

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 20th November 2023 at 7.45pm in Axford Village Hall

1837

Present:

S Glass – Chair (SG)	B Murray (BM)
D Barnett - Vice Chair (DB)	H Lloyd (HL)
D Edwards (DE)	E Hodgson (EH)
A Foale (AF)	M Tester (MT)
R Greasley (RG)	C Morgan (CM)
M Waugh (MW)	A Charlwood (AC) – Clerk

Seven members of the public were also present

- 1. APOLOGIES** – were received from Dawn Gill, Lynn Jauncey, George Hawes and Ron Young -
Approved
- 2. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST** - None
- 3. THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**
The minutes of the meeting held on 16th October 2023 were approved and signed as a true record.
Proposed AF; Seconded EH. Approved.
- 4. MATTERS ARISING** – None.
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.1841)

5. NEW CORRESPONDENCE – Items for discussion*

Ref. No	Date Received	Oct - Nov 2023 Correspondence	Subject *Highlighted for Discussion*
A7513	11 Oct	Ruth Wilson, CSW Fundraising Officer	Seeking funding for Marlborough Carer Support Café. Fwd. to Chair of Finance Committee. SG is awaiting an answer to her enquiry about how many carers from Ramsbury use the support café. EH agreed to follow this up.
A7514	13 Oct	Paul Metcalfe, Atkins Realis	Approval of Christmas banner application. SG said this is our permit to install the lighting wiring to the tree over the Christmas period.
A7515	15 Oct	Resident	Tree felling at Long Copse. Fwd. to Rights of Way and Environment Committees. See Item 6(iii)
A7517	17 Oct	Philip Perry, Ramsbury Manor	Thanking the PC for support during Planning and Listed Building application process for Exhibition Centre. Fwd. to Cllrs. For information.
A7518	17 Oct	Melissa Camilleri, Wilts Police	Wilts Police Parish Crime & Incidents Report for July – Sept. Fwd. to Cllrs. For information.
A7528	26 Oct	Andrew Jack, Wilts C.C. Leisure, Culture & Communities	Notes of the Marlborough LHFIG meeting held on 19 th Oct. Fwd. to Cllrs.
A7531	31 Oct	Atkins Realis	Temporary road closure of B4192 from Whittonditch to Knighton 13 th -17 th November inclusive from 07.00-19.00 daily. Fwd. to Cllrs. The PC raised concerns with AR about the delay and inconvenience this might cause but, in the event, the work was done, and the road was re-opened within one afternoon.
A7539	06 Nov	WALC	Responses requested to Consultation on Very Hard to Reach Broadband Areas. Fwd. to Cllrs. SG has written to point out that extra funds will need to be allocated locally if WCC is given any responsibility to address this problem in places in our area.
A7541	06 Nov	Emma Coates, Prospect Hospice	Fund-raising through Christmas tree collection (on 7 th Jan) from proposed drop off point. We are awaiting further information on this, and the Clerk was asked to follow it up. ACTION - Clerk
A7542	06 Nov	Louisa Young, Wilts CC Area Board	Wilts Area Board Facebook page & Twitter Account are live. Fwd. to Cllrs. For information.
A7543	07 Nov	Resident	Possible funding for grant from Marlborough Area Board for proposed bike jump. See item under Public Forum
A7547	08 Nov	Chief Accountant, Wilts C.C.,	Potential changes to Council Tax Reduction Scheme and possible impact on 2024/25 taxbase. Fwd. to EH. See Item 6(ii)

A7548	09 Nov	Resident (telephone call)	Speeding in Axford. See Item 7
A7549	09 Nov	Deborah Bourne, WALC	New public sector pay scales for 2023/24. Fwd to Cllrs. See Item 6(ii)

*The full list of incoming correspondence from 9th October – 9th November can be viewed on the parish council website

6. Committee Reports:

6 (i) Planning

Diann Barnett

PLANNING REPORT RAMSBURY AND AXFORD PARISH COUNCIL - November 2023

Planning Applications Processed since the October 2023 Report

New applications-

- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| • 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. |

Still awaited-

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|---|
| • PL/2022/08705 | Coombe Farm, Axford | New house, dwelling, Est. yard and ancillary. N/O |
| • PL/2023/05245 | Crown and Anchor | Chalet 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/2023/07407 | 1 The Square, Ramsbury | Change of use bowls green-garden + s'house. 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 |

Decisions-

- | | | |
|------------------|------------------------|----------|
| 1. PL/2023/07250 | Newtown Lodge, Newtown | Treework |
|------------------|------------------------|----------|

- | | | |
|----------|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| • A-7081 | Red Lion, Axford | Planning contravention notice served. |
|----------|------------------|---------------------------------------|

DB reported that one more treework application had been submitted since the above report.

DB further reported that the LPA issued a Planning Contravention on the owners of the property requesting further information from them in June. The Council are now in receipt of this information and are considering issuing an Enforcement Notice in the not too distant future.

In answer to a question from MT about PL/2023/05245, DB said this was the fourth variation on the application from the Crown and Anchor, and she is looking into it, but believes there are a number of concerns that continue to make it objectionable.

6(ii) Finance

Erica Hodgson

- Monies have been transferred from the PC deposit account to the current account as necessary to cover Carty's stage payments to date – the second stage payment is about to be settled and will bring the outlay so far to £29,640.
- NALC 2023/24 pay scale – the clerk's salary will increase by £1 per hour in line with this.
- Potential change to tax base – Wilts CC is currently consulting on a proposed Council Tax Reduction Scheme to help more people on low incomes. This should be ratified by 13th December. It is unlikely that any decision will radically affect our precept calculation - see below.
- Budget 2024/25 – The Finance Committee propose a 9.2% increase to the budget for 24/25, compared with 23/24, bringing the total precept request to £76,380. Key items of planned expenditure include £5000 for the Flyer replacement fund, £10,000 for play equipment, £20,000 for pavement repairs, approx. £7,000 for grants to village organisations as well as the cost of the clerk's salary. Next year, for the first time, we have also had to budget £3,500 for the cost of an election (due to a change of government policy whereby this cost - which was previously met by central government - has now been devolved to local authorities). MT pointed out that this election cost, on its own, represented more than 50% of the increased amount we're requesting for the next precept; without it our budget increase for next year would have amounted to only 4.2%. There were no questions about the budget and precept request so EH sought approval for the precept figure of £76,380 on the understanding that the taxbase will be set between 940.30 and 943.55. This was unanimously agreed. **APPROVED. Proposed EH; Seconded CM.**

6(iii) Rights of Way

Lynn Jauncey

LJ was unable to attend the meeting. Her report was read by SG.

The Rights of Way Committee met on 28th October and discussed the following matters:-

- Following an email from a parishioner regarding tree-felling at Long Copse, LJ went to see what was going on there. Due to the weather conditions, it looks very messy; however not all trees are being cut down and new trees have been planted. The work is being carried out by Wessex Woodland Management Ltd. Having spoken to another landowner I am told they inform the Forestry Commission for permission to do this but do not need to inform us. LJ has also e-mailed Steve Leonard (WCC Rights of Way warden) asking for advice but has not yet had a reply.
- SG has had three quotes for the removal of the dead ash tree on the far side of the first bridge on Mill Lane. SG has met with Jeremy Hawkins who confirms he will carry out the work when the river level has gone down a bit.
- Horses are still on Springs Hill even though the landowner assured they would be gone by the end of October. However, I notice the white horse (who we think was the main offender) is no longer there. The PC are now referring any concerns or complaints we receive directly to landowner. LJ sent an e-mail to Wilts CC RoW Officer but she had no suggestions to offer other than that we should refer/forward any such e-mails to the Countryside Access Officer who will advise us. We have had no response so far.

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- Reinstating the monthly parish walk - We decided the walk is to be re-established on the 1st Sunday of every month. It will be kick-started next Easter, on Monday, 1st April 2024. The walks will be circular as far as possible. The first Easter walk will be followed by the boundary walk in May. A Boxing Day walk was also discussed.

Regarding the latter item, SG and AF said that the response to the idea of a Boxing Day walk this year had been rather lukewarm at the sub-committee meeting. It was therefore agreed that it may be better to just re-start the walks next Spring and assess the idea of a Boxing Day walk depending on the response.

6(iv) Play Areas and Seats

Denise Edwards

- DE had attended the RoSPA site inspection on 23rd October and their report has now been received. It contained no surprises and DE can now arrange a sub-committee meeting to move forward on the proposals for the Axford play area redevelopment. **ACTION – DE**
- No problems to report this month on any of our sites.
- The young people who have approached the PC about constructing a bike jump in Ramsbury (see Public Forum minute item on p. 1841) have left their plans with us and DE will look at these in more detail in the context of the proposed site. **ACTION – DE**

6(v) Emergency Committee

Alison Foale

- AF reported that the sub-committee went through and updated the Emergency Plan at their meeting on Thursday 26th October. The updates included the information gleaned from the Wilts CC Resilience Event she had attended recently with SG. The plan is now ready to be circulated to councillors for their comments. **ACTION - AF**
- They also discussed whether it would be feasible to appoint a Flood Warden but felt this was probably not necessary at present.
- SG said that they had also discussed distributing some aquasacs free of charge to the houses at risk of flooding when the storm drains get overwhelmed by prolonged torrential rain on the south side of the High Street. SG and AF are to discuss the number of houses which might be affected, and SG will check whether the PC stock of aquasacs will be sufficient. **ACTION – SG/AF**
- SG appealed for a volunteer to conduct a monthly generator test to ensure everything is in working order. DB agreed to organise a similar check on the Axford generator. **ACTION – SG/DB**

6(vi) Environment Committee

Maggie Waugh

- BM has circulated the Committee's draft document to the PC for comment. This sets out their vision, policy and approach to environmental matters. MW thanked BM and DG for their work on this and invited councillors to submit their comments before the December PC meeting. She sees it as a useful start and said that specifics can be discussed later in more detail. The Committee will be meeting in the coming month. SG thanked the Committee.

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

Five 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 somewhere in the village. They tabled a number of useful documents for the councillors' information and consideration, and used these to demonstrate that the area of land previously suggested as a possible site would be too small. There was some discussion of their proposed plan for how the area might be extended and SG and DE will look into this in more detail.

Since they are proposing to construct the bike jump of sculpted earth, there was also discussion of where the required amount of top-soil might be acquired and at what cost.

ACTION SG/DE

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SG strongly recommended that they leaflet the residents in the vicinity to inform them of what they are hoping to do, before taking their plans and application for a youth grant to the Marlborough Area Board meeting on 9th January. She stressed it is important that they do not try to commence any work before having done this, or before having clarified where we stand vis a vis public liability insurance.

Two other members of the public from Axford expressed their concern about the problem of speeding through the village, made particularly dangerous because there are no pavements. They take the view that the SID on the approach to Axford from Ramsbury is in the wrong place (i.e. already well within the built-up area and the 30mph limit) but SG explained that, whilst its location is not ideal, there was actually nowhere else to put it due to the constraints of verge accessibility. A discussion ensued about how the speeding problem might be addressed including -

- the usefulness (or not) of the PC requesting a speed check,
- organising a speed awareness exercise as has been done in Aldbourne,
- whether drivers would be more aware of the need to slow down through the village if white gates were put up at either end (although the steep banks would make these virtually impossible to install),
- or whether we should put up more 30mph roundels,
- or request some traffic calming measures like the yellow rumble strips they now have on the outskirts of Minal,
- or having more SLOW signs painted on the road surface

SG suggested that the residents take their concerns about this to the police surgery being held in the Lychgate Room at 7pm on 7th December and ask their advice about how to resolve the problem. In the meantime, SG will contact the police commissioner and assess the viability of the above actions. **ACTION – SG**

7. AXFORD

Diann Barnett

Nothing to report.

8. LOCAL HIGHWAYS & FOOTWAYS IMPROVEMENT GROUP

Sheila Glass

Dropped kerbs at Isles Court were prioritised as a project at the meeting.

9. MARLBOROUGH AREA BOARD

Sheila Glass

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

10. ALLOTMENTS

Denise Edwards

The AGM will be held on 5th December at 7pm in the Lychgate Room and all the plot-holders have been invited to attend to sign their tenancy agreements and pay rent for 2024.

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.

11. WEBSITE

DE will be posting information on the website and the PC facebook page warning residents about the need to keep the Lychgate entrance to the churchyard free of parked cars whilst the upcoming treeworks are carried out, so that the contractors' vehicles can gain access. **ACTION – DE**

DE also mentioned that a lot of people had made very positive comments about this years' Remembrance Day poppies in the Memorial Garden.

12. VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

(i) **Storm debris** - was cleared on 26th October

(ii) **White gates on Newtown Road** – SG has been informed that Idverde no longer carry out this sort of work so SG will contact WCC Highways team to request contact details for other suitable contractors to approach. 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**

(iii) **SIDs** – The faults in the SIDs in Axford and on Whittonditch Road have been repaired and the contractor has agreed to split the call-out charge between us and Minal PC, whose repairs were done at the same time. Update: a repair to LED display on Axford east SID is not economically viable.

(iv) **Christmas uplighters for the tree** – SG and DB gave a demonstration of the phased colour lights. They were approved and plans are progressing for their installation. SG suggests that the tree should be lit between the hours of 4.30 pm and midnight over the Christmas period.

13. MEMORIAL GARDEN

Bob Foale has made and installed a lovely new gate. SG expressed the thanks of the PC and it was agreed that he should receive a gift voucher to the value of £50 (in addition to being reimbursed the cost of his materials) in appreciation of his work. **ACTION - SG**

14. PARISH STEWARD'S ROTA

The Clerk will request that the stewards repair the multiple potholes outside Ravensbourne and Nos. 4/5 Union Street and clear the fallen leaves from the pavement on the left-hand side of Crowood Lane, going up as far as the junction with Ashley Piece at their upcoming visit on 23rd November.

ACTION - CLERK

15. LIBRARY

- AC reported that two free book reservations are now on offer to adults joining the library.
- As they did last year, Wiltshire Libraries are providing warm spaces this winter, and warm packs are now available for those in most need. These can be collected during library opening hours. (For free and impartial advice on heating grants, draught-proofing and insulation, treating damp and condensation, the Warm Home Discount and winter fuel payments, benefit entitlement and help with fuel bills or fuel debt : call Warm & Safe Wiltshire on 0800 038 5722 or email warmandsafe@cse.org.uk)
- Public consultation documents on (i) Local bus services, and (ii) Council Tax Reductions are currently available from the library.

16. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

SG reported that a project management meeting was to be held on site on 21st November at which a completion date (probably mid-December) and the final contract cost would be agreed. Plumbing and electrics, flooring and decoration have yet to be completed and we anticipate one more stage payment will be payable next month, less the retention fee.

17. MEMORIAL HALL

SG reported that the work on the kitchen is nearly complete and is a big improvement.

Sheila Glass

18. NATURE RESERVE*Chris Morgan*

CM reported that all seems fine at the Nature Reserve, but he cautions everyone to be very careful as there are no sides to the boardwalk, and the water is currently very deep on all sides. It is a water meadow!

19. POLICE SURGERY

SG confirmed that the next police surgery will be held in the Lychgate Room at 7pm on Thursday 7th December. This will be widely publicised, and people are encouraged to come along. SG has booked the room and will liaise with Melissa Camilleri.

20. RECREATION CENTRE*George Hawes*

No report.

21. RAMSBURY SCHOOL*Roger Greasley*

RG reported no change since last month. Term will end on 21st December.

22. VANDALISM

Nothing reported.

23. PATIENTS REP*George Hawes*

No report.

24. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT IN NOVEMBER

Inv. No	Payments to Suppliers – November 2023	Amount	Net	VAT	Paid By	S137
I3919	HMRC – Clerk's income tax. Paid in Oct.	355.00	355.00	0.00	DD	No
I3920	Castle Water – 1 st March – 29 th August. Paid in Oct	88.08	88.08	0.00	VisaDebit	No
I3921	Carty Building Contractors Ltd. Stage Payment 1. Paid in Oct.	16,800.00	14,000.00	2,800.00	BACS	No
I3922	Carty Building Contractors Ltd. Building Control Fee Paid in Oct.	840.00	700.00	140.00	BACS	No
I3923	Idverde Ltd – bin emptying in October	15.00	12.50	2.50	BACS	No
I3924	RoSPA Play Safety – Annual Inspection Fee	391.80	326.50	65.30	BACS	No
I3925	M J Baker Accountancy – payroll processing in Oct.	11.25	11.25	0.00	DD	No
I3926	Ramsbury Memorial Hall – office rent Oct - March	641.25	641.25	0.00	BACS	No
I3927	Paul New – summer/autumn planting for tubs	270.00	270.00	0.00	BACS	No
I3928	Coral Westall – public loo cleaning in November	180.00	180.00	0.00	BACS	No
I3929	Ramsbury Allotment Association – Compost for tubs	38.00	38.00	0.00	BACS	No
I3930	HP Instant Ink – 28 th Sept – 27 th Oct	9.99	8.32	1.67	VisaDebit	No
I3931	Strutt & Parker – Playing Fields Rent 1st Nov–30 Apr	212.50	212.50	0.00	BACS	No
I3932	Amazon – Christmas uplighters for the tree	59.49	49.58	9.91	VisaDebit	No
I3933	Dobbies – Cyclamen for Memorial Garden	5.39	4.50	0.89	VisaDebit	No

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I3934	W. H. Smith – 2024 Desk Diary for Clerk	8.99	7.49	1.50	VisaDebit	No
I3935	BT – Phone & Broadband 1 st Nov – 31 st Jan.	131.16	109.30	21.86	DD	No
I3936	Alison Foale – Mileage to WCC Resilience Event	18.00	18.00	0.00	BACS	No
I3937	Sheila Glass – Mileage in October	36.40	36.40	0.00	BACS	No
I3938	Carty Building Contractors Ltd – Stage Payment 2	12,000.00	10,000.00	2,000.00	BACS	No
	TOTAL OUTGOINGS excluding Clerk's salary (Ref. I3939)	32,112.30	27,068.67	5043.63		
	TOTAL AMOUNT ON DEPOSIT*	133,614.21				
	incl. gross interest earned to 31st Oct 2023	1,614.21				
	MONIES RECEIVED					
	Amazon refund for returned uplighters	33.14	27.62	5.52	VisaDebit	
	Sale of Aquasacs	87.50	87.50	0.00		
	TOTAL INCOME	120.64	115.12	5.52		
	Current A/c at 31st October 2023 – £3,424.79					

*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. HL; Sec. DE)

**DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 11th DECEMBER (NB 2nd MONDAY) AT RAMSBURY MEMORIAL HALL AT 7.45 pm**

ALL ARE WELCOME