

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
MONDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 2015, 7.00PM**

**PRESENT: Cllr. Arrowsmith, Cllr. Bolar, Cllr. Powell, Cllr. Tilt and
Cllr. Mrs Bestwick**

1. CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR

Two applicants applied for the Casual Vacancy and following a democratic vote Jayne Holloway was duly elected. Cllr. Mrs Holloway then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

2. APOLOGIES

2.1 Cllr. Mrs Gray, District Cllr. Mrs Sherrey and District Cllr. Allen-Jones

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

3.1 Chairman asked all members present to declare any personal or prejudicial interest on any items on the Agenda.
Other Disclosable Interest – Cllr. Arrowsmith – St Kenelms Primary School PTA

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 It was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the minutes be signed as a correct record with the inclusion that Cllr. Arrowsmith and Cllr. Bolar had a personal interest in planning application 15/0489 and did not take part in any of the discussions surrounding that planning application.

5. FINANCE

5.1 To ratify payments made on 10th August 2015

Accounts for Payment

Spears	Romstock	£268.80
R Arrowsmith	Leaflets and children's gifts	£221.44
R Mullett	Stuart Smith thank you gift	£11.99
J Weightman	Allotment Key Deposit	£5.00
Vision ICT	Website Address Host	£180.00
Viking Direct	Stationery and ink	£127.38
A Scott	Cakes for walk	£44.04
R Mullett	Refreshments for walk	£11.50
R Mullett	Candoo Website Deposit	£160.00
NPower	Feeder pillar	£32.46
E Sheppard	Environmental Control	£170.00
J Harper	Gate Keeper x 2	£60.00
R Mullett	EH Smith – play bark	£936.00
HMRC	Payroll taxes due	£573.15

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| | R Arrowsmith | Padlocks | £52.42 |
| 5.2 | Accounts for Payment | | |
| | E Sheppard | Environmental Control x 4 | £170.00 |
| | J Harper | Gate Keeper | £30.00 x 2 |
| | HMRC | Payroll taxes due | £441.32 |
| | Romsley Pre-School
Nursery | Grant – Chairman’s Allowance | £150.00 |
| | Viking Direct | Stationery | £27.70 |
| | South Staffs Water | Allotment | £42.72 |
| | Grant Thornton | External Audit | £240.00 |
- It was agreed for Cllr. Arrowsmith and Cllr. Mrs Bestwick to sign the cheques.
- 5.3 Quarterly bank reconciliation statement approved by all councillors.
- 5.4 To confirm receipt of £200.00 advertising sponsorship from Bloore and King Estate Agents.
- 5.5 To report Unqualified Audit from Grant Thornton and to confirm Notice of Closure has been advertised.

6. PLANNING MATTERS

District Council Decisions

15/0256 – 439 Bromsgrove Road, Romsley – alterations and extension to the existing property to the rear and roof level – **Refused**

15/0014 – Linger Longer, Chapmans Hill – demolition of existing dwelling and construction of replacement dwelling – **Granted**

15/0618 – The Cottage, Shut Mill Lane, Romsley – extension to existing barn to provide storage for additional machinery – **Granted**

15/0489+ - 6 The Alders, Romsley – first floor side extension to form bedroom, bathroom and bedroom extension – **Refused**

15/0593 – 63 Dark Lane, Romsley – first floor side extension - **Approved**

Planning Applications for Parish Council Comments

15/0582 – Farley Lane – first floor side extension and removal of conservatory and part of single storey extension – **No objections**

7. PLAYING FIELD/RECREATION AREA

- 7.1 Following the maintenance work carried out at the playing fields the area is much improved and Clerk and Councillors reported positive feedback from local residents. There is a more frequent Police presence and fewer sightings of parked cars which is mainly due to the locking of the gate earlier which is proving a great success. Clerk to ask Andy Sheppard to remind all regular users of the Scout Centre that they have to close the gate in the evening when vacating.

8. ROADS/FOOTPATHS

Nothing to report

9. WINWOOD HEATH ALLOTMENTS

- 9.1 It was agreed to change the allotment padlock to a combination lock. Chairman agreed to purchase and Clerk will write to all plot holders with the new combination number. There are currently five plots vacant.

10. PARISH LENGTHSMAN/MAINTENANCE

- 10.1 It was suggested that the Parish Council sit down with the Lengthsman and discuss a Maintenance Plan going forward.

11. OUTSIDE MEETINGS

- 11.1 North Worcestershire Civil Contingencies and Resilience Manger, Rebecca Pritchett 29th July 2015 – attended by Chairman and Clerk - County Council has a duty to ensure all local people can function in the case of an emergency for example localised flooding, several weather, power failure etc. The meeting was to discuss the County Council looking at implementing an Emergency Resilience Plan. The Chairman is looking at creating our own Parish Council Resilience Plan as well and will be contacting local farmers, community groups to progress this idea further.
- 11.2 Bromsgrove District Council Planning Department – 15th September 2015 – attended by Clerk – this was a general question and answer session between representatives from the Planning Department and Parish Clerks. The Planning Department agreed to produce a list of Material Planning Considerations for Councillors to use when making decisions on planning applications. These have been forwarded via email to Councillors.
- 11.3 Bromsgrove Area CAC – 9th September 2015 – attended by Cllr. Powell – The speaker was Barrie Sheldon – Deputy Police and Crime Commission who gave an overview of current initiatives and challenges. One point to really stress was that parishioners should be encouraged to report all crimes as these when reported all go towards statistics which form part of future policing allocation. It is worth reporting every crime.
- Planning Applications – planning are trying to turn round applications quicker to meet guidelines (8 weeks). This has led to Parish Councils feeling that they have not enough time to review. BDC ask for understanding on this and respect the need to meet timelines.
- Local Plan – still ongoing. Bromsgrove Local Plan is being prepared with Redditch. The Inspector had written to Councils in July and has required further work. Bromsgrove are to respond what work will be required and how long it will take. All correspondence will be available on the website in approximately two weeks.

12. EVENTS PLANNING

- 12.1 It was agreed to hold a Royal Romstock to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday and maybe hold the event over two days. A meeting of the Communications Working Party has been arranged to discuss further details.
13. **COMMUNICATION**
www.romsleyparishcouncil.gov.uk is our new website address.
 The website should be live within the next couple of weeks. Cllr Powell and Clerk to arrange website training with Candoo.
14. **TRAINING**
 It was agreed for Chairman to attend the SLCC Regional Roadshow on 25th November.
15. **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S**
 15.1 No reports given
16. **COUNTY COUNCILLOR**
 16.1 We have now been appointed Independent Leader of Fire Service for Worcestershire Council. HMRC are moving to County Hall. There are more severe budget cuts proposed for 2015/16.
 16.2 Chairman raised the question of traffic calming measures throughout the village and asked if the Parish Council were to fund towards the project whether County would be prepared to help. Cllr. Mrs Jenkins felt they would definitely match fund any project we undertook.
17. **TO RECEIVE CLERK'S PROGRESS REPORT**
 17.1 As the Parish Council meets the criteria, it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to adopt the General Power of Competence until the next ordinary elections, May 2019.
 17.2 Commemoration of the First World War – a meeting has been arranged for 21st October 2015.
 17.3 Wheelie Bin Stickers – this item was deferred
 17.4 Birmingham Resilience Project – Cllr. Arrowsmith to start discussions with Severn Trent to see if we can tap into any funds from this project.
 17.5 Neighbourhood Watch – this item was deferred
 17.6 Storage – Cllr Tilt to talk to the Allotment Committee about the possibility of erecting a shed at the allotments.
18. **TO RECEIVE REPORT OF PARISH COUNCILLORS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**
 Local Council Award Scheme
19. **CORRESPONDENCE**
 Worcs CC Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 – Waiting Restrictions and Street Parking Places Consolidation Order 2013 Variation Notice 2015

– Prohibition of waiting and Revocation of Limited Waiting on St
Kenelms Road, Romsley
Thank you letter from Hunnington and Romsley Show

20. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – Monday 12th October 2015, at 7.00pm to
be held at St Kenelms Primary School

21. **TO CONSIDER THE EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS IN
THE PUBLIC INTEREST FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE
FOLLOWING ITEM** – to discuss/**RESOLVE** to higher the Clerk's hours
to 22 per week – this was unanimously **agreed** with immediate effect.