

RAMSBURY & AXFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 11th December 2023 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
D Edwards (DE)	D Gill (DG)
R Greasley (RG)	E Hodgson (EH)
M Waugh (MW)	M Tester (MT)
L Jauncey (LJ)	C Morgan (CM)
B Murray (BM)	A Charlwood (AC) – Clerk

Three members of the public were also present

Before the meeting the Chairman presented a small gift to Ron Young who is leaving the Council after twelve years. She acknowledged and thanked him for the time and work he has given to the Council over that time.

1. **APOLOGIES** – were received from Alison Foale. **Approved**
2. **DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST** - None
3. **THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**
The minutes of the meeting held on 20th November 2023 were approved and signed as a true record. **Proposed EH; Seconded BM. Approved.**
4. **MATTERS ARISING** –
The matter of the construction of a bike jump on the land owned by the parish council between the Whittonditch playing field and the surgery building was discussed at this juncture. **See the item minuted under Public Forum (p.1849)**

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5. NEW CORRESPONDENCE – Items for discussion*

Ref. No	Date Received	Nov - Dec 2023 Correspondence	Subject Highlighted for Discussion
*A7552	14 Nov	Resident	Section 154 Highways Act – Arrangements have been made to cut back overgrown hedge on Crowood Lane. This work has now been done but some complaints were received about the mess left on the carriageway afterwards.
*A7554	15 Nov	Chris Manuel, Wilts & Swindon Prepared	Thanks for provision of details for Community Emergency Contacts scheme. For info.
*A7556	16 Nov	Resident	Concern about speeding on Burdett Street. Fwd to Cllrs. SG will write to her. ACTION SG
*A7558	16 Nov	Ron Young, Parish Councillor	Letter of resignation from the PC.
*A7567	29 Nov	Resident	Request for a Christmas tree. SG informed him that the PC was unlikely to extend the provision of trees in future.
*A7569	1 Dec	Resident	Acknowledging reply re. the management of ancient woodland at Long Copse. Fwd. to Rights of Way Committee. For info.
*A7570	1 Dec	Resident	Gulley near bus stop on Back Lane still blocked. SG is following this up. ACTION SG Update: this has been reported again.

*The full list of incoming correspondence from 8th November – 4th December can be viewed on the parish council website

6. Committee Reports: 6 (i) Planning

Diann Barnett

PLANNING REPORT RAMSBURY AND AXFORD PARISH COUNCIL – December 2023
Planning Applications Processed since November 2023 Report

New applications -

- PL/2023/10028 North of Newtown Road Preliminary 9 houses. OBJECT

Still awaited -

- PL/2022/08705 Coombe Farm, Axford New house, dwelling, Est yard and ancillary. N/O
- PL/2023/05245 Crown and Anchor REVISED -bungalow, drive, parking, garden. OBJ
- PL/2023/06108 Land NE Lamplands - Siting of mobile home OBJ
- PL/2023/06332 14/15 Union St Side and rear ext., 3 dormer windows N/O
- PL/2023/07436 Meadow Fm Stud SN8 2PP Varying of conditions. N/O
- PL/2023/07297 Hop House, Tankard Lane Resubmission of 18/00532/FUL N/O
- PL/2023/07437 Land south of Back Lane Single storey eco house, access, boundary wall work
- PL/2023/09316 Holy Cross Church Treework – Black Pine
- PL/2023/09317 Holy Cross Church Treework – Lime
- PL/2023/09473 The Rectory, Back Lane Treework.
- PL/2023/09631 Brushfield, Swans Bottom Fell tree with TPO – ash.

Decisions -

- PL/2023/07407 1 The Square, Ramsbury Change of use bowls green-garden + s'house. APP.
- Red Lion, Axford Planning contravention notice served.

DB commented that the Highways Department's opinion of the Crown & Anchor application PL/2023/05245 agreed with the PC's objections. Also, that she is looking into why the application for new houses to the north of Newtown Road (PL/2023/10028) dated 16th November was closed three weeks earlier than normal (on 6th December), thus leaving little or no time for consultation with the neighbours about a scheme that breaches the current designated area of development. **ACTION – DB**

6(ii) Finance

Erica Hodgson

- Public loo conversion – **see item 16.**
- Proposal for Funding of Carers' Support Group – EH reported that there are currently 18 members of this support group from the parish, and she therefore proposed that a £100 donation be made to the CSG. This was unanimously approved. MT suggested that it might be supportive of the carers in the parish if we were to invite the skilled members of the Marlborough group to run an occasional coffee morning here in the British Legion and EH was asked to extend that invitation to them. **ACTION – EH**
- 2024/25 precept request – As agreed at the November meeting, EH is awaiting confirmation (due on 13th December) that the Wilts CC tax base will be between 940.30 and 943.55 before submitting our precept request of £76,380. **ACTION – EH**

6(iii) Rights of Way

Lynn Jauncey

LJ reported that the matter of the proposed monthly parish walks, the idea of walking all the parish rights of way, and preparations for the 2024 boundary walk on 5th May will all be discussed at the next RoW sub-Committee meeting to be arranged in January. **ACTION – LJ**

6(iv) Play Areas and Seats

Denise Edwards

DE had nothing to report. It was agreed that the Play Areas sub-Committee should meet early in the New Year to discuss the PC's current areas of concern about the bike jump proposal and the planned redevelopment of the Ax-ford play area. **ACTION – SG/DE**

6(v) Emergency Committee

Alison Foale

- AF was not at the meeting but SG reported that a letter offering a supply of Aqua-Sacs had been drafted; this letter is to go out to the residents of the properties prone to flooding in the event of very prolonged and heavy rain on the south side of the High Street. **ACTION - AF**
- DB has volunteered to collate the database forms already to hand. **ACTION - DB**
- SG and EH are working on a database form that can be completed online and submitted via the PC website. **ACTION – SG/EH**
- LJ offered to conduct a monthly generator test in the Memorial Hall to ensure everything is in working order. DB has already agreed to carry out a similar monthly check on the Axford generator. **ACTION – LJ/DB**

6(vi) Environment Committee

Maggie Waugh

BM reported that he had taken on board all the suggestions and useful feedback from councillors on the sub-Committee's draft policy document, and he will now be liaising with DE early in the New Year to create the new website page. **ACTION – BM/DE**

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

Three members of the public attended the meeting to try to progress their appeal for the PC's permission and support in creating a bike jump at the back of the Whittonditch playing field, behind the surgery. From the plans they had submitted in advance of the meeting, DE was able to point out that there would not be enough room for the number of mounds they were proposing, that the turn seemed to be too tight and, overall, the scheme would encroach on to the playing field. They were asked to go away and reconsider these aspects of the plan, and also to give some thought to who was to be responsible for the running of the bike jump now and in the future.

In a subsequent discussion of other PC concerns in this regard it was agreed that SG should write to them and suggest a site meeting with the parent group should be held in the New Year, prior to the PC inviting the local residents to a public meeting to make them aware of what is envisaged. SG will also contact a member of Aldbourne PC who was, in the past, involved in establishing a similar sort of area there, with a view to learning more about the professional indemnity insurance implications for the PC. **ACTION SG**

7. AXFORD

Diann Barnett

DB will follow up on the matter of speeding through the village and installing a defibrillator in the New Year. **ACTION - DB**

8. LOCAL HIGHWAYS & FOOTWAYS IMPROVEMENT GROUP

Sheila Glass

The next meeting will be held in on 25th January 2024.

9. MARLBOROUGH AREA BOARD

Sheila Glass

The next meeting will be held on 09/01/24

10. ALLOTMENTS

Denise Edwards

DE reported that, following the AGM on 5th December, they are now receiving the new tenancy agreements and allocating plots to new plot-holders.

Any resident of Ramsbury and Axford who would like to join the waiting list for an allotment can contact allotments@ramsbury.org.uk or phone Dee Edwards on 07867 921878.

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11. WEBSITE

Nothing to report.

12. VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

(i) **White gates on Newtown Road** – SG is still looking for a suitable contractor. A decision has yet to be made about 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**

(ii) **SIDs** – A repair to LED display on Axford east SID is not economically viable so that will have to be addressed in the New Year. As we near the winter solstice the low level of light is sometimes affecting the functionality of the SIDs.

(iii) **Christmas uplighters for the tree** – SG said she thought that the Christmas lights were looking good, but the uplighters need to be stronger to reach higher into the canopy of the tree. She will try to source some more powerful uplighters for next year.

(iv) **Diary Dates** –

- Carols Around the Tree – **18th December at 7pm**
- “Freshers” Event - **April 20th 2024**
- Street Fair 2024 **June 22nd 2024**
- Volunteers’ thank- you event **June 22nd 2024 after Street Fair**
- DDay 80 events (including cream tea on June 2nd) **May 31st – 8th June 2024**

13. MEMORIAL GARDEN

SG reported that Jane Handford had kindly offered to revamp the two flower beds at the front of the garden next year.

14. PARISH STEWARD’S ROTA

There will be no visit in December.

15. LIBRARY

Nothing to report.

16. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

RG reported that the contract should be finalised by the time the job is completed on 20th December. The work is within budget and the contractor has assured us that there should be no surprises. A further interim payment will be due before the month end and SG sought councillors’ approval to settling that invoice promptly after consultation with the Chairman of Finance, (i.e. prior to the January PC meeting) if necessary. **APPROVED.**

In answer to a question from MT about the terms of the PC’s contract with the future tenant – the charity shop – SG confirmed that she will be meeting with EH early in January to discuss this matter and to draft a document to be taken to the first Finance Committee meeting in the New Year. **ACTION SG/EH**

17. MEMORIAL HALL

Sheila Glass

SG reported that the work on the kitchen is almost finished. GH mentioned that the original spec. had needed an amendment.

18. NATURE RESERVE*Chris Morgan*

Nothing to report.

19. POLICE SURGERY

SG attended the police surgery in the Lychgate Room at 7pm on Thursday 7th December but no-one else came, despite it having been widely advertised. Nevertheless, it had been useful for her to meet and talk to our Community Support Officer Melissa Camilleri. In that conversation she learnt that the police have caught the people who broke into Midway Stores recently.

20. RECREATION CENTRE*George Hawes*

GH reported on a plan to extend the existing tarmac surface between the tennis courts all the way to the entrance/exit on to Hilldrop Lane, to replace the existing surface of gravel and stone.

21. RAMSBURY SCHOOL*Roger Greasley*

No report.

22. VANDALISM

- (i) Vehicles have been driving across the playing field behind the surgery, as evidenced by the tyre tracks they left behind. DE expressed concern that this could potentially damage the surface of the playing field.
- (ii) The contractor's site at Whiteways in Axford was broken into.

23. PATIENTS REP*George Hawes*

GH reported that there had been a 70% uptake in the vaccination clinic appointments offered. The surgery now has data showing that the number of patient no-shows (there were 99 in November) is costing the practice the equivalent of 1.5 doctor days per month. In the ensuing discussion of this matter, and in the light of the difficulty people are having in getting an appointment at the surgery, SG was asked to contact the Practice Manager to look at ways the PC might usefully disseminate this information more widely.

ACTION - SG**24. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT IN DECEMBER**

Inv. No	Payments to Suppliers – December 2023	Amount	Net	VAT	Paid By	S137
I3940	JRB Enterprises Ltd. – dog poo bags. Paid in Nov.	130.92	109.10	21.82	VisaDebit	No
I3941	Bob Foale – Reimbursement for gate materials. Paid in Nov.	125.70	105.91	19.79	BACS	No
I3942	HP Instant Ink – 28 th Oct – 27 th Nov. Paid in Nov.	9.99	8.32	1.67	VisaDebit	No
I3943	Alfado Ltd. – Christmas tree light batteries. Paid in Nov.	111.20	92.67	18.53	VisaDebit	No
I3944	S. Glass - Thank you gift to Bob Foale for his work on the new Memorial Garden gate. Paid in Nov.	50.00	50.00	0.00	VisaDebit	No
I3945	Festive Lights - 2 sets of lights for Christmas trees. Paid in Nov.	47.37	39.47	7.90	VisaDebit	No
I3946	Idverde Ltd – Bin emptying in November	15.00	12.50	2.59	BACS	No
I3947	Coral Westall – Loo cleaning in December	180.00	180.00	0.00	BACS	No

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I3948	Coral Westall – Office cleaning Oct - Dec	34.00	34.00	0.00	BACS	No
I3949	HP Instant Ink – 28 th Nov – 27 th Dec	9.99	8.32	1.67	VisaDebit	No
I3950	S. Glass - Thank you gift to Ron Young for his years as Councillor	31.13	31.13	0.00	BACS	No
I3951	S Glass - Refreshments during work on Mem Garden	9.00	9.00	0.00	BACS	No
I3952	J Talmage – Annual allotments rent	600.00	600.00	0.00	BACS	No
I3953	Amazon - Anchors for tree uplighters	14.67	12.22	2.45	VisaDebit	No
I3954	RBL Poppy Appeal – Remembrance Day wreaths	165.00	165.00	0.00	Cheque	No
I3955	M J Baker Accountancy – Payroll fee for November	11.25	11.25	0.00	DD	No
	TOTAL TO PAY (excluding Clerk's salary I3956)	£1545.22	£1468.89	£76.33		
	TOTAL AMOUNT ON DEPOSIT*	£75,851.27				
	incl. gross interest earned to 30th Nov. 2023	£1,851.27				
	MONIES RECEIVED – Ramsbury Allotment Assoc. rent	600.00				
	Current A/c at 30th November 2023 – £21,480.59					

*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.

In addition to the payment of £1,545.22 (scheduled above), SG sought councillors' approval for an additional £3,049 to be paid to Robert Copp for his grass cutting during 2023 (details having been circulated to Councillors before the meeting as his invoice was received after the original schedule was prepared for the agenda of this meeting).

This would bring the total outgoings to £4,594.22. **Prop. MT; Sec. EH. APPROVED.**

The Accounts were accepted and were unanimously approved. (Prop. HL; Sec. DE)

**DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 15TH JANUARY 2024 AT RAMSBURY MEMORIAL HALL AT 7.45 pm**

ALL ARE WELCOME