

RAMSBURY & AXFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 17th November 2025 at 7.45pm in Ramsbury Memorial Hall

2027

Present:

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

No members of the public were present

- 1. APOLOGIES** – were received from Denise Edwards and WCCllr James Sheppard. **Approved.**
B Murray was not present.
- 2. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST** – None.
- 3. THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**
The minutes of the meeting held on 20th October were approved and signed as a true record. **Proposed DB; Seconded RG. Approved.**
- 4. MATTERS ARISING** – SG said that, as a result of the warning from Wilts CC last year, she decided there were no grounds for querying the Wilts CC Uncontested Costs (see Item 19 – I4377 and I4378), especially since the total charge of £750 amounted to less than we had precepted for.

5. NEW CORRESPONDENCE – Items for discussion

Ref. No	Date Received	October - November 2025 From :	Subject *Highlighted for Discussion
A8381	11 Oct	Resident	Overhanging branches from hedges blocking footpath outside Nos. 9 and 10 Swan's Close. SG and other Cllrs. had walked the path and could see no problem. SG has reported this back to the resident.
A8382	12 Oct	Colin McMillan, SSE	Confirming SSE grant offer for village hub generators. Fwd to Emergency C. See item 13(iii)
A8385	15 Oct	Melissa Camilleri PCSO	Illness prevented her coming to police consultation at British Legion on 14 th Oct. For information.
A8390	16 Oct	Ajay Gundu	Site visit to inspect potential work involved in repairing The Knapp handrail. HL is chasing this.

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A8393	20 Oct	Anna Forbes, ARK	Visited various stretches of the river from The Triangle to Duck Bridge and found no sign of anything that would cause issues. Fwd to Cllrs. See item 18
A8395	21 Oct	Tina Winfield, Wilts CC Financial Planning	Aiming to send out the Council Tax Base by 6 th November. Fwd to Finance C. See item 6
A8396	21 Oct	James Gill, HAGS UK (i)	Installation of new play equipment completed last week and Inspection Report. Fwd to Play Areas C. See item 7
A8397	23 Oct	Resident	Potholes outside Nos. 51, 53 and 55 High Street. The Parish Steward was asked to repair these at his Nov. visit but advised us they were too extensive for him to deal with. They have been reported to My Wilts.
A8402	30 Oct	RoSPA Play Safety	Annual safety inspection reports. Fwd. to Play Areas C. See item 7
A8405	31 Oct	Resident	Whom to notify about persistent dangerous parking at the corner of Whittonditch Road and Crowood Lane, and speeding cars on Whittonditch Road. Fwd. to Cllrs. SG has replied.
A8406	03 Nov	Stephen Leonard, Wilts CC Countryside Access Officer	Barriers erected to put Lofts Bridge out of use until repair works can be carried out. Fwd. to Cllrs. See item 6(ii)
A8407	03 Nov	James Gill, HAGS UK (ii)	Comments from MD of the Play Inspection Company re. new equipment at Whittonditch play area. Fwd. to Play Areas & Finance Committees. See item 7
A8410	04 Nov	Simon Garrett, Neighbourhood Policing Inspector	Apologies for not informing us of police consultation being cancelled in a week when many staff were off sick. Fwd. to Cllrs. For information
A8414	05 Nov	Simon Merrell, Community Speedwatch, Wilts Police	Road Safety Update for Marlborough Area Board. Fwd. to Cllrs. Noted.

*The full list of incoming correspondence from 10th Oct – 5th Nov can be viewed on the parish council website

6. FINANCE

Erica Hodgson

- EH asked for Cllrs' ideas for any large capital items for possible inclusion in our 2026-27 Budget/Precept request. DG suggested the Ashley Piece play area needed fencing to keep out dog walkers because they seem to pay no attention to the NO DOGS signs. This was discussed and it was agreed that EH should look into the practicalities and likely cost. **ACTION - EH**
- EH confirmed all the S137 grant applications were in and have been included in the draft budget. She is awaiting the Wilts CC Financial Planners' tax base figure before circulating the final budget worksheet to the Finance Committee for their approval. **ACTION - EH**

7. PLAY AREAS AND SEATS

- SG read out DE's report:-

I have been to Whittonditch play area 3 Nov., ROSPA inspection in hand. The space net (or tangle tree as we have been referring to it) does not meet standards. A post-installation inspection was carried out and deemed ready for use. I do not feel this item is safe for play due to the trip hazards at each point where you would start to climb. There are 3 points and each mat is a different distance away from the grounding wire, one has rubber matting causing a trip hazard. Each area of matting is raised from ground level and I feel they should have been sunk into the ground.

My understanding of a post-installation report is that the equipment would be inspected and tested. Any faults would be identified and resolved before the barrier was removed. I have passed this information to Sheila who has contacted HAGS for a response.

The ROSPA report was by a new inspector and their findings are no surprise.

All trim trail equipment, seats on swings, grass matting under equipment are showing signs of wear. Nothing to report on this as all have been identified and monitored over previous reports.

The fort does have some small amounts of exposed concrete which we can get knocked back.

The single post which we have looked at putting a ball shot on still needs doing.

The sheep rocker is designed for a small child so if any child can turn the handlebar easily they must have had their Weetabix. I could turn the handle but it took some effort.

No concerns apart from the space net.

- SG then summarised the background to our dispute with HAGS about the thoroughness of their post-installation inspection report and the amount they charged for it, especially in the light of the RoSPA inspection (conducted very shortly afterwards) which flagged up several trip hazards around the new climbing net because of the unevenness of the grass matting in places. After some discussion it was agreed the PC should withhold settlement of both HAGS invoices until SG is able to negotiate a satisfactory remedy for the problems. **ACTION - SG**
- SG tabled a recent email from a resident of Ashley Piece expressing concern about a large tree which looks as if it is at risk of falling across the footpath between the play area and Whittonditch Road. SG circulated photos she had taken of the tree in question and there was a debate about whether a tree surgeon was needed. It was agreed SG should ask Jeremy Hawkins for his advice and report back to the next PC meeting. **ACTION - SG**

8. ALLOTMENTS

- DE's report said that the community asset has been renewed and a meeting was held on Thursday 13 November to discuss the future of the site. All the plot holders who attended were agreeable to proposals to streamline the working of the site. Now is a good time to take on an allotment. If you would like to view the site please contact Dee on 07867921878.
- SG also said that the new draft lease had been received back from the landowner's solicitors and that a meeting of the plotholders was held on 13th November to discuss the way forward. The main issues to be decided at their AGM to be held on 5th December will be how best to reconcile the fact of the site being only partially used at the moment, so fewer users will be asked to pay more rent ongoingly. Basically, more allotment holders are needed, and it was agreed that this should be given more publicity on the parish website and noticeboards. **ACTION -SG/DE**
- The new lease has yet to be signed but SG pointed out that a year's notice is required so the 2026 rent will be payable in January, whether or not it is decided to discontinue.

9. VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

- SG said that Brennans have completed the installation and the SIDs are now collecting data and are connected to her phone.
- SG is trying to arrange a daytime demonstration of redeployable CCTV at a time when other councillors are available to attend.

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- The WC Discretionary Gully Clearance Team will be in the village w/c 24th November and the necessary worksheet has been submitted by the clerk.
- SG reported that Remembrance Day had gone very well, and more than 100 villagers had enjoyed the refreshments and hospitality laid on afterwards in the British Legion. In recognition of this, SG proposed that the PC donate £250 to the British Legion as a thank you and this was **unanimously approved**.

10. MEMORIAL HALL

Helen Lloyd

HL reported on the proceedings of the Trustees' Meeting held on 5th November covering

- (i) the review of their current make-up (between elected trustees and representatives from village organisations), which is being looked at
- (ii) the five-year plan for the hall is currently being reviewed
- (iii) the inclusion of the Ramsbury oral history archive in their centenary exhibition in the Spring of 2026.

11. VANDALISM/CRIME

SG reported a black Audi (Reg. No. YE59ZHG) which seems to have been abandoned on land belonging to the PC at Whittonditch play area. Steps will be taken for its removal unless the owner comes forward to do so.

There was no Public Forum as no members of the public attended the meeting

12. AXFORD

Dianne Barnett

DB said all is well in Axford. Nothing in particular to report.

13. COMMITTEE REPORTS

13(i) Planning

Dianne Barnett

PLANNING REPORT RAMSBURY AND AXFORD PARISH COUNCIL – Nov 2025

Planning Applications Processed since October 2025 report

New applications-

• PL/2025/01559	Upcott Field, Whittonditch Rd	9 houses and associated works. This application layout has been amended.
• PL/2025/08186	3 Orchard Close	Treework.
• PL/2025/08341	Church Rooms, Back Lane	Treework
• PL/2025/08342	Kennet House, High St	Treework
• PI/2025/08332	Chandlers Barn, Hilldrop centre.	Change of use to 8-bedroomed, conference/event
• PL/2025/08376	Crown and Anchor	De-liscence, change of use.
• PL/2025/08554	Vine Cottage, Union St	Treework.
• PL/2025/08514	Windsor House, Square	Treework.
• PL/2025/08591	Richmond Cottage	Treework.
• PL/2025/08738	Westfield Farmhouse	Treework.
• PL/2025/08861	Stone House, Axford	Treework.
• PL/2025/08684	Land at rear of 33 Oxford St	Detached 3-bed bungalow.

Still awaiting-

• PL/2024/07914	Anvil Cottage Barn	Demolish and rebuild barn for family house.
• PL/2025/06883	Coombe Farm, Axford	Self-build house, garaging, tennis court with land-scaping demolishing modern farm buildings.
• PL/2025/07997	Parliament Piece, Back Lane	Treework in conservation area

Decisions-

None

- 3357357 Red Lion enforcement appeal NC
- 3362810 Red Lion planning appeal NC
Land at Lamplands, enforcement notified, but no response to date.

DB said that the treework at Parliament Piece had been approved since she filed this report.

MT mentioned that PL/2025/08684 was to do with No. 36 Oxford Street, not No. 33. DB has already heard from the owner of a neighbouring property with concerns about this application and will respond. **ACTION - DB**

DB also updated Cllrs. about the enforcement notice on Lamplands. CM asked her about the time frame of what has already occurred as regards the procession of applications, refusals, appeals and rejections, stretching over many months, which seems to be allowed to continue open-endedly.

13 (ii) Rights of Way

Doug Greenway

- DGr reported that WCC Rights of Way team have now installed some barriers to prevent walkers crossing Lofts Bridge
- The November circular walk had been good and 11 people had enjoyed it. The Christmas walk will be to Balham's Wood on 7th December.
- SG had had a report of a big tree down blocking footpath 39 and asked DGr to contact the landowner to ensure they are aware. **ACTION - DGr**
- MT and DGr are liaising about contacting the landowner of the overgrown hedgerow on Bridleway 28.

13 (iii) Emergency Committee

Alison Foale

- SG will send AF links to the models of suitable generators to replace the old ones in our village hubs, for her consideration. **ACTION – SG/AF**
- AF said money should be put aside for the purchase of new walkie-talkies. **ACTION – EH**
- After some discussion of various options for the installation of new defibrillator on Whittonditch Road it was agreed that a new one should be purchased, to be housed in the old phone box. **ACTION – SG**
- SG, HL and several other councillors sat in on the Martyn's Law webinar run by Community First and learnt that (a) it will take about four years before this comes into effect, and (b) our PC is too small to be affected so no action will be required.

13(vi) Environment Committee

Maggie Waugh

- The clerk proposed that the PC should defer the installation of a new litter bin by the picnic table in the community orchard until the Spring. **This was agreed.**
- DGi reported that the three apple trees planted in the orchard last year are thriving and she requested permission to purchase a further three as previously planned. **APPROVED** **ACTION -DGi**
- SG and HL have planted about 800 of the spring bulbs supplied by NWDLT along the hedgeline by the community orchard. The rest will be planted in the Memorial garden. **ACTION – SG/HL**

14. LOCAL HIGHWAYS & FOOTPATHS IMPROVEMENT GROUP

Sheila Glass

SG will order another traffic survey on the B4192 in Whittonditch this week. **ACTION – SG**

15. MARLBOROUGH AREA BOARD

Sheila Glass

SG will be attending the next meeting on 18th November in Minal. **ACTION – SG**

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16. TOWN & PARISH CLERKS' MEETING ON 29th OCTOBER

Sheila Glass

SG briefly summarised some points from this meeting, at which the matter of WCC's billing for election expenses was mentioned, and local initiatives for Net Zero were discussed.

17. PARISH STEWARD'S ROTA

Clerk

Next visit will be on 3rd December.

ACTION – CLERK

18. NATURE RESERVE

Sheila Glass

- SG reported that the PC had, unfortunately, overlooked payment of the annual rent to Wiltshire Wildlife Trust for the past three years but the back-rent owed has been included in this month's payments (see Item 19 – I4386) and will be settled without further delay. The Clerk will contact Nick Self to apologise for this oversight.
- CM is organising a meeting with WWT and ARK for a preliminary discussion re. flood risk mitigation in the area of the Nature Reserve.

ACTION – CLERK

ACTION – CM

19. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT IN NOVEMBER

Inv. No	Payments to Suppliers – November 2025	Amount	Net	VAT	Paid By	S137
I4366	Aster Communities – 2025 playground rent. Paid in Oct.	5.00	5.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4367	Bank Charges. Paid in Oct.	4.25	4.25	0.00	DD	No
I4368	HMRC – tax and employer's NI deductions from Clerk's salary. Paid in Oct.	579.51	579.51	0.00	DD	No
I4369	HP Instant Ink - 28 th Sept – 27 th Oct. Paid in Oct.	13.49	11.24	2.25	VisaDebit	No
I4370	M J Baker Accountancy – payroll fee for Oct	11.25	11.25	0.00	DD	No
I4371	Idverde Ltd - Bin emptying in Oct.	22.20	18.50	3.70	BACS	No
I4372	Coral Westall – public loo cleaning in November	200.00	200.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4373	Strutt & Parker BNPPRE S&P – Playing field rent Nov - April	212.50	212.50	0.00	BACS	No
I4374	Ramsbury Memorial Hall – PC office rent Oct - March	591.25	591.25	0.00	BACS	No
I4375	ROSPA Playsafety Ltd – play areas annual inspections	470.40	392.00	78.40	BACS	No
I4376	RBL Poppy Appeal – Remembrance Day wreaths	49.00	49.00	0.00	Chq.	No
I4377	Wiltshire Council – Axford Ward: Uncontested Election costs	190.00	190.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4378	Wiltshire Council – Ramsbury Ward: Uncontested Election costs	560.00	560.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4379	Lloyds Business Banking – Bank Charges in Nov.	4.25	4.25	0.00	DD	No
I4380	Sheila Glass – reimbursement for auditor's thank you gift	16.75	13.40	3.35	BACS	No
I4381	Castle Water – water charges for public loo in Oct.	17.56	17.56	0.00	BACS	No
I4382	HAGS-SMP Ltd – installation charge for play equipment	8544.37	7120.31	1424.06	BACS	No
I4383	HAGS-SMP Ltd – new play equipment at Whittonditch	17855.62	14879.69	2975.93	BACS	No
I4384	Community Charity Shop – 4 bags of compost for tubs	38.00	38.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4385	BT – Phone & Broadband Nov - Jan	186.25	155.21	31.04	DD	No
I4386	Wiltshire Wildlife Trust – 3 years' back rent for Nature Reserve	30.00	30.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4387	Robert Copp - Trimming beech hedge on Isles Road	190.00	190.00	0.00	BACS	No
TOTAL TO PAY (excluding Clerk's salary I4388)		£29,791.65	£25,272.92	£4,518.73		

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	TOTAL AMOUNT ON DEPOSIT on 31st Oct 2025*	£122,087.07				
	incl. gross interest earned Dec 2022 to 31 st Oct 2025	£6,087.07				
	INCOME					
	Charity shop rent	£320.00				
	August SO for Memorial Hall broadband	9.60				
	TOTAL INCOME	£329.60				
	Current A/c balance at 31st Oct 2025	£36,101.23				

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

NB. In addition to the £29,791.65 due for payment as set out in the meeting agenda (as above), SG sought councillors' approval for two further payments to be settled this month:-

I4389	Church Room Hire for CPR trainings	50.00	50.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4390	Brennans of Wiltshire – Installation of five new SIDs	2,481.60	2,068.00	0.00	BACS	No

Bringing the total expenditure for approval up to £32,322.25

The Accounts were accepted and were unanimously approved. Prop. EH; Sec. DGr

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.15pm

**DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 15th DECEMBER at 8.00pm at RAMSBURY MEMORIAL HALL**

ALL ARE WELCOME