

RAMSBURY & AXFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 20th July 2026 at 7.45pm in Ramsbury Memorial Hall

2085

Present:

D. Barnett (DB) – Chairman	M Waugh (MW)
H Lloyd (HL) – Deputy Chairman	A Foale (AF)
D. Gill (DGi)	D Greenway (DGr)
S Glass (SG)	R Greasley (RG)
E Hodgson (EH)	A Charlwood (AC) – Clerk
M Tester (MT)	

No members of the public were present

1. **APOLOGIES** – were received from Bernard Murray, Denise Edwards and Chris Morgan. **Approved.**

2. **DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST** – None.

3. THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th June were approved and signed as a true record. **Proposed EH;**
Seconded MW. APPROVED

4. MATTERS ARISING

- Data from new SIDs – Having downloaded the data from June, SG had circulated a report showing the average speeds for traffic in both directions, and indicating the majority of vehicles (85%), were within the speed limits, with a few outliers. The new devices provide us with data on max speed, vehicle numbers, distribution of vehicles and a variety of other categories. MT said a key issue is the distance from the sensor at which this information is being logged so, whilst the data has value, it is capable of distortion unless the measurement is recorded only when the vehicle is close to the machine. After discussion, as no-one was sure what that distance was, SG was asked to check and report back at the next meeting. **ACTION - SG**
- The Chairman had asked the Clerk to read out a report from the volunteers at Ramsbury Library :- *The Library continues to attract new members and attendance numbers are encouraging. However, it is TOTALLY manned by volunteers during opening hours, and we could do with more. The library is a valuable village amenity particularly for children and the elderly, who are the principal users and, as such, we really want to keep it going. Most volunteers do only two hours per month, and they choose the date(s) they are available rather than being presented with a fixed commitment. It is a rewarding role where you get to meet people that you probably would not otherwise encounter.*
In response to their appeal for councillors to spread the word HL will include a library report in Whitton Ways and the Village Diary. **ACTION - HL**

5. NEW CORRESPONDENCE – Items for discussion

*The full list of incoming correspondence from 8th June – 8th July can be viewed on the parish council website

Ref. No	Date Received	June-July 2026 From :	Subject *Highlighted for July meeting Agenda
A8660	08 June	Melanie Hagerty, Ramsbury Manor Foundation	Will raise request for a contribution to The Paddocks treeworks with the Trustees. Fwd. to Cllrs. See item 23 (Income)
A8661	09 June	Colin McMillan, SSE	Request to complete a project report on the PC's grant for new generators in village hubs. SG has submitted it.
A8662	09 June	Resident(i)	White lines need repainting at The Knap junction with Springs Hill. Fwd. to Cllrs. Discussed at the June mtg. DB discussed this with Martin Cook and, as so many white lines need re-doing across the parish, he will ask the contractor to do them as "a job lot" rather than individual reports on MyWilts.
A8664	11 June	Jason Lucas, Wilts CC Traffic Order Team	TTRO (for Openreach works) on part of C193 in Ramsbury commencing 12 Aug. Fwd. to Cllrs. For info.
A8666	15 June	Jason Lucas, Wilts CC Traffic Order Team	TTRO (for Openreach work) on part of C5 in Ramsbury commencing 10 Aug. Fwd to Cllrs. For info.
A8669	17 June	Jason Lucas, Wilts CC Traffic Order Team	TTRO (for Openreach works) on part of Back Lane commencing 22 Aug. Fwd to Cllrs. For info.
A8670	17 June	Mary Askew, Ramsbury Estates	Requesting evidence of the ongoing problems at Axford weir where an SSSI is being damaged by the public. Fwd to Cllrs. For info.
A8671	17 June	Sam Higton, Wiltshire Police Rural Crime Team (i)	Assisting with rural crime, illegal fishing and other issues. Fwd to Cllrs. For info.
A8672	17 June	Jason Lucas, Wilts CC Traffic Order Team	TTRO (for Thames Water) for part of High Street commencing 27 Aug. Fwd. to Cllrs. For info.
A8674	17 June	Sam Higton, Wiltshire Police Rural Crime Team (ii)	Police and EA patrols of the river and arranging a site meeting. Fwd to Cllrs. See item 9
A8675	19 June	Peter Harrington, Rhinoplay	Following up on progress with replacing the birds nest swing. Fwd to Play Areas Committee. See item 7(iv)
A8676	24 June	Resident (i)	Upkeep of properties on the High Street jeopardising our BKV entry. Fwd. to Cllrs. DB has replied
A8677	24 June	Danny Austin, CPRE Wilts, BKV Project	Ramsbury has progressed to Round 2. Fwd to Cllrs. For info.
A8678	29 June	Adam Flett, Ramsbury Manor	Trustees' donation of £500 for treeworks at The Paddocks. Their one-off ex gratia payment has been received. See item 23
A8679	30 June	Janine Mead, Wilts CC Planning Appeals	Planning Inspectorate Appeal Decision for the Red Lion, Axford. Fwd. to Planning Committee. See item 7(ii)
A8681	30 June	Wilts Council News	Notice of Intention to commence the preparation of a new Wilts Local Plan. Fwd. to Planning Committee. For info.
A8686	03 July	Resident (ii)	Further comment on Chairman's response to A8676. Fwd to Cllrs. For info. DB has replied explaining the PC does not identify correspondents or private addresses in this agenda.

6 DATA PROTECTION*Erica Hodgson*

- AGAR "Assertion 10" Policies
Having received Cllrs' feedback and comments on the following draft policies
 - (i) Social Media and Electronic Communications policy (amended since last meeting with feedback)
 - (ii) Document Retention policy
 - (iii) Data Audit policy
 - (iv) Freedom of Information policy
 EH had made all the necessary changes and she sought Cllrs' approval of all four policies listed above. **Prop. EH; Seconded MT. APPROVED**
- .gov.uk email accounts for councillors
This matter was further discussed, and SG was asked to use her best judgement in setting up a TEEC Premium Package to initiate new .gov.uk email addresses for all councillors and the parish clerk, and to seek their advice about if/how the website IP address should also be changed. **ACTION - SG**

7 COMMITTEE REPORTS**(i) FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT***Erica Hodgson***(i) Finance***Erica Hodgson*

- Q1 Report (circulated) – There being no questions about it, EH sought approval of the Q1 report. **Prop. HL; Sec. DGr. APPROVED**
- Quotes for pavement repairs – EH is arranging a site meeting with another contractor who has expressed interest in quoting.
- May payments approved and minuted – retrospective corrections. **See item 20 ***** The Clerk explained the two amendments included at the top of the July payments list.
- In answer to a question from MT, the Clerk confirmed that she had emailed BT today requesting a transcript of her phone conversation with the salesman on 28th April. MT said that BT were obliged by law to provide the transcript within 28 days.

(ii) PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT*Diann Barnett***PLANNING REPORT RAMSBURY AND AXFORD PARISH COUNCIL – July 2026****Planning Applications Processed since June 2026 report**New applications-

- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • PL/2026/03590 | Riverside Cottage, Axford | (Retrospective) 6 ft fence |
| • PL/2026/03631 | Snellswood Dairy, Whittonditch | Lean-to extension on sheep building |
| • PL/2026/03716 | 51, High St, Ramsbury | Remove existing outhouse and rebuild |
| • PL/2026/04025 | 1, High St, Ramsbury | Change of use of shop + conservatory |
| • PL/2026/04088 | Downside, 4, High St, | Pollard willow |
| • PL/2026/04114 | Holy Cross, Ramsbury | Treework |

Still awaiting-

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|--|
| • PL/2025/01559 | Upcott Field, Whittonditch Rd | 9 houses and associated works. This application layout has been amended. |
| • PL/2025/09169 | West House, Ramsbury | Internal alterations, window change |
| • PL/2026/00995 | Bungalow, Whittonditch | Extension and remove S52 |
| • PL/2026/01214 | Dove Cottage, Axford | Loft space conversion + dormer windows |
| • PL/2026/02746 | Swansdown, Axford | Alterations and rear extension |

Decisions-

- PL/2025/09011 West House, Ramsbury Swimming pool and garden shed, this has removed pool, and shed and is solely for a greenhouse. **APPROVED**
- PL/2025/09376 42/43 Oxford Street Proposed garage. **APPROVED**
- 3357357 Red Lion enforcement appeal -refused, he is allowed to live there
- 3362810 Red Lion planning appeal -upheld, it cannot be de-licensed.
- PL/2025/09209 9 Union Street - Create off street parking **REFUSED**. This has now gone to appeal.

Land at Lamplands, enforcement notified and in progress.

No further planning has been lodged so this site now has to be cleared within 6 months of 23rd May.

DB updated the meeting on three new applications submitted since her report went out:-

PL/2026/04174 – Whittonditch House – single-storey extension to the rear

PL/2026/04193 – Coombe Farm – for a Lawful Development certificate

PL/2026/04359 – 2 Maslins Close – treework

Re. Item 5 (A8679)

Several councillors questioned the logic behind the Inspector's decision on the Red Lion, which some regarded as farcical. The PC is no longer permitted to appeal at this stage, but HL suggested that it might be useful to at least request a conversation with them about it. A further debate followed in response to MW's query about what the PC felt would be the best outcome to this highly unsatisfactory dispute. **ACTION - DB**

(iii) RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE REPORT

Doug Greenway

- DGr reported that seven people had joined him on the July circular walk, on a very hot day.
- All the bridges have been mended now at Seven Bridges, and someone has trimmed the footpaths.
- Robert Copp has told SG what a great job the landowners have done on clearing RAMS28 footpath.

(iv) PLAY AREAS AND SEATS REPORT

Denise Edwards

- DE was not at the meeting but sent in a report saying that the replacement swing seat for Knowledge Crescent is still ongoing and that no problems with the play areas had been reported to her this month. The seat is with our in-house contractor and will be fitted in due course.
- The PC received notification today that the annual RoSPA inspection would be carried out in September.
- SG reported that the urgent replacement of the rotted plank on the access slope to the Knowledge Crescent fort had been completed so it is now safe to use again. The other repairs will be done as soon as possible. The agreed donation for Clive Glass's time will then go to the Charity Shop once the work is completed.
- A further quote for the replacement of the nest swing has yet to be tendered. **ACTION - DE**

(v) EMERGENCY COMMITTEE REPORT

Alison Foale

- The two new generators in the village hubs have been wired in, and fuel now needs to be purchased. Once they have been commissioned, they will need to be run for 20 minutes each month to keep them in good working order. **ACTION - DB**
- AF said it will be necessary to re-do the Emergency Plan. **ACTION – AF/DB**
- 12 of the Emergency Wardens have expressed an interest in attending the next CPR training to be arranged in September, date TBC. Axford will also be asked if they would like to attend.

ACTION – AF

- DB has written to Dave Arnold about letting her know whenever parts are needed for the defibrillator in the Whittonditch Road phone box and she will get hold of them.

(vi) ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**Maggie Waugh**

MW has been watering the apple trees in the orchard, and some have fruit. Some need their species labels replacing. **ACTION - MW**

Public Forum – Parish Council Standing Orders are temporarily suspended for this item

No members of the public were present

- 8 REPRIEVE FOR RAMSBURY FIRE STATION - Diann Barnett**
 Having learnt of Ramsbury's reprieve from closure – at least until an adequate increase in D&WFA's 2027 precept is agreed - DB has written to Chief Fire Officer Andy Cole and Cllr. Waite to thank them for their efforts, and to ask them whom the PC and residents could most usefully canvass between now and next Spring to try to secure adequate funding for our fire station into the future. DB was asked to write to the members of the Fire Authority who are also Wiltshire councillors, and to the Leader of Wilts CC too.
ACTION - DB
- 9 AXFORD Diann Barnett**
 DB reported on the meeting she had had at the weir with Sam Higton (Wilts Police Rural Crime Team) and local landowners about prevention of trespassing and antisocial behaviour. After a discussion about the efficacy of CCTV cameras, and other ideas, she came away depressed at the realisation that the police seem to have no powers to protect the community from this nuisance. She is looking into what might be done to fence the footpath within the byelaws and is logging all reports of antisocial behaviour on the Wilts Police website.
- 10 ALLOTMENTS Denise Edwards**
 - Work on tidying up and improving the allotments has been deferred during the hot weather we've been having.
 - Some new plot holders were welcomed this month, but some plots are still available. SG reported that anyone signing up for an allotment at this point in the year would get a 50% discount on their first year's rent. Enquiries: Denise Edwards 07867 921878 or allotments@ramsbury.org
- 11 VANDALISM/CRIME Sheila Glass**
 - The plants that were pulled up out of the Memorial Garden have been replaced.
- 12 VILLAGE MAINTENANCE Sheila Glass**
 - Ramsbury has made it into the County round of the Best Kept Village competition and judging process is on-going. **NOTE: After the meeting the PC were informed that Ramsbury came fourth in the County stage of the competition.**
 - The repair works to the derelict bench on the corner of Back Lane and Knowledge Crescent will be deferred until the work needed to the tree by the bus stop has been carried out. **NOTE : The tree has now been removed by Aster's contractors.**
 - The dead tree in The Paddocks (originally planted by Mr Harry Hyams of Ramsbury Manor many years ago) has been taken out, and the PC is grateful to the Ramsbury Manor Trustees for their donation towards the cost of this work. **NOTE : Since the meeting this work has been completed.**
 - DB thanked SG and HL for replanting the planters on the village borders.
 - DB has written to the householders from a property on the High Street explaining that Wilts CC prohibit EV charging cables being run across the pavement as they are a trip hazard.
 - The overgrown footpaths around Seven Bridges have been strimmed.
 - DB thanked SG for refurbishing the bench outside the Memorial Hall and the Memorial Garden gate.

2090

- AF and MW have noticed that the Oxford Street sign is broken and lying on the ground; they will report it on My Wilts. **ACTION – AF/MW**
- EH noted that the collapsed sign at the junction of Newtown Road and the B4192 had been removed and she had reported this on MyWilts. **SG agreed to follow up on that and, having done so, has been advised “unfortunately they cannot give a timeline on the repair”.**
- DGi reported that the mop in the public loo was broken and needed replacing. DB will speak to the cleaner about getting her a new one.
- Having received a suggestion from a resident about initiating a village scheme to adopt a bench or a planter, HL offered to investigate whether there might be any interest in this idea. **ACTION - HL**

13 EXTERNAL MEETING

Di Barnett

- Next Local Highways & Footways Improvement Group meeting will be held on 10/09/26
- Next Marlborough Area Board meeting will be held on 6th Oct at Winterbourne Monkton
- Next Town & Parish Clerks’ meeting will be held on 23rd July
- Next police community consultation will be held in the Lychgate Room on Wed. 22nd July 7-8pm.

14 PARISH STEWARD’S ROTA

A lot of weeding needs doing to the gutters on Union Street and around Knowledge Crescent and was included on their July worksheet, but they do not seem to have turned up – perhaps due to the heatwave. The Clerk was asked to look into this. **ACTION - CLERK**

15 MEMORIAL HALL AND MEMORIAL GARDEN

Helen Lloyd

- HL reported on all the redecorations carried out recently in the Memorial Hall kitchen, loos and common parts. The next phase will be to have a survey of the central heating carried out to investigate whether installing infrared electric radiators might be viable.
- The Trustees’ next meeting will be on 18th August.

16 NATURE RESERVE

Chris Morgan

No report

17 SCHOOL REPORT

Roger Greasley

RG reported that an Interim Head will be taking over from Miss Price at the start of the September term and efforts to recruit a permanent replacement are ongoing. Summer term ends on Wednesday 22nd July.

18 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Sheila Glass

Having provided Wilts CC Democratic Services with proof that Ramsbury & Axford Parish Council is the name the PC has used and been known by for the past ten years, as required, DB sought councillors’ formal ratification of the request that the PC formally adopt that name. This was unanimously agreed. **Prop. MT; Sec. RG.**

19 PC SUB-COMMITTEES’ AIMS IN 2026-27

DB asked all the sub-committees to meet to discuss and agree on what they aim to achieve and what they would hope to spend money on in the current financial year, and to report back on their plans at the September meeting of the full parish council. **ACTION – ALL**

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT IN JULY

Inv. No	Payments to Suppliers – July 2026	Amount	Net	VAT	Paid By	S137
	***May - retrospective corrections					
I4510	Delete Trophy Store payment duplication (also listed at I4479)	-41.39	-34.49	-6.90		
I4510	This payment reference was utilised retrospectively for the BT phone & broadband payment – which was paid by DD on 22 May but not listed for approval at the May or June meeting	259.56	216.30	43.26	DD	
I4526	Royal British Legion – refreshments for Memorial Garden gardeners. Paid in June	6.70	6.70	0.00	VisaDebit	No
I4527	JRB Enterprises Ltd – dog poo bags. Paid in June	100.74	83.95	16.79	VisaDebit	No
I4528	Kellaways Marlborough – materials for repairing play equipment. Paid in June	69.42	57.85	11.57	VisaDebit	No
I4529	HP Instant Ink 28th May – 27th June.	13.49	11.24	2.25	VisaDebit	No
I4530	HP Instant Ink 28th June – 27th July	13.49	11.24	2.25	VisaDebit	No
I4531	Coral Westall – public loo cleaning in July	200.00	200.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4532	Castle Water – water charges for public loo in June	271.24	271.24	0.00	BACS	No
I4533	Rainbows – materials for repairing Memorial Hall bench on the High Street and the gate to the Memorial Garden	40.50	33.75	6.75	VisaDebit	No
I4534	Lloyds Business Banking – Bank Charges in July	4.25	4.25	0.00	DD	No
I4535	Paul New – plants for tubs and Memorial Garden	175.00	175.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4536	WALC – Chairmanship course fee	48.00	40.00	8.00	BACS	No
I4537	SG – reimbursement for plumber's call-out charge to Charity Shop suspected water leak.	20.00	20.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4538	Ramsbury Memorial Hall – electricity to PC office, charity shop and public loo April - June	214.15	214.15	0.00		
	TOTAL (excl. Clerk's salary I4539)	£1,395.15	£1,311.18	£83.97		
	TOTAL AMOUNT ON DEPOSIT on 30th June 2026	£133,193.67				
	incl. gross interest earned Dec 2022 to 30th June 2026	£7,193.67				
	INCOME					
	Charity shop rent	£320.00				
	Ramsbury Manor donation - for treeworks in The Paddocks	500.00				
	Memorial Hall share of broadband	9.60				
	TOTAL INCOME	£829.60				
	Current A/c balance at 30th June 2026	£2,850.59				

*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 approved. Prop. EH; Sec. DGR

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There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.15p.m.

DATE OF THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 17TH AUGUST 2026 AT 7.45pm at RAMSBURY MEMORIAL HALL
ALL ARE WELCOME