

Raymond Trust - Position Statement

RAYMOND TRUST FUND

Registered with the Charity Commission No. 305523

The Trust is administered by the elected Councillors of Heytesbury, Imber and Knook Parish Council, who are the sole Trustee (Corporate Trustee)

The Trust's Objects/Purposes:-

These were originally laid out in clause 1 of the 1935 Deed but were amended by clauses 3 and 4 of the 1986 Charity Commission Scheme when the Trust no longer had a hall to manage, but funds. The current objects/purposes of the Trust are as follows:

- * 1 - Application of Income - approximate value of monies held for this purpose is **£101,666** 104,736
The Trustee shall apply the clear income of the Trust as it thinks fit for any charitable purposes for the general benefit of the inhabitants of Heytesbury, Knook and Tytherington and the immediate vicinity.
- * 2 - Application of Property - approximate value of monies held for this purpose is **£116,715** 121,087
The Trustee at any time may apply the whole or part of the property of the Trust in or towards defraying the cost of providing land and buildings to be settled upon trust for use as a village hall.

Total value of RT Fund Investments as at September 2025 is around £229,808

A piece of historic parkland is being marketed for sale in the village of Heytesbury, the PC/RT would like to try to secure the purchase of this land, approx 5 acres agricultural and recreational, to open it back up for the community to use as community parkland. The aim being to save and protect the green spaces in the village for the free use, enjoyment, walking, exercising, dog walking, socialising, family space, green play space for children etc.

The PC/RT has legal advice about the options they have available to spend the funds. All of the funds could be spent on land and buildings for a village hall to be held on trust for the **"general benefit of the inhabitants and the immediate vicinity."** The advice states that if only LAND was to be purchased we may need to amend our Objects, it may need a CC Scheme and formally consulting the local inhabitants. In this case, at this stage, it would be just LAND to be bought. Once the PC/RT owns some land, there is a future possibility of a village hall, sporting pavilion or similar. However the total funds in the RT at present will not stretch to both. But securing the LAND is a start, and we do not think that this is too far away from the overall broad objects of the RT - to be used to for the general benefit of the local inhabitants.

Consultation 1 - there was a Parish Meeting on 16 August 2023 when the land was first rumoured for sale. An unprecedented 161 members of the villages attended, and voted on these matters.

Parish Meeting 16th August 2023 - Results of Voting

160 People signed in to the meeting

156 Were residents of Heytesbury & Tytherington

No one attended from Knook

4 were outside of the Parish

Separate headcount physically counted 161 in the church.

Q1 - As a member of the electorate, do you want the Parish Council/Raymond Trust/the village community to do all they can to try to buy the Parkland for the benefit of the local community?

Discuss and Vote:- Yes/No

Yes	No	% of those who voted YES	% of those who voted NO
143	0	100%	0%

Q2 - As a beneficiary of The Raymond Trust, do you want the Parish Council as the Corporate Trustee of The Raymond Trust to make all necessary enquiries of the Charity Commission to enable the RT Fund to be used to fund the purchase of the Parkland?

Discuss and Vote:- Yes/No

Yes	No	% of those who voted YES	% of those who voted NO
144	5	97%	3%

Q3 - Do you support the Church Open Spaces Project to create a community centre within the Church, in line with the well established plans circulated recently?

Discuss and Vote:- Yes/No

Yes	No	% of those who voted YES	% of those who voted NO
126	4	97%	3%

Q4 - Do you support the need for a separate, stand alone Village Hall to create a community space somewhere within the village of Heytesbury?

Discuss and Vote:- Yes/No

Yes	No	% of those who voted YES	% of those who voted NO
25	109	19%	81%

Q5 Poll - Consideration and decision to call for a Parish Poll/Referendum in accordance with the Parish and Community Meetings (Polls) Rules 1987. Agreed question for a Poll:

“Do you want the Parish Council, as corporate trustee of The Raymond Trust, to communicate within 7 days with The Charity Commission to change the aims and objectives of the Trust to purchase the Parkland?”

Legislation requires “The poll is demanded by not less than 10 or one third (33%) of the electors present”.

113 Voted YES = 71% of the electorate present voted in favour of a poll.

We do not think that the PC/Trustees at this time (2023) took this matter forward.

The current PC took this community opinion on board and re-submitted an application to Wiltshire Council for this land to be nominated as an **Asset of Community Value in 2025**. On 3 September 2025 ACV was granted by WC; the land holds the status of ACV until 3 September 2030 i.e for 5 years it has that protected status.

The PC followed this up by registering as a potential community bidder for the land, triggering a 6 month moratorium, pausing any further sales until a community group or similar had the opportunity to to ready itself. The moratorium lasts until 3 March 2026.

The landowner appealed against WC decision but the appeal was not successful. On 21 November 2025 a detailed 11 page decision notice was published and concluded to uphold the decision that the land be designated as an ACV. The land now has the status of being an Asset of Community Value, protected for 5 years, and the PC/RT has until 3 March 2026 to complete its enquiries, consultations, professional advice etc to consider making a bid to buy the land for the use and benefit of the local inhabitants.

This is where we are now.

Consultation 2 - At the time of the ACV application Wiltshire Council put the matter out for consultation; there were over **50 hugely positive responses from members of the local community stating their support for preserving the Parkland** as a Community Asset. We see this as another positive result of consulting with the local inhabitants/beneficiaries.

In addition, the last remaining of the **original Trustees** has written a letter to the PC/current RT Trustee, Evelyn Riggs say's that she is in support of trying to buy the land for the benefit of the local community. She thinks that having known the original Trustees she thinks that this is what they would have wanted; the funds have been sitting there for over 50 years and the intention of the original trustees was to provide for

the benefit of the local inhabitants. To buy the land would be a start at securing community space. Her letter will be available to be viewed in full.

RT Position Statement Drafted following informal RT meeting on 20th January 2026 to summarise key documents in one place for ease of reference for Trustee future decision making.
LM 21/1/26