

RAMSBURY & AXFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: Rosalind Eyles, c/o Parish Council Office, Memorial Hall, High Street, Ramsbury
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MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 9th December 2002 in Ramsbury Memorial Hall

PRESENT: Roy Alexander, Steve Cook, Susan Findlay, Sheila Glass (Chairman), Isobel Henry, Fiona Kimber, Ann Naughton, Alan Plenderleith, Geoffrey Treherne, Rosalind Eyles(clerk) and 8 members of the public.

- 1 **Apologies for absence :** Mora Abell, Chris Humphries , Geoffrey Rissone, Matthew Tester
2 **Co-option of Councillors:** Two candidates had expressed an interest in becoming councillors and they, and the members of the public were asked to leave the hall whilst their applications were considered. The candidates are : Hilary Hicklin and George Hawes. The council unanimously decided in favour of their co-option and all were asked to return to the room.
3 **Acceptance of Office:** the 2 new councillors were given details of the Code of Conduct and Declaration of Interests forms to peruse after the meeting and to return signed copies to the clerk once they were happy with what was involved.
4 **Disclosures of Interest:** Roy Alexander signed the register disclosing interests in item 11.
5 **The minutes** of the meeting held on November 18th 2002 were approved as a true record, proposed by Isobel Henry and seconded by Steve Cook and signed by the Chairman.

6 **Matters arising:**

B4192/Knighton Crossroads - a letter had been received from Wiltshire County Council explaining that this junction's signage would be looked into, and upgraded as appropriate. In the absence of reported serious accidents at this spot, it did not receive priority treatment ahead of other more dangerous junctions in the county.

Downland Forum-a copy of minutes are being circulated among the Council members

Bowls Club-Humberts have confirmed that they are willing to extend the lease to 50 years and would be willing to lease a further 10 metres to the north if the present tenant is willing to give up the lease on the 10 metre strip.

Marlborough Community Forum - the meeting had been poorly signed at the Town Hall in Marlborough, and as a consequence the Chairman had not attended. An apology had been received for poor sign.

Lighting in Oxford Street - Chairman awaiting a response from B Hussey.

7 **New Correspondence for discussion:**

450	28/11/02	Splash	Letter asking for donation for 2003 - want to give vouchers to disadvantaged youngsters. 7 young people living in Ramsbury and Axford will receive vouchers.
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It was unanimously decided to send a donation for £25.

8 **Committee Reports:**

A **Planning**

Chairman: Isobel Henry

Applications received by Kennet District Council:

K/044341/L Mr and Mrs Persson, Priory Farm, Axford. Alterations to building and new garden room. No objection

K/044332/L J Lambley, Primrose Cottage, 41 Oxford Street. Alterations. No objection, but some concern over removal of walls.

K/044315/T Mr J Sampson, 1 Townfield, Crowood Lane Tree works. No objection

K/044318/T Mr S Turner, Vine Cottage, 17 Union Street. Fell 1 Leylandii. No objection

K/044476/T Mr R Hall, Beenham House, Whittonditch Road. Tree works. No objection

K/044432 Mr and Mrs Parker, 82 High Street. Demolition of porch and erection of conservatory. No objection

Applications approved by Kennet District Council

K/044315/T Mr J Sampson, 1 Townfield, Crowood Lane Tree work

K/044318/T A Sherman, Vine Cottage, Union Street Fell 1 Leylandii

Doctor's Surgery Plans - old site and new site:

Plans were received on the day of this meeting (9th December 2002) for the old surgery site and the new site off Whittonditch Road. Comments have to be with Kennet District Council by the latest date of 3rd January 2003. An Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting has been arranged for Monday 30th December at 7.45pm. Plans will be on display from 7pm for the public and council members. There will be a Public Forum. The Parish Council are unhappy that the plans have come at Christmas which is a difficult time for consultation with the village.

It was re-iterated that, as with any planning application, members of the public must make any comments that they wish to make directly to Kennet District Council. The clerk is to announce this meeting by placing notices at the usual places in the villages.

B Finance**Chairman: Steve Cook**

Steve Cook proposed that there be no change to the precept of £18740. Seconded by Alan Plenderleith and all were in favour. It was discussed and agreed that the grant given to the PCC for mowing costs should be increased to £900 next year. The recreation centre have asked for £500 of their grant to be paid now. New bank account with Alliance and Leicester now open and the Portman account will now be closed and the balance transferred.

Steve told the meeting that the library computer may be upgraded to a very high specification, in line with the rest of the county, due to funding from the lottery.

C Rights of Way**Chairman: Geoffrey Treherne**

Nothing to report by the chairman of this sub-committee.

Susan Findlay mentioned that there was a tree blocking the footpath leading from Swansbottom to Loves Lane. The clerk to write to Crowood Estates and ask for it to be removed.

D Play Areas and Seats**Chairman: Fiona Kimber**

All play areas have been checked. Some discrepancy between the specification of the safety surface under the springers between SARSEN and ROSPA which Sarsen is investigating. Sarsen have agreed to mend the gates at Atherton Close, and have agreed for the council to put a seat there if it wishes.

E Emergency Committee**Chairman: Matthew Tester**

The wardens attended a meeting in the last month and were all thanked for their support. The trustees of the hall have agreed to the installation of the generator.

F School governor**Chairman: Fiona Kimber**

Fiona told the meeting that she wishes to resign as a school governor. Councillors were asked to give consideration to suitable candidates and report at the next meeting.

G Recreation Centre**Chairman: Alan Plenderleith**

After the recent recreation centre meeting, Alan reported that all clubs are doing well, membership-wise. There are issues to be addressed with regards to finding new ways for fund raising.

9 Public Forum Standing Orders suspended for this item

Ben Tottenham asked the council its opinion over the plans for the surgery. It was then strongly stated that as the plans had only been received that morning, and had not yet been looked at, it was not appropriate to comment at this meeting. As noted earlier an extraordinary meeting will take place on December 30th at which members of the public can make their comments known. Isobel Henry stated that as with any planning application, she was more than prepared to listen to views expressed by the public, but again re-iterated that the current meeting was not the correct forum, due to no one on the council having seen the plans.

Ben Tottenham asked whether the Council had any views on the Downland Forum. The Chairman replied the Forum seemed to be a consultation exercise which may not bear fruit but that the minutes were still circulating so no comments are yet forthcoming.

The owner of one of the houses that border the existing surgery site pointed out that there is an inaccuracy in the site plan regarding the site she owns.

George Hawes asked if the lower branches of the tree in the Square could be lopped. Clerk to enquire.

Roy Alexander stated that insurance for the memorial hall had been increased by 50%. He said the reason given was that the postcode SN8 was "in the Kennet flood plain"

Alan Plenderleith asked if there could be a light up Hilldrop Lane on the way up to the Scout Hut. Chairman to contact B Hussey.

Fiona Kimber to give Sheila the number of the light obscured by fir trees by the bungalows off Hilldrop Lane.

Alan Plenderleith has been asked whether a bus shelter could be provided for the stop on the south side of Whittonditch Road. Clerk to contact Thamesdown to enquire.

Susan Findlay stated that the Link Scheme was up and running and had already had 6 calls - 4 of which had already had their requests attended to.

10 Axford - nothing to report.

- 11 **Nature Reserve/river bank:** Roy Alexander told the Chairman that the lease was now ready to be signed. All encroachments have now been satisfactorily dealt with. A Reserve pamphlet has been prepared and arrangements made for printing by WWT. A provisional date for an opening was agreed to be sometime in March 2003. £70 will be contributed to the cost of a noticeboard by Janet Hierons from her Earthwatch award. Roy expressed on behalf of G Rissone his thanks for the messages he had received and the offers of help.
- 12 **Square Refurbishment:** it was agreed to continue to maintain the amount of £10,000 set aside for this project in reserves.
- 13 **Village Design Statement** - launch on 18th January 10.30 - 12.00 in Memorial Hall. The statement can be read and also purchased. There are also some aerial photographs available for sale.
- 14 **Post Office** - The Chairman expressed the council's concern, that if residents of the village do not use the Post Office and other shops in the village more regularly, then they could disappear. The council agreed that a mention of this fact should be made aware to all residents by writing a short piece in the Parish Magazine and the Village Diary.
- 15 **Freedom of Information Model Policy** - having had considerable difficulty locating the model policy on the internet the Chairman will report on this matter at the next meeting.
- 16 **Accounts for Payment:** the following accounts were proposed by S Cook for payment, seconded by S Findlay and passed nem con.

Ref.	Detail	Total	Chq. no	VAT element	S137?
498	Ramsbury and Axford Parochial Church council - mowing grant	800.00	1176	0	No
499	SEC - correcting VAT omission	31.50	1177	31.50	No
500	Methodist youth Group - cheque payable to Ramsbury Methodist Church	300.00	1178	0	Yes
501	CPRE - membership fee	25.00	1179	0	No
502	BT - quarterly bill	48.43	1180	0	No
503	R Copp	312.00	1181	0	No
504	G Cox	40.00	1182	0	No
505	Recreation Centre	500.00	1183	0	No

TOTAL £2056.93

Monies received nil

- 15 **Date of next meeting:**
The next meeting of the council will be the Extraordinary Meeting on Monday 30th December at 7.45pm in the Memorial Hall to discuss plans for the doctor's surgery current site and the new site on Whittonditch Road. Plans available for review from 7pm
 There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9pm

Other correspondence:

442	18/11/02	KDC	Flooding contact - useful information - M Tester has read this
443	18/11/02	KDC	Appeal date for P Stibbard Baydon Manor set for Tuesday 11 th March 2003.
444	18/11/02	Maureen Sinnot	Letter notifying the council that video made by Trillith of mainly Horticultural centenary has been passed to Trowbridge for safe keeping.
445	21/11/02	WCC	Acknowledgement of letter re Knighton Crossroads
446	21/11/02	Mrs J Handford	Thank you letter for Meals on Wheels grant
447	21/11/02	CPRE	Newsletter - copy to be given to G Treherne at next meeting
448	21/11/02	Alliance & Leicester	Account now open
449	21/11/02	KDC	Parish Council Precepts 2003/2004 - copy given to S Cook
451	28/11/02	SEC	Letter pointing out invoice paid at last meeting omitted VAT element of £31.50 - mistake by R Eyles - to be rectified at December meeting.
452	28/11/02	WCC	Community planning in Marlborough - Transport Focus group - copy given to Fiona - issues raised by postal survey
453	28/11/02	KDC	Marlborough community Area Plan - local consultations - posters put up on n/boards
454	28/11/02	Methodist Youth Group	Cheque sent to them needs to be re-issued and made payable to different payee to be able to be paid into bank.
455	28/11/02	Mrs S Judge	Thank you letter from Jubilee centre for grant
456	1/12/02	Swindon NHS Trust	Poster for new opening of A&E department 3 rd December
457	1/12/02	KDC	Amended description for treeworks at 1 Townfield - deadline for comments on amendments 29/11/02 - received too late.
458		Ben Tottenham	Downland Forum
459		Meals on wheels	Thank you letter for financial support given.
460		WCC	Knighon Crossroads.