

RAMSBURY & AXFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: Rosalind Eyles, c/o Parish Council Office, Memorial Hall, High Street, Ramsbury
Tel no. 01672 520045 (answerphone)

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 19th December 2003 in Ramsbury Memorial Hall

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PRESENT: Mora Abell, Roy Alexander, Diann Barnett, Steve Cook, Paul Court, Cllr Susan Findlay, Sheila Glass (Chairman), George Hawes, Chris Morgan, Fiona Kimber, Debbie Marshall, Alan Plenderleith, Geoffrey Rissone, Matthew Tester, Geoffrey Treherne, Cllr Chris Humphries, Cllr Brian Twigger, Ros Eyles (clerk) and 3 members of the public.

1 **Apologies for absence** - none

2 **Disclosures of Interest:** The book will be signed at the February meeting for item 14 - R Alexander

3 The minutes of the meeting held on November 17th were approved. The additional paragraph to be added was amended slightly and is printed at the end of these minutes. It should be inserted at the end of the Planning section on page 214. The minutes were then approved.

4 The minutes of the meeting held on December 15th were approved.

5 **Matters arising:**

Tourist signs: A letter has been sent and a reminder will be given to MADT to see if they have any grants available for this project. The design was approved at the meeting. 2 signs will be put up - one by Knighton Crossroads and one at Whittonditch - both off the B4192. Additional signage has been promised for the Knighton Crossroads junction by Wiltshire Highways.

Lines by Oakes House - clerk to write to Highways to see whether their line machine could be used to upgrade the current painting. If not, then the paint will be applied in warmer weather when it would dry more easily.

Action: clerk

Grasscutting quotes: the quotes received were all accepted. Clerk to write and confirm. **Action: clerk**

Christmas lights: Sheila to order 50 spare bulbs in readiness for next year. She is to sort out storage of the lights.

Action: S Glass

Newcomers Day - 24th January 4pm. Memorial Hall S Glass and clerk to man stall. Various items of literature will be available.

6. **New Correspondence for discussion:**

813	29/12/03	Mrs P Crabb	Letter of complaint concerning dogs running loose and snapping at ankles on the right of way adjacent to Bolstridge Farm - letter written to landowner and to Mrs Crabb by clerk
821	29/12/03	Wiltshire County Council	Tourism signing letter - given to Sheila
833	16/1/04	Lisa Hyde	Letter concerning safety on the roadside in Axford. See below

The letter written by L Hyde to the council and her letter to WCC concerning lack of pavements and poor lighting in Axford was read out by the clerk. Mrs Hyde was invited to speak and she told the meeting that the response she had received from Wiltshire County Council was not acceptable. She had asked if the bus stop could be moved but has been told it cannot. She felt it was only a matter of time before a serious injury was inflicted on a pedestrian, and in particular she has great concerns for the safety of children in the village on their way to and from school and their friends' houses. Considerable discussion was then had on this subject, and areas such as traffic calming measures, better lighting, possibility or otherwise of a pavement on the South side of the village, lack of good large signposts stating 30mph and pedestrians on road with no footpath amongst others. Clerk to write to Highways to ask them to re-consider the matter, and at the very least agree to meet with the Axford representatives at the busiest times of the day in the village and look at all the problems that have been highlighted not only at this meeting, but at previous meetings on the same subject.

Clerk to write and notify all parties concerned of any response as and when received.

Action: clerk

Chairman reported on KDC Draft Health Strategy (item 826). Nothing much contentious except an item which suggested that village Link schemes could be used to give transport to hospital etc. She felt that this would be abuse of a volunteer service and was an attempt to get cheap transport. Chairman to return remarks to KDC

Action: Chairman

7. **Committee Reports:**

A **Planning**

Chairman: Geoffrey Rissone

Scheme of delegation: letter received from KDC on the subject stated that as a direct response to the number of responses to their proposed changes they have deferred a decision for a period of at least 6 months to assess the impact that the introduction of public speaking has at meetings. The existing scheme will continue unchanged.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED SINCE 15 DECEMBER 2003

K/046689 Land adjacent to Sparricks Piece, Whittonditch Road. Dr. P Chinneck New house, garage and associated works. Full planning permission sought. No objection

K/046713 Candy Farm, Ramsbury Aerodrome. JGD Services. Change of use of existing agricultural buildings and cartilage. To use for agricultural/horticulture/aboriculture contractor With storage & maintenance of plant & machinery. Full planning permission sought. No objection

K/046734 42 Whittonditch Road. Mr & Mrs Way

Erection of a two storey side extension, porch & conservatory. Full planning permission sought. No objection

K/046853 7 The Square, Ramsbury Mrs J Whiting

Change of use of upper rooms to retail Full planning permission sought. Pending

PLANNING PERMISSIONS GRANTED BY KDC

K/046513 7 The Square, Ramsbury Mr & Mrs J Whiting

Extension to building to create covered staircase.

K/046536 16 Oxford Street, Ramsbury A.S. & O Goodrich

Installation of a metal chimney.

K/046472 28 Ashley Piece, Ramsbury Mr & Mrs Haw

1st Floor extn. above existing garage and ground floor extn to provide dining room. Conditions re windows on north and west elevations.

K/046592 Howe Mill, Newtown Road. Mr M Arbib

Erection of an estates shed.

Conditions re landscaping and floor levels.

K/046610 Eagle Cottage, 7 Union Street, Ramsbury Mr & Mrs S Chapman

Erection of a single storey side and rear extension.

K/046619 Tankard Cottage, Tankard Lane. Mr & Mrs Harker

Erection of a 1st floor extn to dwelling and detached garage.

K/046713 Candy Farm, Ramsbury Aerodrome. JGD Services

Change of use of existing agricultural buildings and cartilage to Use for agricultural/horticulture/aboriculture contractor, with storage & maintenance of plant & machinery.

Conditions: upper tier of portocabin shall be removed; scrap must be removed; a landscaping scheme; soft landscaping by March 2004.

APPLICATIONS REFUSED BY KDC

K/046521 Orchard Cottage, Chapel Lane, Ramsbury. Mr G Davies

Removal of condition of K/043582 requiring demolition of Orchard Cottage upon completion of new dwelling.

Reason: The removal would set an undesirable precedent for future such application in the District.

K/046580 Harbrook, Ramsbury. Mr & Mrs M Evans

Erection of stables, log store, and compost bins.

Reason: Detrimental to the character & scenic quality of the of the Kennet Valley landscape, AONB; would cause significant damage to the root systems of important trees; proximity of store and compost bins would compromise the integrity of the watercourse.

K/046607 Sparricks Piece, Whittonditch Road, Ramsbury. Mr J Miller

Two storey front extension and new garage.

Reason: The proposed garage by reason of its siting design would result in a visual intrusion into the streetscene to the detriment of

the character & appearance of the area.

B Finance

Chairman: Steve Cook

The bank account stands at £23847 as at end of December 2003 - unaudited figure. Steve explained that new accounts software needed to be purchased to ensure the council was the legal owner of the package, and that we have a more up to date system, If the package costs in the region of £100 then the council gave agreement for it to be purchased before the next meeting.

Action: S Cook

C Rights of Way

Chairman: Geoffrey Treherne

Grasscutting quotes - as above

Beating the bounds - May 3rd. G Treherne to write to all landowners. More volunteers are needed for the teas.

Right to Roam Appeal - after some discussion the council voted overwhelmingly not to become involved in the appeal process regarding 2 areas of land on Springs Hill.

The chairman outlined a document called Draft Framework for managing the Rights of Way network in Wiltshire which details how footpaths are to be categorised in the future into Class 1,2 and 3. Each class then has certain amounts of maintenance allocated to it by the County Council. There were some serious concerns that all of the footpaths in the area would be deemed class 3 and be maintained on a 5 yearly cycle, and then only if there was safety issues with the path or deliberate obstruction. It was pointed out at this point that the Amenity Group probably covers all of the local footpaths during their twice-monthly walks. It would appear however that paths 'promoted' by Parish and Town councils are elevated to Class 1 - making them worthy of more regular maintenance. The clerk to write to WCC enclosing the walking maps and covering letter highlighting the fact that the Parish Council is very much 'promoting' them. Letter also to state that if the new system will ensure the current level of maintenance continues then the Council is happy. If however it cannot be guaranteed then the council has serious concerns.

Action: clerk

D Play Areas and Seats

Chairman: Fiona Kimber

Nothing to report

E Emergency Committee**Chairman: Matthew Tester**

Two new street wardens. Tim Pope is to do a site review to assess whether the generator currently in the Methodist Hall could be moved to Axford. Another emergency exercise will take place sometime in the autumn.

Neighbourhood Watch - this had been discussed at a meeting with S Glass and the Police officer - B Braine. After some discussion at the meeting it was generally felt that informal groups within the village do already look after the neighbours. A village-wide scheme therefore did not generate much enthusiasm. Stickers are to be handed out ad hoc throughout the village to warn people not to open their doors to strangers and to always ask for identification.

F School Governor**Chairman: Paul Court**

The state of the front wall of the school is to be reviewed as it needs some maintenance. Electrical works are currently being undertaken in the school.

G Recreation Centre**Chairman: Alan Plenderleith**

Nothing to report.

8. Public Forum Standing Orders suspended for this item.

Brian Twigger told the meeting that the village should hear this week the date for Broadband to be brought into service in the village. The FDM wireless version is already installed. No application for wind turbines at Park Farm and Darrell's Farm been received as yet.

A member of the public from Axford expressed her concern over the misuse of the public footpath leading from Crooks Lane by trials bikes. Clerk to write to the police officer to ask if he could visit this area periodically. **Action: clerk**

There is a bollard broken on the footpath between Back Lane and Knowledge Hill. **Action: clerk**

There is a water leak on the drive up by the library - clerk to contact Thames Water **Action: clerk**

The new grit bin on Crowood Lane has now been filled by Wiltshire County Council

9. **Clerk** - the clerk explained how the correspondence course she had embarked on last May had proven too time consuming to complete all the networking and essays required. She has read all the course material and has gained some valuable knowledge. The clerk told the meeting that the course was not as she was originally led to believe and was not in her opinion geared towards the management of a small parish council such as Ramsbury. The course fee paid by the council will not be required to be paid back by the clerk.

10. **Skips**: the last skip of the year on February 4th will be sited at Knowledge crescent - not Whittonditch. Contractors are expected on site at the end of the month at the new surgery site and there will be no access to the recycling bins after this date. See recycling below #17.

11. **GM Crops** - the chairman had had some correspondence back from M Ancram MP who was in agreement with her concerns.

12. The date of the **Parish Annual Meeting** is to be 10th May 2004 Clerk to write to invite all attendees from last year including all those who have had grants this year. **Action: clerk**

13. **Axford**: nothing further to report

14. **Nature Reserve** the annual report is now to be produced including work carried out so far; assessment of the grazing potential of the reserve; a review of the management plan - a suggestion that a site meeting is held with representatives of the Trust in order to discuss the management plan. R Alexander and G Rissone to compile report and get approval from S Glass prior to its submission. The site meeting committee to include - R Alexander, G Rissone, J Hierons, D Jenkins and S Glass.

15. **Square Refurbishment** -no quotes received yet.

16. **Policy committee** - to be formed consisting of: M Tester, G Rissone, G Hawes, S Cook, F Kimber, S Glass, D Barnett

17. **Recycling** - the recycling bins will have to be moved once work starts at the new surgery site at the end of the month. The chairman has asked many owners of premises whether they would consider having any of the bins for the duration of the building works. There has been no positive response as yet. If no other space is found, then the clerk to write to V Kimber to ask whether there can be double the number of bins at Axford. **Action: Chairman to liaise with clerk**
G Hawes attended a meeting detailing the new kerbside recycling which will come into effect in the next couple of months. All households will be issued with a black box for recycling paper. Detailed instructions will be given by letter as to what sort of paper can be recycled.

18. **Best Kept Village/Village of the Year**. - the chairman proposed that the council gets involved with this competition where there are cash prizes for winners. The website detailing the competition can be found at:

www.villageoftheyear.org. The group formed to look at this is : C Morgan, D Marshall, S Glass, M Abell, S Findlay.

19. **Junk swap day** - S Glass to consider a date and let the council know in due course.

20. Accounts for Payment:

Ref.	Detail	Total	Chq. no	VAT element	S137?
I601	Theresa Payne - Memorial Garden Aug-Nov	141.40		0	No
I602	Andy Le Guilcher - grit bin Crowood Lane	115.00		0	No
I603	Roy Alexander - reimbursement of cleaning wages paid to Mavis Sept 03 to Dec 03	6.00		0	No
I604	SPLASH - donation approved at last meeting	25.00		0	No

Total: £262.40

Total received: £820 - £750 play area grant and £70 map sales library

Other correspondence:

810	29/12/03	M Cook - Ramsbury Library	Receipt of £70 in cash for sale of 14 sets of maps
811	29/12/03	Kennet District Council	Receipt of cheque - play area grant £750
812	15/12/03	Amenity Group	Minutes of meeting held on 9 th December
814	29/12/03	Kennet District Council	Retail and Employment monitoring Statements - executive summaries enclosed Full copies of document available on www.kennet.gov.uk
815	29/12/03	Wiltshire Highways	Grit bin Crowood Lane - confirmation that they will be responsible for ensuring the bin is kept full of grit.
816	29/12/03	Kennet district Council	Supply of registers of electors to Parish Councils - clerk filled out form to request data copy for 2004
817	29/12/03	Kennet district Council	Public Speaking at Regulatory Committee - letter re proposed changes to Planning Scheme of Delegation. Clerk has leaflets outlining the new procedures.
818	29/12/03	Wiltshire County Council	Members highway Protocol and Review of Services 2003 - details of officer contacts
819	29/12/03	Community first	2 vacancies - Asst Chief Executive and Finance Director, and Rural Housing Officer. Newsletter - First News -
820	29/12/03	Wiltshire County Council	Emergency Planning newsletter - copies given to M Tester
822	5/1/04	CPRE	Letter asking for the Council to write to the MP Rt Hon Keith Hill re The Government's Planning Bill going through the Lords in early January.
823	5/1/04	Kennet District Council	Christmas Tree recycling - George Lane Car Park (behind Waitrose) from 2/1/04 to 9 th January 04
824	5/1/04	Kennet District Council	Switch On Project - partnership with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust - linking the impact of climate change on wildlife. Trying to encourage people to make a difference by being energy efficient. For further info please e mail Nicola Sandell at nicolas@wiltshirewildlife.org She is willing to visit parishes to give a presentation.
825	12/1/04	Wiltshire County Council	Ringway Parkman Annual Review of Services 2003
826	January 2004	Kennet District Council	Draft Health Strategy
827	19/11/03	M Ancram MP	Correspondence received regarding GM Crops
828	18/1/04	R Copp	Quote for grasscutting 2004/2005
829	4/11/03	Eden Speller - Kennet District Council	Quote for grasscutting 2004/2005
830	18/1/04	Wood Awdry and Ford	Confirmation that the file for the lease has now been formally closed and will be kept in their archives for the period of the lease.
831	18/1/04	Ramsbury Silver Band	Receipt and thank you letter for grant.
832	18/1/04	Wiltshire County Council	Waste Local Plan 2011 consultation on supplementary planning guidance for policies 10 and 14. Comments by 15 th March 2004
834	17/1/04	Ramsbury Churches Together	Invitation to the Newcomers day - clerk has verbally accepted

DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Monday February 16th at 7.45pm in the Ramsbury Memorial Hall

ALL PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

YOU WILL BE VERY WELCOME - PLEASE COME

Amended paragraph for inclusion in November 2003 minutes: in section Planning on page 214 - this additional paragraph was approved at the January 2004 meeting.

A letter has been received by G Rissone outlining proposals by Kennet District Council to change the current process by which planning applications are dealt with by the local Parish Councils. All 'householder' applications are to be dealt with under delegated powers unless the ward member asks that it goes before the regulatory committee. The councillors felt in general that whilst it may ensure speedy action, in general the proposals were not welcome. It was felt elected members have more intimate knowledge of matters arising within their own areas. The new proposals may also place the Ward Member in a position to argue a case for which he or she had little sympathy. G Rissone to write in response to the proposal, expressing the Council's view on the matter.