

RAMSBURY & AXFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY MARCH 17th 2008 in Ramsbury Memorial Hall

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

- 1 **Co-option of new councillor.** Helen Lloyd was co-opted to the Parish Council and welcomed by the chairman.
- 2 **Apologies for absence for approval:** Geoffrey Rissone (belated). Cllr Brian Twigger also sent apologies.
- 3 **Disclosure of interest:** None
- 4 **The minutes of the meeting held on February 18th were approved unanimously.** (Proposed S. Morgan, Seconded T. McQue)
- 5 **Matters arising:** None.
- 6 **NEW CORRESPONDENCE FOR DISCUSSION**

3048	03/03/08	WCC	Costs associated with moving 30mph speed limit in Ramsbury. Given to S. Glass. WCC are willing to move the speed limits in Ramsbury to past Ambrose Farm on Springs Hill, and over the hill past the Surgery on the Whittonditch Road at a cost of £4000 each, 50% of which would have to be funded by the Parish Council. They are not willing to move the Axford 30mph sign. Action: Clerk to respond asking WCC to reconsider the Axford decision and asking if the PC needs to pay towards moving the Surgery sign which was requested previously, and if so, if there would be a discount as the legal advertising required could cover both.
3081	10/03/08	Mrs S. Wallace	Requesting support for Brendon Care challenge. Given to S. Glass. Action: Clerk to reply that this is not something the PC does.
3098	10/03/08	Mr Kimber	Response to letter from PC re dumping rubbish at PC surgery site.
3100	17/0/08	Axford Village hall	Grant application. With S. Glass. See 7B Finance.
3106	17/03/08	WALC	March newsletter and WCC boundary review information. Comments required by April 16 th . This review is necessary as there will be fewer WCC Councillors under the new unitary authority. Given to S. Glass. Action: S. Glass to request 2 councillors to represent the new ward that will roughly equate to the area covered by the Whitton Benefice.
3115	17/03/08	Mr. P. Perkins	Response to letter from PC saying that they will organise change of light no 58 if he wishes to fund it. Action: Clerk to respond that the situation is unchanged and that Mr Perkins will need to fund the light if he wishes to have it changed.
3119	17/03/08	KDC	Rates for public conveniences 2008-9:01/05 = £66.00, 01/06 – 01/02 = £69.00. Total = £687.00. Actions: 1. Clerk to write to KDC commending the cleaner of the public conveniences for an excellent job. 2. S. Glass to investigate if he can stay on as cleaner when Wilts becomes a unitary authority.

7 COMMITTEE REPORTS

A Planning

Chairman: George Hawes

Planning applications processed since February 08 Report

K58010/F	Alterations to existing outbuilding The Old Forge, Hilldrop Lane, Ramsbury. Mr D G Bolton
PC Comment	No objection
KDC Decision	Granted
K/58014/F	Single storey rear kitchen extension Fallows, Whittonditch Road, Ramsbury. Mr and Mrs Dyer.
PC Comment	No objection
KDC Decision	Granted

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K/58093/F And K/58094/LBC	Erection of single storey extension Elmdown Farmhouse, Spring Hill Ramsbury. Mr Robert Devereux
PC Comment KDC Decision	No objection Awaited
K/57824/F	Erection of two storey rear extension and pitched roof over existing single storey flat roof. Alterations to fenestration 35 Oxford Street, Ramsbury. Mr M Colquhoun
PC Comment KDC Decision	No objection Granted
K/58056/F	Erection of carport and storeroom with Gymnasium underneath The Hop House, Tankard Lane Ramsbury Mr. J. Cockwell
PC Comment KDC Decision	The Parish Council does not object to the erection of the carport with gymnasium beneath and accepts that the design is in keeping with the main house but we have strong reservations as to the visual impact of such a modern effectively two storey building on the surrounding environment in which it will be very visible from all approaches other than Tankard Lane. The surrounding trees have been heavily pruned and thinned and should the application be granted we feel considerable screening would be required. There may be some advantage to re orienting the building to present the two storey aspect onto Tankard Lane. Awaited
K/58155/F	Extension to form conservatory Rose Cottage Back Lane Ramsbury. Mrs. J. M. Blunt
PC Comment KDC Decision	No objection Awaited
K/58147/F	Erection of two storey dwelling with detached garage Land west of Penllyne Whittonditch Road Ramsbury. Redhorn Homes Ltd
PC Comment KDC Decision	No objection Awaited
K/58246/TR2	Works to trees at the property to consist of: the felling of 2 leylandii trees, the felling of a large pollarded sycamore tree and the felling of a goat willow tree. Lamorna, Whittonditch Road Ramsbury. Hilary and David Farnsworth
PC Comment KDC Decision	No objection Awaited
K/58264/F/	Replacement dwelling and garage [amendment to planning permission K/57671/F-increase in width of dwelling by 900mm] Witcha House, Ramsbury. Mr and Mrs P W Nelson and family
PC Comment KDC Decision	In circulation Awaited
K/58284/TR2	The reduction by 1/3 rd of the Lawsonia/Thuja/Yew Hedge between The Boot and the neighbouring property with the shaping of the roadside end of the hedge, [comprising 1 yew], individually to form a topiary shaped tree. N.B. Proposed deadwooding is considered exempt works. The Boot, Scholars Lane Ramsbury. Ms A Eastlake
PC Comment KDC Decision	In circulation Awaited
K/58309/TR2	Works to trees in the rear garden of the property to consist of: the felling of a large eucalyptus tree to ground level, the felling of a beech hedge to ground level and pruning of 1 apple tree, [possibly exempt works] 2 Kennet Mews Cottage, High Street Ramsbury. Mrs P Linford
PC Comment KDC Decision	In Circulation Awaited
K/57611/F	New equine workers dwelling with detached garage and permanent retention of existing log cabin with temporary consent Woodlands Farm Stables, Witcha, Ramsbury. Mr R Pitman

PC Comments	No objection. Approval should be conditional on the properties forming part of the business and not able to be disposed of separately.
KDC Decision	Granted with conditions
K/57650/F	Proposed extension to existing barn building to offer additional storage. Lyncholt Meadow, Loves Lane, Ramsbury. Mr & Mrs Kimber.
PC Comment	No objection
KDC Decision	Awaited
K/57671/F	Replacement dwelling and garage [amendment to planning permission K/56691/F] -increase in size of basement and minor alterations to fenestration Witcha House, Witcha, Ramsbury. Chapters Properties
PC Comments	No objection
KDC Decision	Awaited
K/57910/F	Alterations within existing roof and to existing roof Brick House, Axford. Mrs H Coombes
PC Comment	No objection
KDC Decision	Awaited
K/57991/TR2	The removal of 4 silver birch trees from the western side of the garden. 14 Oxford Street, Ramsbury. Mr P Nandha
PC Comment	No objection
KDC Decision	Awaited
K/57998/LBC	Internal alterations to ground and first floor Dairy Cottage, Stone Lane Axford. Mr and Mrs Young
PC Comment	No objection
KDC Decision	Granted
K/57999/F	Erection of replacement garage with room over Whittedge, Whittedge Road Ramsbury. Canon P Ball
PC Comment	No objection
KDC Decision	Granted
K/58035/TR2	Works to trees at the property to consist of: the felling of an ornamental cherry tree, the height reduction by approximately 30% of an ornamental plum tree, plus additional light pruning as required, and the height reduction of a bay tree by approximately 25% plus additional light pruning as required. 3 Maslins Close, Back Lane, Ramsbury. Mrs G Woodward.
PC Comment	No objection
KDC Decision	Granted

B Finance

Chairman: Ian Ritchie

- a. Grants to local organisations.** I. Ritchie explained that the system is to change so that applications for grants are made before the budget is set. Grants will be awarded at the Annual Parish Assembly, on condition that a member of the organisation gives a short report about the project to be funded and the progress of the organization, and the organisation puts a page on the ramsbury.org web site.

Grants were agreed as follows (Proposed P. Court, Seconded G. Hawes):

Ramsbury Players	£150
Link	£40
Bella Voce	£150
Scouts	£250
Toddler Group	£100
PTA	£250
Ramsbury Amenity group	£150 (for the Village Diary)
Meals on Wheels	Approx. £200 to cover the insurance bill
Luncheon Club	£200
Axford Village Hall	£200
Pre-School	£250

- b. Purchase of Sound Equipment.** I. Ritchie proposed the purchase of a hardwired surround sound system at a cost of £3,206 for the Memorial Hall. This will enhance Roxy screenings and be available to other users of the hall. Hire charges for use of the equipment to cover depreciation, running costs and insurance will be as follows:

Use of projector, screen and sound system:	Roxy £30 per occasion
	Others £70 per occasion
Use of sound system only:	£30 per occasion.

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- c. **Change of Deposit account.** Pin number information has been received, but no other details of the new account. Details since received.
- d. **Insurance Schedule.** The review of the schedule has begun. The £250 excess means that some items are not worth insuring.
- e. **Appointment of internal Auditor.** S. Blunt (who was present but left the room for this item) was nominated as internal auditor for 2007 – 8. He accepted the nomination on his return.
- f. **Clerk's Salary. (words from I. Ritchie)** (The clerk left the room for this item.) A survey of salaries for Parish Clerks has shown that our Clerk is considerably underpaid in relation to others. The work and dedication of our Clerk was praised by the Council and it was noted that we get the benefit of the work her husband does (for no charge) on our computer systems. It was proposed and unanimously agreed that her salary should be increased to £3500 pa with effect from 1st April 2008. The salary would be kept under more careful scrutiny in future to ensure it did not fall below the market again.

C Rights of way

Chairman: Graeme Fearon

- a. **Grass cutting.** The 2008 – 9 contract has been awarded to R. Copp.
- b. **Grant applications for Manor Footpath and Hopper's Lane footpaths.** S. Glass has made an application for a grant towards re-surfacing the Manor Lane footpath. No quotes have yet been received for the Hopper's Lane path, which was flooded at the weekend. **Action: G. Treherne to contact Esther Daly suggesting she contact Thames Water to see if they can take measures to prevent its flooding.**
- c. **Repair of barrier on footpath 2.** This work has been done,
- d. **Swans Bottom.** This has been resurfaced by WCC, having been contacted by the Route to Victory event people who will use this path. G. Fearon reported an increase of fly-tipping on this footpath. **The Parish Council will investigate and report fly tippers for prosecution.**
- e. **Missing way marks on footpaths.** **Action: G. Fearon to replace.**
- f. **Boundary Walk.** C. Morgan and D. Barnett have volunteered to drive the flyer. **Action: Any other volunteers to contact I. Ritchie.** Landowners whose land is crossed have been contacted and some responses received. A draft of the new Boundary Walk leaflet is ready. 400 copies will be printed, to be handed out at the School and available in the Post office, where there will also be a walk display. **Action: I. Ritchie to give 20 copies of the leaflet to G. Treherne.** Walkers are asked to be dropped off at the start of the walk if possible. The PC reserves the right to insist that anyone struggling to complete the walk drops out.
- g. **Handrail on steps or replacement slope at Ashley Piece.** A request has been sent to Esther Daly at WCC. .

D Play Areas and Seats.

Chairman: Paul Court

- a. **Signs for play areas.** New signs saying 'No dogs' and 'Do not allow dogs to foul area' signs have been ordered.
- b. **Painting play equipment.** Travis Perkins has very generously donated paint, Hammerite and painting equipment. The painting is being scheduled by the Probation Service's community service organisation. **Action: Clerk to write to thank Travis Perkins.**
- c. **Trees for the Ashley Piece play area.** 2 trees purchased for the play area were stolen from the play area while awaiting the holes to be dug. **Action: S. Glass to put up sign publicising their disappearance.**
- d. **Knowledge Crescent Play Area fence.** MCASP have matched funding available for Community projects which include community and leisure projects for young people. **Action: S. Glass to apply for 50% of cost of fence.**
- e. **Axford play area.** The new crotch straps have been ordered but not yet arrived.

E Emergency Committee

Chairman: Chris Morgan

- a. **Emergency Plan.** The plan has been circulated to Emergency Committee members. **Action: Emergency committee members to send comments to E. Hodgson by 31st March.** The chairman thanked E. Hodgson and C. Morgan for their work on the emergency plan.
- b. **Emergency Check list.** This has been prepared. **Action: Clerk to put up in PC office.**
- c. **Streets Wardens.** A letter has been drafted to wardens explaining the role and asking for confirmation that they are willing to continue. **Action: Emergency Committee to organise a meeting for wardens when the responses to the letters have been received.**
- d. **Sandbags.** The current emergency sandbags are rotting. **Actions: 1. P. Court to find out cost of 100 new bags. 2. Cllr. Humphries volunteered to investigate obtaining a grit bin to hold 1 cubic metre of sand.**

F School Governor

Governor: S. Findlay

- a. **New PC Governor.** S. Findlay has taken over as Parish Council representative on the governing body. A new community governor is being sought.

- b. School Travel Plan.** A copy of the plan, which has now been submitted to WCC, was given to the PC. . The idea behind the plan is to support independent and safe travel to school, to provide a healthier and safer environment for pupils and to help resolve any transport related problems the school may have. If the plan is accepted the school will receive a grant toward implementing its transport related ideas.
- c. Recent events** include a book week and performance by the choir with Bella Voce.
- d. Trout eggs scheme.** The baby trout continue to thrive.
- e. Staffing.** Two new Assistant Heads have been appointed, Miss Deborah Pollard (the internal candidate) and Mrs Rachel Thomas from Longleaze school in Wootton Bassett. The new posts start on April 21st.
Chris Hanley - Class 2 TA - is retiring after over 20 years. Recruitment for a new TA will take place next week.
- f. Building.** The Governing Body is looking at a possible new permanent room attached to the school or another demountable building. A small group has been formed to look at the alternatives.

G Recreation Centre.**Chairman: George Hawes**

- a. Newsletter.** A newsletter is being produced.
- b. Maintenance.** A new 'Friends of the Rec' group is to be formed to keep the area clean and tidy.

H Policy Committee. Nothing to report**Chairman: Sheila Glass**

- 8 Public Forum -** Standing orders suspended for this item. John Peck **reported increased use by motorised vehicles of the byway near Preston.**

9 Axford**Geoff Treherne**

- a. Bus shelter.** Work has been completed to drill holes in the back wall of the shelter so that water can drain away and prevent mud building up inside the shelter.
- b. Parking.** WCC highways suggest that the local police officer is asked to support requests for white lines in the village.
Action: G. Treherne to suggest this course of action to Mr. Scott, who has requested white lines.

10 Nature Reserve. Nothing to report.**Chris Morgan****11 Kennet Triangle at 2 Bridges, Mill Lane.**

- a. Purchase of Land.** The documents associated with the purchase have not yet been received. **Action: Clerk to follow up.**
- b. Trout Eggs Scheme.** The trout are to be released from the Kennet Triangle when sufficiently mature.

12 Public Conveniences. The rates bill for 2008-9 has been received (see Item 5 no 3119).**13 Parish Stewards.**

- a. Hole in road at bottom of Oxford Street by The Bell.** **Action: S. Glass to report to Clarence.**
- b. Road has dropped away by 34 Hildrop Close.** **Action: S. Glass to report to Clarence.**
- c. Items for Parish Stewards visit on 26th March :**
Cleaning road signs (other than 30mph ones that have been done)
Marridge Hill Road past Preston Barn – water collecting by the 2 run-offs – cutting of the run-offs needs completing.
Action: Anyone with further items of work for the steward should contact the Parish Clerk by 24th March.

14 Best Kept Village Competition

The School is to enter the poster competition associated with the Best Kept Village event, and is willing to take part in other ways. **Action: I. Ritchie to ask the Head if the school would like to undertake the village clean-up prior to the judging in return for a donation to school funds.**

15 Vandalism. **Action: Clerk to log theft of trees (see item 7.D.d) and send to PC Batchelor.****16 Memorial Hall.**

Cleaner and booking clerk. These two positions have now been filled. Elaine Mills has taken over as booking clerk and Rachel Clark as cleaner.

17 The Youth Club.

- a. Financial report.** There is £1,200 in the bank and £250 cash.

3052	03/03/08	Wessex Downs AONB	Magazine. 1 copy to G. Fearon, 1 to S. Glass
3053	03/03/08	Enjoy England	Celebrate St. George's Day. Brochure in office
3054	03/03/08	Kennet Citizens Advice Bureau	Acknowledgement of grant
3055	03/03/08	Mr Scott, Axford	Copies of correspondence between himself and WCC re traffic calming measures and parking restrictions in Axford
3056	03/03/08	WCC	Response to feedback on Parish Stewards Scheme
3057	03/03/08	Cllr Humphries	Village green legislation
3058	03/03/08	Alex Bedford	Proposal for Melodi & PC link. Copies given to councillors at Feb meeting for discussion at March meeting
3059	03/03/08	WCC	Parish News letter (forwarded to all councillors)
3060	03/03/08	R. Henry	Enquiring about PC Grants. Responded.
3063	03/03/08	Cllr Humphries	Forwarded confirmation of lottery grant for Route to Victory event.
3064	03/03/08	Cllr Humphries	Increase in penalty charges for motoring offences in KDC, North Wilts and Salisbury
3065	03/03/08	Ramsbury Pre-School	Grant application. Given to S. Glass
3067	03/03/08	Esther Daly WCC	Work on footpaths/stiles notified by G. Fearon has been carried out. Repair work on Swans Bottom byway to begin in the next few days.
3068	03/03/08	KDC	December 2008 skip date cannot be changed as requested by the PC.
3069	03/03/08	PlusNet	Broadband direct debit to be taken 04/03/08. (files in accounts file)
3070	03/03/08	Bella Voce	Grant application. Given to S. Glass
3071	03/03/08	Ramsbury Scout Group	Grant application. Given to S. Glass
3072	03/03/08	Community First	Seminar – Village & Community retailing. Half day seminar Tues 25 th March 9.30 – 1.00pm. Open to anyone running or setting up a village shop. Contact Clerk for further details. Given to S. Glass
3076	10/03/08	Clerk & Councils direct	March newsletter. Given to S. Glass (signage ads)
3077	10/03/08	Fitzpatrick Woolmer	Sign catalogue. Given to S. Glass
3078	10/03/08	WCC	Parish Stewards' feedback form. Given to S. Glass
3079	10/03/08	The Pound Arts Centre, Corsham	Summer Brochure (In office)
3080	10/03/08	WCC	Parish Stewards' spring programme and update on services offered. Given to S. Glass
3082	10/03/08	Alliance and Leicester	Deposit Account Statement. Balance £17,336.84
3083	10/03/08	Alliance and Leicester	Current Account Statement. Balance £1,423.33
3084	10/03/08	Wilts Independent Living Travel Support	Leaflets on service for disabled travellers. Given to Post office
3085	10/03/08	Alliance & Leicester	Query re new account – is PC office address secure – responded.
3086	10/03/08	Alliance & Leicester	Query re new account – does PC have a constitution – responded.
3087	10/03/08	KDC	Kennet Times. Given to S. Glass
3088	10/03/08	Marlborough Community Area Strategic partnership	Minutes of meeting, Marlborough area police report and crime stats and other enclosures
3089	10/03/08	Mr. T. Eliot-Cohen	Permission to walk across Hilldrop on Boundary Walk
3090	10/03/08	Downstream	Quote for replication of Oral history CDs, printing, packaging
3091	10/03/08	Ramsbury School PTA	Request for grant
3092	10/03/08	Downstream	Queries regarding Oral history disk - printing and disk delivery. Responded

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3093	10/03/08	Swindon & Wilts External Funding Network	Survey - forwarded to S. Glass & I. Ritchie
3094	10/03/08	Countryside Alliance	Post office closures – new community website – www.postofficeclosures.org
3095	10/03/08	Downstream	Confirmation ready to produce oral history CDs.
3096	10/03/08	D R & R A Pittams	Quote for Manor Lane footpath
3097	10/03/08	Lunch Club	Grant request
3099	10/03/08	Cutting Edge	Quote for signs for play areas and recycling area (by telephone)
3101	17/03/08	Storage brochure	In office
3102	17/03/08	Alliance & Leicester	Pin number for new deposit account
3103	17/03/08	Town 7 Parish Standards Board	Newsletter. Given to S. Glass
3104	17/03/08	CPRE	Fieldwork mag. Given to S. Glass
3105	17/03/08	MCASP	Funding opportunities 2008/9. Given to S. Glass
3107	17/03/08	British Gas	Account statement. In credit
3108	17/03/08	KDC	Easter card recycling scheme posters. Action: Clerk to put on PC notice boards
3109	17/03/08	WALC	Invitation to chairman to enter ballot for invitation to Buckingham Palace garden party. Forwarded to S. Glass
3111	17/03/08	Cllr. Humphries	Highways agency info - road works J15 of M4
3112	17/03/08	Esther Daly, WCC	Acknowledgement of request to create slope/fit handrail to Ashley Piece steps
3113	17/03/08	Cllr Humphries	Wilts Alcohol Strategy consultation. Given to S. Glass
3118	17/03/08	Ben Tottenham	Querying Dec 7 Jan skip dates - responded

NEXT MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING –MONDAY 21st APRIL 2008 at 7.45 pm

IN RAMSBURY MEMORIAL HALL

ALL PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

YOU WILL BE VERY WELCOME - PLEASE COME