

# 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 18<sup>th</sup> March at 7.45pm in Ramsbury Memorial Hall

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### Present:

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

Two members of the public were also present

- APOLOGIES** – were received from Chris Morgan. **Approved**
- DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST** – None.
- THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**  
Item 6(iii) of the February draft minutes (p.1865) – was corrected to say that it was, in fact, Matthew Hodgson (not Matthew Tester) who had offered to do a route map for the Boundary Walk. With that change, the minutes were approved and signed as a true record. **Proposed HL; Seconded LJ. Approved.**
- MATTERS ARISING** –  
None.
- NEW CORRESPONDENCE** – Items for discussion\*

Ref. No	Date Received	Feb-March 2024 Correspondence	Subject *Highlighted for Discussion
*A7655	14 Feb	Islescourt Estate Manager	Accepting proposal for installing dropped kerbs. SG reported that a site meeting has been arranged on 25 <sup>th</sup> March.

*A7656	14 Feb	Jason Lucas, Wilts C.C. Traffic Order Team	Temporary closure of part of C6 w.e.f. 17 <sup>th</sup> April. Fwd. to Cllrs. SG said she believes this will be a night closure (10pm-6am) between Stitchcombe and Minal so will hopefully minimise inconvenience.
*A7657	15 Feb	Renate Malton, Wilts C.C.	Documents re. ditch maintenance. Fwd. to Emergency Committee.
*A7658	15 Feb	Democratic & Member Services, Wilts C.C.	Briefing Note on developing a Cultural Strategy for the county. Fwd to Cllrs.
*A7662	21 Feb	Wilts C. C. Democratic & Member Services	Online link to public survey on the development of the Cultural Survey - now live. Fwd to Cllrs. For information.
*A7663	21 Feb	Mike Manson, CPRE	Invitation to enter 2024 Best Kept Village competition. Fwd to Cllrs. See Item 14(ii)
*A7664	22 Feb	Resident	Flooding on Swan's Close. Fwd. to Emergency Committee. SG said multiple reports had been submitted to MyWilts about this and that is all the PC can do.
*A7665	23 Feb	Wilts C.C.	Approval of Wilts C.C. budget for 24/25. Fwd. to Cllrs. For information.
*A7666	23 Feb	Wiltshire Climate Alliance	Hustings focussed on climate change and biodiversity loss in our constituency before the General Election. Fwd. to Environment C. MW said that we should express an interest in this. SG will reply accordingly. UPDATE – SG & Environment C. to discuss further.
*A7667	23 Feb	Camella Town, Wiltshire & Swindon Prepared	Rolling out Emergency Contact hubs – visit to be arranged. Fwd to Emergency C. See Item 6(v)
*A7669	26 Feb	Sarah Radcliffe, Northern Highways	Clarification re. the new discretionary gully service being run in-house by WCC as an additional service to that being provided already by the MyWilts contractor. Fwd. to Cllrs. For information.
*A7673	29 Feb	Resident	Reporting blocked drain – run-off from Tankard Lane. Also pruning of second London Plane. For information.
*A7675	01 March	Arts & Funding Manager, Wilts C.C.	Invitation to include local events happening May – August in the Wiltshire Summer Arts Programme digital brochure. Fwd. to Cllrs SG will write to inform them about our upcoming village events over the summer. ACTION - SG
*A7676	03 March	Resident	Reporting blocked gulleys/soakaways on Crowood Lane. These appear to have been cleared.

*A7678	04 March	Resident	Reporting blocked drains and lifted manhole covers outside The Old Barn and West House. These were cleared by the Parish Stewards at their last visit.
*A7681	07 March	Joanna Price, Ramsbury Primary School	School's participation in The Great British Spring Clean 15-31 March. Fwd. to Cllrs. See Item 14(ii)
*A7682	07 March	DPDS Consulting Group (acting for owners of the Red Lion)	Red Lion Enforcement Action – arrange a meeting in early April to discuss. Fwd to Cllrs. We have had no response to our reply to them. DB to chase up. ACTION - DB

\*The full list of incoming correspondence from 11<sup>th</sup> February to 11<sup>th</sup> March can be viewed on the parish council website

SG also drew attention to two items of correspondence received since 7<sup>th</sup> March as follows :-

1. On 18<sup>th</sup> March from HM Lord-Lieutenant of Wiltshire offering the parish an official framed portrait of HM The King completely free of charge. This offer was discussed, and a vote was taken. The Chair was asked to decline the offer. ACTION – SG
2. On 15<sup>th</sup> March from Keith Mantle expressing his gratitude for the letter thanking him for his work regularly clearing up Crowood Lane. For information.

## 6. Committee Reports:

### 6 (i) Planning

*Diann Barnett*

#### PLANNING REPORT RAMSBURY AND AXFORD PARISH COUNCIL – March 2024

##### Planning Applications Processed since February 2024 Report

##### New applications-

- PL/2024/01516 Gilwell House, 19a High St Rear single storey extension and glazed link
- PL/2024/01684 61, High St Rooflight, single storey ext., garden studio
- PL/2024/01665 House on the Hill, Hilldrop Oak frame garage, incl. workshop on site of existing outbuilding
- PL/2024/01907 2 Peach Tree Cott, Lamplands 2 storey side ext., replacing lean-to and partly over existing single-storey extension.
- PL/2024/01687 Snellswood Dairy, Whittonditch New agricultural building next to existing
- PL/2024/02014 Poultry Farm, Darrells. Consultation on whether prior permission necessary to put solar panels on chicken houses.

##### Still awaiting-

- PL/2023/06108 Land NE Lamplands Siting of mobile home **OBJ**
- PL/2023/10297 Coach House, Preston Cert' of Lawfulness, existing/historic residence
- PL/2024/10423 Park Farm, Ramsbury Maintenance yd, veg garden & driveway + listed.
- 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

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## Decisions-

- |                 |                         |   |
|-----------------|-------------------------|---|
| • PL/2024/00130 | Ambrose Farm            | 2.5 bay garage. APP                                     |
| • PL/2024/00217 | The Rectory, Back Lane  | Treework. APP   |
| • PL/2024/00518 | 7 Ashley Piece          | Single storey rear extension. APP                       |
| • PL/2023/07437 | Land south of Back Lane | Single storey eco house, access, boundary wall work APP |

07.03.2024 : Email received from DPDS Consulting Group requesting meeting regarding the Enforcement Notice served on Red Lion, Axford. We have responded, asking for details.

The Planning Inspectorate have refused an appeal from 42/44 Oxford St, to revert to original planning to build a 2.5 car cart house with an upper storey.

DB reported that the treework application at Holy Cross had been approved since the above report was published. Also, that three new applications had been received on 18<sup>th</sup> March.

In answer to a query from MT about the application from 61 High Street, DB confirmed that a site meeting is to be arranged to clarify a query about the parking as shown on the application. **ACTION - DB**

### 6(ii) Finance

*Erica Hodgson*

- The Clerk reported that the internal auditor had conducted a pre-audit inspection of our records on 11<sup>th</sup> March and had been very satisfied with everything. The formal internal audit will take place on 3<sup>rd</sup> May.
- The Clerk confirmed that a VAT reclaim had been submitted on 8<sup>th</sup> March for the year 2023-24 for £10,285.32. With luck, this amount will be received by 31<sup>st</sup> March.
- HL reported that some further amendments had been made to the draft Financial Risk Assessment and summarised these. The updated Risk Assessment (v.11) was unanimously approved. **Prop. HL; Sec. SG**
- MT queried how frequently financial records were backed-up. The Clerk was asked to keep a record in future of whenever back-ups were carried out. **ACTION - CLERK**
- EH reported that the details of the completed contract with Carty's need to be input into Wilts C.C. Contract Finder. **ACTION – RG/EH**

### 6(iii) Rights of Way

*Lynn Jauncey*

- LJ reported that the preparations for the 2024 Boundary Walk are on track. A leaflet is being drafted and the walk leader (Doug Greenway will recce the route soon. The finishing point will be the British Legion where teas and other refreshments will be available. SG suggested that another four large flasks be purchased, to avoid the need to ferry the flasks we already have from the coffee station to the British Legion. This was approved. It was also agreed that two more Walkers In Road signs should be acquired. **ACTION - SG**
- Walking our footpaths – The reintroduction of monthly circular walks will commence with the “Littlecote Loop” on Sunday 2nd June – which happens to synchronise nicely with the plan to serve cream teas in The Square that same afternoon. DE was asked to post information about both on the Events page of the website. **ACTION - DE**
- If well-attended, the monthly walks will continue, and follow other routes on the first Sunday of the month thereafter.

### 6(iv) Play Areas and Seats

*Denise Edwards*

- DE reported that the minutes of the Play Areas sub-Committee Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> March had been circulated to the members. It was decided to approach other companies to submit quotes for some additional play equipment for Axford and Whittonditch Road as new equipment has come on to the market that may be better suited to what had been previously considered for Whittonditch Road. **ACTION – SG/DE**

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- DE had walked round Whittonditch play area with Nick Waite to discuss snagging items and, as a result, will seek a quote from Robert Copp for a new, low-level post and rail fence to define the area. **ACTION – DE**  
During the same inspection DE also noted graffiti on the adult trim trail sign, and that the damage to the end piece of the adult trim trail has worsened.
- We are awaiting a reply from parents about arranging a site meeting with them to discuss 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 that the Emergency Plan was now up on the website.
- Information about becoming a Flood Warden for Ramsbury and Axford is to be included in May's Whitton Ways and posted on the PC Facebook Page. Further information provided by the Wessex Flood Resilience Team will be forwarded to anyone expressing interest in the role.
- AF and SG are meeting with Wiltshire and Swindon Prepared on 8<sup>th</sup> April in connection with the Memorial Hall being designated an Emergency Hub.
- SG has contacted the Trustees of Ramsbury Manor to arrange a meeting to discuss their flood plans.
- SG mentioned a suggestion made by the Clerk that the Emergency Wardens be asked to inspect the gullies in their "patch" in the last two weeks of April, and to report any that are blocked to the PC so that the information can be passed on to the Discretionary Gully Service in time for their visit in May. If that goes well, this is an exercise that they may be asked to do regularly in future, so the PC is quickly made aware of any blockages and can take steps to get them cleared. This idea was approved, and AF was asked to contact the wardens about it. **ACTION - AF**
- SG and AF now know how to switch the solar panels off and on in order to test the Memorial Hall generator so they will run a test before the April PC meeting. **ACTION – SG/AF**

### 6(vi) Environment Committee

*Maggie Waugh*

- MW said that there had been no meeting, and that the new webpage has yet to appear on the website. **ACTION – DE**
- SG was asked to respond to the Wiltshire Climate Alliance in connection with their letter about a possible hustings. **ACTION – SG**

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

Two members of the public attended the meeting.

A Union Street resident spoke about the danger of speeding traffic, inadequate street lighting, the dreadful state of the asphalt, and the danger to pedestrians on Union Street. He tabled a letter detailing his concerns and stated that he thought PC funds would be well spent if it meant getting a village-wide reduction in the speed limit and improving safety for walkers and drivers using Union Street. SG pointed out that the PC is already taking the necessary first steps (which we are legally obliged to follow) before we can begin to make a case to Wiltshire Highways for a 20mph limit. Yet, even if this initiative were ultimately successful, the question of whether that lower limit would be any more effective in preventing speeding is debatable.

There was a wider discussion about the problem of the Union Street road surface not having been properly repaired for more than a decade and it was agreed that patch-repairing potholes is no long-term solution. It was acknowledged that there is a lack of council-owned passing places on this street, but the PC has no powers to change that; likewise, the suggestion that creating some sort of pinch-point might slow speeding traffic is completely impractical on an already narrow single-lane carriageway. However, already mindful of such concerns, the PC has already started to look at the possibility of making Union Street a one-way street northbound. It considers this would be a better way to cut the volume of traffic using it as a through-way, would eliminate the need for passing places entirely, and would remove the current danger to southbound traffic trying to emerge at the lower end on to Scholards Lane where vehicles are frequently parked too close to that junction.

The other resident came to report on the village plans for D-Day 80. **See Item 17.**

**7. AXFORD**

*Diann Barnett*

- DB said that the notices that had appeared in the car park, threatening £100 fines, had been removed for the time being, pending steps being taken to clarify who is and is not entitled to allocated spaces. This effort had been somewhat hampered by an issue being raised about resident confidentiality, but this is being resolved and we hope to be able to report progress at next month's meeting. **ACTION - DB**
- There will be a Bingo Night in the Village Hall on 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

**8. CO-OPTION OF A NEW COUNCILLOR**

*Sheila Glass*

No applications so far.

**9. LOCAL HIGHWAYS & FOOTPATHS IMPROVEMENT GROUP**

*Sheila Glass*

SG reported that she will attend a site meeting about the installation of the drop-kerbs at the entrance of Isles Court on 25<sup>th</sup> March. **ACTION-SG**

**10. 20mph SPEED LIMIT IN THE VILLAGE**

*Sheila Glass*

SG has applied for a traffic survey to be carried out in Whittonditch Road and the High Street – an essential first step towards applying for a village-wide 20mph limit. **UPDATE** – they have acknowledged receipt and expect to conduct the survey sometime in May.

**11. MARLBOROUGH AREA BOARD**

*Sheila Glass*

The next meeting will be held on 19<sup>th</sup> March.

**12. ALLOTMENTS**

*Denise Edwards*

DE reported that some plots have become available, and she is currently going through the waitlist. **ACTION-DE**

**13. WEBSITE**

DE said that a ticket had been raised with TEEC (the webhosts) to reinstate and help us access our site data. SG is pursuing this. **ACTION - SG**

**14. VILLAGE MAINTENANCE**

- (i) **Best Kept Village Competition 2024** – So far no-one has come forward in response to SG's appeal in Whitton Ways for a volunteer, but the PC will enter the village nevertheless. **ACTION - SG**
- (ii) **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. No further action at this time.
- (iii) **The PC's next project** – GH suggested that we should get the Back Lane footway repainted. SG suggested that the pavements between the old post office and the fire station are urgently in need of repair and this work could be extended to include refurbishment of the footway and the crossing places near the school.
- (iv) **The Great British Spring Clean** – As the scouts and the school have kindly volunteered to participate, some suitable tasks for them were discussed and agreed. SG and the Clerk to advise. **ACTION – Clerk/SG**
- (v) **Freshers' Day/Volunteer Event** – SG confirmed the Freshers' Day event for newcomers to the village will run 10.00-12.30pm on 20<sup>th</sup> April. All volunteers in the village will be invited to attend an evening event on the same day starting at 6pm.
- (vi) **Request for a dog poo bag dispenser outside Isles Court** – This request was discussed but was not thought necessary. SG to let them know. **ACTION - SG**

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- (vii) **Ramsbury noticeboard plastic glazing** – As this has become damaged and obscured in places, SG had obtained a quote to replace the lefthand glazed panel - £80 for the material and installation.  
**APPROVED.**

### 15. MEMORIAL GARDEN

SG reported that a lot of the daffodil bulbs that had been planted had failed to come up. This was very disappointing, and we suspect the churchyard squirrels may be to blame.

### 16. MEETING RE. WILTS CULTURAL STRATEGY

SG attended the Teams meeting and will report any developments.

### 17. D-DAY 80

Rose Howe attended the meeting and outlined the many and various events taking place in the village between 31<sup>st</sup> May and 8<sup>th</sup> June. Details of all the events including a beacon display on 6<sup>th</sup> June and a Community Fair on 8<sup>th</sup> June can be found on [www.ramsburydday80.com](http://www.ramsburydday80.com)

### 18. PARISH STEWARD'S ROTA

Next visit will be on 4<sup>th</sup> April. Please notify the PC by 27<sup>th</sup> March at the latest if you are aware of any blocked drains, or gullies, or potholes needing attention anywhere, so that task can be added to their worksheet.

**UPDATE :** We have since been advised that the April visit has been cancelled as the steward will be on annual leave.

### 19. LIBRARY

Nothing to report.

### 20. MEMORIAL HALL

*Sheila Glass/George Hawes*

The Trustees met on 21<sup>st</sup> February and reviewed the current rents and hiring fees. Also, and in order to satisfy the insurers' security stipulations, they decided that the front doors of the hall should be replaced with traditional-looking doors fitted with the required 5-lever locks.

### 21. NATURE RESERVE

*Chris Morgan*

No report.

### 22. POLICE CONSULTATION

SG reported that no-one attended the last consultation on 28<sup>th</sup> February 1-3pm. SG summarised the latest Wilts Police report, and also undertook to contact our community police officers about what steps the PC might take to deter drivers from parking illegally too close to junctions and endangering other road users.

**ACTION – SG**

### 23. RECREATION CENTRE

*George Hawes*

GH said there had been no meeting.

### 24. RAMSBURY SCHOOL

*Roger Greasley*

The school will break up for Easter on 28<sup>th</sup> March and return on 15<sup>th</sup> April. The school roll still stands at 194. Reception Class is expected to be full, with 30 children, in September.

### 25. VANDALISM

SG reported that the new video doorbell didn't do the job we wanted it to do so it will be replaced.

**ACTION – SG**

### 26. PATIENTS' REPRESENTATIVE

*George Hawes*

GH said that the start date for Covid booster jabs at the surgery has yet to be confirmed.



## 26. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT IN MARCH

Inv. No	Payments to Suppliers – March 2024	Amount	Net	VAT	Paid By	S137
I3994	Hillier Garden Centres – Shrubs for Memorial Garden. Paid in Feb.	25.98	21.65	4.33	VisaDebit	No
I3995	Amazon – Video doorbell. Paid in Feb.	29.99	29.99	0.00	VisaDebit	No
I3996	Idverde Ltd – Bin emptying in February.	15.00	12.50	2.50	BACS	No
I3997	Google – Video doorbell registration fee	29.49	29.49	0.00	VisaDebit	No
I3998	HP Instant Ink – 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb – 27 <sup>th</sup> March	11.99	9.99	2.00	VisaDebit	No
I3999	R. J. Talmage & Son – Hedge-cutting from Whittonditch Road to the playing field.	96.00	80.00	16.00	BACS	No
I4000	Community Heartbeat Trust – Defib electrodes	106.74	88.95	17.79	BACS	No
I4001	Wiltshire Council – 25% contribution to signage and road markings	400.00	400.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4002	Whitton PCC – printing 2024 Village Diary and Contacts List	130.00	130.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4003	Coral Westall – Public loo cleaning in March	180.00	180.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4004	Coral Westall – office cleaning Jan - March	34.00	34.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4005	M J Baker Accountancy – Payroll fee for February	11.25	11.25	0.00	DD	No
I4006	Robert Copp – Gardening tasks to shrubs around the Charity Shop	168.00	168.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4007	Ramsbury Memorial Hall – Police consultation room rent	17.00	17.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4008	Alice Charlwood – Clerk's mileage expenses Aug - March	36.00	36.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4009	Amazon – Bunting for Street Fair	94.80	79.00	15.80	VisaDebit	No
I4010	Postage – VAT reclaim to HMRC	1.95	1.95	0.00	VisaDebit	No
	<b>TOTAL TO PAY (excluding Clerk's salary I4011)</b>	<b>£1,388.19</b>	<b>£1,329.77</b>	<b>£58.42</b>		
	<b>TOTAL AMOUNT ON DEPOSIT*</b>	<b>£86,427.80</b>				
	<b>incl. gross interest earned to 29<sup>th</sup> Feb 2024</b>	<b>£2,427.80</b>				
	<b>MONIES RECEIVED – Ramsbury Charity Shop rent</b>	<b>300.00</b>				
	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£300.00</b>				
	<b>Current A/c at 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – £5,554.70</b>					

\*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. LJ; Sec. GH)**

**DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MONDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024 AT RAMSBURY MEMORIAL HALL AT 7.45 pm**  
**ALL ARE WELCOME**