

RAMSBURY & AXFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council Alice Charlwood c/o Council Office, Memorial Hall, High Street, Ramsbury, Wilts SN8 2PB
Telephone: 01672 520045 (ansaphone) e-mail parishcouncil@ramsbury.org

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 21st August 2023 at 7.45pm in the Memorial Hall

1812

Present:

S Glass – Chair (SG)
D Barnett - Vice Chair (DB)
D Edwards (DE)
A Foale (AF)
R Greasley (RG)
G Hawes (GH)

M Waugh (MW)
H Lloyd (HL)
E Hodgson (EH)
M Tester (MT)
L Jauncey (LJ)
A Charlwood (AC) – Clerk

Two members of the public were also present

- 1. APOLOGIES** – were received from Bernard Murray, Chris Morgan, Dawn Gill, and Ron Young -
Approved
- 2. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST** - None
- 3. THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**
The minutes of the meeting held on 17th July 2023 were approved and signed as a true record.
Proposed EH; Seconded AF. Approved.
- 4. MATTERS ARISING** – not included in the Agenda – None.
- 5. NEW CORRESPONDENCE – Items for discussion***

Ref. No	Date Received	July-August 2023 Correspondence	Subject Highlighted for Discussion
A7395	14 July	Resident	Maintenance of hedges bordering roads and footpaths. SG wrote in Whitton Ways asking householders to do the necessary hedge-cutting.
A7396	16 July	Resident	Overgrown hedges on Whittonditch Road. SG reported that most of these have now been attended to.

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A7398	17 July	Jeremy Wyatt, Great Green Bedwyn	Enquiry re. visiting owners of “green” homes in Ramsbury by arrangement 14/15 October as part of Bedwyn Green Open Homes Event. Fwd. to Green Committee. MW will contact Mr. Wyatt to discuss this idea further, and meanwhile SG will put his proposal on the website. See item 6(vi).
A7399	18 July	Prospect Hospice Community Fundraiser	Proposal for Christmas Tree collection – looking for a drop-off point for Ramsbury residents. Fwd to Cllrs. As the Recreation Centre car park is likely to be too busy to be an option, it was agreed that SG should ask the surgery if they could offer a temporary space for this purpose.
A7403	20 July	Nephew of the late Priscilla Price	News of PP’s death in Wolverhampton. Fwd. to Cllrs. No action needed.
A7405	21 July	Wilts Democratic & Member Services	Briefing Note updating Air Quality Action Plan. Fwd. to Cllrs. SG encouraged those who wanted to, to respond to this online before the deadline of 4th Sept.
A7407	24 July	Wilts Democratic & Member Services	Briefing Note re. refurbishment of Trowbridge Town Hall. Fwd. to Cllrs. No action needed.
A7409	25 July	Wilts CC Democratic Services	Briefing Note re. Wilts & Swindon Tree Warden Scheme. Fwd. to Green Committee. SG was asked to put information about the relaunch of this scheme on the website.
A7412	26 July	Martin Cook, N. Wilts Area Highway Engineer	Scaffolding in Back Lane necessitating contraflow. Fwd. to Cllrs. No action needed
A7416	28 July	CPRE	Best Kept Village 2023 – Results. Fwd. to Cllrs. Ramsbury came 4th in the Laurence Kitching Award category.
A7417	28 July	Naomi Oakley, Wilts & Swindon History Centre	Country History Resources. Fwd. to Cllrs.
A7419	01 August	Wilts CC Traffic Management Network	C188 road closure in Ramsbury commencing 7 th Aug. Fwd. to Cllrs. SG emailed the locals to ensure they were aware.
A7421	02 August	Resident	Problem of horses having access to footpath south of Ramsbury. Fwd. to Rights Of Way C. See item 6(iii)
A7422	04 August	PC Chairman	Retirement of postmistress. Fwd. to Cllrs. SG said that whilst the PC has no direct involvement in the recruitment of a new person in this role, they are pleased to hear that several local people have expressed interest in taking over.

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A7423	05 August	Resident	Re. a quad bike and motorbike speeding around Whittonditch play area. Fwd. to Play Areas C. SG contacted the resident to say incidents like this should be reported to the police on 101.
A7426	07 August	Wilts CC Traffic Order Team,	Temporary closure of C208 in Chilton Foliat from 16 th October. Fwd. to Cllrs.
A7427	08 August	Anna Forbes, ARK	Ash tree suffering from dieback near the triangle. Fwd. to Cllrs. SG reported that ARK's advice is that the tree should be cut down but without removing the roots. SG will seek quotes from three local tree surgeons for this work.
A7429	09 August	Nick Self, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust	Removal of fallen tree at the Nature Reserve. SG reported that WWT carried out the necessary work within ten days of our reporting it.
A7431	10 August	Wilts CC, Traffic Order Team	Notice of temporary closure of Union Street 23 rd -27 th October 2023. Fwd. to Cllrs.
A7432	31 July	Resident	Tree cutting at the entrance to Lamplands. SG confirmed that these leylandii had been topped and that they lie outside the conservation area. She has requested that the landowner clear any remaining small debris out of the ditch to avoid causing a blockage in future.
A7434	11 August	Wilts CC Democratic & Member Services	Need to improve sorting of recyclable rubbish at household recycling centre. Fwd. to Green C. See item 6(vi)
A7437	12 August	Resident	Interested in the vacancy for postmistress. Fwd. to Cllrs.
A7440	15 August	Matthew Finnegan, Swindon Memorials	Arrangements for hand cutter to add new inscriptions to war memorial. SG will be in touch with them about the names that are to go on to the WWII panel.

*The full list of incoming correspondence from 8th July- 15th August can be viewed on the parish council website

6. Committee Reports: 6 (i) Planning

Diann Barnett

PLANNING REPORT RAMSBURY AND AXFORD PARISH COUNCIL - July 2023 Planning Applications processed since May 2023 Report

New applications-

- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| • PL/2023/04271 | Ramsbury Methodist Chapel
SN8 2PG | Amendments to change of use – commented on privacy boundary windows. |
| • PL/2023/05187 | Westfield House, Mill Lane | Treework. |
| • PL/2023/05245 | Crown and Anchor | Chalet bungalow, drive, parking, garden. |

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Still awaiting –

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|---|
| • PL/2022/05380 | Ramsbury Manor SN8 2RG | Exhibition centre, estate yard and car park |
| • PL/2022/04972 | Ramsbury Manor SN8 2RG | Exhibition centre, estate yard and car park |
| • PL/2022/07930 | House Farm, Axford | Demolish barn and erect agriculture stores |
| • PL/2022/09130 | 42-43 Oxford St, Ramsbury | Demolition, single storey ext., porch etc |
| • PL/2022/08951 | As above – listed | As above |
| • PL/2022/08705 | Coombe Farm, Axford | New house, dwelling, Estate yard and ancillary. |

Decisions-

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|--|
| • PL/2023/03418 | Burney Farm SN8 2NN | Cert' of lawfulness to commence development. APP |
| • PL/2023/01980 | The Cedars, SN8 2PL | Garage conversion to ancillary accommodation. APP |
| • PL/2023/01811 | 42-43 Oxford St, Ramsbury | Listed building consent as PL/2022/09130. APP |
| • PL/2023/02149 | Knighton Farmhouse SN8 2QB | Exterior alterations to existing barn. APP |

DB reported that there had been no change since the above report.

A meeting of the Planning Committee was held on 14th August to discuss the mobile home sited on agricultural land outside the settlement boundary at Lamplands. The owner attended the meeting. The Committee explained the reasons why they would be submitting objections to Wilts CC Planning.

At the same meeting the Committee considered whether an alteration in future to the settlement boundary might be beneficial to the community. However, after discussion, they concluded that they would not pursue this issue as they have learnt from experience that they would have no say over what eventually might get built on any redesignated land. SG pointed to several examples from the past when the PC had made great efforts to have a reasonable provision of “affordable” homes in applications for developments in Ramsbury that initially looked promising on paper but were eventually stymied.

DB confirmed that the PC have objected to the application from the Crown & Anchor, as have a number of residents, and it is understood that before the Conservation Officer and the Highways Officer can comment they are awaiting a response from the applicant to various queries they have put forward in relation to this matter.

6(ii) Finance

Erica Hodgson

- EH confirmed that the contract for the public loo conversion must be put on contractfinder within 3 months. It was agreed that this would be done when final figures were available.
- EH confirmed that the Clerk (as RFO) was now able to make purchases on behalf of the PC as her bank debit card had been received.
- AC confirmed that the internal auditor had confirmed that, saving his suggestion of one small amendment, he was happy with the new spreadsheet format for this year's bookkeeping so it will be implemented from now on.
- A meeting of the Finance Committee will be arranged in September to start to consider the 2024-25 budget and precept request. **ACTION - EH**

6(iii) Rights of Way

Lynn Jauncey

Footpath/bridleway signs

- The bridleway sign has been put on post at top of Hilldrop Lane. There have been no recent reports of motorbikes or scramble bikes using it.
- Footpath signage on path at the back of Parliament Piece has been put up at both ends.

Horses on Springs Hill

- LJ tried to e-mail the owner but had no response, so she followed up with a phone call and signage has now been put up at both lower entrance points warning about nervous horses in field. The landowner said he was going to put signage up asking people NOT to feed horses.
- Landowner explained that as the field is 'common land,' livestock is allowed to roam regardless of the fact that there are two RoWs passing through it.

Ash tree on Mill Lane

- SG been in touch with Anna Forbes at ARK and they have recommended someone to carry the work out. Therefore, the diseased tree will be cut down.

Overgrown pathways

- The majority of footpaths have been maintained well, however due to the recent weather we have been having there is no way either we or landowners can keep on top of this! Hopefully, walkers will appreciate this!

EH mentioned that the Seven Bridges footpath was very overgrown in places. Any help with this from the landowners would be greatly appreciated but it was also pointed out that walkers themselves can use a stick as they pass to beat down long grass and nettles where they are encroaching.

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

- DE is still awaiting a response from Dorset CC to her enquiry about a zipwire they have. She will pursue this with them. **ACTION – DE**
- She is still to action the work needed to remedy the dip at the bottom of the slide at Whittonditch.
- DE wants to make an appointment to meet with the inspector from RoSPA when they next come to carry out their annual safety inspections at all our play areas. **ACTION – Clerk**
- Nothing has come up recently in the other play areas, but the Play Areas Committee should fix a date for a meeting soon. **ACTION – DE**
- DE and SG are to arrange a date to visit and inspect a swing in a playground in Swindon. **ACTION DE/SG**
- SG reported that the property owner at the corner of Back Lane and Hilldrop had been in touch seeking permission to temporarily remove the bench on that corner to enable the repair of the wall behind it. SG had sought advice on the matter and let her know that the bench might not be easy to move, but it was OK to do so provided it was done with great care, and that it must be replaced afterwards with equal care.

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

- SG and DB confirmed that all the salt bins had been checked in Ramsbury and Axford and are all OK. SG will report to the Weather Team. **ACTION SG**
- AF will convene a meeting of the Emergency Committee, probably in October. **ACTION - AF**
- SG and AF will be attending a WALC event in Tidworth on 31st August about community resilience to emergencies. **ACTION – SG/AF**

6(vi) Green Committee**Maggie Waugh**

- MW reported that the Green Committee had met recently and discussed ways in which the parish might work towards becoming plastic-free. DG will be contacting Ian Smith and The Bell to talk through some of the practicalities with them and will report back. **ACTION - DG**
- MW will contact Great Green Bedwyn about their approach to us regarding possible arrangements to visit eco home-owners here. **ACTION - MW**
- MW also reported that the Committee have been considering ideas for how to make our recycling easier and more effective and reduce the current confusion over what should go where.
- The Green Committee will be taking all these matters forward at their next meeting in September.

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

A member of the public asked if it was possible to see the Best Kept Village report.

ACTION – Clerk

Another member of the public said that the 30mph sign at the Marlborough end of Back Lane had been knocked by a passing vehicle so that it was now facing into the hedge behind it.

ACTION – SG

7. AXFORD

Diann Barnett

- DB reported that the bus shelter and phone box had been cleaned and tidied.
- GH said that grass-cutting had been done in the churchyard, thanks to a local landowner.

8. LOCAL HIGHWAYS & FOOTWAYS IMPROVEMENT GROUP

Sheila Glass

- SG confirmed that the NO HGVs and the WALKERS IN ROAD signs have gone up.
- There was some discussion about an informal complaint from a resident about the lack of a NO HGVs sign at the Crown & Anchor end of Crowood Lane. SG reminded the meeting that this had been considered when erecting the signs was first proposed, but the idea had been rejected because there was no suitable place for such a sign in the heart of the village where it would be practicable for any HGV driver to turn or manoeuvre at that point in order to take an alternative route.

9. MARLBOROUGH AREA BOARD

Sheila Glass

SG reported on an online Teams Meeting that she had attended on 18th August which she had found very useful. This had covered:-

- (i) housing strategies for a new Local Plan, currently in development;
- (ii) trying to improve access to local support services for the people who need them – getting them the right help at the right time;
- (iii) widening the reach of the mobile libraries;
- (iv) more details about the Resilience Event (see 6(v))

The next meeting will be held in October.

10. ALLOTMENTS

Denise Edwards

DE reported two new enquiries having come in. The plot-holders are harvesting some lovely produce.

11. WEBSITE

SG reported that the web host has now added the Clerk as a new administrator.

12. VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

(i) Potholes – Were discussed in the context of the rocks along the edge of the highway on Union Street. Wiltshire Highways department have been in touch with the houseowner about our concerns (his potential liability in the event of accidents involving pedestrians or cyclists - especially at night – or damage caused to passing cars).

(ii) **White gates on Newtown Road** – SG is still awaiting a quote from Idverde before deciding on whether to place an order for a second white gate (to make up a pair with the one that was left unused at Whittonditch). **ACTION - SG**

(iii) **Christmas tree and Christmas lights** - SG has written to Alistair Ewing at Ramsbury Estates with a suggestion about uplighting the tree instead of draping it in lights this year, as well as having one 10-12' tree with fairy lights alongside it, supported by the post that has already been installed on a corner of the Square. So far, no response, so she will contact him again about this. **ACTION - SG**

LJ raised the possibility of any lighting that is decided upon being solar-powered and was asked to look into the practicality of this. She will liaise on this with SG. **ACTION – SG/LJ**

(iv) **Freshers' Day – April 2024** – SG is liaising with Ian Smith about running another Freshers' Day for village newcomers next Spring.

(v) **Gully cleaning** – SG has reported a lot of blocked gullies lately, and she asked parishioners to keep letting us know as and when they spot them, or to report the problem themselves online at MyWilts ([Wiltshire Council Booking and Reporting](#))

13. MEMORIAL GARDEN

HL remarked on how good the memorial is looking since it was cleaned.

SG has noticed that the gate is soon going to need replacing and will try to find a contractor to do the necessary work. **ACTION - SG**

14. PARISH STEWARD'S ROTA

Next visit will be on 31st August.

Although it was recognised it would not be a job for the parish stewards, AF initiated a discussion about how we might cost-effectively resurface and widen the footpath from Knowledge Hill to Back Lane (where it emerges opposite Ramsbury Hill) to make it more easily accessible to wheelchair users.

15. LIBRARY

Nothing to report.

16. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

- RG confirmed that the contractor had already started work on dismantling the old building and the public loo has now gone for the time being. The planting around the side of the structure will need removing. The window and door dimensions have now been established and the necessary orders have gone into the suppliers; we expect delivery in 12 weeks.
- Overall, the work seems to be moving ahead nicely, and we anticipate being able to make some cost savings on some aspects of the specification as quoted. RG is contacting the contractor about firming up the figures so we can formalise the contract.

17. MEMORIAL HALL

Sheila Glass/George Hawes

SG reported that a Trustees meeting is due to be held on 30th August. The planned refurbishment of the kitchen will go ahead soon.

18. NATURE RESERVE

Chris Morgan

SG expressed appreciation at Wiltshire Wildlife Trust's very quick response to the need to remove a fallen tree.

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- 19. RECREATION CENTRE** *George Hawes*
Nothing to report.
- 20. RAMSBURY SCHOOL** *Roger Greasley*
Autumn term commences on 4th September.
- 22. VANDALISM**
Nothing to report.
- 23. PATIENTS REP** *George Hawes*
GH reported that the next meeting of patient representatives will be on 5th September, when he expects to learn more about the surgery's plans for winter vaccination clinics.
- 24. RESCHEDULE JUNE 2024 MEETING DATE**
As the Clerk will be away on the third Monday of June next year, it was agreed that the 2024 meeting schedule should be amended, and the June meeting be brought forward by one week to Monday 10th. SG will make the necessary alteration to the PC's hall bookings accordingly.
- 25. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT IN AUGUST**

Invoice No	Payments to Suppliers - August 2023	Amount	Net	VAT	Paid By	S137
I3884	Tesco – thank you gift to internal auditor (Paid in July)	16.50	13.75	2.75	VisaDebit	No
I3885	Dobbies Garden Centre – thank you gift to auditor (Paid in July)	50.00	41.67	8.33	VisaDebit	No
I3886	Stamps Direct Limited – stamp pad (Paid in July)	7.05	5.87	1.18	VisaDebit	No
I3887	Alice Charlwood – postage & stationery (Paid in July)	8.43	7.26	1.17	BACS	No
I3888	Community Heartbeat Trust – Defibrillator pads	73.14	60.95	12.19	BACS	No
I3889	Idverde Ltd. – Bin emptying in July	15.00	12.50	2.50	BACS	No
I3890	M J Baker Accountancy – payroll processing in July	11.25	11.25	0.00	DD	No
I3891	Coral Westall – public loo cleaning in August	180.00	180.00	0.00	BACS	No
I3892	Robert Copp – trimming path at Whittonditch Hill	184.00	184.00	0.00	BACS	No
I3893	Microsoft Office 365 – Annual Subscription	59.99	50.00	9.99	VisaDebit	No
I3894	BT – Phone & Broadband 1 Aug – 31 Oct	123.96	103.30	20.66	DD	No
I3895	JRB Enterprises Ltd. – dog poo bags	100.74	83.95	16.79	VisaDebit	No
I3896	Robert Copp – Clearing and cleaning Axford bus shelter and phone box, and general tidy of site	135.00	135.00	0.00	BACS	No

TOTAL OUTGOINGS excluding Clerk's salary (Ref. I3897)	£965.06	£889.50	£75.56		
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1821

TOTAL AMOUNT ON DEPOSIT*	121,023.91				
*incl. gross interest earned to 14 th Aug 2023	1,023.91				
MONIES RECEIVED					
Coronation mug sales	162.00	162.00	0.00		
TOTAL INCOME	£162.00	£162.00	£0.00		
Current A/c balance at 31st July 2023 – £3,110.16					

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

The Accounts were accepted and were unanimously approved.

Prop. RG; Sec. DE

DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING - MONDAY 18th SEPTEMBER at 7.45pm
at Ramsbury Memorial Hall

ALL ARE WELCOME