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 Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 19th October 2026 at 7.45pm in Ramsbury Memorial Hall

2107

Present:

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

No members of the public were present

1. **APOLOGIES** – None

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

3. **THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**
The minutes of the meeting held on 21st September were approved and signed as a true record. **Proposed CM; Seconded EH. APPROVED**

4. **MATTERS ARISING – 2026-27 sub-committees' aims :** DB said that she had had no responses from the sub-committees as to their aims so she assumed that there would be no major change to their future expenditure plans and next year's budget would be determined accordingly.

5. **NEW CORRESPONDENCE – Items for discussion**

***The full list of incoming correspondence from 5th Sept – 7th Oct can be viewed on the parish council website**

Ref. No	Date Received	September-October 2026 From :	Subject *Highlighted for October meeting Agenda
A8750	06 Sept	Mike Parkes, Dorset County Councillor	In response to HL's request for further information about the funding cycle on which the future of Ramsbury Fire Station's future will depend. Fwd to Cllrs.
A8754	22 Sept	Resident (via the website)	Concern about overgrown beech hedge on Crowood Lane narrowing the carriageway and impairing visibility of oncoming traffic to drivers coming down the hill. **See item 9**
A8756	22 Sept	Jason Lucas, Wilts CC Traffic Order Team	TTRO for part of C6 between Marlborough & Mildenhall commencing 2nd November for carriageway retexturing. Fwd. to Cllrs. **For info.**
A8757	22 Sept	Jason Lucas, Wilts CC Traffic Order Team	TTRO for part of C189 between Aldbourne and O. St G. commencing 4th November for carriageway retexturing. Fwd to Cllrs. **For info.**

A8758	25 Sept	Jess Emery, Community First Insurance	Insurance cover for PC volunteers during emergency situations. **See item 6(v)**
A8759	01 Oct	Resident	Fly-tipping on the airfield. Fwd. to Cllrs. **Has been reported.**
A8762	07 Oct	Stephen Hind, Wilts CC Principal Traffic Engineer	Next steps towards enabling the one-way traffic scheme on Union St. to be made permanent. Fwd. to Cllrs.

DB said that the correspondence listed was self-explanatory and any matters requiring discussion or a decision would be addressed later in the meeting.

6 COMMITTEE REPORTS

(i) Finance *Erica Hodgson*

- Quotes for pavement repairs were discussed at the meeting of the Finance Committee held on the 5th October. EH reported it was agreed that further information would be required from the two contractors in the running to allow us to make a fair comparison of their prices; she will therefore get back to them to request they review their specifications and confirm their quotes in time for her to report back at the next full parish council meeting. **ACTION – EH**
- The committee has issued their first draft budget for 2026-27. A discussion ensued about areas potentially requiring future expenditure, perhaps including the re-surfacing of the footpath and the repair or replacement of the safety railings at The Knapp. DB will ask Martin Cook to look into and advise us who is responsible for maintenance of those areas. **ACTION – DB**
- The approval of the Q2 report will be on the agenda for the next PC meeting. **ACTION – CLERK**

(ii) Planning *Diann Barnett*

PLANNING REPORT RAMSBURY AND AXFORD PARISH COUNCIL – October 2026

Planning Applications Processed since Sept 2026 report

New applications-

- PL/2026/06039 Hodds Hill Cottage, Marriage Demolish existing dwelling and rebuild
- PL/2026/03883 Red Lion, Axford Certificate of Lawfulness as dwelling.

Still awaiting-

- PL/2025/01559 Upcott Field, Whittonditch Rd 9 houses and associated works. This application lay-out 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/2026/03590 Riverside Cottage, Axford Retrospective 6 ft fence
- PL/2026/04174 Whittonditch House Single storey extension
- PL/2026/04987 11, High St, Ramsbury Single storey rear ext., 2nd floor ext., dormer. EXT

Decisions-

- PL/2026/04856 1 Orchard Close, Ramsbury Single storey ext. front & 2nd storey to rear **APP**
- Pl/2026/04025 1, High St, Ramsbury Change of use of shop + conservatory. **APP**
- PL/2026/04655 Manor Farm, Ramsbury Glazed extension. **APP**

- DB reported on two new applications submitted since her report from 4 Back Lane and Cedar Cone, both for tree works.
- DB updated councillors about recent developments in connection with Wilts Planning Enforcement at Lamplands where it appears there continues to be a breach of planning control. They are keeping the PC posted.
- DB also brought to councillors' attention the application for a Certificate of Lawfulness submitted by the Red Lion, Axford to use the premises as a residence. There are a number of questions to be raised about this, and she will seek advice at the Planning Enforcement and Appeals seminar she will be attending tomorrow, and report back.

(iii) Rights of Way ***Doug Greenway***

- DGr reported that the Rights of Way Case Officer has advised him that the diversion of the airfield footpaths 6 and 8C will be accepted.
- DGr is investigating a report that landowners at East Ridge are seeking the partial closure of footpath 19. **ACTION – DGr**
- The October circular walk was well-attended. The next will be on Sunday 1st November; DGr is away so is seeking another leader for this one.
- HL mentioned that a resident had spoken to her privately about having seen horseriders using the footpath out of the village to the Manor as a bridleway and churning it up. There was a discussion about whether this might constitute a serious concern but noone at the meeting could recall ever having seen horses on that footpath. It was assumed it must therefore be too rare an event to warrant the PC taking steps to force riders out on to the road. However, it was agreed that the PC should monitor the situation over the coming months. **ACTION – ALL**

(iv) Play Areas and Seats ***Denise Edwards***

- DE said she had read through this year's RoSPA play areas reports and would recommend that the PC look to replace the rocker pig and the spinner at Knowledge Crescent and the rocker sheep at Ashley Piece, as well as the planned replacement of the nest swing and the new ball shot.
- There was a discussion about whether or not some of the grass matting around the Ashley Piece tangle tree needed replacing. Carrying out any levelling-up work had been impractical during the drought over the summer but DB said that she had enough compost left over from the Autumn Show now to be able to pack any uneven areas and hopefully obviate the need for re-turfing.
- In answer to DE's query, DB confirmed that Jeremy Hawkins had taken down the Knowledge Crescent nest swing and the timber post at Ashley Piece and his invoice is pending.
- DE requested more councillors consider joining the Play Areas Committee as extra help would be much appreciated.
- The next Committee meeting will be held on Monday 2nd November at 6.30pm.
- A snagging list will be compiled after the Committee meeting and then quotes will be sought from local tradesmen who are adequately insured.
- DE was pleased to report that there was no evidence of any dog fouling in any of our play areas over the past month.

(v) Emergency Committee ***Alison Foale***

- Two CPR training sessions have been arranged for 29th October (4-5pm and 6-7pm). At the time of her report AF said only a handful of places were still available. She will be sending out reminders to everyone who has booked a place closer to the time. Meanwhile HL is liaising with Wilts Air Ambulance about final arrangements. **ACTION – AF/HL**

- The Clerk will review the PC's expenditure so far on the installation and set-up of the village hub generators to estimate how much refund might be due back to SSE from their original grant of £5,789. **ACTION – CLERK**
- EH summarised the advice she had received from the PC's insurers about the need to register their volunteers for insurance purposes. DB had also gleaned some advice from WALC at their recent conference and been told that anyone volunteering to assist the PC in an emergency is automatically covered by WCC's own insurance if they (WCC) have asked for the PC's assistance, but volunteers would require cover under the PC's insurance if they (the PC) should ever instigate any emergency assistance of their accord. However, the PC's volunteer Emergency Wardens are all named in the PC's emergency plan so will automatically be covered.
- DB said that she had hoped to demonstrate to councillors how to test-run the new generators before this evening's meeting but had been unable to do so because she found the batteries were flat. She will charge them up so that the demonstration can be done prior to the November meeting and then a 20 minute test-run will be conducted prior to all future PC meetings. **ACTION – DB**

(vi) Environment Committee ***Maggie Waugh***

- MW said that the apple trees are looking OK. DGi mentioned that someone in a vehicle has evidently hit one of trees so hard that its support has been broken; luckily the tree itself seems to be undamaged. DB said she could reinforce the broken stake with a rebar.
- There was a discussion about whether the PC should erect a fence to protect the orchard from future damage by inept drivers but doing so would make life difficult for Robert Copp who needs to be able to access the area for mowing.

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

No members of the public were present

MT asked what progress had been made as regards PC data protection protocols and the adoption of .gov.uk email addresses for both councillors' and the PC's own email contact address. DB said she and SG had discovered that how best to implement this change turned out to be quite complex and something that would need careful working out with the PC's webhosts. They will be getting down to it now that SG has returned from holiday and the matter will be put on the agenda for the November PC meeting. **ACTION – DB/SG**

7 AXFORD ***Di Barnett***

Nothing to report.

8 ALLOTMENTS ***Denise Edwards***

DE reported that a successful Committee meeting had been held on 5th October and the site is going from strength to strength. The AGM will be held on 23rd November at 7pm.
To enquire about plot availability please email allotments@ramsbury.org

9 VILLAGE MAINTENANCE ***Di Barnett***

- DB has been in touch with Carty's to seek their advice about how to remove the staining which is disfiguring the original terrazzo floor in the public convenience. In their opinion it would be a great shame to re-floor the space in the same material as the community shop and that a much nicer and cheaper solution might be to clean, grind and polish the existing surface which they believe they could do successfully. They have offered to come and look at the problem and will report back.

- DB and HL had been to have a look at the hedges encroaching on the highway on Crowood Lane as complained about by two residents recently. MT said he had reported the problem on MyWilts as he was aware that the PC has no powers of enforcement in situations like this. In her report in the Village Diary HL said she has asked residents to take the necessary action to cut back their hedges where they are encroaching on the highway and affecting visibility or forcing traffic into the path of oncoming vehicles. Where the PC has been able to establish that an overgrown roadside hedge is not the responsibility of a specific property-owner the Clerk will ask the parish steward to cut them back. **ACTION – CLERK**

10 EXTERNAL MEETINGS ***Di Barnett***

- DB had attended the Local Highways & Footways Improvement Group meeting on 24th September but said there was nothing pertinent to report back to the PC.
- Following the cancellation of the PCSO public consultation on 30th September, DB will try to arrange another date in the near future. **ACTION – DB**
- DB and HL had attended the WALC conference on 6th October. HL summarised some of the key points she had taken away from the event, with particular reference to
  - (i) the various services NALC aims to provide to councils and their priorities
  - (ii) NALC's need to be vigilant about potential fall-out from the report from the Adam Smith Institute that parish councils are the least regulated branch of government in terms of their precepts not being capped at present
  - (iii) the work of the Environmental Network and Wilts Climate Alliance

11 PARISH STEWARD'S ROTA

The next visit is scheduled for 4th November. **ACTION - CLERK**

12 MEMORIAL HALL AND MEMORIAL GARDEN ***Sheila Glass***

SG said that the garden had been cleared and weeded, and that the PC would put a £40 donation from the Memorial Hall Trustees towards the cost of more tete-a-tete daffodils, and other bulbs which will be put in in the coming weeks.
The next meeting of the Memorial Hall Trustees will be held on 10th November.

13 NATURE RESERVE ***Chris Morgan***

CM said that WWT have acknowledged that the removal of the fallen tree from the mill stream is their responsibility but they had not had the necessary kit with them at their first visit to inspect the problem. Currently the water levels are at an all-time low but he will chase them up about removing the tree.
ACTION - CM

14 SCHOOL ***Roger Greasley***

RG said the school will be breaking-up for half-term on 21st October and, looking ahead, that the new head master will be starting in January.

15 VANDALISM/CRIME ***Di Barnett***

MT summarised the content of the most recent crime report.
DB reported on the recent discovery of two kitchen knives hidden on the edge of the mill pool on Mill Lane. The police have been notified and have collected them. DB has posted information about the knives on Facebook, but no-one has claimed them so far.

16 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT IN OCTOBER

Inv. No	Payments to Suppliers – October 2026	Amount	Net	VAT	Paid By	S137
I4570	J. Parker Dutch Bulbs – paid in September	320.00	266.67	53.33	VisaDebit	No
I4571	Coral Westall – public loo cleaning in October	225.00	225.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4572	Castle Water – water charges for public loo in Sept	TBC		0.00	BACS	No
I4573	HP Instant Ink – 28th Sept–27th Oct	13.49	11.24	2.25	VisaDebit	No
I4574	Lloyds Business Banking – Bank Charges in October	4.75	4.75	0.00	DD	No
I4575	Ramsbury Memorial Hall – electricity to PC office, shop and public loo July - September	125.25	125.25	0.00	VisaDebit	No
I4576	TEEC Ltd. – annual fee for website hosting etc.	511.19	425.99	85.20	BACS	No
I4577	Ramsbury Electrical Ltd – install new defib in telephone box	180.00	150.00	30.00	BACS	No
I4578	Ramsbury Electrical Ltd – electrical supply to 2 generators	573.60	478.00	95.60	BACS	No
I4579	Ramsbury Charity Shop – donation for repairs at play areas	100.00	100.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4580	Alice Charlwood – Mileage expenses April - September	27.00	27.00	0.00	BACS	No
I4581	Great Bedwyn Motor Company – supply oil for generators	69.66	58.05	11.61	BACS	No
I4582	Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal – Ramsbury & Axford wreaths	46.00	46.00	0.00	Chq.	No
	TOTAL (excluding I4572 + Clerk's salary I4583)	**£2,195.94**	**£1,917.95**	**£277.99**		
	***TOTAL AMOUNT ON DEPOSIT on 30th September 2026**	**£128,702.71**				
	incl. gross interest earned Dec 2022 to 30th Sept. 2026	£7702.71				
	INCOME					
	Charity shop rent	£320.00				
	Memorial Hall share of broadband	9.60				
	Wiltshire CC – precept (1st tranche) – **Received in Sept.**	40,430.00				
	Lloyds Bank – complaint compensation – **Received in Sept.**	50.00				
	Memorial Hall Trustees – contribution towards cost of bulbs for the Memorial garden	40.00				
	TOTAL INCOME	**40,849.60**				
	Current A/c balance at 30th September 2026	**£42,530.99**				

***This sum 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. DE; Sec. BM

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

DATE OF THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 16th NOVEMBER 2026 AT 7.45pm at RAMSBURY MEMORIAL HALL

ALL ARE WELCOME