

RAMSBURY & AXFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 17th August 2009 in Ramsbury Memorial Hall

PRESENT: Alistair Ewing, Graeme Fearon, Sheila Glass (Chairman), George Hawes, Erica Hodgson, Chris Morgan John Peck, Geoff Rissone, Ian Ritchie, Sue Arnold (clerk), 3 members of the public and PCSO Mills.

- 1 **Apologies for absence for approval:** Diann Barnett, Paul Court, Alderman S Findlay, Helen Lloyd, Tim McQue, Simon Smith – Approved, plus Cllr Humphries.
- 2 **Disclosure of interest:** A. Ewing – Item 6 no 4410. S. Glass Item 6 no4421
- 3 **Police Report** **PCSO Mills**
 - a. **Traffic offences.** 2 Local youths are due in court on 19th August for traffic offences
 - b. **Motorbikes / scooters causing a nuisance.** Help is requested in reporting youths causing a nuisance on motor scooters – anyone seeing or hearing them should call the police on 0845 408 7000.
 - c. **Public Conveniences.** PCSO Mills asked about measures to protect the public toilets which have been vandalized several times. Measures are to be taken to prevent break-ins and a local resident will lock up the public conveniences at night and open them in the morning.
 - d. **Policing of the village.** PCSO Mills reported that police presence should improve from September 7th with a change in shift patterns. The chairman reported that feedback from the PC stall at the summer fete contained multiple requests for more police presence in the village.
 - e. **Recent crimes** in the village have included bicycle thefts from a shed . PCSO Mills reported that pre-1995 4-wheel drives such as Land Rovers and Subaru Legacy vehicles are prone to theft at the moment.
 - f. **Contacting the Police.** PCSO Mills said he can be contacted directly by calling or texting his mobile phone. **Action: PCSO Mills to provide details to I. Ritchie who will include them in the next sustainable community newsletter.**
 - g. **Holy Cross celebrations.** PCSO Mills confirmed that there is no need for a police presence at the parade to the church on 13th Sept for the 10.30 service. However stewards should wear high visibility jackets.
- 4 **The minutes of the council meeting held on July 20th 2009** were approved (Proposed A. Ewing, seconded G. Rissone).
- 5 **Matters arising:** None

6 NEW CORRESPONDENCE FOR DISCUSSION

4393	03/08/09	WC Highways	Response to requests for junction sign, change of location of 30mph signs and traffic calming measure in Ramsbury. Given to S. Glass. Actions: 1. Clerk to respond requesting 20mph zone with humps near the school in Back Lane.2. Clerk to ask if two 30mph signs can be moved for the price of one.
4395	03/08/09	Mr Clayton	Found signs removed from Ramsbury & Area (e.g. 'no dogs' sign from play area, plus school fete and open studios signs) laid out on track to Ramsbury Brewery. Play area sign since returned by police.
4403	03/08/09	Ms. G. Smeeth	Re letter sent by PC to residents of Oakes House regarding rubbish sacks put out early
4405	03/08/09	Mr M. Holstead	Copy of comments sent to WC on housing application at Axford – (E/09/0873/FUL). Forwarded to all PC planning committee members
4406	03/08/09	Mrs J. Handford	Vandalism – 1 of carved struts on lych gate removed and key to mower are stolen. Reported to police.
4410	03/08/09	Ms. A. De Saxe	Phone call to G. Fearon. Regarding overgrown state of Crooks Lane footpath. (In hand – see July minutes). Also trees across footpath through the woods on ROW69. Actions taken: Ramsbury estates confirm they will clear this in next few days. Hedge-owners requested to cut back hedge in Crooks Lane.
4411	03/08/09	Mr. B Tottenham	On behalf of Ramsbury Amenity Group- summary of Axford planning meeting (E/09/0873/FUL).

4414	03/08/09	PC Batchelor	Request to treat monthly bulletins he sends out (and which are forwarded to all councillors) as his police report.
4417	03/08/09	Mazars	Telephone query regarding accounts submitted by PC. Response sent by e-mail with supporting evidence.
4418	03/08/09	Ms. M. Gurdon	E-mail to G. Fearon. Overgrown footpath – Swan’s Bottom to Love’s Lane Copse
4419	03/08/09	Val Compton	Request for help with costs towards legal action to maintain MIU at Savernake Forrest. (PC agreed up to £250 at May 26 th 2008 meeting)
4421	10/08/09	Mrs Brandling	Telephone call – noise from party until midnight on 08/08/09. S. Glass informed.
4422	10/08/09	Provision Planning & Design	Objecting to Planning application E/09/0783/Ful – new houses in Axford on behalf of Mr. H. Watson. Paper copy given to G. Hawes. Electronic version e-mailed to PC planning committee.
4426	10/08/09	British Gas	Contract will be extended for further 2 years from 11/12/09. New rates: standing charge 40.95p per day, unit charge 15.21p per K Wh. Current rates: standing charge 40.42p per day, unit charge 12.20p per K Wh.
4438	10/08/09	Mrs Heron-Watson	Telephone call. Girls camping on Scout Hall land, mess left behind and telephone. Scout master informed. A phone found on the site has been handed to the PC. Owner should phone 520045 to arrange to collect it.
4439	10/08/09	R. Mann	Thanks to PC for reward following her action in ensuring driver who damaged Square was stopped and his contact details obtained. Filed with payment voucher
4440	17/08/09	Crown & Anchor	Last farmers’ Market of 2009 on Sat 12 th Sept from 9.00am. Annual music beer and barbeque festival Saturday 5 th Sept from 5.00pm
4441	17/08/09	Mr. R. Smith	Responding to letter requesting hedge cutting on footpath alongside Clearwaters. Will be cut before end Aug. Forwarded to Rights of Way Committee.
4442	17/08/09	Amanda Horner	Offering to use mapping software to lay out allotments. Action. S. Glass to contact when lease agreed.
4446	17/08/09	WC	PC awarded £150 Community Cleansing Grant for 2009/10. (Cheque expected within 2 weeks)
4448	17/08/09	WC	Working with Town, Parish & City Councils – introduction, CD, Good Councillor’s guide. Given to S. Glass. Code of conduct – short guide. Given out to councillors at meeting.
4451	17/08/09	Holy Cross Church	Invitation from Church wardens and PCC of Holy Cross to Parish Councillors to attend 1100 th anniversary service at 10.30am on Sunday 13 th Sept, followed by hog roast. Forwarded to all councillors to respond directly to Jane Handford. Action: G. Hawes to check if event is open to all and report back.
4452	17/08/09	Mrs M. Smith	Weeds on pavement and in gutters near her house in Knowledge Crescent. Action: Clerk to include in list for Sept 24th.
4453	17/08/09	P. Marshall	Requesting conservation work in the village. Action: C. Morgan to contact.
4454	17/08/09	WC	Breach of planning consent at Witcha House. WC is awaiting retrospective planning application. Action: G. Hawes to chase WC Planning

7 COMMITTEE REPORTS

A Planning

Chairman: George Hawes

Planning Applications Processed since Jul 09

E/09/0905/LBC and E/09/0906/FUL	Conversion of existing building to ancillary accommodation Axford House, Stone Lane Axford. Mr Bob Young
PC Comment Wilts decision	In circulation Awaited
E/09/0715 & 0716/HRN	The removal of a 12 metre section of hedgerow on the Western and Eastern side of the footpath/bridleway at approximately grid ref SU242 698 Land to the south of Southside Cottage, Stone Lane Axford Ramsbury Estates
PC Comment Wilts Decision	No objection Granted

E/09/0720/FUL	Single storey rear extension 21 Ashley Piece Ramsbury Mr. C Loveday
PC Comment Wilts Decision	No objection Awaited
E/09/0740/TCA	The removal of a conifer from the rear garden of the property 49 Oxford Street Ramsbury Mr J Goldsmith
PC Comment Wilts Decision	No objection Awaited
E/09/0808/FUL & E/09/0809/LBC	Demolition of conservatory and construction of single storey extension. Enclosure of existing open yard with patent glazing Knighton House Ramsbury. Mr and Mrs Hugo Mackenzie-Smith
PC comment Wilts Decision	No objection Awaited
E/09/0949/FUL	Replace velux roof lights with dormer windows, new entrance door and internal alterations. Membury House Membury Estate Ramsbury. Mr Phillip Walker
PC Comment Wilts Decision	In circulation Awaited
E/09/0957/FUL and E/09/0958/LBC	Single Storey side extension [resubmission of K/59842 and K/59841] Rose Cottage 13 Back Lane Ramsbury. Mrs Julia Blunt
PC Comment Wilts 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 Wilts Decision	No objection Awaited
E/09/0861/FUL	Two storey side extension[amended proposals to K/59039/F] Bolstridge Farmhouse Hilldrop Lane Ramsbury Mr Philip Coplestone
PC Comment Wilts Decision	No objection Granted
E/09/0666/LBC	Single Storey extension to the rear [replaces K/59842] Rose cottage, Back Lane Ramsbury Mrs Julia Blunt
PC Comment Wilts decision	No objection Awaited
E/09/0706/LBC	Replacement of existing external double glazed windows and doors Stone House Stone Lane Axford Mr Julian Robson
PC Comment Wilts Decision	No objection Granted
E/09/0709/Ful	Extension of dwelling with single storey front, rear and side extensions and with first floor extension over existing garage 6 The Paddocks Ramsbury Mr and Mrs Fearon
PC Comment Wilts Decision	No objection Granted
E/09/0873/FUL	Proposed erection of 5 no 2 storey terraced 2 and 3 bedroom houses together with 25 parking spaces and associated site works following demolition of existing dilapidated garage block Kennet Rise Axford. Sarcen Housing Association
PC Comments Wilts decision	Objection. The loss of off-road parking [15 spaces] will exacerbate the existing road safety problem of extensive on-road parking and lack of footpaths. The PC would reconsider the scheme if additional off-road parking [minimum of 15 spaces] could be provided elsewhere. Any works associated with this scheme should be subject of a method statement requiring the provision of temporary off-road parking Awaited

E/09/0881/TCA	The felling of 5 poplar trees to ground level. Three are situated on the opposite side of the river and two are situated on either side boundary towards the neighbours. Additionally the removal of shrubs and small trees in the garden including cherry, holly oak crab apple holly and magnolia is proposed. Any shrubs and trees with a stem diameter of less than 7.5 cms. measured at 1.5 metres above ground level are not covered by the legislation and are therefore exempt from the need to be included in the notification of works. 61 High Street Ramsbury. Lady Hambledon
PC Comment Wilts Decision	No objection Awaited
E/09/0883/Ful & E/09/0884/LBC	Proposed construction of a rear single storey extension 3 High Street Ramsbury Mr Ian Mills
PC Comments Wilts Decision	No objection Awaited
E/09/0966/FUL	Proposed replacement of existing timber cladding with facing brickwork to all external walls. Replace cedar shingles with either clay or slate tiles to both the main dwelling and garage. Single storey infill extension. [revised plans to those approved under planning permission K/59057]
PC Comment Wilts Decision	In circulation Awaited

Notes to the report;

The Wiltshire Council has notified the Parish Council of an application for a certificate of Lawful Use at The Old Estate Yard, Axford.

B Finance**Chairman: Ian Ritchie**

- a. **Audit Plan.** Work is in progress.
- b. **External Audit.** The external auditors have queried 4 points. The PC has responded
- c. **Internal Audit.** The internal auditor has thanked the PC for a gift of wine in recognition of the time and effort he spent on the accounts.
- d. **Risk Analysis Statement.** The PC has a template for customisation.
- e. **Financial Standing Orders.** These will need to be reviewed again once the risk analysis has been completed.

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

- a. **20 Acre Path.** The path has not yet been cleared. **Actions: 1. S. Glass to write to landowner, requesting its clearance again. 2. G. Fearon to discuss with the Amenity Group the possibility of them clearing it.**
- b. **Loft's bridge, Seven Bridges.** This is on-going.
- c. **Stiles.** No progress yet.
- d. **Crooks Lane.** On-going.

D Play Areas and Seats.**Chairman: Graeme Fearon**

- a. **New equipment for Knowledge Crescent Play Area.** G. Fearon is in discussion with the supplier regarding locating the equipment and the necessity or otherwise of a safety surface.
- b. **Broken Swing at Ashley Piece playground.** The insurance claim has been submitted.

E Emergency Committee**Chairman: Chris Morgan**

Swine flu. The emergency arrangements for collection of anti-virals have not yet been needed.

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

No report other than that the new building is progressing.

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

Bowls Club. The work on the bowling green is progressing

H Policy Committee.

Nothing to report

Chairman: Sheila Glass**I Sustainable Community Committee****Chairman: Ian Ritchie**

- a. **Allotments.** A site has been identified subject to agreeing a lease with the land-owner. A sub-group has been identified to work on the project and form the basis of The Ramsbury Allotment Association. The group, with the help of an

experienced plot-holder, will visit Aldbourne's new site on Wed 19th August. The PC chairman will have a meeting with the landowner of the Ramsbury site on Friday 21st August. The Aldbourne Allotment Association was thanked for the help they have given the PC is getting started. I. Ritchie was thanked for his work to find suitable land. **Action: Clerk to add Allotments as regular agenda item from September.** It was report that another patch of land has been identified in the centre of the village that might also be used for allotments. **Action: I. Ritchie to find out who owns it.**

- b. Newsletter.** The next newsletter is now being prepared. It will include information on allotments, the farmers' market, reward given by PC to a resident and police contact information. **Actions: 1. S. Glass to provide information on charity shop. 2. Anyone else with any information for the newsletter to contact I. Ritchie.**
- c. Hills Stores.** It is hoped to get a charity shop on the premises up and running during September. There have been requests for a coffee shop in the village and it is possible that this may also be provided in the charity shop.

Public Forum– Parish Council Standing Orders temporarily suspended for this item

- a. Axford houses Planning application (E/09/0873/FUL).** Mr B. Tottenham said he was happy to hear that the PC had objected to the proposal. He suggested that the Amenity Group would be happy to get involved should Axford want to look at the village's future more generally, similarly to the way it had been involved in the Ramsbury Village Design statement. a wider design statement like Ramsbury's.
- b. Bins in Back Lane near the school.** Mr. Tottenham said they were inadequate as they were always full. An extra bin or a larger bin is needed. **Action. S. Glass to report it.**
- c. Speeding in Axford.** Mr. G. Treherne referred to the PC's attempt to move the 30mph speed limits a little further out on Whittonditch and the Froxfield Roads. He had been trying to have the 30mph signs moved in Axford for 10 years and had enlisted Michael Ancram's help. WC had responded that not enough houses fronted onto the road to justify a change. He asked the PC to take up the Axford case too.
- d. Axford houses Planning application (E/09/0873/FUL).** Mr. Holstead said that the application procedure had not been properly followed as Highways had not had an opportunity to comment on the plan. He queried that the PC had commended the plan. The PC responded that they had not commended the plan but objected to it, and could not commend a plan that did not take into account the safety issues cause by loss of parking provision.
- e. Sewage treatment plant in Axford.** Mr Holdford said that smells from the plant have again been causing a nuisance, but WC said the PC has not made previous complaints. The PC responded that they have complained in the past, when Kennet was the local authority. Residents were advised to obtain and fill in monitoring forms from WC. **Action: Clerk to write to WC to say the plant is still causing a problem and that residents are monitoring it. .**

8 Axford. See Public Forum above.

9 Marlborough Area Board

Parish Plans. Comments collected at the summer fete have been circulated to all councillors. **Action: Clerk to put item on agenda of September meeting.**

10 Nature Reserve.

Chris Morgan

Repair needed. The wire on the boardwalk of the viewing platform is loose and needs re-stapling. **Action: C. Morgan**

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

12 Best Kept Village Competition. Nothing to report.

13 Walking Maps. Work to update the information is on-going.

14 Community bus.

Chris Morgan

Funding. Representatives from the Bus Committee, the PC, Community First and WALC met to discuss a number of issues including whether it is legal and/or practical for a PC to run a community bus. The advisors (Community First and WALC) could not agree on this. In the meantime the PC will continue to have responsibility for the bus, including building up a fund to replace the vehicle when it is 5 years old. (The current vehicle cost £25K). It was decided to build into the precept the funds for a replacement. It was noted that rural development grants are also available and can fund 100% of items that benefit the whole community.

15 Youth Involvement

Helen Lloyd

Action: Clerk to put this on agenda for September meeting.

16 Parish Stewards & Streetscene Cleaning

- Weeds in gutter and on pavement particularly in Knowledge Crescent.

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- Scholars Lane – bank needs strimming
- Trees are over-hanging road signs throughout village.

Actions: 1. Clerk to report the above. 2. Any other work for the steward should be reported to the clerk by 15th September.

17 Vandalism.

- a. **Church.** Donation box broken into and contents stolen
- b. Recreation Centre. Sign advertising Ramsbury Brewery damaged.

18 Memorial Hall.

Office Space in Lychgate building. A request has been received to knock the 2 offices into one.

19 Oral History. Nothing to report

20 Street Lighting. Nothing to report

21 Public Conveniences.

Nothing to report. See item 3c.

22 Accounts for Payment

I1333	KDC- Rates on public conveniences (DD1)	72.00		0	No
I1334	British Gas - Electricity for Public Conveniences. (DD2)	25.00		1.20	No
I1335	PlusNet - Broadband Service. (DD4)	9.75		1.25	No
I1336	S. Glass – Keys for front doors of public conveniences	7.90		1.03	No
I1337	R. Mann – recognition for time and money saved for Parish Council by her actions in stopping lorry driver who damaged Square and ensuring his contact details were valid. (Approved at July 2009 PC meeting)	50.00		0	No
I1338	I. Ritchie. Gift, plus gift box for internal auditor in recognition of time and effort spent on PC's accounts	23.18		3.02	No
I1339	Friends of Savernake Hospital & The Community – Legal costs for High Court action to prevent closure of Day hospital and MIU. Authorised in minutes of May 2008 meeting	250.00		0	No
I1341	BT – Telephone Bill	66.18		9.63	No
I1342	Midway Stores – Newspapers for library w/e 25/07 – w/e 15/08	7.45		0	No
I1343	CPRE – Annual Subscription	29.00		0	No

Total Payments: £641.46. Proposed – E. Hodgson, Seconded –G. Fearon. Approved.

23 Credit Card Purchase Authorisation

I1340	S. Arnold - Credit card authorisation - £25 - £30 for new router for office computer				
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24 Payments Received

R100	Alliance & Leicester. Interest on instant reserve account July 1 st – 31 st due for payment 15 th June	1.54	16/08/09	Direct transfer	
R101	Brian Davis – refund for cheque issued in error	64.00	10/08/09	Cheque	

Total payments received: £65.54

25 Bank Balance on 01/07/08 CURRENT ACCOUNT: - £2,400.72
on 04/01/08 COMMUNITY RESERVE ACCOUNT - £15,012.57

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NB Transfer of Funds. £3,000 transferred from Community Instant Reserve account to Current account on 17/08/09 is not reflected in these figures.

DATE OF NEXT MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 21st SEPTEMBER 2009

at 7.45pm

in

RAMSBURY MEMORIAL HALL

ALL PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

YOU WILL BE VERY WELCOME - PLEASE COME