

# RAMSBURY & AXFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 16<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2009 in Ramsbury Memorial Hall

PRESENT: Diann Barnett, Paul Court, Alistair Ewing, Graeme Fearon, Cllr. Susan Findlay, Sheila Glass (Chairman), George Hawes, Helen Lloyd, Chris Morgan, John Peck, Sue Arnold (clerk), Cllr Humphries, PC Batchelor, PCSO Mills, and 3 members of the public.

- 1 **Apologies for absence for approval:** Erica Hodgson, Tim McQue, Geoff Rissone, Ian Ritchie – Approved.
- 2 **Disclosure of interest:** A. Ewing: Late items of correspondence no 3962 – felling licence application. Application with planning committee.
- 3 **Report by PC Batchelor**

A reorganisation of Neighborhood Policing in Wilts doesn't affect Marlborough-based police constables' responsibilities in this area.

The introduction of mobile remote working will mean that PCs will no longer have to go to the police station to process statements and access intelligence systems.

Criminal damage at the new pavilion at the Rec. Centre. The investigation is on-going.

Other issues the police are aware of: Fire at the disabled toilet, public conveniences; a small amount of Class C drug taking; complaints regarding parking in the High Street; underage driving of quad bike in Crowood Lane.

The police will monitor parking of contractors' vehicles near the Square as they are forcing motorists onto the wrong side of the road in an area where visibility is restricted.

PC Batchelor emphasised the need to call the police promptly using 999 when a crime is being or is about to be committed. At other times the police can be contacted on 0845 408 7000 (non-emergency number) or information can be passed to the police using the Crimestoppers number – 0800 555 111.
- 4 **The minutes of the meeting held on January 19<sup>th</sup> 2008** were approved. (Proposed G. Hawes, seconded C. Morgan.)
- 5 **Matters arising:**
  - a. **Pharmacy application, Marlborough.** Councillors were reminded of the deadline for comments.
  - b. **Ownership of land verges by bridges. Action: G. Fearon to check.**
  - c. **Axford.** Following the resignation of G. Treherne as an Axford councillor, the PC has been given permission to co-opt.  
Action: **Clerk to put on March agenda.**
- 6 **NEW CORRESPONDENCE FOR DISCUSSION**

3887	02/02/09	Carol Hackett, Clerk to Market Lavington PC	Telephone call to S. Glass. Market Lavington are having the same problems as Ramsbury with Sarsen's insurance company's report on playgrounds. The insurers are requesting work that RoSPA deems unnecessary. <b>The chairman is awaiting a meeting with a representative of Zurich insurance.</b>
3890	02/02/09	Mrs Chin	Telephone call. Skips not at recycling area at 10.pm on 20 <sup>th</sup> Jan. Responded. KDC had no skips so sent van instead and it left when full. Kennet have been asked to inform the PC in future if there are any changes to the service.
3895	02/02/09	CPRE	Best Kept Village competition. Given to S. Glass. The PC decided to enter the competition. <b>Action: G. Fearon to provide attractive map of the village based on the new footpaths map.</b>
3902	02/02/09	Mr S. Blunt	Report of vandalism – damage to tiles over single storey section of the house. Reported to PCSO Mills and added to vandalism log
3906	02/02/09	Ramsbury Scouts	Requests for fee reduction on rent of cinema projector and screen for Scout event (at no charge to scouts) in Memorial Hall on morning of Sat 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb. Agreed. (Roxy crew member will be present)
3914	02/02/09	Mr. R. Price	Bridleway sign up manor Hill to B3 demolished by hedge cutting tractor. Offer to replace the sign. With G. Fearon. <b>Action: A. Ewing to investigate.</b>
3916	02/02/09	Luncheon Club	Query regarding PC grant. The chairman has spoken to the chairman of the luncheon club – they are not in need of a grant at present.
3918	02/02/09	Cllr Humphries	Phone call. Signs for Back Line. Highways have agreed to provide these and will be in touch with the PC.

3923	02/02/09	Mrs H. Scholes	Concern that new fence along footpath from Swan's Bottom past Harefield House is too close to hedge. S. Glass has written to estate manager. Update: The hedge has been cut and the path is now 6 – 8 feet wide, other than where it goes through the hedge line, where it is narrower but passable.
3924	02/02/09	Mrs H. Scholes	Photos of new fence as per 3923
3925	02/02/09	Mr J. Dennis	In response to e-mail from S. Glass re footpath (see 3923-4 above). Where there is not space for walkers, this will be remedied.
3933	09/02/03	Mrs Heron Watson	Phone call - tree down on Bolstridge footpath. Message passed to G. Fearon & S. Glass. <b>Action: G. Fearon to talk to landowner.</b>
3929	09/02/09	WALC	Newsletter + enclosures incl. info on "The Parish Councils (Power to Promote Well-being) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2008". Given to S. Glass. Also Invitation to new councillors training day (new councillors informed).
3939	09/02/09	Mrs A. Dallas	Gardener will tidy area adjacent to gate at bottom of Froxfield road and re-seed verges seeded by WCC when weather improves. Forwarded to S. Glass
3941	09/02/09	Ian Ritchie	Copy of letter sent by I. Ritchie & B. Tottenham to Wilts Gazette & Herald regarding new Area Boards in Wilts. Forwarded to councillors
3943	09/02/09	Mrs S. Rapson	Telephone call. Somerfield in Hungerford to become a Tesco store. Concerns that delivery service may not continue.
3949	16/02/09	MCASP	Acknowledgement of PC's request to spend grant awarded for play area fence on piece of play equipment for Knowledge Crescent play area as Utilities companies' doubts regarding location of underground services means contractor cannot undertake fencing work. Forwarded to S. Glass. A hedge could be considered.
3956	16/02/09	T. Hopgood	Referring to item 3650 from m November regarding road safety & provision of lighting near Scout Hall in Hilldrop Lane. <b>Action: S. Glass to respond</b>
3960	16/02/09	WCC	Parish Stewards programme for Feb cancelled owing to bad weather and urgent work needed in aftermath. Given to S. Glass
3961	16/02/09	WCC	Will not provide pedestrian warning signs for Back Lane – see also 3918. <b>Action: Cllr Humphries to speak to highways in support of the PC.</b>
3963	16/02/09	Mrs. Evans	Requesting grit bin for Isles Road. <b>Action: S. Glass to ask KDC to provide grit bin for corner between electricity substation and back gate to school.</b>
3964	16/02/09	Mrs. Wray	Phone call. Contractors working on Holy cross trees had started to cut down a tree in her garden.

## 7 COMMITTEE REPORTS

### A Planning

**Chairman: George Hawes**

Attention was drawn to a difference in the planning process under the Unitary Authority. At present, if the PC objects to an application it has to go to Kennet's Planning Committee. In future, an application will only go to committee if the unitary authority councillor for the area agrees to put it forward on behalf of the PC.

### Planning Applications Processed since January 08

K/58694/F	Change of use of land to enlarged garden and retention of tree platform thereon Preston Farmhouse Preston Ramsbury. Mr and Mrs E M B Grylls
PC Comment	Retrospective. No objection
KDC Decision	Enforcement notice served. Appeal Hearing 23.Oct.2008
K/58965/F	Change of use of land from agricultural to residential and construction of driveway and vehicular access from Marriage Hill thereon Preston Farmhouse Preston Ramsbury. Mr and Mrs E M B Grylls
PC Comment	No objection
KDC Decision	Enforcement notice served. Appeal hearing 23 October 2008
K/58564/F	Two storey rear extension Preston Farmhouse, Preston, Ramsbury Mr and Mrs E Grylls
PC Comment	No objection
KDC Decision	Awaited
K/59927/F	New vehicular and pedestrian access from Union Street Sunnybank, 13 Union Street Ramsbury. Mr David Kerwood

PC Comment	The Parish Council feels that the high walls and gates do not fit in with the surrounding developments. No objection to the access.
KDC Decision	Refused
K/59919/TR2	Works to trees in the courtyard and rear garden of Isles Court to consist of; the felling of one Norway maple, the felling of one Robinia, [described as dead/dying], the reduction of two Norway maple trees by 30% and the cutting back of overhanging limbs of a neighbouring ash tree to approximately the point of the boundary Beechcroft Retirement Homes, Isles Court, Ramsbury. Ann Hawthorn
PC comment	No objection
KDC Decision	Granted
K/58961/F	The building of an earth bund near to the highway [B4192] Preston Farmhouse Ramsbury Mr and Mrs EMB Grylls
PC Comment	The Parish Council objects to the retrospective nature of the application but not to the works proposed.
KDC Decision	Awaited
K/59945/LBC	Internal and external alterations to building 27 High Street Ramsbury. Mr M Palmer
PC Comment	No objection
KDC Decision	Granted
K/59958/F	The erection of a stable building to provide 3 loose boxes and tack room, the erection of a hay store, provision of hard standing Land off Hilldrop Lane Ramsbury. Mr M Murray
PC Comment	No objection
KDC Decision	Granted
K/59968/ADV	Erection of free standing pub sign to attract passing trade The Red Lion Inn, Axford. Mr John Molyneux
PC Comment	No objection but re-siting requested
KDC Decision	Awaited
E/09/0041/Ful	Redevelopment of open storage yard [class B8] to include the erection of 4 no. office buildings [Class B1] The Old Estate Yard Axford. Countryside Solutions
PC Comment	Object. The Parish Council considers the scheme as submitted to be overdevelopment of the site and that it therefore has an adverse visual impact on the surrounding landscape.* See note below Awaited
E/09/0089/Ful	Demolition of existing farm buildings. Construction of three new farm buildings, comprising one sleep/feed building for cattle, one general purpose building and one implement/general purpose building with rest room for farm staff. Howe Mill Estate, Newtown Road, Ramsbury. Sir Martyn Arbib
PC Comment	In circulation
KDC Decision	Awaited
K/59826/F and K/59828/LBC	Alterations to verges and kerb lines and reversal of current access/exit gates. Installation of illuminated bollards. Alterations to Littlecote House to create four new guest bedrooms. Conversion and extension of laundry to create five guest bedrooms. Conversion of stalls in the barnyard to create craft areas. Erection of link from barnyard to existing bedroom block. Conversion of Bothy to garden study. Littlecote House Hotel, Littlecote. Warner Leisure Hotels
PC Comments	No objection
KDC Decision	Awaited
K/59841/F and K/59842/LBC	Single storey lean-to extension, replacement of existing landing window with dormer window. Rose cottage, 13 Back Lane Ramsbury. Mrs Julia Blunt
PC Comment	In circulation
KDC Decision	Awaited

Notes to the report:

\* E/09/0041/FUL. The Parish Council held a public meeting on 04/02/09 to discuss this application at the Axford Village Hall. This was attended by members of the public, the developer and his representative.

The meeting was followed by a meeting of the Parish Council planning committee at which the above outcome was agreed.

**B Finance**            No report

**Chairman: Ian Ritchie** .

**C Rights of way**

**Chairman: Graeme Fearon**

- a. **Surgery Footpath.** Still awaiting response from Probation Service Community Payback team
- b. **Hoppers Lane footpath.** **Action: D. Barnett to chase the contractor as the work is subject to a grant from KDC which will cease to exist in April.**
- c. **Boundary Walk.** A quote for badges has been received and work is in progress on a new leaflet. Bus times will be brought forward to enable extra runs to be fitted in.
- d. **Footpath maps.** The new draft map of Rights of Way in Ramsbury & Axford was shown to councillors. It will be incorporated into the Boundary Walk leaflet.
- e. **Erosion at Mill Lane bridges.** Awaiting a response from WCC.
- f. **Loft's bridge, Seven Bridges.** Awaiting a response from WCC.
- g. **Query received regarding which Rights of Way are important.** G. Fearon has responded that all are important, for differing reasons.

**D Play Areas and Seats.**

**Chairman: Paul Court**

- a. **Knowledge Crescent Play Area.** Sarsen's insurers, Zurich, want a safety surface to be installed under the springers, while RosPA states that well-maintained grass is acceptable. **Action: S. Glass is awaiting a meeting with Zurich insurers.**
- b. **Knowledge Crescent Play Area fence.** The contractor is unable to install the fence as the utility companies cannot be sure where their services are and the contractor's insurance will not therefore cover him to carry out the work. MCASP, who were providing a grant towards the work, have been asked if it can be re-deployed to purchase a piece of play equipment. See item 6, no 3949.
- c. **Swing at Knowledge Crescent Play Area.** No fault found, no action required.
- d. **Ashley Piece Play Area.** 2 new trees have been planted – one Acer Drumondii and one copper beech.
- e. **Seat at Knowledge Hill Play Area.** This has fallen apart. **Action: P. Court to remove.**

**E Emergency Committee**

**Chairman: Chris Morgan**

- a. **Bad weather.** Residents were congratulated on the way they coped with the bad weather. The PC was able to send out information received from WCC on road gritting to residents whose e-mail address was known. Next time this information will also be forwarded to the webmaster. **Action: PC to include in the next newsletter an initiation for residents to submit e-mail address if they would like to receive updates in exceptional circumstances.**
- b. **Grit Bins.** Orchard Close bin needs re-filling. **Action: Clerk to request.**

**F School Governor.**

**Governor: S. Findlay**

- a. **Bad Weather.** The school was closed for a period during the snow earlier in the month.
- b. **Great New Space project.** Leaflets have been delivered throughout the village regarding fund-raising for the project. The school has arranged the following events:
  - 24<sup>th</sup> Feb. Presentation to the community following leaflet drop.
  - 6<sup>th</sup> March Safari Supper
  - 28th March Auction of Promises
  - 4<sup>th</sup> May Sponsored Beating of Bounds
  - 13<sup>th</sup> May Bridge Afternoon
  - 17<sup>th</sup> May Sponsored Fun Run
  - 31<sup>st</sup> May Sponsored Tennis Tournament?
  - 20<sup>th</sup> June Auction of Things
  - 11<sup>th</sup> July Summer Fete

**G Recreation Centre.**

**Chairman: George Hawes**

A meeting with the VAT inspector has been arranged to resolve the situation regarding VAT on building work.

**H Policy Committee.**

Nothing to report

**Chairman: Sheila Glass**

**I Sustainable Community Committee**

**Chairman: Ian Ritchie**

- a. **Allotments.** The use of land previously identified has not proved practical. **Action: A. Ewing to investigate alternative possibility.**
- b. **Reduced price oil.** The minimum number of residents to make the scheme viable has been reached. **Action: C. Morgan to ask those who are interested for permission to pass their details to the oil company.** Options for the scheme include ordering when necessary or having a top-up each time the tanker comes to the village.

#### 8 Public Forum.

- a. B. Tottenham said he and Ian Richie had written to the Wilts Gazette and Herald to reflect their views and those of others who attended the Marlborough Area Pilot Board meeting in Ramsbury. (Letter published 19<sup>th</sup> Feb). He drew attention to the meeting to be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb at 8.00 pm in the Memorial Hall when Mr. David Thompson from WCC would give a presentation on the new organisation and the public would have a chance to ask questions.
- b. Mr. Scott spoke about inconsiderate parking in Axford which makes access to some drives difficult, obstructs the footpath and reduces visibility. **Action: 1. D. Barnett to suggest location for white lines, the Clerk to request them from Highways. 2. Clerk to follow up all outstanding issues with Highways.**

9 **Axford.** Nothing to report (see item 8b above).

10 **Marlborough Pilot Area Board.** The Parish Council has until 10<sup>th</sup> April to comment on the Board's Rule Book. **Action: All councillors to respond with comments by the March meeting.**

11 **Nature Reserve.** Nothing to report

**Chris Morgan**

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

#### 13 Community Bus. .

**MIDAS driver training.** A course for drivers will of the community minibus take place in early March.

#### 14 Parish Stewards & Streetscene Cleaning

There will be no Parish Steward's visit in February as the stewards are undertaking emergency work following the bad weather.

- a. **Jobs for Steward's March visit. Action: Any jobs should be reported to the clerk asap.**

Entrance to Midway stores – road broken up.

Crowood Lane pavement has potholes and the way from its start to Swan's Bottom

Whittonditch Road Halfway to Surgery entrance - channel that needs attention.

Dip in Crowood Lane? Action: H. Lloyd to report exact location

Clean signs at Knighton Crossroads.

#### 15 Vandalism.

- a. **Public Conveniences.** Bin in disabled toilet set on fire (See item 3). Mrs Hall who lives opposite has offered to lock up the disabled toilet at night and open in the morning. **Action: S. Glass to provide keys.**
- b. **Memorial Hall.** 2 windows have been broken in 2 separate incidents, the latest with a brick. **Action: Clerk to add to vandalism log.**

16 **Memorial Hall.** A glass washer is to be purchased, plus pressure taps for the toilets to prevent flooding if the sinks are blocked and taps left running.

17 **Oral History.** A request for help in preparing the interview transcripts for publication will appear in the March edition of the Parish Magazine.

#### 18 Street Lighting.

a. **Chapel Lane.** The faulty light has been reported.

b. **Lantern at no 1 the Square.** This is flashing. **Action: S. Glass to report.**

19 **Public Conveniences.** See item 15a.

**20 Accounts for Payment**

I1248	British Gas – Electricity for Public Conveniences - direct debit due 28/02/09	25.00		0	No
I1249	PlusNet – Broadband for office. Due 05/02/09 by Direct Debit. (VAT at 15%)	9.75		1.25	No
I1250	S. Arnold – stamps for office	3.24		0	No
I1251	S. Arnold – reimbursement of cost of replacement bank statements (See Jan minutes Item 20 R85)	25.00		0	No
I1252	S. Arnold – envelopes	1.99		0	No
I1253	R. Copp – planting trees in Ashley Piece play area: trees, stakes and labour	194.00		0	No
I1254	R. Talmage – Hedge cutting of path from Whittonditch Road to play area. (15% VAT)	69.00		9.00	No
I1255	Midway Stores – newspapers for library w/e/ 10/01/09 – 31/01/09. <b>Action: Clerk to request bills for period covering Nov &amp; Dec 08.</b>	6.20		0	No
I1256	BT – telephone bill due 22/02/09. (VAT at 15%) Direct Debit	74.15		9.67	No

**Total Payments: £408.33** Proposed – D. Barnett, Seconded – H. Lloyd. Approved.

**21 Payments Received**

R87	Alliance & Leicester. Interest on instant reserve account December 1 <sup>st</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> due for payment 16 <sup>th</sup> Jan	7.16	16/02/09	Direct transfer	
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**Total payments received: £7.16**

**22 Bank Balance on 01/02/08** CURRENT ACCOUNT: - £1,562.99  
COMMUNITY RESERVE ACCOUNT - £15,000.04

**DATE OF NEXT MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING**

**MONDAY MARCH 16<sup>th</sup> 2009 7.45pm**

**MEMORIAL HALL, RAMSBURY**

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

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