

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD OF ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 13TH APRIL 2015 AT 7.00PM

The meeting was attended by seven Parish Councillors, Parish Clerk and three members of the public.

1. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the Previous Meeting were read. It was unanimously **RESOLVED** by those able to vote that they were a true record and signed accordingly.

2. **To Receive Chairman's Report**

It has been a busy and interesting year and in this report I would like to mention just some of the key successes.

The track down to the Scout Headquarters has been resurfaced with new drainage in place. The generous contributions from the Scouts and our District Councillor were very much appreciated and the work has ensured that all visitors to the park and the Scout Headquarters have easy access.

The Romsley and Hunnington Show are going ahead, in September and will be a fantastic 21st Anniversary for the exhibitors and new organisers.

A committee to co-ordinate a WW1 memorial is well established and includes members of groups and societies from across the village.

A competition to design a new logo was held with the support of St Kenelms School and will be featured on all parish council paperwork including the long awaited newsletter.

Many successful parish walks, organised by our Footpaths Warden Stuart Smith have taken place and have included the new Pennyfields route.

Finally, Romstock 15 is planned for 13th June and will, I am sure, be the best yet.

The Parish Council as we see it today has enjoyed a period of stability. Quiet, yet purposeful work with the best interests of the village and the parishioners at the very heart has continued throughout the year, and as a result, relationships with key groups across the village have blossomed.

I would like to thank all Councillors for their efforts this year. Much activity goes un-noticed and for many, parish council work is fitted around work and busy home lives and often goes well above and beyond the call of duty. However, the results are far reaching and long lasting. As we move into a period of change, I hope that this unassuming yet determined drive that we have at the core of our wonderful parish council, continues to build and that our outward facing, proactive attitude to the role of a parish council is a firm foundation on which to build.

I would like to thank Ruth for her absolute dedication to the village, her advice and contributions are key and, again, her work behind the scenes goes far beyond what is expected.

Thank you to our colleges from Bromsgrove District Council and Worcester County Council. Your attendance at our meetings is appreciated and support throughout the year has been greatly received.

Thank you to the members of the public who have also attended monthly meetings. I hope that numbers continue to increase.

Finally, I wish all the best for the new Chairman and new Parish Council.

Cllr. Mrs Cooper
Chairman

3. **To Receive Financial Statements of the 2015/16 Accounts**

These had been circulated to the meeting and were approved. There were no comments.

4. **To Receive Report of the County Councillor Representative – Rachel Jenkins**

Apologies given

5. **To Receive Report of District Councillor Representative – Mr Keith Grant-Pearce**

Apologies given

6. **To Receive Report of the Footpath Warden**

Strimming and general clearance of the paths has been the regular activity in maintaining the parish paths in 2014/15. Several litter picks have also been made along the paths around the Swallows Nest/Ell Woods and by the Scout Centre. A number of stiles have been replaced by metal kissing gates as well as steps and ditch crossing replaced.

Improvements to Footpaths

A stile and steps in poor condition leading down to Spring Lane have been replaced by new metal steps and a metal kissing gate. Two stiles and a ditch crossing have been replaced by a new ditch crossing and two metal kissing gates near Dayhouse Farm. I would like to thank Mr Steve Tromans of Cuckoo Corner and Mr Andrew Strain of Dayhouse Farm for agreeing to this work being carried out.

Eight way mark posts have been installed to aid walkers of the Romsley circular walk. Four wooden stiles have been replaced, three near Backlane Farm and one by the Wesleys. I would like to thank Mr Martin Hodgetts of Backlane Farm for carrying out these replacements.

Strimming has been carried out at various places on footpaths around the parish and around the verges near roadside stiles. Also a substantial amount of clearance work has taken place on the bridleway near Chapmans Hill Farm.

Litter

Three "litter picks" have taken place during 2014 and one during March 2015. Litter on the parish paths is not particularly a major problem and is mainly confined around stiles that are possibly used as meeting places, the main problem area being the stile and path near the scout hut.

Walks

Three walks were organised and took place last year in May, June and September with a total of 35 walkers taking part. A further walk took place this year in January with 14 walkers taking part. A further two walks are planned to take place in mid-April and early May.

Romsley Circular Walk

Work on the "Pennyfields" circular walk is very slowly nearing completion. A total of our metal kissing gates, a pedestrian gate, a new ditch crossing, and eight waymark posts have now been installed

as well as hand rails at a bridge crossing. The walk has also been signed with special waymarks. It is hoped that during this year (2015) stone will be put down at two of the kissing gates to alleviate problems with mud and that improvements can be made to one of the stiles on the walk.

Stuart Smith
Parish Paths Warden

7. To Review any Items of Parochial Interest

Nothing no problems