

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

631

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 16th MARCH 2009 in Ramsbury Memorial Hall

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

- 1 **Apologies for absence for approval:** Paul Court, Tim McQue – Approved.
- 2 **Disclosure of interest:** D. Barnett Item 7.C.c & Item 22 no. I1263; I. Ritchie – Item 7.F. d

3 **Police Report**

No police officer attended the meeting, but it was reported that an arrest was made following the fire in the bin at the public conveniences, but there was insufficient evidence of criminality for a prosecution. The investigation of vandalism at the new Rec. Centre pavilion has been closed.

- 4 **The minutes of the meeting held on February 16th 2009** were approved (Proposed G. Hawes, seconded D. Barnett) with the following amendment: Item 7.E.a Change “PC

- 5 *to include in the next newsletter an initiation” to “ PC to include in the next newsletter an invitation”.*

- 6 **Matters arising:** None

7 **NEW CORRESPONDENCE FOR DISCUSSION**

3966	02/03/09	D. Edwards	Cable down over Knowledge Crescent plays area. P. Court investigating. The cable has now disappeared.
3969	02/03/09	KDC	Response to request to re-deploy grant for play area. Forwarded to S. Glass. The PC has been given permission to re-deploy the grant on a piece of play equipment. (See also item no 4034 below.) Action: Play committee to choose piece of equipment.
3972	02/03/09	WCC	River depth measure was lost during bridge works. Will order replacement
3975	02/03/09	WCC	Pedestrian warning signs will be erected in Back Lane. Given to S. Glass
3980	02/03/09	PCSO Mills	Window-cleaning scam operating in area. Offering £99 for 12-month cleaning contract, but they take the money and don't return. A warning has been displayed on the PC notice board.
3981	02/03/09	WCC	Temporary road closure from Square to no 1 Scholards Lane (address queried) from 6 th April. Given to S. Glass. Poster on notice board (see also 4010) The road will be closed at some time during a 6 week period from this date for 2 days only.
3985	02/03/09	MCASP	Invitation and documents for MCASP AGM to be held on 11 th March at Burbage village hall. Forwarded to all councillors
3988	02/03/09	KDC	Legionella testing carried out. Cleaning and disinfection of water tank recommended – quote for £268.30 received. Given to S. Glass
4005	09/03/09	WCC	Paris Steward's programme Spring 2009. Forthcoming events: Parish Steward familiarisation session – 3 rd week in May; Parish Stewards open day – June. Precise dates to be notified. Given to s. Glass
4010	09/03/09	WCC	Correction to road closure notice (see 3981). Area is from Square to The Coach House, Scholards Lane. Notice on PC notice board
4011	09/03/09	KDC	Quote for work to clean water tank in public conveniences – required following routine Legionella testing. Forwarded to S. Glass
4018	09/03/09	KDC	Notice of MCASP AGM 11 th March, plus draft constitution and nominations for chair & vice-chair. Forwarded to all councillors
4025	09/03/09	Mrs A. Harrod	Fly tipping at recycling area at Surgery – Environmental Health informed.
4026	16/03/09	Cllr Humphries	Pre-election arrangements for WCC/WC matters, including planning. Documents forwarded to all councillors

4028	16/03/09	Wiltshire Forum of Community Area Partnerships (WFCAP)	Invitation to conference & AGM Sat 21 st March, 9 – 3.00 Devizes Town Hall. Forwarded to S. Glass & D. Barnett
4034	16/03/09	MCASP	Approval to spend grant originally for play area fence on piece of toddler play equipment
4036	16/03/09	Integrated Water Services	Phone call re: 1. Scheduling tank cleaning at public conveniences. Arranged for 26 th March. Action: Clerk to attend with keys. 2. Having direct contract with them for routine Legionella testing (currently done under KDC cleaning contract)

8 COMMITTEE REPORTS

A Planning

Chairman: George Hawes

- a. New planning procedures. **Action: G. Hawes to get a copy of the planning information pack from WCC for each member of the planning committee.**
- b. Any councillor wishing to see the new plans for 14 Burdett Street should contact G. Hawes.
- c. **Planning Applications Processed since February 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 KDC Decision	Retrospective. No objection 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 KDC Decision	No objection 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 KDC Decision	No objection Awaited
E/09/0155/TCA	The removal of a leylandii hedge situated at the southern edge of the car park area to the east of the cottage. N.B. Replacement planting is proposed. Cranmer Cottage, Ramsbury. Mr. D. Arnold
PC Comment KDC Decision	No objection Awaited
E/09/0199/FUL and E/09/0201/CAC	Demolition of existing detached house and replacement with a new 3 bedroom detached house 14 Burdett Street Ramsbury. Mr. H. J. Hyams
PC comment KDC Decision	In circulation Awaited
K/58961/F	The building of an earth bund near to the highway [B4192] Preston Farmhouse Ramsbury Mr and Mrs EMB Grylls
PC Comment KDC Decision	The Parish Council objects to the retrospective nature of the application but not to the works proposed. Awaited
E/09/0284/FUL	Alteration and extension of existing house. Construction of new underground garage and driveway/vehicle turning area, with hard and soft landscaping. Sunnybank 13 Union Street Ramsbury. Mr David Kerwood
PC Comment KDC Decision	In circulation Awaited
E/09/0288/ADV	Removal of existing signs and replacement with illuminated stone monolith and small non-illuminated aluminium totem Littlecote House Hotel, Hungerford Warner Leisure Hotels Ltd
PC Comment KDC Decision	In circulation Awaited
K/59968/ADV	Erection of free standing pub sign to attract passing trade The Red Lion Inn, Axford. Mr John Molyneux
PC Comment KDC Decision	No objection but re-site requested Granted

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. Withdrawn
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 KDC Decision	In circulation 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 KDC Decision	No objection Granted
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 KDC Decision	In circulation No objection

B Finance**Chairman: Ian Ritchie**

- a. **Audit Plan.** No response has been received from Mazars to the PC's request for a copy of a model audit plan.
- b. **Finance Seminar.** I. Ritchie is to attend a seminar this week.

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

- a. **Surgery Footpath.** S. Glass is to have a meeting on 19th March with a representative of the Probation Service Community Payback team with the work being scheduled for 21st March. **Action: S. Glass to hire skip.**
- b. **Bolstridge.** There is a tree down on the footpath. **Action: G. Fearon to follow up.**
- c. **Hoppers Lane footpath.** **This should be finished within a day. Action: Clerk to make payment when work completed.**
- d. **Boundary Walk.** A draft booklet has been produced including a map of footpaths within the parish and details of sponsorship in aid of Ramsbury School's 'Big New Space' project.
- e. **Loft's bridge, Seven Bridges.** Awaiting a response from WCC. **Action: G. Fearon to follow up again.**

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

- a. **Knowledge Crescent Play Area.** S. Glass met a representative of Sarsen's insurers, Zurich, who wants a safety surface to be installed under the springers. (RoSPA states that well-maintained grass is acceptable.) Mr Bickley stated that a safety surface is a recommendation, not a requirement, and will amend his report to show it is not a defect. **Action: PC to put topsoil and grass-seed alongside the piece of equipment where there is some wear.** Mr. Bickley recommended a chain in the single point swing to prevent it falling on someone should it come apart. **Action: S Glass to liaise with P Court**
- b. **Knowledge Crescent Play Area fence.** See item 6 no 3969.
- c. **Seat at Knowledge Hill Play Area.** This has fallen apart. **Outstanding Action: P. Court to remove.**

E Emergency Committee**Chairman: Chris Morgan**

- a. **Wardens.** **Action: J. Peck to give S. Glass list of wardens for whom the PC has no photo.**

F School Governor.**Governor: S. Findlay**

- a. **Bike rack.** This has been installed and is being well used.
- b. **Activities.** Tennis coaching plus 24 clubs are available to pupils.

- c. **Roll.** 207 are on roll at present.
- d. **Great New Space project.** A preferred contractor has been selected but placing a contract is subject to raising adequate funds. So far just under £25K if the £75K target has been raised. The governors have requested that the PC consider a grant of £5,000 towards the fund by the end of the month. **Action: Clerk to check if a grant of this size meets the financial regulations for S137 grants.** After some discussion it was proposed that the finance committee should meet to review the PC's financial commitments and report back to the full PC at a special meeting – date to be arranged.

G Recreation Centre.

Chairman: George Hawes

- a. **Open Day.** There will be an open day at the Recreation Centre on 28th April. Greg Rudeski will attend and do some tennis coaching. A meeting with the VAT inspector has been arranged to resolve the situation regarding VAT on building work.
- b. **Bowls Club.** Following the resolution of Project 2005 VAT issues, a contract for the bowling green will be signed next week.

H Policy Committee.

Nothing to report

Chairman: Sheila Glass

I Sustainable Community Committee

Chairman: Ian Ritchie

- a. **Allotments.** An alternative site is being investigated. Should land be found, grant funding to create allotments is likely to be available. About 17 residents have expressed an interest in having an allotment.
- b. **Reduced price oil.** All residents who have expressed an interest in the scheme now have information to allow them to make their own arrangements with the oil company. Feedback from users of the scheme is awaited.
- c. **Government initiative.** The government is requesting ideas for sustainable community initiatives. I. Ritchie said that it is not possible to get figures for energy and water consumption for the village as a whole. This information would enable changes (up or down) to be identified. **Action: I. Ritchie to submit suggestion that this information should be made available.**

9 Public Forum

- a. **Parking hazard at the Square.** B. Tottenham said that parking in the Square is still causing a traffic hazard. S. Glass responded that the building contractors are a temporary problem and that the police have spoken to them. S. Glass will speak to the landlord of The Bell about parking by their customers.
- b. **Public verges near Cedars Bridge.** B. Tottenham said that the Amenity group are willing to maintain and improve public verges near the Cedars Bridge. **Action: S. Glass to inform B. Tottenham when the PC has identified which these areas are.**

10 Axford.

- a. **White bridges.** A request has been received to cut brambles and a hedge at White Bridges. **Action: D. Barnett to provide clerk with details.**
- b. **White lines.** **Action: D. Barnett to provide clerk with details of where lines are required.**

11 Marlborough Pilot Area Board.

- a. **Pilot Board.** The Pilot Board trial has now finished and the new board will come into effect after the Wiltshire Council Election in June. Following permission being granted to Burbage and surrounding villages to leave the Marlborough Area and join the Pewsey Area Board, the Marlborough Area Board will have 4 rather than 5 unitary authority councillors.
- b. **MCASP.** This is to be renamed MAVCAP (Marlborough and Villages Community Area Partnership). Its function will be to feed information into the Area Board. A Marlborough councillor has been elected chairman. The vice-chairman and treasurer' who were elected were from parishes that have since left the Marlborough Area.
- c. **Rule Book.** **Action: S. Glass to write to WC and Michael Ancram objecting to PCs not having a vote on the Area Board and pointing out those latest developments mean that there is even less voice for PCs under the new organisation.**

12 Nature Reserve.

Chris Morgan

- a. **Grass cutting.** This will begin in April.
- b. **Volunteers.** Students taking the International Baccalaureate at St Johns have volunteered to help at the reserve as part of their Community Service requirement.

13 **Kennet Triangle at 2 Bridges, Mill Lane.** ARK is to contact the PC to arrange a meeting.

14 **Best Kept Village Competition.**

- a. Village Map.** A map is needed to accompany the entry. **Action: S. Glass to give map to G. Fearon showing amendments needed.**
- b. Publicity.** B. Tottenham offered to put information regarding the competition in the village diary.
- c. Village Tidy-up.** **Action: S. Findlay to ask Ramsbury school to contact S. Glass as the PC is willing to offer a donation to school funds in return for them undertaking the clear-up.**

15 Community Bus. .

MIDAS driver training. 4 drivers have undertaken the training with a further 8 drivers scheduled to do it in July. While the course is not mandatory at present, if the community bus is off the road, a replacement bus can be hired from Dial-a Ride in Swindon if all drivers are MIDAS accredited.

16 ‘Getting Involved’ Seminar

Helen Lloyd

The seminar focused on different ways of involving young people in the community, such as getting their input to a village plan, undertaking a specific project and setting up a youth council. Involvement in a youth council can contribute to students’ community service hours. Members of Aldbourne youth council gave a presentation. Aldbourne has found that vandalism has decreased since the youth initiatives. **Actions: 1. H. Lloyd to take up Aldbourne’s invitation to visit their youth council. 2. H. Lloyd to contact Ian Smith regarding having a stand publicising the opportunity for youth involvement at the Rec. Centre open day.**

17 Parish Stewards & Streetscene Cleaning

Jobs for Steward’s March visit.

Entrance to Midway stores – road broken up.

Crowood Lane pavement has potholes all 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.

Paint railings of Mill Lane bridges

Cut gullies at side of road between Rec. Centre & Manor corner

Action: Clerk to submit list to Highways

18 Vandalism.

Ashley Piece playground. 5-a-side goal has been kicked over and broken – needs welding.

19 Memorial Hall. Nothing to report.

20 Oral History. 2 new volunteers have started helping to prepare the interview transcripts for publication following a request in the March edition of the Parish Magazine.

21 Street Lighting.

- a. Defects with street lighting, road surfaces plus fly-tipping.** Residents are reminded that anyone can report these by using the CLARENCE free phone number 0800232323 or email Clarence@wiltshire.gov.uk When reporting a street light defect the number of the lamppost is needed. This is displayed on the lamppost. **Action: Clerk to supply this info to parish mag and display on PC notice board.**

22 Public Conveniences.

Lights. There are no lights in the ladies’ toilets. **Action: S. Glass to organise replacement.**

Ivy growing over windows. **Action: Clerk to ask cleaner to remove it.**

23 Accounts for Payment

I1257	British Gas – Electricity for Public Conveniences - direct debit due 28/03/09 (VAT at 5%)	25.00		1.20	No
I1258	PlusNet – Broadband for office. Due 05/03/09 by Direct Debit. (VAT at 15%)	9.75		1.25	No
I1259	Southern Electric Contracting – Connect & disconnect Christmas lighting (VAT at 15%)	347.59		45.34	No
I1260	S. Arnold - Clerk’s salary Jan – March 2009	875.00		0	No
I1261	Midway Stores – Newspapers for library w/e 18/10/08 – w/e 28/02/09	24.80		0	No

636

I1262	WALC - Finance Seminar for I. Ritchie. (VAT at 15%)	23.00		3.00	No
I1263	J. Barnett – work to Hopper’s Lane footpath.	2,700.00		0	No

Total Payments: £4,005.14 Proposed – S. Findlay, Seconded – I. Ritchie. Approved.

Replacement Cheque

I1197	From Sept meeting. Dusty Millar’s Cleaning Service – cleaning PC office May – Aug. Account never set up in this name – replacement to be made payable to Michelle Millar	7.50		0	No
-------	--	------	--	---	----

24 Payments Received

R88	Crown & Anchor – sale of 10 walking maps	35.00	09/03/09	Cash	
R89	Alliance & Leicester. Interest on instant reserve account February 1 st – 28 th due for payment 16 th March	1.15	16/03/09	Direct transfer	
R90	Ramsbury Post Office – Sale of walking maps	175.00	16/03/09	Cheque	

Total payments received: £211.15

22 Bank Balance on 01/03/08 CURRENT ACCOUNT: - £1,223.66
COMMUNITY RESERVE ACCOUNT - £15,007.21

NB £3,000 transferred from Community Instance Reserve Account to Current Account on 16/03/09

23 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Councillor Findlay said that this is the last meeting she would attend while a district councillor, as KDC will cease to exist in April. After 22 years as an independent district councillor she will not be seeking election to the new Wiltshire Council. Councillor Findlay was thanked for her time and efforts on behalf of the parish at KDC. She said that Mr Michael Edmonds who attended in the public gallery towards the end of the meeting will stand as an independent candidate for the area in the June elections for the new Wiltshire Council. It was suggested that the PC should have meetings with other PCs to discuss issues prior to area board meetings.

DATE FOR EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF PC

MARCH 30th 8.00pm in the ALEXANDER ROOM, MEMORIAL HALL

DATE OF NEXT MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY APRIL 20th 2009 7.45pm

MEMORIAL HALL, RAMSBURY

ALL PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

YOU WILL BE VERY WELCOME - PLEASE COME