

RAMSDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 21st October 2009 in Ramsden Memorial Hall

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

Others Present: The Clerk

Item	Subject	Action
67.	There were no apologies.	
68.	Declaration of interests with regard to items on the agenda None declared.	
69.	Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda There were no members of the public present.	
70.	Approval of minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 16th September 2009 These were approved and sign as a true record of proceedings.	
71.	Matters of report arising from previous minutes	
	a) Speeding No news from the police yet. CC would follow this up. Speed watch signs would be put up again. A complaint had been received about speeding on Skippett Lane. It needed to be included in the 30mph zone and signs warning of children or horses erected. Oxfordshire Highways (OH) would be contacted.	CC SW Clerk
	b) Cotswold AONB Boundary Change Cllr Verena Hunt had passed the PC's letter to Cllr Warwick Robinson who now has responsibility for landscape issues. It seemed that a boundary review was unlikely in the near future. The PC considered it important to pursue this, and would continue to follow it up.	Clerk
	c) Akeman Rise Name signs for Akeman Rise have been ordered and should be available by the end of October. Leadbitters will repair the small area of damaged road on Akeman Street opposite Jordans Close as a goodwill gesture. HD would speak to the local Leadbitter manager about removing the red signs and the posts and wires protecting new verges.	HD
	d) Telephone Box The telephone box has been painted and given a new door. A copy of WODC's draft response to the Adopt a Kiosk scheme has been received, showing support for Ramsden's objections to the removal of the telephone.	
72.	Report from Councillor Simon Hoare None received.	
73.	Flooding Update Richard Bennett and another engineer visited Akeman St with HD and Mr Edwin Millin. There was no trace of the water tank shown on old maps. It was established that surface water from Akeman St needed to be directed across the fields to the Blackbird Assarts Lane watercourse. Mr Bennett recorded the names of the landowners. The PC would now write to seek clarification as to what action would be taken.	Clerk
74.	Planning	
	a) Applications received from West Oxfordshire District Council 09/1225 and 09/1226 Alterations to include erection of single storey extension to garage.	Handcroft Farm, Lower End. Applicant: Mr Mark Walford. No objection.
	b) No decisions had been received from West Oxfordshire District Council	
	c) WODC planning enforcement procedures Information had been received from WODC. The wheels were in motion to ensure compliance with the enforcement order at Heath House Nursery.	Clerk

75. Committees

a) Playground inspection

Mr Ian Winter would be asked to make the maintenance book available for inspection at the next meeting.

Clerk

b) To receive minutes and information from the Committees

The PC noted that the Playing Field Committee (PFC) was looking at the issue of drainage afresh. HD kindly agreed to be available for a site visit. The cheques from the Silent Auction had been made payable to the PC. It was resolved to write a cheque to the PFC for the total amount.

HD

Clerk

The Tennis Court Committee confirmed that the contractor was able to commence repainting the court on Tuesday 20th October.

Minutes were received from the Memorial Hall (MH) Committee. The final payment on the PWLB loan had been made.

c) To discuss the report from Ramsden Pools Allotments Committee

Conflicting advice had been received as to which regulations apply to the Ramsden allotments and clarification was being sought. All the rents had been paid and all the allotments were well cared for.

HD

76. Financial matters

a) Financial Summary

The precept had been received and the balance was healthy. There had been a drop in interest to £5.07 instead of over £200 as last year. Internal audit costs would increase with the change of auditor and transport costs for the documents. With interests rates so low, the PC agreed that it was not worth transferring funds to the WODC Loan account for a short period.

b) To consider the external audit report

The annual return had been approved and no issues were raised.

c) Review of risk assessments

Careful attention was given to the draft document. It was agreed to delete the liability for the MH now that the loan was paid off. Details of work to be done on the lime tree in the churchyard would be added. It was then approved.

Clerk

d) Review of Clerk's salary

Backdating of the 2009 national pay award to April 09 and an increase to SCP 21 from April 2010 were agreed unanimously.

e) Preparation of outline budget for 2010/2011

Draft figures were discussed and would be finalised at the next meeting.

f) Order tables for Memorial Hall

It was agreed to order 10 tables and 2 fastfold tools for £1132, to be paid for using funds from MH Equipment Project (MHEP) Fund.

Clerk

g) Accounts for Payment

PFC £1,573.50 (Funds to PFC re Silent Auction, Minute 75b); KopyRite (Newsletter) £40; BDO Stoy Hayward (Audit) £155.25; Richard Mattingley (War Memorial repairs) £125 (it was agreed to take £125 from the reserves); Clerk salary, expenses (Oct); and arrears for 2009 pay award; Gopak Ltd, from MHEP Fund £1132 (Minute 76f)

Clerk

77. Churchyard and Cemetery

a) To approve quotations for tree and hedge maintenance

Quotations from Goodwood Tree Care and Lewis Landscapes were considered. No quotation was received from the third contractor approached. The quotation from Lewis Landscapes at £540 was accepted. It was agreed to take £40 from the reserves.

Clerk

b) To consider work on the lime tree

Nicholsons' quotation of £1300.00 (+VAT) for reducing the lime tree by approx 25% was accepted. The price included the application for Conservation Area consent. (TS declared a personal interest and did not vote.) It was agreed that:

- the work be done as soon as it was seasonally appropriate
- residents be informed of the work through the Newsletter

- £1300 be taken from the reserves.
- the PCC be approached for a one-off contribution towards the large expenditure on the churchyard this year.

Clerk

78. Highways and Footpaths

a) Maintenance of the War Memorial

Repainting of the base had been completed. Mr Frank Schofield had phoned to thank the PC on behalf of the British Legion. Wreath laying arrangements were discussed. SW would represent the PC this year.

SW

79. Correspondence and consultations

a) Bogus caller initiative

The PC wished to remind people to check the credentials of callers. Details to be put in the Newsletter.

Clerk

b) Correspondence from Citizen's Advice Bureau

The PC has a no donations policy.

c) Thames Water public enquiry on Water Resources Management Plan

It was agreed to draw attention in the Newsletter to the information available for download on line at www.thameswater.co.uk/wrmp

Clerk

d) Volunteer Link-Up car scheme

A review of the value of the car scheme was being conducted and whether OCC should continue to support it. The PC felt that it is an excellent scheme. The bus survey had revealed that the village has an above-average proportion of elderly residents, and the scheme is therefore of particular value for Ramsden. A letter would be sent urging OCC to continue to support the scheme.

Clerk

80. Any Other Business – for information only

None.

The meeting closed at 9.58 pm

Dates of Next Meetings:

Wednesdays 18th November 2009 and 20th January 2010 in Ramsden Memorial Hall

All

No meeting in December.