

WOOTTON ST LAWRENCE WITH RAMSDELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 12th May 2026, 7.00pm, Ramsdell Village Hall

Present:

Cllr Sarah Curtis – Chairman, Cllr Jenny Englefield, Cllr Jane James, Cllr Greg Childs, Kirsty Shaw – Clerk, PCSO Hannah, Cllr Simon Minas-Bound, five members of the public, Cllr Jay Ganesh (attended from 7.10pm)

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone present. Apologies were received from Cllr Martin Schimmer, Cllr Rhydian Vaughan, Dave Simpson Ramsdell Cricket Club, David Finch – Ramsdell Church

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 12th May 2025

The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chair.

3. Chairman's Report

Cllr Sarah Curtis, Chairman, thanked everyone for attending.

Cllr Curtis introduced the Parish Councillors and the Clerk. Cllr Schimmer is unable to attend the meeting. Cllr Curtis noted there is a vacancy on the Ramsdell side of the Parish which will be advertised in due course.

Cllr Curtis thanked the County Councillor, Cllr Rhydian Vaughan and Borough Councillors, Cllr Simon Minas-Bound and Cllr Jay Ganesh for all they do to support the parish.

During the last year, sadly the solar panel attached to the speed indicator monitor in Ramsdell was stolen. This was replaced thanks to a grant from Cllr Vaughan. A further speed monitor has been installed in Wootton St Lawrence.

Work is ongoing with Ramsdell Cricket Club to agree a lease term for a new pavilion. Once this is in place the club can progress with the plans.

Cllr Curtis confirmed work is starting on the Manydown development.

Highways have undertaken some work on the Ramsdell Road but there is still more work to be done.

The precept has remained at £7,476 this year to cover the normal running of the Parish Council but there have been some extra costs this year due to the cricket club. The Parish Council also pay for the upkeep of the defibrillator in Ramsdell.

The Parish Council has received some large CIL payments and grants from the Borough Council and County Council. Some of the funds have been used to cover the cost of a water pipe to the Church in Wootton St Lawrence and quotes are being sought to resurface the path from the village lane to the meadow in Wootton St Lawrence.

In Ramsdell the Parish Council are awaiting quotes for the improvement to the access to the village hall and lighting. The Parish Council are consulting with residents and local organisations to look at other projects the CIL can fund.

There have been various applications for solar farms in the area but not in the parish, some have been approved and some have not.

A recent meeting was held with Manydown Rural Estate to hear about their visions and plans. Whitedown is more or less complete with six to eight offices and a spa. The vineyard is well established, and the first wine will be available in 2029. The farm shop will be up and running once access from the A339 is agreed. The application for Lower Farm still hasn't been agreed by BDBC. There are plans to pull down some old farm buildings in Wootton St Lawrence and replace with four family homes to be known as Wootton Mews.

In Ramsdell, there is a new deforested area next to the Brick Kiln which is being monitored. Inspectors will undertake a beetle count which are found between April and September.

The Parish Council are awaiting the update of the Local Plan before reviewing the Neighbourhood Plan

A full report will be filed with the minutes.

4. Police Report

PCSO Hannah reported rogue traders are the main concern currently. They undertake work but cause damage instead and if they are not paid, they become aggressive. There hasn't been anything else reported in the last 30 days.

5. Borough Councillor's Report

Cllr Simon Minas-Bound advised the big item in the last 12 months has been the Local Plan, the National Planning Policy Framework and the National Scheme of Delegation. It is unclear when another Local Plan will be restarted.

The delegation scheme will be national and starts in September; therefore, Officers will decide everything. Solar farms and listed buildings are likely to be the only items going to committee.

They are asking the Government to put in legal work with regards to the warding patterns and there may need to be some reductions in councillors under the new Local Government Reorganisation. There will be elections in 2027 and the next two years will be focussing on winding down HCC and BDBC but continuing the services especially Children's and Adult's Services.

The plots at Manydown are close to being sold. Each plot will have 200 houses but they are not likely to be built until 2027.

Cllr Ganesh noted there is around £1.2m in the Community Infrastructure Levy. General waste will be changing to fortnightly in October and food waste will continue weekly.

6. County Councillor's Report

Apologies were received from Cllr Vaughan. Updates are regularly sent to the Parish Council.

7. Annual Reviews from Representatives of Local Clubs and Organisations:

a) Ladies Club

Cllr James advised the club continues to meet. There are seven members currently and meetings usually involve tea and cake.

b) Ramsdell Tennis Club

The club have not sent a report.

c) Ramsdell Cricket Club

An update was sent following the meeting and this will be filed with the minutes.

d) Ramsdell Church PCC

A report was received from Ramsdell Church. They now have a new vicar after six years without a dedicated vicar. There are regular Sunday services, in addition, services for Remembrance, Carol Service, Christmas Day, Mothering Sunday and Easter Day had a high number of attendees. In the last 12 months there has been one funeral, one interment and one burial of ashes. There has been one baptism.

e) Oakley with Wootton PCC

No report was received.

8. Election of Chairman for 26-27

Cllr Englefield proposed Cllr Schimmer for Chairman for 26-27 and this was seconded by Cllr James. It was confirmed Cllr Schimmer will be Chairman. Although Cllr Schimmer was not in attendance he was aware of being proposed. Cllr Curtis proposed Cllr Childs as Vice Chair and this was seconded by Cllr Englefield. It was confirmed Cllr Childs will be Vice Chair for 26-27.

9. NALC Model Standing Orders 2026

The Parish Council adopted the NALC Model Standing Orders.

10. NALC Model Financial Regulations 2026

The Parish Council adopted the NALC Model Financial Regulations.

11. Policies

The Parish Council reviewed and agreed the Grants Policy. The Parish Council adopted the BDBC Code of Conduct for Councillors and the ICO Publication Scheme. The Parish Council reviewed the Data Protection and Freedom of Information Policy and Complaints Policy and these were agreed.

12. Date of next Parish Council meeting – Monday 18th May 2026 at 7.00pm, Ramsdell Village Hall

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending. The meeting ended at 7.28pm