

RAMSDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting to be held on Wednesday 16th July 2008 at 8.00pm in St James' Church

Members Present: Mr Clive Cowen (CC), Mrs Holly Deans (HD) (Chairman), Mrs Sally Miller (SM), Tony Shuker (TS) and Mrs Sarah Wiggins (SW)

Others Present: The Clerk and 2 Parishioners

Item	Subject	Action
38.	Apologies Cllr Simon Hoare	
39.	Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda Mr John Biggs reported that one insurance company approached for a new quotation had not been prepared to give any cover for flooding or storm water damage. TS stressed that an existing insurer would normally be obliged to continue to offer cover, whereas a new insurer may refuse. Advice would be put in the Newsletter.	Clerk
40.	Revision of Register of interests declared by Councillors Amendment forms were updated and signed by all the Cllrs.	
41.	Declaration of interests None relevant to the business of the meeting.	
42.	Approval of minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on Wed 18th June 2008 The minutes were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting.	
43.	Matters of report arising, not elsewhere on the agenda The Fête rams had been removed from beside the B4022 by Oxfordshire Highways (OH) for allegedly causing visual obstruction. SW had retrieved them from the depot at Deddington. As the rams had been in that position for many years without causing complaints, Mr Miller was following this up with OH.	
44.	Report from Councillor Simon Hoare (Cllr SH) Nothing to report.	
45.	Highways and Footpaths a) Flooding i. Update on flood defence reports and activities The draft Flood Defence Report received from WODC was checked and amendments would be completed by HD before forwarding to Mr King. Following the publication of all the local flood defence reports WODC would be holding 4 roadshows on 9th , 11th, 16th and 18th September. Details would be put on website and noticeboard. Water had been coming onto Akeman St from beside the entrance to St. John's House – Mr Hodgson had been informed and was passing the information to his engineers for their drainage plan. HD had found a reference on an old map to a tank on one field boundary where villagers remembered water soaking away. Efforts were being made to locate a swallow hole near Lower Farm. ii. Correspondence from Mr M Walford Mr Walford had replaced the setts and had raised the level of the ground at the lowest part of the paddock behind his house to send floodwater beyond his house and two others and out into the field below. This measure seemed to have coped effectively with the two most recent storms. Mr Walford requested information about flood mitigation measures on the High Street. A letter of response would be sent.	HD Clerk
	b) To consider the Transport Survey results Stella Marks's letter to Mr Darch was read. The Transport Survey report was	Clerk

considered and the Action Points for the PC discussed. It was noted that the an above average percentage of residents have a mobility restriction. Dial-a-Ride and Volunteer LinkUp services would be advertised on the website and in the Newsletter. The bus timetable was already on the website and would be put in the Newsletter again. A bus shelter on the B4022 had been suggested. The PC considered that the demand did not justify the expense.

Clerk

c) Speeding

The Speed watch signs were due to be moved.

Speed monitoring had taken place in the High Street that morning as part of a monitoring programme.

It had not been possible to access the millenium proposals for outside Royal Oak as heavy items had been left stacked in front of the filing cabinets. Notices would be put on the cabinets asking for access to be left clear at all times.

Clerk

d) Footpaths

The quote from R Holifield for maintenance of Little Lane of £200 plus materials was accepted subject to confirmation of price per ton.

SM
Clerk

46. Planning

a) Applications received from West Oxfordshire District Council

08/0986/P/FP Alterations to existing polytunnel to form housing for chickens. Increase in height of existing agricultural building.

Heath House Nursery
Witney Road, Ramsden
Applicant: Mr R. Power

Objections – letter to be sent to WODC

08/1114/P/FP Erection of garage and stables with office/playroom above.

Cherry Tree Cottage
High St, Ramsden
Applicant: Mr B Mannix

Concern at size of building. Request restriction: no change of use to separate residence.

Clerk

b) Decisions received from West Oxfordshire District Council

08/0619/P/FP Side extension at Hartsop Farm. Granted.

08/0774/P/FP Erection of shed at Heath House Nursery. Refused.

c) Local Development Framework - consideration of Further Sites Consultation

The area in Finstock between Witney Road and the High Street had been suggested by Cornbury Park as a possible site for housing and community facilities. The PC would respond to the consultation with comments of concern about the large size of the development site and the potential impact on traffic, water supply and the local community.

Clerk

47. Committees

a) To receive minutes or submissions from Voluntary Committees

Memorial Hall (MH) : The Fête had made over £5,500 (to be split 50:50 with the Church). The MH decoration was nearly complete. Parking outside the MH had improved a bit.

The Tennis Court Committee had applied to the Parish Council to open a Project Fund specifically for a second tennis court to be sited in the north-west corner of the playing field. No completion date or deadline had been decided upon, but it was felt that the account should be put in place to enable funds to be saved gradually.

Resolved:

- to set up a Tennis Court Project Fund
- to make a transfer of £1 to open the deposit account.

b) Clarification of insurance position for volunteers and Voluntary Committees

All volunteers doing work for the PC are covered under the PC's public liability insurance. To avoid argument in the event of a claim, the Clerk was asked to write to Aon to clarify the position for members of Committees with their own insurance.

Clerk

48. Financial matters

a) Financial summary

This was considered. Finances were healthy.

b) Clarification of Burial Fees

The level of fees for residents who had moved away from the village would be at the discretion of the PC.

c) Appointment of contractor for cutting cemetery hedge

Quotations had been received from Mr CJ Whitehall and from Goodwood Tree Care. Another contractor declined to quote because of difficulties that had been associated with quoting. CJ Whitehall's verbal offer to cut the hedge for £320 was accepted.

d) Bank account for Playing Field Committee (PFC) Development project

Forms were returned to the Clerk to take to the bank.

Clerk

e) External Audit

The PC noted that this was due on 1st August.

f) Accounts for Payment

It was resolved to pay the following accounts: Shaw's (Burial Grants book) £25.40; Clerk (Salary and expenses) £305.35; KopyRite (Newsletter) £40 – the invoice of £50 was incorrect and KopyRite had agreed to correct it the following month; Clerk (salary) £267.48 (payable 20th August).

Clerk

49. Newsletter Advertising

The Newsletter accounts were considered. A profit of £31 had been made since start-up.

Resolved:

- The fee for inserts would be £25.
- Inserts must inspected and approved in advance.
- A maximum of one insert per issue to be accepted.
- Accounting dates would be changed to match Ramsden PC's financial year.

50. Correspondence and Consultations

Chairman and one other Cllr was invited to attend a local Council Liaison Event on Monday 10 November, for the County Council, District Council and town and parish councils in West Oxon with the aim of strengthening the links between the three tiers of local government in Oxfordshire. HD would attend.

HD

51. Any Other Business

Tree preservation orders: Conservation Area regulations require notice to be given of felling any tree over a certain diameter. Details to be checked and a reminder put in the Newsletter.

Clerk

SM would attend the West Oxfordshire Stakeholders' Public Health Strategy Event on 28th July.

SM

The meeting closed at 10.05pm.

Dates of Next Meetings:

All

Wednesdays 17th September, 15th Oct, 19th Nov in Ramsden Memorial Hall