

RAMSBURY & AXFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY SEPTEMBER 17th 2007 in Ramsbury Memorial Hall

PRESENT: Paul Court, Diann Barnett, Graeme Fearon, Cllr. Susan Findlay, Sheila Glass (Chairman), George Hawes, Erica Hodgson, Tim McQue, Geoffrey Rissone, Ian Ritchie, Geoff Treherne. Cllr Humphries and 3 members of the public.

New Head of Ramsbury School

Prior to the meeting, members of the PC had the opportunity of meeting the new Head of Ramsbury School, Joanna Price. She then addressed the Council for a few minutes about her plans for the school. She identified a number of projects that she felt would bring the school and local community closer together. She asked for help from anyone who could assist with such projects. In return she said the school would try to help wherever it could to develop stronger community links but requested as much notice as possible of forthcoming events to allow for organisation within the teachers' planning. It was agreed that she would go on the email distribution list for the PC minutes. **Action: Clerk to add Ms. Price to distribution list.**

- 1 **Apologies for absence for approval:** Chris Morgan, Approved.
- 2 **Disclosure of interest:** None
- 3 **The minutes of the meeting held on August 20th** were approved unanimously. (Proposed – G. Hawes, Seconded – I. Ritchie)
- 4 **Matters arising:**
 - a. **Ramsbury Players' storage facility.** The Ramsbury Players are prepared to feather edge board the building and also are contemplating a pitched roof. Paul Court said that the Bridge Farm bungalow could be used to take a photograph of a similar construction to show to KDC Planning.
 - b. **Ramsbury Players' Assets.** Ramsbury Players are drawing up a new constitution and are asking if the PC would be prepared to take over any surplus funds from them in the event of them ceasing to operate. In principle this was agreed but there were concerns expressed that such an agreement would have to make it clear that the PC would not be responsible for any liabilities. **Action: S. Glass to contact Ramsbury Players.**
 - c. **Route to Victory Event.** S. Glass has been contacted by Keith Brigstock about a proposed 'Route to Victory' event based from Ramsbury on 3/4/5 May 2008. There was general support for this, providing issues such as car parking can be resolved satisfactorily.
 - d. **Closure of Savernake Minor Injuries Unit.** Janet Louth had asked for support for the vigil to be held at the Savernake Minor Injuries Unit. Anyone interested was encouraged to contact her.
 - e. **Closure of Froxfield Road.** The road is to be closed from 1st to 3rd October.

5 NEW CORRESPONDENCE FOR DISCUSSION

2673	28/08/07	Mr. A. Fitton	Work on no 1 The Square should start in the next 6 weeks
2682	03/09/07	WCC	One Council for Wilts – Parish Meet and Greet. Nearest session is Marlborough Town Hall Tues 30 th Oct, 6.30pm. 2 representatives max per parish. Given to S. Glass. Action: S. Glass and D. Barnett to attend.
2683	03/09/07	Marlborough Community Area Members' Forum	Meeting Thurs 27 th Sept 7.15, Marlborough Town hall, focussing on impact of unitary authority status. Given to S. Glass. Action: S. Findlay to represent the PC
2693	10/09/07	Mr. K. Dennis	Painting of concrete posts as well as railings on the Knap. S. Glass explained the sequence of events. No further action needed
2701	10/09/07	WCC	Parish newsletter and invitation to meeting to influence how WCC budget is spent – Thurs 8 th November, Marlborough own Hall. (Circulated to all councillors by e-mail). Action: D. Barnett to attend the Devizes event
2704	10/09/07	PC Batchelor	Response to mail suggesting police surgeries are discontinued. He will sort out Police info box and produce poster for notice board.

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2709	10/09/07	Swindon & Marlborough NHS Trust	Invitation to AGM, Tues 25 th September, 6.00 Lecture Hall 1, The Academy, GWH. Given to S. Glass. Nobody is available to attend
2714	13/09/07	WCC	Copy of letter sent to Mr K. Dennis in response to his letter regarding painting of posts on the Knap. Given to S. Glass
2715	13/09/07	Swindon & Marlborough NHS Trust	Requesting Feedback on Trust's plans for foundation status. Given to S. Glass

6 COMMITTEE REPORTS

A Planning

Chairman: George Hawes

Planning Applications Processed since August Report

K/56979/LBC	Insertion of one velux roof light into modern extension The Maltings 3 Back Lane Ramsbury. Mr R Whimster
PC Comment KDC Decision	No objection Granted
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 Granted
K/57278/F	Replace boundary fence with brick wall Whitton Hill, Whittonditch Road, Ramsbury. Mr and Mrs Kenneth
PC Comment KDC Decision	In circulation Awaited
K/57302/F	Replacement Porch. Retrospective application Kennet Mews Cottage, High Street, Ramsbury. Mr. L. Hogan
PC Comment KDC Decision	In circulation Awaited
K/56980/F	Minor alterations to proposals approved under K/54910/F-Garage size altered and height reduced, House re-sited 0.5m to north east Land adjoining 1 Ashley Piece, Ramsbury. Mr and Mrs Hicklin
PC Comment KDC Decision	No objection Awaited
K/57014/LBC	Alterations to nos. 85 and 87 to facilitate conversion to single dwelling house. 85/87 High Street Ramsbury. Mrs C Tellwright
PC Comment KDC Decision	No objection Granted
K/56874/F	Two storey side extension to form additional sitting room to ground floor with bedroom over. Whitton House Whittonditch Lane, Ramsbury. Mrs K Hardwick
PC Comments KDC Decision	No objection Granted
K/57097/TR2	Works to a sycamore tree in the garden of the property to comprise: a 20% reduction to good growth points and crown thinning by a similar amount, maintaining the natural form of the tree. 3 Back Lane Ramsbury. Mrs S Whimster
PC Comment KDC Decision	No objection Granted
K/57078/F	Erection of a conservatory 24 Hilldrop Close Ramsbury. Mrs E Titchener
PC Comment KDC Decision	No objection Granted
K/57120/F	Retention of refurbishment works to existing agricultural outbuilding Preston Farm Preston Ramsbury. Mr G Major

PC Comment	No objection to proposed works. Object to the retrospective nature of the application
KDC Decision	Awaited
K/57144/F and K/57183/LBC	New Oak Framed Garden Room Old Smithy Cottage Whittonditch Road Ramsbury. Mr T Derrick
PC Comment	No objection
KDC Decision	Awaited

B Finance**Chairman: Ian Ritchie**

- a. New Budget.** I. Ritchie distributed copies of the draft budget for 2008/9 and explained that the format has been changed from previous years. He drew attention to the main changes. It was noted that KDC have identified some money for community projects and it was felt that the Parish Council should apply to them for funding of the proposed works on Manor Footpath, fencing for the play area at Knowledge Crescent and the cycle track to Marlborough. **Action: All councillors to email any comments they may have to I. Ritchie & S. Glass.**
- b. Portman Building Society Account.** The change from a share account to a deposit account has been made. **Action: Clerk to organise change of address so correspondence for this account will go to PC Office.**
- c. New signatories to Alliance & Leicester accounts.** The new signatories on the Alliance and Leicester accounts have been added.

C Rights of way**Chairman: Graeme Fearon**

- a. Cycle Route to Marlborough.** I. Ritchie reported that Sustrans are unlikely to be able to offer any help with funding the proposed Marlborough cycle track. However, the North Wessex Downs AONB has indicated interest. The cost is likely to be circa £10k. **Actions: I. Ritchie to seek funding from KDC (see item 6B.a) and apply to North Wessex Downs AONB.**
- b. The Fence at Bolstridge Farm.** This has still to be fixed.
- c. Crops Growing on footpaths.** Concerns have been raised about the growing of crops on footpaths. It was suggested that early season walks could be held on these routes each year to establish the line of the footpaths.
- d. Footpath 21.** There are several trees across the path. **Action: Clerk to contact Crowood Estate.**
- e. Manor Footpath.** **Action: S. Glass to seek funding from KDC (see item 6B.a)**

D Play Areas and Seats.**Chairman: Paul Court**

- a. Painting play equipment.** The play equipment is to be painted under the Community Service scheme. **Action: P. Court to obtain the paint and equipment needed.**
- b. Inspection** will be carried out soon.
- c. Seat for outside Memorial Hall.** It was agreed that the seat outside the Memorial Hall should be replaced as soon as possible. **Action: S. Glass to organise.**
- d. The baby swing at Ashley Piece.** This has been repaired
- e. Provision of additional play equipment at Knowledge Crescent.** £2000 has been allocated to this in next year's budget.
- f. Fencing Knowledge Crescent play Area.** **Action: S. Glass to seek funding from KDC (see item 6B.a)**
- g. Grass-cutting.** Concerns were expressed about the standard of the grass cutting at Knowledge Crescent. **Action: S. Findlay to contact Sarsen**

E Emergency Committee. No report**Chairman: Chris Morgan****F School Governor****Governor: Tim McQue**

- a. Governing Body.** Susan Suchopar has been re-appointed as Chair of Governors and Chris Wilson as Vice Chair. There are two vacancies for parent governors and nomination papers have just been issued.
- b. The extended school initiative** (with Woodleys at Aldbourne) is working well.
- c. A Travel Plan** is being produced aiming to improve the safety of children travelling to and from school and hopefully reduce traffic congestion for all in the village.
- d. Handymen / Handywomen needed.** The school is seeking help from local handymen/women to assist with small repair jobs.

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- e. **Tesco Vouchers.** The school would welcome Tesco vouchers towards the purchase of equipment.
- f. **Pre-School premises.** The Pre-school project to relocate on the school site is seeking financial backing from KDC and initial soundings are positive.

G Recreation Centre.

Chairman: George Hawes

Ramsbury Ball. The Ball will be on 8th June 2008. Proceeds will go to Project 2005 and the Pre-school.

H Policy Committee. Nothing to report

Chairman: Sheila Glass

7 Public Forum - Standing orders suspended for this item.

- a. Ben Tottenham asked about US involvement in the WW2 event next year. **Action: S. Glass to pass on Ben's contact details to the organiser.**
- b. Simon Blunt said that the Church was considering taking out the Russian Vine, which is overwhelming the public conveniences, in autumn.
- c. There was comment about a truck parked in Back Lane. It was thought that it is about to be sold and removed.

8 Axford

Geoff Treherne

Car Park and Garages. Nothing has happened. It is believed that some garages are yet to be cleared of possessions.

Community Spirit in Axford. G. Treherne expressed his heartfelt concerns about the diminishing community spirit. There was general agreement that the problem is widespread amongst small communities in the country.

Action: D. Barnett to invite all residents to the forthcoming Harvest Supper she is cooking.

9 Nature Reserve. No report

Chris Morgan

10 Square refurbishment.

Geoff Rissone

The contractors have produced samples of stone they intended to use and these did not meet the agreed specification for the job, nor the specification acceptable to KDC. The contractor is now trying to source an acceptable alternative. There is hope that this will be done in the next couple of days. The way the contractors have mishandled the job was strongly criticised. **Action: G. Rissone to provide P. Court with a copy of the contract.**

11 Purchase of land - Kennet Triangle at 2 Bridges, Mill Lane.

Funding. CPRE have offered £250 towards the purchase for further support. I. Ritchie said that the North Wessex Downs AONB had indicated that they cannot support such a project. **Actions: 1. S. Glass to make an application to the Lottery. 2. S Findlay agreed to email the Peter Marren article about the special nature of the land to S. Glass**

12 Public Conveniences. Nothing to report.

13 Parish Stewards Visit

Seat at Kennet Triangle. Actions: 1. P. Court to remove seat.

September 26th Visit. Action: Clerk to add following to list: Cut back overgrowth around the road speed signs at Axford.

14 Police Information Box. PC Batchelor has taken the box to have the lock replaced.

15 Vandalism.

The collection bottle (containing some £150 for Project 2005) was stolen from the bar of The Bell.

16 Police Surgery. PC Batchelor has agreed to discontinue Police Surgeries and has produced a poster of contact information for the Parish Council notice board. **Outstanding Action: Clerk to put notice on notice board, and addition information about the police information box in the Post office when it is returned.**

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- 17 **Memorial Hall.** Two offices in the newly purchased building are being refurbished and are almost ready for occupation.
- 18 **Honours for Local People.** Two nominations have been received. One is already being progressed by another organisation. **Action: S. Glass to follow up the other nomination.**
- 19 **The Youth Club.** It was agreed that the PC would continue to hold the £500 it has for the Youth Club and will pay for the rent of premises for them from this.
- 20 **The Ramsbury Roxy.** The Roxy is now independent and self-financing and will not be on the agenda of future meetings of the PC.
- 21 **Oral History.** It was agreed that the project could draw financial support of up to £700 in order to produce the Highlights CDs to sell in time for Christmas. Proceeds from the sale of the CDs would come back to the PC to offset the financing.
- 22 **Street Lighting.**
- a. **The light outside 12 Crowood Lane** needs attention. **Action: S. Findlay to check the number of this light.**
- b. **Installation of a lantern outside the Post office.** Efforts to organise the are continuing.

23 Accounts for Payment

I1025	Church Room – Rent for Youth Club, 16/04/08 – 23/07/08	149.00		0	No
I1026	British Gas – Electricity for Public Conveniences - direct debit due 28/09/07 (Actual bill received for £13.25)	45.00		0	No
I1027	KDC – Rates for Public Conveniences – Direct debit due 1/10/07	66.00		0	No
I1028	C. Morgan – reimbursement of travel expenses for WCC Emergency management & civil contingency course, Trowbridge	£30.40		0	No
1029	M. Manning – Office Cleaning May – Aug	7.50		0	No

Total Payment for August = £297.90

Approved unanimously – proposed I. Ritchie, seconded G. Rissone

24 Payments Received - None

25 **Bank Balance on 01/09/07** CURRENT ACCOUNT -£3,368.78
 DEPOSIT ACCOUNT - £28,590.41
 NB £6000 transferred from current to deposit account in July

26 Other Correspondence - as listed below:

2669	28/08/07	Bedwyn History Society	Requesting info on local fires teams of the past. (Responded with Chris Martin's contact details)
2670	28/08/07	NALC	Invitation to Conference 'Building the Future of Local Communities'. Bournemouth 5-7 th Oct. Given to S. Glass
2671	28/08/07	CPRE	Fieldwork magazine.
2672	28/08/07	Gisela Norman, acupuncturist	Offering to give a talk – given to WI.
2674	28/08/07	WCC	Requesting Parish Councillor details for their Merlin database. Details sent
2675	28/08/07	Pantomime Society of Great Bedwyn	Poster for new recruits.
2676	28/08/07	WCC	Wilts Local Transport Plan 2007 Progress report. Given to S. Findlay
2677	28/08/07	Cllr C. Humphries	WCC Press release – Wiltshire Wood Recycling
2678	28/08/07	Cllr C. Humphries	WCC Press release – Local studies library currently in Trowbridge moving to Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre in Chippenham

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2679	28/08/07	Lois Smith, Wood Awdry & Ford	Copy of e-mail requesting meeting with ARK re purchase of land, Mill Lane
2680	03/09/07	Sylvia Judge	Nomination of local person for an honour. Info forwarded to S. Glass
2681	03/09/07	Alliance & Leicester	Confirmation that new signatories have been added to the account and new cash withdrawal cards.
2684	03/09/07	Glasdon	Recycled seating brochure. Given to S. Glass
2685	03/09/07	Voluntary Action Kennet	AGM invitation 11 th Oct 2007. Given to D. Barnett
2686	03/09/07	Portman Building Soc	Instructions for changing account address. Action: Clerk to process
2687	03/09/07	N. Grove	Nomination of local person for an honour. Given to S. Glass
2688	03/09/07	Cllr Humphries	Press release. Govt dept for Children Schools & Families has sent letter to WCC congratulating them on results of this year's key stage 2 tests.
2689	03/09/07	Cllr Humphries	Press release. Children's public Library user survey – to be carries out (incl. Ramsbury) during week 24 th – 29 th Sept.
2690	03/09/07	P. Allin	Has received no response to request for Ramsbury.org web address. Webmaster contacted.
2691	03/09/07	Community First	Invitation to Wiltshire Strategic Board's Annual Conference 9.00am 16th Oct, Civic Hall Trowbridge. Circulated to all councillors
2692	10/09/07	WCC	Prioritisation of Applications for Modification Orders to definitive maps and statement. Feedback requested. Given to S. Glass
2694	10/09/07	WCC	Consent to stop of small section of lay-by adjacent to Selkley House
2695	10/09/07	KDC	Details of planning application to install temporary wind turbine mast base and various height masts for testing, research and development – Membury airfield. Given to G. Hawes.
2696	10/09/07	KDC	Notice of full planning permission - minor changes to application for house on land adjoining 1 Ashley Piece
2697	10/09/07	Community First	Notice of election of trustees and notice of AGM – Wed 3 rd Oct, 7.00pm Corm Exchange, Devizes. Given to S. Glass
2698	10/09/07	Alliance and Leicester	Current Account Statement. Balance £3,368.78
2699	10/09/07	Alliance and Leicester	Deposit Account Statement. Balance £28,590.41
2700	10/09/07	WCC	Checking contact details database up to date. Responded
2702	10/09/07	Countryside Alliance	Reminder to vote in Best Rural Retailer competition
2703	10/09/07	Cllr Humphries	Press release. Forum for future of special educational needs
2705	10/09/07	Mrs M. Cook	G. Hawes' email old e-mail address on Councillors list. Action: Clerk to correct.
2706	10/09/07	Cllr Humphries	Press release. Parents are encourage to apply on-line for school they would like their children to attend next September
2707	10/09/07	Aldbourn Parish Clerk	Response to query about accounting packages used for PC accounts
2708	10/09/07	N. Steadman	Update on local cycle paths' status.
2710	13/09/07	Edward Judge	Explanation as to why search engines list ramsbury.com above official ramsbury.org web site.
2711	13/09/07	North Wessex Down AONB	Response to query regarding grants for purchase of Kennet triangle and Ramsbury-Marlborough cycle track.
2712	13/09/07	Pounds Arts Trust	Notice of refurbishment of Pound Arts Centre Corsham
2713	13/09/07	Glasdon	Brochure – latest products for local councils

**NEXT MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING –MONDAY OCTOBER 15th 2007 7.45pm
IN AXFORD MEMORIAL HALL**

**ALL PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
YOU WILL BE VERY WELCOME - PLEASE COME**