

# 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 16<sup>th</sup> June 2003 in Ramsbury Memorial Hall

### 194

PRESENT: Roy Alexander, Diann Barnett, Steve Cook, Paul Court, Susan Findlay, Sheila Glass (Chairman), George Hawes, Debbie Marshall, Alan Plenderleith, Geoffrey Rissone, Matthew Tester, Geoffrey Treherne, Rosalind Eyles (clerk), Chris Humphries and 2 members of the public.

1 **Apologies for absence :** Mora Abell and Fiona Kimber

2 **Disclosures of Interest:** Roy Alexander declared an interest in item 8. George Hawes declared an interest in item 4.

3 **The minutes** of the meeting held on May 19<sup>th</sup> were proposed by Geoffrey Rissone, seconded by Roy Alexander and were signed by the chairman.

4 **Matters arising:**

**Bowls Club** - the Chairman had written to Mona Burdett -Fisher but had as yet received no reply. The Bowls Club have been granted permission on the site on Loves Lane, subject to when the other permission at Swansbottom has been rescinded.

**Lights in Ramsbury** - to be discussed at next meeting

**Skips** - the last skip in Ramsbury had not been misused and so normal supply will be resumed. Clerk will post details of the timetable on the notice boards once it has become available. The meeting were informed by Susan Findlay that skips were only going to be available in the short term. Doorstep recycling of paper will soon be provided by Kennet District Council.

**Speeding** - the clerk was asked to find out the capital cost of a speed indicator device. A mobile unit was deployed in Axford at the beginning of June for a couple of days. The results will be made available to the clerk.

Action Clerk

**Tree** - the crown of the tree in the Square has now been lifted.

**Tourist Signs** - the clerk was asked to chase up Mark Stansby as to the current state of progress on this project. ACTION Clerk

**Grit bin** - the clerk was asked to go ahead and order a green one if Wiltshire Highways were only able to supply a free yellow one. The clerk told the meeting that Sarsen had confirmed that mowing of the two triangular patches of grass up Crowood Lane would be mowed 13 times a year. ACTION Clerk

#### 5. **New Correspondence for discussion:**

617	31/5/03	Community First	Quote for insurance £705.67
618	31/5/03	Wiltshire County Council	Replacement bridge on C6 Newtown Road - holding letter
619	31/5/03	Colin Johns Architect	Conservation Area statements
620	31/5/03	HM Customs and Excise	Remittance advice for £815.06 - refund for VAT claim year ended 31/3/03
621	31/5/03	WALC	The Good Councillors Guide
622	15/6/03	Society of Local Council Clerks	Advice notes - updates for Governance and Accounting manual
623	15/6/03	Wiltshire County Council	Wiltshire Bike Week 14 <sup>th</sup> - 22 <sup>nd</sup> June
624	15/6/03	Sarsen	Playground at Hilldrop Close
625	15/6/03	Wiltshire County Council	Re petition for speed limit reduction on Newtown Road
626	15/6/03	West Berkshire County Council	Re installation of a wind turbine Baydon Meadow
627	15/6/03	Wiltshire County Council	Replacement bridge on Newtown Road - letter explaining the works

			<b>195</b>
628	15/6/03	Allianz and Cornhill	Letter acknowledging our cancellation of insurance with them
629	15/6/03	Sarsen and Kennet	Landlord poster and Kennet news
630	15/6/03	Victim Support	Requesting grants
631	15/6/03	Countryside Agency	Provisional map - countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 - given to G Treherne
632		Dr Own-Jones	Letter re pavement outside old Post Office
633		Sarsen	Re play surface at Atherton Close

There was a full and frank discussion of the value of the Conservation Area statements recently produced - see item 619. There was some concern that it had duplicated the content of the Village Design Statement. Others voiced the opinion that the Conservation Statement was looking back in time at preserving the village buildings, whereas the VDS was forward-looking. It was felt by councillors that the Conservation Area Statements had been a huge waste of money which could well have been spent elsewhere in this time of financial stringency. The clerk is write to West Berkshire Planning officer re-iterating the council's concerns over the plans for a turbine tower on Baydon Meadow.

## 6. Committee Reports:

### A Planning

**Chairman: Geoffrey Rissone**

the minutes of the meeting held on May 28<sup>th</sup> were tabled

#### Applications received by Kennet District Council:

K/045368 New house & garage at ARCONIA, Crowood Lane; Craven Park Developments. No objection

K/045364/T Reduce Norway Spruce. 19 Oxford St. Mrs Banovic; No objection.

K/045451/T Adj. CYMAUR, Tankards Lane. Woodland management. No objection.

K/145512 Richmond Cottage, Oxford St. Disabled access. No objection.

#### Applications approved by Kennet District Council

K/045316 11 High St. Erection of conservatory. Mr G Mills. Full planning permission.

K/045240/L Brookside, Newtown Road. Glazed thatched Porch. Mr & Mrs Andrews. Listed building consent.

K/045364/T 19 Oxford St. Reduce Norway Spruce. Mrs Banovic. Approved tree works.

### B Finance

**Chairman: Steve Cook**

The audit for the year ended 31/3/03 was ongoing. A committee meeting straight after the council meeting was called.

### C Rights of Way

**Chairman: Geoffrey Treherne**

A stile which has caused some problems for walkers on the re-routed Priory Farm walk is to be changed. There have been a lot of problems with litter being dropped and empty bottles thrown into the river in Axford down Hoopers Lane. Some local investigation has established that the youngsters involved come by taxi from Pewsey as they have been banned from 'hanging -out' in their own neighbourhood by the police. This matter is currently being dealt with.

The maps for the walks are now nearly complete and all the photos have been taken.

### D Play Areas and Seats

**Chairman: Fiona Kimber**

A review of all play areas has been done - some repairs and maintenance work has been set in motion.

### E Emergency Committee

**Chairman: Matthew Tester**

The housing for the generator has arrived and will be installed shortly. Matthew thanked all those who had helped particularly Clive Glass for design and manufacture.

### F School governor

**Chairman: Paul Court**

Nothing to report

### G Recreation Centre

**Chairman: Alan Plenderleith**

The launch of Project 2005 has been a great success.

**Public Forum Standing Orders suspended for this item.**

Ben Tottenham stated that he could not agree with the Chairman on the Council's cool response to the Conservation Area statements. He asked the Council how pro-active it could be in ensuring any work in the conservation area was in line with planning guidelines. A discussion then ensued about who should report any apparent/supposed breaches in planning guidelines if spotted taking place around the village. It was agreed that the Parish Council will report any breaches which are notified.

The subject of Broadband was brought up. Parishioners are encouraged to register with BT if they wish to see Broadband brought eventually to Ramsbury. Details are on the notice board, and have been published in the Parish Magazine.

Susan Findlay asked whether a review of the roads could be undertaken with a person who used a scooter in Ramsbury, as some of the edges of the roads were in a bad condition. Action:clerk

The track up by Bolstridge Farm was very overgrown - clerk to ask R Copp whether it could be sorted out.

It was reported to the meeting that used syringes had been found on a village footpath that is used by schoolchildren. The officer in charge of this item was immediately contacted during the meeting to report the problem and the meeting was told a site inspection would be carried out the following day. (Postscript - no further syringes were found.)

The poor state of the portacabin was reported to the meeting - it was explained that the reason it has not been demolished was that it contained asbestos and was due to be demolished as part of the new build of the doctor's surgery that is currently still going through the planning stage. A contractor has been asked to board up the broken windows and secure the door.

The clerk was asked to write to the owner of Lamorna Cottage asking whether a bit of their hedge bordering the corner of Union Street and Whittonditch Road could be pruned to allow better visibility for turning traffic.

**ACTION Clerk**

7. **Axford** - Gardens Open day Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June - all welcome
8. **Nature Reserve** - Arrangements will be made for the grass to be mown the 1<sup>st</sup> week in July. And then raked up on the 14<sup>th</sup> July - a working party will be formed and it is hoped that as many volunteers from the village will help out from 10am - meet at the Reserve. Roy Alexander had attended a course about grazing animals with English Nature and had learnt that the Ramsbury Reserve is too small to sustain even a small herd of Belted Galloways.
9. **Square Refurbishment** - copies of the correspondence between the architect and the County and district council have been sent to The Bell. In addition, following the recent meeting of the Planning Committee, they have been informed of the decision to proceed with changes in the areas around the tree and the corner of Back Lane/Oxford Street. The architect has sent a plan of this proposed work to County Highways.
10. **Swipe cards/ keys** - at next month's meeting the clerk will ensure all new councillors have access to the office.
11. **GM Crops** - the Chairman is to find out more information about the current debate and consultation process and report back to next month's meeting. The general consensus amongst the Councillors were that they were against GM crops at this time.
12. **Junk Swap day** - this was agreed to be a good idea and will be discussed at next month's meeting.
13. **August meeting** - to be held as normal.

**14. Accounts for Payment:**

Ref.	Detail	Total	Chq. no	VAT element	S137?
I534	Sheila Glass -flowers for I Henry, postage and flowers for Square	42.28	65	3.01	No
I535	BT - phone bill	48.23	66	7.18	No
I536	AB-FAB loos - for boundary walk	64.63	63	9.63	No
I537	Memorial Hall - rent	591.25	67	0	No
I538	The Cobblers Shop - medals for boundary walk	31.50	64	4.69	No
I539	Kennet District Council - uncontested election fee	60.00	68	0	No

Total to be paid - £837.89

**15. Other correspondence: - all tabled above this month.**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Monday July 21<sup>st</sup> at 7.45pm in the Memorial Hall**

**ALL PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**YOU WILL BE VERY WELCOME - PLEASE COME**