

RAMSBURY & AXFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council Alice Charlwood c/o Council Office, Memorial Hall, High Street, Ramsbury, Wilts SN8 2PB
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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 19th February at 7.45pm in Ramsbury Memorial Hall

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Present:

S Glass – Chair (SG)	H Lloyd (HL)
D Barnett - Vice Chair (DB)	G Hawes (GH)
D Edwards (DE)	M. Waugh (MW)
R Greasley (RG)	C Morgan (CM)
L Jauncey (LJ)	E Hodgson (EH)
B Murray (BM)	A Charlwood (AC) – Clerk

Two members of the public were also present

- APOLOGIES** – were received from Matthew Tester and Dawn Gill. **Approved**
- DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST** – A. Foale disclosed the submission of a planning application.
- THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**
DG's amendment to Item 14 of the January draft minutes was approved and, with that change, the minutes were signed as a true record. **Proposed HL; Seconded LJ. Approved.**
- MATTERS ARISING** –
None.
- NEW CORRESPONDENCE** – Items for discussion*

Ref. No	Date Received	Jan-Feb 2024 Correspondence	Subject *Highlighted for Discussion
*A7606	08 Jan	M. Holdsworth, Ramsbury Parish Charities	Retirement of PC representative on the RPC and need to appoint a new one. EH has been appointed as the new representative and has already attended a meeting. SG has written to thank the outgoing representative for her 15 years of service.

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*A7608	09 Jan	Resident	Team effort from residents combatting flooding in Mill Lane. Fwd to Emergency Committee. For info.
*A7610	11 Jan	Craig Harlow, Map Officer, Wilts C.C.	Diversion & Modification Order re. Ramsbury Paths 5, 6, and 8C. Fwd. to Rights of Way C. Discussed at the January PC meeting.
*A7611	13 Jan	Resident	Thank you to the PC for all their work for the village. Fwd. to Cllrs. For info.
*A7612	13 Jan	Resident	Appreciation of Isles Road neighbours assisting when No. 6 was flooded. Fwd to Emergency C. For info.
*A7613	14 Jan	Resident	Report of flooding events on Isles Road and Swan's Bottom and measures to prevent a recurrence. Fwd. to Emergency C. See item 6(v). SG and AF have been in contact with Thames Water, WCC, and the landowner, trying to identify who is responsible for upkeep of the ditches on the by-way of Swan's Bottom.
*A7617	22 Jan	Peter Wragg, Chair, Visit Wiltshire	The impact of proposed funding cuts to Visit Wiltshire and effect on tourism. Fwd to Cllrs. SG summarised the knock-on problems this cut was likely to cause and she was asked to write to Wilts C.C. to request they re-think the decision. ACTION SG. UPDATE: WCC have now passed their budget including the cut to funding.
*A7621	23 Jan	Resident	Removal of trees fallen across the river. Fwd to Emergency C. See item 6(v). LJ said one of the trees had fallen over a wire but presumably this was a telephone rather than an electricity wire, so not a pressing concern.
*A7624	24 Jan	Stuart Brown, Atkins Realis	Improving level of street lighting. Fwd. to Cllrs. See item 14
*A7625	24 Jan	CPRE	Wilts Best Kept Village Competition 2024. Fwd. to Cllrs. See item 14
*A7627	25 Jan	Resident	Aftermath of Storm Henk flooding and actions taken so far. Fwd. to Cllrs. For info.
*A7628	25 Jan	M. Price, Ramsbury Primary School	Reminder to reinforce the need to park legally and safely at school pick-up and drop-off. Fwd. to Cllrs. We are informed that the school has written to the parents about this.
*A7629	25 Jan	Local Highways Area Manager	Schedule for the rolling programme of the Discretionary Gully Service commencing 5 th February. Fwd. to Cllrs. See item 14
*A7631	29 Jan	Resident	Speeding on the High Street. Fwd. to Cllrs. See Item 10 and Public Forum
*A7632	29 Jan	Resident	Speeding in Axford. See item 7

*A7640	01 Feb	Jason Lucas, Sustainable Transport-Highways, Wilts C.C.	Notice re. temporary closure of part of Bridleway 6 and part of Footpath 8C from 28 th February. Fwd. to Rights Of Way Committee. See Item 6(iii)
*A7641	01 Feb	Debbie Evans, Community Infrastructure Levy Monitoring Officer	CIL Guidance Notes for 2024. Fwd. to Finance Committee. SG said that as the parish does not have a Neighbourhood Plan the PC would receive 15% of the CIL due in respect of any future housing developments in the village.
*A7642	02 Feb	Jessica Emery, Community First Insurance	Updating insurance to cover the new Ramsbury Community Charity Shop and public loo. SG reported that the policy has been updated to reflect the change of use but that reinstatement costs remained unchanged so there would be no change to this year's premium.
*A7644	02 Feb	Yewale Shivraj, Atkins Realis	Temporary road closure in Axford for carriageway retexturing and maintenance works commencing 15 th Feb. Fwd. to Cllrs. DB said that, in the event, the roadworks had been carried out in less than half a day.
*A7649	06 Feb	Resident	Repair of knocked down fence post. Fwd. to Cllrs. SG expressed the PC's thanks to the resident who had put the post back up.
*A7651	10 Feb	Resident	Speeding on Whittonditch Road. Fwd. to Cllrs. See Public Forum

*The full list of incoming correspondence from 8th January to 10th February can be viewed on the parish council website

6. Committee Reports:

6 (i) Planning

Diann Barnett

PLANNING REPORT RAMSBURY AND AXFORD PARISH COUNCIL – February 2024

Planning Applications Processed since January 2024 Report

New applications-

- PL/2024/00130 Ambrose Farm 2.5 bay garage
- PL/2024/00217 The Rectory, Back Lane Treework
- PL/2024/00518 7 Ashley Piece Single storey rear extension
- PL/2024/00515 Preston Barn Certificate of lawfulness
- PL/2024/10639 Hilldrop Farm Extension to pool house (retro) change shoot lodge
(retro) change lodge to carers accommodation
- PL/2024/00936 Holy Cross Treework
- PL/2024/00708 Preston Barn Rethatching barn + dormers listed
- PL/2024/01028 Preston Barn Rethatching barn + dormers
- PL/2024/10640 Doorstep Cott, Hilldrop Extension -WITHDRAWN

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Still awaiting-

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|---|
| • PL/2023/06108 | Land NE Lamplands | Siting of mobile home OBJ |
| • PL/2023/07437 | Land south of Back Lane | Single storey eco house, access, boundary wall work |
| • PL/2023/10297 | Coach House, Preston | Cert' of Lawfulness, existing/historic residence |
| • PL/2024/10423 | Park Farm, Ramsbury | Maintenance yd, veg garden & driveway + listed. |

Decisions -

- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|--|
| • PL/2023/10028 | North of Newtown Road | Preliminary 9 houses REFUSED |
| • PL/2023/07297 | Hop House, Tankard Lane | Resubmission of 18/00532/FUL APPROVED |
| • PL/2023/10903 | Rose Cottage, Back Lane | Treework in conservation area. APPROVED |
| • PL/2023/10914 | 2 Ashley Piece, Ramsbury | Rear single storey kitchen, patio/decking APPROVED |
| • PL/2024/00004 | Syon House, 3 High St | Treework in conservation area. APPROVED |
| • | Red Lion, Axford | Planning contravention notice served. |

DB confirmed that there had been no recent changes to the above report.

She has recently written to the Enforcement Officer, and to James Sheppard about the inordinate length of time it is taking to take any effective action as regards the Enforcement Notice on the Red Lion – an application which dates back to July 2019.

6(ii) Finance

Erica Hodgson

- EH confirmed that Carty's final bill had come in within budget and would be paid this month (less a 1% retention sum).
- The review of the Financial Standing Orders had been completed and signed off by EH and DB
- One small wording change has been made to para. 4 of the Planning Standing Orders – the addition of "... where we feel necessary..." for the sake of flexibility, depending on the circumstances.

APPROVED. Prop. EH, Sec. DE.

- HL mentioned that the Public Contracts Regulations would be changing in October so our Standing Orders may need review in light of any changes then.
- SG proposed to make two additions to the Asset Register – (a) the dog poo bag dispensers, and (b) the tree uplighters acquired last December. **ACTION - SG**
- EH will send HL the Risk Assessment to review. **ACTION – EH/HL**
- The PC's tenancy agreement with the Community Charity shop has been signed and the first month's rent has been paid.

6(iii) Rights of Way

Lynn Jauncey

- LJ reported that the Rights of Way Committee have no problem with the temporary closure of parts of bridleway 6 and footpath 8C, whilst work is being carried out at Park Farm.
- Preparations for the 2024 Boundary Walk are going ahead. The loos have been booked and the British Legion have confirmed they will do the teas. Matthew Hodgson has offered to do a map.
- Footpath Diversion Order – Park Farm have re-applied to divert two paths in our parish – RAM5 and RAM6 – and the PC has no objection to this as they are offering reasonable alternative paths. We previously objected to their diversion further up RAM5 but this does not form part of their current application.
- Walking our footpaths – The reintroduction of monthly circular walks will commence on the first Sunday in June – probably with the "Littlecote Loop" but this is TBC - and follow other routes on the first Sunday of the month thereafter.

6(iv) Play Areas and Seats**Denise Edwards**

- DE had nothing new to report.
- The planned site meeting is still to be arranged with the parents involved in the bike jump project, to go into the practicalities of the idea more thoroughly. **ACTION – SG/DE**

6(v) Emergency Committee**Alison Foale**

- AF reported on our ongoing flooding issues. A letter will be sent to Wiltshire CC about the flood risk from run-off water at the bottom of Swan's Bottom and the area of flooding in Swan's Close will be reported urgently to MyWilts. **ACTION – SG/AF**
- As we can expect winters to continue getting warmer and wetter and gullies are liable to fill up with mud very quickly with prolonged torrential rain, AF spoke of the need for a village flood warden. This job might be done by one person, or by several people taking it on jointly as they do in Aldbourne. She will try to canvas some interest in the role by putting something in Whitton Ways, (perhaps with a shorter version of the piece in the Village Diary and a notice in the PO).
- SG reported that an attempt to test the Memorial Hall generator before the meeting had been unsuccessful because we had not been made aware that, in order to do so, it would be necessary to switch off the solar pv. Uncertain of the implications of doing so, the test was postponed until SG can discuss the situation with Tim Pope. **ACTION - SG**

- **6(vi) Environment Committee**

Maggie Waugh

MW said that she and BM had met to discuss the request for more visuals to be added to the content of their new webpage but had concluded there was actually enough. More can be added in future if needed. So the document is ready to go up and DE confirmed that it will have its own tab. **ACTION – DE**

- In answer to a question from BM, DE said that the PC does have a record of "hits" but no "click through". said he had nothing new to report. DE asked him to provide her with some nice pictures to add to the visual appeal of the sub-Committee's policy document which she will soon be posting on the website.

Public Forum - Parish Council Standing Orders were temporarily suspended for this item

Two members of the public attended the meeting.

One resident raised his concern about the danger of speeding traffic on Whittonditch Road, and asked if the limit could be reduced to 20mph along there, and perhaps right across the centre of the village. SG explained that the PC is obliged to follow a strict process to make a case for such a change but acknowledged that lots of other villages in Oxfordshire and Wiltshire seemed to be doing so.

SG explained that the 20mph limit in Back Lane was granted to us free of charge because of an initiative to give 20mph limits in roads which pass a school, but elsewhere in the village a speed limit change would involve quite a considerable expense to the PC to cover the legal costs involved, alongside the cost of signage and so on. As an example, Aldbourne are currently negotiating about introducing 20mph in some of their side streets off the B4192 and could be asked to pay something in the order of £8,000 towards it.

The question is whether this outlay would be effective in slowing the traffic at the end of the day. SG expressed her personal doubts about this but undertook to set the process in motion in Ramsbury and then see where we go from there. The first step will be to request a speed check be carried out. As they will only do one speed check in an area it was agreed that it should be located on Whittonditch Road as the High Street is always too densely parked and is therefore completely impractical. (NB. The criteria for installing speed check equipment preclude a location where there is roadside parking or cars may stop on the tubes so that rules out the High Street entirely.)

AF suggested that the remaining white gate (originally intended to go up at Whittonditch on the B4192 but not used in the event) might be put up near the 30mph sign at the east end of Whittonditch Road to remind drivers they are entering a residential area. This was thought to be a good idea and was agreed. **ACTION - SG**

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The other resident came to raise several concerns –

- about the difficulty of emerging from Loves Lane safely when Back Lane is currently often densely parked on the south side with lots of contractors' vehicles etc at the moment; the PC were asked to look at whether the white lines at the Loves Lane/Back Lane junction needed repainting. **ACTION - SG**
- about whether yellow lines could be painted in places where people often park too close to junctions; it was explained that doing so would be a waste of money as they would be unenforceable.
- about whether applying for a community asset order on the Crown & Anchor might preserve it as a pub and rule out the change of use to turn it into a house; AF asked if the resident was aware of any local interest in pursuing this and several people pointed out our experience of the toothlessness of this legislation, as witnessed by what has been happening at the Red Lion.

7. AXFORD

Diann Barnett

- DB said that the issue of speeding had already been covered. SG will get back to the resident who had reported discovering a fallen 30mph repeater sign in a hedgerow and will take steps to recover it. **ACTION-SG**
- DB is exploring setting up an Axford WhatsApp group. **ACTION - DB**
- There are plans to organise a litter-picking work group as part of the Great British Spring Clean. **ACTION - DB**
- There will be a Bingo Night in the Village Hall on 23rd March.

8. CO-OPTION OF A NEW COUNCILLOR

Sheila Glass

SG confirmed that the statutory notice had been posted on the Ramsbury noticeboard, but no-one has come forward, as yet. She appealed to Councillors to think about whether they knew someone who might be interested, and to encourage them to approach the Clerk about it.

9. LOCAL HIGHWAYS & FOOTPATHS IMPROVEMENT GROUP

Sheila Glass

SG reported that she is working to arrange a meeting about the installation of the drop-kerbs at the entrance of Isles Court but a date is yet to be confirmed. **ACTION-SG**

10. 20mph SPEED LIMIT IN THE VILLAGE

Sheila Glass

There was a brief discussion to follow-up on the concerns raised about this during the Public Forum. It was agreed that the process to achieve a 20mph limit would be started. **ACTION-SG**

11. MARLBOROUGH AREA BOARD

Sheila Glass

The next meeting will be held on 19th March.

12. ALLOTMENTS

Denise Edwards

Nothing to report.

13. WEBSITE

DE said she has added a lots of events and will get on to posting the parish policy document produced by the Environment Committee soon. **See also item 6(vi).** **ACTION-DE**

14. VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

- (i) **Discretionary Gully Service** – SG said Ramsbury is scheduled to have a week's visit for this work in May.
- (ii) **Best Kept Village Competition 2024** –SG has written this up in Whitton Ways and is hoping someone will come forward to take this on.

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- (iii) **Street Lighting** – we have been informed that only five of the new lanterns in the village can be brightened and they are not in the areas where the spread of lighting was thought inadequate, e.g. outside the Church Room, between the bottom of Union Street and The Paddocks, in Ashley Piece, outside the library, in the churchyard, in places along Back Lane. There was general consensus that Councillors preferred to maintain the current levels of lighting. It was agreed to keep this matter under review. **ACTION – SG**
- (iv) **The PC's next project** – HL suggested that we should consider including the implementation of a village-wide 20mph speed limit and MW agreed that it might turn out to be beneficial to bring this into force. AF reiterated a proposal she raised at the January meeting about looking into making Union Street one-way and suggested that the PC should initiate some talks with the residents and Wilts C.C. to get their views. SG said that doing this would also involve an application to LHFIFG.
- (v) **Litter-picking in Crowood Lane** – SG wanted to appreciate the work done by Keith Mantle who litter-picks twice a year along Crowood Lane and she will write to thank him. **ACTION – SG**

15. MEMORIAL GARDEN

The PC has acquired more shrubs for Jane Handford to plant.

16. PARISH STEWARD'S ROTA

Next visit will be on 6th March. Please notify the PC by 29th February at the latest if you are aware of blocked drains, or gullies, or potholes needing attention anywhere, so that task can be added to their rota.

ACTION – Clerk/SG

17. LIBRARY

Nothing to report.

18. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

SG reported two incidents of minor vandalism in the public loo since it has re-opened.

19. MEMORIAL HALL

The next Trustees meeting will be held on 21st February.

Sheila Glass

20. NATURE RESERVE

CM confirmed Wiltshire Wildlife Trust will be coming to cut back a bush by the gate on 29th Feb.

Chris Morgan

21. POLICE SURGERY

The next will be held in the Lychgate Room on 28th February 1-3pm. PCSOs Melissa Camilleri and Jonathan Mills will attend together with the Bobby Van Trust. Tea and cakes will be served.

22. RECREATION CENTRE

GH said there had been no meeting.

George Hawes

23. RAMSBURY SCHOOL

No report.

Roger Greasley

24. VANDALISM

There have been two incidents in the newly-opened public loo, and a rubbish bin embedded in concrete was knocked over in the Whittonditch play area.

25. PATIENTS' REPRESENTATIVE

George Hawes

GH had attended a meeting with the Practice Manager last week. The surgery are hopeful of being able to offer Covid boosters to the same cohort as last time, probably after Easter.

26. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT IN FEBRUARY

Inv. No	Payments to Suppliers – February 2024	Amount	Net	VAT	Paid By	S137
I3968	JRB Enterprises Ltd. – dog poo bags. Paid in Jan.	100.74	83.95	16.79	VisaDebit	No
I3969	HMRC – Employee's income tax . Paid in Jan.	399.20	399.20	0.00	DD	No
I3970	Safety Signs 4 Less. Signage etc. for public loo. Paid in Jan.	35.99	30.00	5.99	VisaDebit	No
I3971	Galleon Supplies Ltd. Bulk pack of toilet tissue. Paid in Jan.	30.00	25.00	5.00	VisaDebit	No
I3972	Viking Signs Ltd. Toilet door sticker. Paid in Jan.	4.34	3.62	0.72	VisaDebit	No
I3973	Viking Office UK Ltd. Liquid soap and soap dispensers Paid in Jan.	22.09	18.41	3.68	VisaDebit	No
I3974	M & P Hardware – Vileda mop head. Paid in Jan.	8.99	7.49	1.50	VisaDebit	No
I3975	Ramsbury Post Office – loo rolls and cleaning materials for public loo up to end of Aug 2023.	141.71	141.71	0.00	BACS	No
I3976	Castle Water – public loo standing charges 30 Aug – 31 Dec 2023.	18.14	18.14	0.00	BACS	No
I3977	Coral Westall – Public loo cleaning in Feb.	180.00	180.00	0.00	BACS	No
I3978	HP Instant Ink – 28 th Jan – 27 th Feb	11.99	9.99	2.00	VisaDebit	No
I3979	M J Baker Accountancy – Payroll fee for January	11.25	11.25	0.00	DD	No
I3980	Carty Building Contractors Ltd. – Refurbishment of former public loo - Final A/c less 1% retention	21,154.21	17,628.51	3,525.70	BACS	No
I3981	Idverde – Bin emptying in May 2023	15.00	12.50	2.50	BACS	No
I3982	Idverde – Bin emptying in Aug 2023	15.00	12.50	2.50	BACS	No
I3983	Idverde – Bin emptying in Jan 2024	15.00	12.50	2.50	BACS	No
I3984	Robert Copp – Removing ivy, trimming vegetation from eaves, tidying and removing brushwood from new Charity Shop	115.00	115.00	0.00	BACS	No
I3985	BT – Phone & Broadband 1 st Feb – 30 April	153.89	128.24	25.65	DD	No
I3986	TEEC Ltd. – website hosting annual fee	511.19	425.99	85.20	BACS	No
I3987	Viking Office Supplies – CREDIT NOTE FOR SOAP DISPENSER (see I3973 above)	-13.19	-10.99	-2.20	VisaDebit	No
I3988	Amazon – Public loo soap dispenser	16.90	14.08	2.82	VisaDebit	No
I3989	Guy Skinner – Clean gutters and velux window on the public loo building	50.00	50.00	0.00	BACS	No
I3990	Ramsbury Electrical Ltd. – Run swa cable from Memorial Hall to the public loo building	466.80	389.00	77.80	BACS	No

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I3991	Dobbies -	8.00	6.67	1.33	VisaDebit	No
I3992	Community Heartbeat Trust – Defib battery and lock	417.00	347.50	69.50		
	TOTAL TO PAY (excluding Clerk's salary I3993)	£23,889.24	£20,060.26	£3,828.98		
	TOTAL AMOUNT ON DEPOSIT*	£101,251.64				
	incl. gross interest earned to 31st Jan 2024	£2,251.64				
	MONIES RECEIVED – Ramsbury Charity Shop rent	300.00				
	TOTAL INCOME	£300.00				
	Current A/c at 31st Jan 2024	£14,195.33				

*This includes monies held in reserve for parish initiatives such as the Ramsbury Flyer, refurbishment of the former public loos, defibrillators, provision of play equipment, pavement and road repairs, etc.

The Accounts were accepted and were unanimously approved. (Prop. DB; Sec. EH)

DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 18th MARCH 2024 AT RAMSBURY MEMORIAL HALL AT 7.45 pm
ALL ARE WELCOME