awaited
K/56489/LBC	Internal alterations to create a games room, new staircase and reorganise the first floor accommodation. Axford House, Stone Lane, Axford. Mr and Mrs Young
PC Comment KDC Decision	No objection Awaited
K/56691/F	Replacement dwelling and garage with associated landscaping including change of use of land to incorporate formation of new access and driveway Witcha House, Witcha, Ramsbury. Chapters Property
PC Comment KDC Decision	In circulation Awaited
K/56725/F	Demolition of existing conservatory and single storey extension and construction of two storey extension Rachael's Cottage, Harbrook, Ramsbury. Mr and Mrs M Evans
PC Comment KDC Decision	In circulation Awaited
K/56705/F	Conversion of double garage to studio/workroom Lavender Grove, 9 Back Lane, Ramsbury. Mr R Trimbo
PC Comment KDC Decision	In circulation Awaited
K/56678/F	Dwelling house on land adjacent to Penllyn, Whittonditch Road, Ramsbury. Mr and Mrs S Hawes
PC Comment KDC Decision	In circulation Awaited
K/56365/ADV	Display of visitor information board. The Square, Ramsbury. Ramsbury Amenity Group.
PC Comment KDC Decision	No objection Granted [advertisement consent]

Notes to report. K/56678/F The chairman of the planning committee took no part in the consideration of this application as the applicant is his son.

### B Finance

**Chairman: Ian Ritchie**

- a. Annual Accounts.** The Internal auditor has reported on the accounts, including helpful suggestions regarding the recording of direct debits. The accounts, which include the governance statement were

approved, and are now ready to submit to the External auditor. S. Arnold was thanked for her work in the accounts. **Actions: 1. Clerk & Chairman to submit accounts to the external auditors. 2. I. Ritchie to provide a gift for the internal auditor.**

- b. Responsible Officer.** The Finance Committee recommended that the clerk be appointed responsible finance officer. **Proposed - I. Ritchie, Seconded - G. Hawes. All in favour- agreed.**
- c. Cheque Signatories.** I. Ritchie and C. Morgan to be added to the list of signatories. **Action: Clerk to get forms.**
- d. Spending Limits.** The Finance Committee recommended that spending power of the chairman of the Parish Council be raised from £250 to £500, within the terms of the Standing Orders. **Agreed.**
- e. Office Computer.** The finance Committee is sympathetic to a review of current Parish Council hardware and software. **Action: Clerk to specify requirements.**
- f. The Roxy** is now financially strong and will become an independent body, not a sub-group of the Parish Council. The Parish Council will transfer surplus Roxy funds left from the purchase of the projector and screen back to the Roxy, but this equipment will remain the property of the Parish Council, available to other organisations for a modest charge. Should the Roxy fold, its remaining funds will be transferred back to the Parish Council.
- g. Grants.** At the Finance Committee meeting, grants on this month's payments list were approved (see Item 24). Future grants will be granted only to organisations that send a representative to the Annual Assembly to account for their activities and which provide information to the village website. In future, grant cheques will be distributed at the Annual Assembly.

#### C Rights of way

**Chairman: Graeme Fearon**

- a. Hoppers Lane.** Following a complaint G. Trherene has reported the low branches and brambles impeding the footpath to the footpath officer.
- b. Footpaths.** G. Fearon reported that many Rights of Way in and around Ramsbury (e.g. Swans Bottom to Loves Lane) were impassable. This was mainly due to the wet weather so no action will be taken at present.
- c. Newtown Road.** Hedges are protruding into the road. **Action: Chairman to contact Sir Seton Wills.**
- d. End of High Street.** There are overgrown shrubs also impeding the road. **Action: Clerk to contact owners.**
- e. Boundary Walk review.** It was suggested that the day of the Boundary walk be changed from the Monday to the Sunday of the May Bank Holiday weekend. Many parents work and children are tired at school the following day and a Sunday walk would leave time for recovery. It would also avoid the clash with the Ramsbury Golf Club event, and bring it into line with the tradition of beating Parish Bounds on a Sunday. **Action: I. Ritchie to advertise in the Parish Mag. and Diary the intention of holding the walk on a Sunday as a trial next year.**
- f. Cycle Track.** The track from Axford to Marlborough has an awkward section in the middle from the Priory. **Actions: I. Ritchie to give Sustrans e-mail address to Clerk .2. Clerk to apply to Sustrans for help in installing grading on this section.**

#### D Play Areas and Seats.

**Chairman: Paul Court**

**Graffiti on Ashley Piece play equipment** cannot be removed so re-painting is necessary. No response yet from Probation Service Community Payback Scheme who were approached to do this. **Action: S. Glass to forward email sent to them to G. Findlay who will chase it up.**

#### E Emergency Committee

**Chairman: Chris Morgan**

- a. The Emergency Plan.** Work is progressing on the update.
- b. Fuel funnels.** C. Morgan has provided a fuel funnel for the generator.

#### F School Governor

**Governor: Tim McQue**

- a. A parents' evening** was held on 5th June at the school combined with the AGM of the PTA - which appealed for new members. The new Head Teacher designate Joanna Price attended.
- b. Traffic congestion and safety.** A reminder was made at the parents' evening for parents or carers to walk to school if possible. Drivers should not park in the School car park (or Isles Road or Back Lane in the immediate vicinity of the school) but use The Bell car park and other suitable car parking facilities away from the school.
- c. Vacancy for Midday Supervisory Assistant.** There is a vacancy for a lunchtime helper for Monday, Wednesday and Friday starting from the 18<sup>th</sup> of June. Duties are for one hour per day and include

- d. supervising the children whilst they are playing outside and also helping to supervise the hot meal service in the hall. The rate of pay is £10 per hour. If you would be interested in applying then please contact the
- e. school office. Please note that any successful applicant would need to undertake the necessary police checks to comply with child protection procedures.
- f. **Farewell party for Headteacher Richard Colley.** This will be held at the School on Friday 20 July. The event is heavily oversubscribed and is by invitation only. Anybody wishing to Contribute should contact the School office.
- g. **New school brochure and website** are now available. For the website see: [www.ramsburyschool.org](http://www.ramsburyschool.org)

**G Recreation Centre.** Nothing to report  
**H Policy Committee** Nothing to report.

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

**7 Public Forum - Standing orders suspended for this item.**

**Land for sale near 2 bridges at Mill Lane.** S. Judge said that it had come to her attention that 0.4 acres of land near 2 bridges at Mill Lane was for sale, the agent being Woolley & Wallis. Since then a petition had shown there was significant interest in purchasing the land for the village, the concern being that if it went into private ownership, it might be fenced off. Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and ARK had been approached with the latter being particularly supportive. The land is in the SSSI and Peter Marren, a naturalist, has produced an in-depth report indicating the considerable environmental interest of the land. The asking price for the land is 'offers over £35K', and although the land does not include fishing rights the agent has had interest from several quarters. One firm offer of well under the asking price has been made which would leave the land exactly as it is now. Additionally, a local resident has expressed an interest in buying the land and keeping access as at present, or buying it to sell to the parish Council should they be able to raise the funds. The council considered this a very generous offer, and felt that ownership of the land by the Parish Council or ARK would be the best option to guarantee it to the village in perpetuity.

**Actions: 1. Clerk to get address of Mrs Burdett Fisher Chairman. 2. Clerk to write to Mrs Burdett Fisher explaining that they would like to acquire the land at an affordable price and forward a copy to Peter Marren**

- 2. Chairman / Clerk to contact agent and declare an interest in acquiring the land**
- 3. G. Findlay to pursue the situation with the anonymous donor via ARK**
- 4. P. Court to get an independent valuation from Kidson Trigg**
- 5. Clerk to organise a meeting for Monday 25th with this issue as the only item on the agenda**
- 6. Clerk to book Memorial Hall for meeting.**

Sylvia Judge was thanked for the hard work she had put in, galvanising interest and preparing the presentation of the case to the Parish Council.

**8 Axford** No report

**Geoff Treherne**

**9 Nature Reserve.** No report

**Chris Morgan**

The first cut could not be completed as the centre of the reserve was too boggy. A further attempt will be made when the weather is dry enough.

**10 Square refurbishment.**

**Geoff Rissone**

The method statement from the contractor is still awaited.

**11 Model Code of Conduct**

- a. Paragraph 12.2 relates to councillors declaring an interest in an item for discussion. It gives them the same rights as members of the public, in that they can attend and speak but not vote. S. Glass proposed adoption of the new code of conduct, including paragraph 12.2, seconded by I. Ritchie and unanimously agreed.
- b. There is a requirement to advertise the adoption of the Code of Conduct in a locally circulated newspaper. KDC has offered to incorporate Parish Council's notices with its own to save cost. **Action: S. Glass to accept their offer.**

**12 Co-option of Councillors**

The Parish Council agreed to co-opt Mrs Hodgson. **Action: Clerk to start co-option process.**

**13 Public Conveniences.**

**Cleaning.** No response has yet been received to the Parish Council's request for a copy of the contract.

**14 Ravensbury Players premises**

Defer to next meeting. **Action: Clerk to put on July agenda.**

**15 Parish Stewards Visit**

**Actions: 1. Clerk to add strimming weeds on Scholard's Lane, and the front bank of Knapp, plus removal of weeds in gutters to list. 2. Clerk to report pothole at bottom of Union Street and detritus from storm on Hilldrop Lane as far as Scout Hut to Clarence**

**16 Police Information Box. Actions: G. Hawes to check box as currently it is not possible to secure it.**

**17 Vandalism.** None reported.

**18 Police Surgery. Action: Clerk to get a guaranteed date for a police surgery in August.**

**19 Memorial Hall.** The Memorial Hall's offer to buy offices adjacent to the hall has been accepted. The Parish Council is the custodian trustee of the hall, (with no responsibility for maintenance), but as such members of the Parish Council have to sign the legal documents related to the mortgage and sale. S. Glass proposed that she and G. Fearon, the 2 Parish Council hall trustees, should be nominated, seconded by I. Ritchie and unanimously approved. It is the intention of the Memorial Hall trustees to let the offices to generate income to cover the mortgage.

**20 Best Kept Village / Village of the Year Competition.** Nothing to report.

**21 The Youth Club.** Numbers remain buoyant.

**22 The Ramsbury Roxy**

**Programme.** The next screening will be *Little Miss Sunshine* on July 20<sup>th</sup> in association with the Hungerford Arts festival.

**23 Oral History.**

Jewel cases designed for minidisks have been purchased to hold the master recordings.

**24 Accounts for Payment**

I997	Sheila Glass – Refreshments for Boundary Walk	30.14		0	No
I998	S. Arnold – stamps for office	5.80		0	No
I999	The Cobblers Shop – Boundary Walk medals, ribbons and engraving.	20.00		2.98	No
I1000	G. Treherne - Boundary walk – refreshments & certificates	35.03		2.64	No
I1001	Dharma Gardening Services – Gardening & Plants	52.00		0	No
I1002	Cricket Club – grant	150.00		0	Yes
I1003	Silver Band - grant	100.00		0	Yes
I1004	Ramsbury School	150.00		0	Yes
I1005	KDC – Rates for Public Conveniences – Direct debit due 1/07/07	66.00		0	No
I1006	British Gas – Electricity for Public Conveniences - direct debit due 28/05/07	45.00		0	No
I1007	Return to Roxy of funds donated for purchase of projector above actual cost. Donation was £7000; cost (inc VAT) was £6495.40. Amount to be returned = £504.60)	504.60		0	No
I1008	Sue Arnold – Jewel Cases for storing master minidisks of interviews	59.61		8.88	No
I1009	Sue Arnold – Postage stamps and envelopes	8.94		0	No

I1010	KDC – Cleaning of public conveniences March, April & May	1,236.95		184.22	No
-------	--	----------	--	--------	----

**Total late payments = ££2,446.07. Proposed – P. Court, seconded G. Hawes. Approved**

**Replacement Cheque** – the cheque for the following payment paid at the April meeting was mislaid by the recipient's bank and is being re-issued. The original Cheque has been stopped at no cost to the Parish Council:

I976	MBC Badge Co - Badges for Boundary Walk Participants	270.25		40.25	No
------	--	--------	--	-------	----

## 25 Payments Received

R42	Fiona Kimber – Reimbursement for surplus refreshments for Boundary Walk	7.50		Cheque	
R43	KDC – Litter Grant	200.00	18/06/07	Cheque	

**Total Payments Received = £207.50**

**26 Bank Balance on 01/05/07** CURRENT ACCOUNT -£13,848.69  
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT - £22,590.41

## 27 OTHER CORRESPONDENCE - as listed below:

2535	04/06/07	Cllr Twigger	Planning application for 81m wind turbine at Baydon Meadow. Circulated to Planning Committee
2536	04/06/07	Community First	Course for new councillors on June 2 <sup>nd</sup> full – will inform us if a further course takes place.
2538	04/06/07	Community First	Acknowledgement of membership – files with payment voucher
2539	04/06/07	Ms T Chant	Thanks for info sent in response to her family history query
2541	04/06/07	T. Howles, KDC	Thanks for invitation to speak at May 21 <sup>st</sup> PC meeting
2542	04/06/07	Wilts Wildlife Trust	Invitation to conference on public bodies and biodiversity in Wilts. Passed to I. Ritchie
2543	04/06/07	KDC	Updates to Year Book – chairman and clerk's details. Responded
2544	04/06/07	West Berks Council	Notice of planning application for 81m wind turbine at Baydon Meadow. Given to G. Hawes
2545	04/06/07	CPRE	Fieldwork mag & enclosure. Given to I. Ritchie
2456	04/06/07	Planning Inspectorate	Appeal Decision – planning application re Soley Farm Stud Chilton Foliat – dismissed. Given to G. Hawes
2547	04/06/07	West Berks Council	Notice of planning application for 81m wind turbine at Baydon Meadow. Given to G. Hawes
2548	04/06/07	Age Concern	Invitation to event at Truslowe Manor Avebury (intended for chairman, addressed to Cllr S. Arnold). Given to S. Glass
2549	04/06/07	A. Gibbs	Poster for Open Garden in aid of Save the Children. On notice board
2551	06/06/07	Alliance and Leicester	Deposit Account Statement. Balance £22,590.41
2552	06/06/07	Alliance and Leicester	Current Account Statement. Balance £13,848.69
2552	06/06/07	Standards Board for England	10 copies of the revised Members' Code of Conduct- Guide & Pocket Guide circulated
2555	18/06/07	<u>Victim Support Wiltshire</u>	Annual review 2005-6
2556	18/06/07	<u>West Berks Council</u>	West Berks Freight Route Network Consultation
2557	18/06/07	<u>Glasdon</u>	Street Furniture brochure
2558	18/06/07	<u>Planning Inspectorate</u>	Appeal Decision re 4 appeals relating to Riverside House Axford. Given to G. Hawes
2559	18/06/07	<u>KDC</u>	Proposed Street Closure Order – Ramsbury Street Fair, 30 <sup>th</sup> June
2561	18/06/07	<u>KDC</u>	Anti-litter campaign poster.
2562	18/06/07	<u>WALC</u>	Newsletter and enclosures. Given to S. Glass
2564	18/06/07	<u>WCC</u>	Parish Steward Programme Summer 2007. Given to S. Glass

## 483

2566	18/06/07	<u>Sarsen</u>	Acknowledgement of Request to put seat on Swans Close green Decision expected within 10 working days.
2567	18/06/07	<u>Countryside Alliance</u>	Fly-tipping campaign and consultation. By e-mail. Forwarded to S. Glass
2568	18/06/07	<u>Brian Twigger</u>	Copy of response to Baydon Wind Turbine application. Forwarded to S. Glass & G. Hawes
2570	18/06/07	<u>Brian Twigger</u>	Planned attendances at PC meetings
2571	18/06/07	<u>Brian Twigger</u>	Invitation to Conservative Party Summer Lunch, Harbrook, Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> July
2572	18/06/07	<u>Michael Ancram</u>	Acknowledgement of e-mail regarding exemption of MPs from Freedom of Information Act
2573	18/06/07	<u>D. Lewis</u>	Family history query. Responded
2574	18/06/07	<u>D. MacQuarrie</u>	Family history query. Responded
2575	18/06/07	<u>B. Tottenham</u>	Copy of letter to West Berks Planning Dept re Baydon Wind Turbine application
2576	18/06/07	<u>WCC</u>	Wiltshire News via e-mail. Forwarded to Councillors
2577	18/06/07	<u>WCC</u>	Snap survey of Wiltshire News. Forwarded to all councillors
2578	18/06/07	<u>British Gas</u>	Monthly statement (£53.88) – paid by direct debit.

**DATE OF NEXT MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING –MONDAY JULY 16<sup>th</sup> 2007  
7.45pm**

**IN RAMSBURY MEMORIAL HALL**

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

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