

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
MONDAY 12TH OCTOBER 2015, 7.00PM**

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

1. APOLOGIES

1.1 District Cllr. Mrs Sherrey and County Cllr. Mrs Jenkins

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

2.1 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
Cllr. Tilt – Winwood Heath Allotment Plot Holder

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

3.1 It was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the minutes be signed as a correct record.

4. FINANCE

4.1 Accounts for Payment

E Sheppard	Environmental Control x 4	£170.00
J Harper	Gate Keeper	£30.00 x 2
HMRC	Payroll taxes due	£295.26
SLCC	Third of National Conference	£144.40
R Arrowsmith	Allotment Padlock	£23.92
Came and Co	Insurance	£1252.94
N Williamson	Hedge Cutting	£81.25

It was agreed for Cllr. Arrowsmith and Cllr. Bolar to sign the cheques.

4.3 Quarterly bank reconciliation statement approved by all councillors.

5. PLANNING MATTERS

District Council Decisions

15/0582 – Farley Croft, Farley Lane – first floor side extension and removal of conservatory and part of single storey extension –

Approved

15/0640 – Naylor's Barn, Holt Farm – horse ménage including engineering works (part retrospective) - **Approved**

Planning Applications for Parish Council Comments

15/0730 – Fernshollow, Rumbow Lane – two storey extension to existing garage and single storey rear extension to dormer bungalow –

No objections

15/0784 – Residential unit Adjoining 3 Dark Lane, Romsley – two storey side extension and ground floor infill front extension. New garage and access to serve 3 Dark Lane – **No objections**

15/0800 – 5 St Kenelms Road, Romsley – change of use of first floor C3 to office, staff room, freezer and chiller associated with A1 use on ground floor – **No objections**

6. **PLAYING FIELD/RECREATION AREA**

- 6.1 We were notified by Police that travellers had arrived on The Bluebird Factory in Hunnington. An emergency decision was taken to lock the playing field gate for a couple of days as an extra precaution in case they decided to move onto there. The Chairman placed notices on the gate explaining to residents why this decision had been taken and most residents agreed with the action. Thankfully the Police moved the travellers on very quickly and no trouble was reported. Local residents also feel the anti-social behaviour has declined in the playing fields and car park which hopefully is down to the removal of the hedges/vegetation and opening the sight lines. Steve Tromans was thanked for his swift response in dealing with this.

7. **ROADS/FOOTPATHS**

Stuart Smith, Parish Path Warden's report – "We have replaced a stile on Romsley Hill (Rolling Hills) last Wednesday with a metal kissing gate. The replaced stile had been the subject of a number of comments from walkers due to its height barrier (to prevent horses jumping over) and the height of a recently replaced top rail. This is the second gate installed along this footpath this year. We have permission from the land user to replace a further stile with a gate farther along the path on the other side of the small wooded area although this stile is in not too bad a condition.

A start has also been made to clear and widen the path through the section of wood referred to above. The path here gets very muddy during the winter months and it is hoped that by widening and reducing the canopy that it will help make it easier to walk.

There is a continuing problem with roadside signs, which the County is legally obliged to provide, being damaged by hedge cutting. The most recent along St Kenelms Road near Backlane Farm saw the footpath sign removed and post damaged by hedge cutting. I had replaced this particular sign in April this year following previous damage.

The Romsley Circular Penny Fields Walk shows signs of being well used. Unfortunately this has caused problems for one landowner who has been very cooperative with the provision of this walk. He has experienced an increased incidence of walkers not keeping to the paths and being on occasions, abused by a minority of walkers when challenged. Notices, put up by the landowner, reminding walkers that land adjacent to footpaths is private have been removed by persons

unknown. Clearly this is not acceptable and any measures that the parish council could take would be welcomed.

I plan to lead another walk on 14th November and at the suggestion of the Council am trying really hard to organise myself into providing dates for walks next year”.

8. WINWOOD HEATH ALLOTMENTS

- 8.1 It was unanimously agreed to keep the rent at £20 for 2015/16. Clerk to write to all plot holders.

9. PARISH LENGTHSMAN/MAINTENANCE

- 9.1 It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to contribute a third towards Lengthsman Weed Killing Spraying Training at an approximate cost of £130.00.

10. OUTSIDE MEETINGS

- 10.1 Worcestershire CALC – Local Council Award Scheme, Wednesday 23rd September 2015 – Clerk attended this meeting and distributed a copy of the Award Scheme to all Councillors. It was agreed to set up a working party consisting of Cllr. Powell, Cllr Mrs Grey and Clerk to work through the Award Criteria.

11. EVENTS PLANNING

- 11.1 A Romstock Meeting has been arranged for Tuesday 20th October and plans are going well in organising “A Right Royal Romstock” and “Queen’s 90th Birthday Tea Party”. Further details will follow after the meeting.

12. COMMUNICATION

www.romsleyparishcouncil.gov.uk is our new website address. Replacement/refurbishment of noticeboards was deferred.

13. TRAINING

- 13.1 Nothing to report

14. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S

- 14.1 District Cllr. Allen-Jones confirmed that not all the New Homes Bonus monies had been allocated and encouraged us to apply for some funding next year.

15. COUNTY COUNCILLOR

- 15.1 No report given.

16. TO RECEIVE CLERK’S PROGRESS REPORT

- 16.1 Commemoration of First World War – meeting arranged for 21st October 2015.
 - 16.2 Wheelie Bin Stickers – this item was deferred
 - 16.3 Birmingham Resilience Project – meeting arranged for 4th November, 11.30am
 - 16.4 Neighbourhood Watch – Cllr. Mrs Grey has met with Philip Payne who co-ordinates Neighbourhood Watch from Rubery. We have got all the NHW signs and we need to canvass the village for interested co-ordinators. It was agreed to insert something into the next newsletter.
 - 16.5 It was agreed to provide hard copies of the minutes in the Spar.
 - 16.6 Parish/Neighbourhood Plan – a working party has been formed consisting of Cllr. Mrs Holloway, Cllrs. Mrs Bestwick and Cllr. Bolar who will be meeting shortly. The strategy is to start communicating to parishioners via a questionnaire which they will produce.
17. **TO RECEIVE REPORT OF PARISH COUNCILLORS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**
Outdoor gym
18. **CORRESPONDENCE**
19. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – Monday 9th November 2015, at 7.00pm to be held at St Kenelms Primary School