

RAMSDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 16th September 2009 in Ramsden Memorial Hall

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

Others Present: The Clerk

Item	Subject	Action
53.	Apologies Mrs Sarah Wiggins (SW) on holiday; Cllr Simon Hoare (SH) at a meeting in Witney.	
54.	Declaration of interests with regard to items on the agenda HD declared a prejudicial interest in 57d as a member of the Domesday Committee.	
55.	There were no members of the public present.	
56.	Approval of minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 15th July 2009 The words: 'was removed' after 'dog bin' in 42b were deleted. In item 40 the initials CC were changed to SW. The minutes were agreed and signed as an accurate record.	
57.	Matters of report arising from previous minutes	
a)	Speeding The police speed check had not yet been done. CC to follow up. Oxfordshire Highways (OH) was dealing with moving the 30mph signs on Akeman Street to beyond Akeman Rise. With small children in these homes, the PC asked the Clerk to follow this up urgently.	CC Clerk
b)	Dog-fouling and horse fouling It was noted that people do seem to be cleaning up better, which is much appreciated. HD would follow up the 'No Dogs' signs for the PF.	HD
c)	Cotswold AONB Boundary Change Deferred to item 60c	
d)	Domesday Committee – the Ramsden Book (<i>HD left the room for this item</i>) A letter from Mr Dick Williamson was read. The Committee would go ahead without involving the PC in the publishing, and all involved seemed satisfied with this arrangement.	
e)	Akeman Rise Confirmation of the date and speaker for the official opening were still awaited from Cottsway. The verges had been well repaired. There remained one small area of damaged road on Akeman Street opposite Jordans Close. Leadbitters appeared to be continuing to maintain the area in front of the development.	Clerk
f)	Ragwort Ragwort is being dealt with and the PC would like to thank those concerned for their prompt attention.	CC SW
g)	Flu preparations SM updated the PC. Contact phone numbers would be put in the Newsletter.	SM
58.	Report from Councillor Simon Hoare None received.	
59.	Flooding Update The flood mitigation action plan was reviewed and the PC noted that the bund had been built. Action 12 was now completed. A site visit with WODC engineers was being arranged for the following week for the Akeman St area (Actions 7 and 11). Playing field – the PC awaited a report of the meeting between the interested parties.	HD SH

60. Planning

- a) No applications had been received from West Oxfordshire District Council
 - b) Decisions had been received from West Oxfordshire District Council
 - i. 09/0147/P/FP Erection of detached garage and stables at Cherry Tree Cottage. Granted, subject to the applicant first entering into a legal agreement.
 - ii. 08/0920/P/FP Appeal against decision: Retention of existing extended building for use as agricultural workers dwelling for a temporary period. Appeal dismissed. It was resolved to ask WODC regarding the steps they would be taking to ensure compliance.
 - c) Cotswold AONB boundary change submission
- It was agreed to the letter to Cllr Verena Hunt would be finalised and copied to Hailey PC.

Clerk

CC
Clerk

61. Committees

- a) To consider issues relating to VAT
- The Clerk had written to HMRC for clearance on the VAT reclaim for ordering tables for the MH. After this purchase the MHEP fund would be closed, as it was no longer possible to top it up from the coffee mornings. A copy of PF conveyance deeds had been obtained. The VAT reclaim position would need to be clarified with HMRC in due course. TCC minutes were circulated prior to meeting.
- b) Minutes were received from the MH Committee
 - c) Ramsden Poors Allotments
- A report from the Allotments Committee was still awaited.

Clerk

62. Churchyard and Cemetery

- a) To consider quotations for tree and hedge maintenance
- The decision on appointing a contractor for the yew trees and hedge was deferred. Advice from 3 different contractors on the lime tree was compared. (*TS declared a personal interest and did not vote.*) In the interests of safety, the PC resolved to seek a longer term solution and to invite a formal quotation on that basis. The Clerk would check with contractors about who applies for permission to carry out the work
- b) To consider applications for a memorial
- The memorial for Barbara Hedges was approved.

HD

Clerk

Clerk

63. Financial matters

- a) Financial Summary
- The internal auditor had retired. The Clerk would contact the successor he recommended and ascertain charges. The accounts were satisfactory.
- b) Hire of meeting room
- A donation of £20 to the church was agreed for the use of the meeting room.
- c) Accounts for Payment
- CJ Whitehall (Cemetery Hedge) £320; OPFA Subscription £32; SLCC subscription £82; Ramsden PCC £70 (Transfer of funds to PCC in respect of Fete cheque £50 and use of meeting room £20; KopyRite (Newsletter) £40; Clerk salary & expenses (Sept) £321.33.

Clerk

Clerk

64. Highways and Footpaths

- a) Maintenance of the War Memorial
- A letter from the British Legion was read. It was decided that attention to the war memorial would be brought forward and quotations and grants sought for the recommended repair of the base.
- b) Road name sign for Akeman Street
- A suitable sign for Akeman Rise is being investigated.
- c) Telephone box maintenance or adoption
- Correspondence from BT and WODC had been received. The PC objected very

Clerk

Clerk

strongly to the proposed removal of the telephone equipment from the kiosk. A letter of objection would be sent to both BT and to the WODC consultation officer.

65. Correspondence and consultations

a) Speed limit review

The PC consulted on and supported the introduction of a 50mph speed limit on the B4022 between Hailey and Finstock.

66. Any Other Business

Information from the Fly Tipping Campaign was noted and the questionnaire completed. A poster would be put up and information placed in the Newsletter.

There had been an enquiry from OH about the ownership of some overgrown hedges.

The PC wished to record thanks to the residents who had so kindly funded and carried out the work on the path beside Skippett Pool. These are of a professional standard we could not have achieved on our budgets.

The PC was pleased to note that permission had been granted to fell the trees at the front of Mary's Cottage.

The meeting closed at 10.10 pm

Dates of Next Meetings:

Wednesdays 21st October, 18th November in Ramsden Memorial Hall

No meeting in December.

**Clerk
HD,
Clerk
CC**

All