

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
MONDAY 13TH JUNE 2016, 7.00PM**

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

1. APOLOGIES

- 1.1 County Cllr. Mrs Jenkins, District Cllr. Mrs Sherrey and District Cllr. Alan-Jones.

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 and Highways England with regards to Severn Trent.
Cllr. Bolar and Cllr. Mrs Holloway are both members of the Severn Trent Residents Working Party.

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 Quarterly Bank Reconciliation Statement approved by all Councillors.

4.2 Accounts for Payment

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|--------------------|--------------------|----------|
| J Harper | Gate Keeper | £60.00 |
| John Benner | Internal Audit | £195.00 |
| HMRC | Payroll Taxes Due | £363.71 |
| Ruth Mullett | Romstock | £13.98 |
| Richard Arrowsmith | Romstock | 981.45 |
| Viking Direct | Stationery and ink | £138.79 |
| David Powell | Romstock | £361.56 |
| Richard Arrowsmith | Leaflets | £38.00 |
| AHS Limited | Play Bark | £1727.52 |
| The Tree Doctors | Tree Felling | £580.00 |
| Steve Pitt | Romstock | £340.00 |
| Ruth Mullett | Mileage | £55.90 |
| NPower | Feeder Pillar | £94.57 |
| Tipi Unique | Generator | £650.00 |
| Lesley Grey | Romstock | £13.19 |
| Ed Sheppard | Lengthsman | £392.25 |

Cllr. Tilt and Cllr. Mrs. Holloway signed the cheques.

- 4.3 To VAT refund of £4,002.97.
4.4 To confirm receipt of £1,500.00 Severn Trent sponsorship for Romstock.

5. PLANNING MATTERS

District Council Decisions

16/0297 – 29 Waverley Crescent, Romsley – single storey side and rear extension – **Approved**

Planning Applications for Parish Council Comments

16/0463 – Linger Longer, Chapmans Hill – repositioning of proposed dwelling under planning permission 15/1045 – **No objections**

16/0284 – 56 St Kenelms Road – two storey side and rear extension – **No objections**

Appeals

None

6. PLAYING FIELD/RECREATION AREA

6.1 Work to improve the park has picked up in pace and these improvements include :-

- installing a small outdoor gym funded through an £8000 grant from Tesco
- installing family picnic tables funded through a £1000 grant from Rachel Jenkins, our County Councillor
- replacing the safety bark and repainting the equipment in the play area
- removing the dangerous trees and overgrown vegetation
- clearing out the water courses and drainage ditches
- installing a Memorial Poppy Walk with benches to commemorate the end of WW1
- re-establishing the formal garden and planting a wild flower area
- installing improved benches, litter bins, signage and security

We are also very pleased to confirm that the Parish Council has succeeded in its efforts to get Severn Trent to rectify the damage that they caused to the Car Park during its use as a works compound in 2012. It was estimated that this damage exceeded £15,000 and this success will significantly reduce the pressure on future budgets and will, hopefully, result in a much improved parking area.

Unfortunately, we are still receiving reports of anti-social behaviour including some drug use in the park, especially in the evenings. In response the Parish Council has removed vegetation and improved sightlines into the park. This appears to have reduced incidents of anti-social behaviour however we recognise that, with the longer summer nights ahead, we must all remain vigilant. The Parish Council has continued to discuss this problem with residents who live around the park, with the Police and with community groups and we are exploring options to resolve it. The Police are patrolling more frequently, within the limits of their reduced resources, and

the Parish Council are exploring the feasibility of a limited CCTV system to cover the car park and other vulnerable areas. No decision on CCTV has been made and we will only do this following further consultation with local residents.

The Parish Council acknowledged and thanked Steve Tromans and Ed Sheppard for all their hard work in enhancing the playing fields.

7. **ROADS/FOOTPATHS**

- 7.1 Following consultation with local residents on installing timber trip rails in Waverley Crescent and Hillcrest Road the consensus is that residents would not want them. It was agreed to leave this project for the time being and monitor the situation.
- 7.2 The white lines in Quantry Lane have been reported and will be looked at urgently. Also the hedgerows in Shutmill Lane have been photographed and also reported to the Hub.

8. **WINWOOD HEATH ALLOTMENTS**

- 8.1 It was agreed for the Allotment Committee to draft a suitable letter to send to plot holders who are not maintaining their allotment. They also asked for a noticeboard and it was also agreed for them to purchase one and send the invoice to the Clerk.
- 8.2 It has come to the attention of the Parish Council that following a meeting with the Police, plot holders have put razor wire on the gate and in the hedge. Clerk has spoken in length to our Insurance Company and Bromsgrove District Council. It was agreed that the razor wire could remain on the gate for a maximum of three months until an alternative solution could be found but the wire is to be removed from the hedge with immediate effect. Cllr. Tilt was asked to confirm the removal by the end of the week.

9. **PARISH LENGTHSMAN/MAINTENANCE**

- 9.1 The Lengthsman reported that dogs are being allowed in the play area, the Chairman confirmed he had installed new signs on the gates stating 'No Dogs Allowed'.

10. **OUTSIDE MEETINGS**

- 10.1 Nothing to report

11. **COMMUNICATION**

- 11.1 Cllr. Powell has expressed concern with the amount of abusive/threatening emails the Parish Council receives and feels our current Standing Orders leave us open for Parishioners to have free reign to contact/abuse us directly. It was agreed for the following amendments to be made to our Standing Orders and Clerk to issue revised copy to all Councillors.

Council Representative Roles and Contact with the Public

- *Councillors who attend meetings as the Council's representative or contact other organisations on behalf of the Council have no delegated decision making powers. They cannot commit or speak on behalf of the Council except to report or explain already agreed Council policies or decisions. Their role is to facilitate good communication between the Council and other organisations, to bring relevant information back to the Council, and to identify decisions the Council needs to make.*
- *One of the Councillors' main roles is to represent the electors of their area. Romsley Parish Council welcomes correspondence from parishioners and as such, councillors need to be accessible and able to listen to residents' concerns. Residents may contact Councillors by phone, letter or email about parish issues.*
- *Anonymous letters (failing to show the name/address/contact details of the author) will be accepted, although the Parish Council cannot respond and will apply discretion as to whether to act further.*
- *The Parish Council will always respect confidentiality of the correspondent, if requested. Your name and address will not be disclosed to third parties.*
- *Parishioners are reminded that the parish council (although elected) are volunteers who give their time freely to serve the local community. Romsley Parish Council will not tolerate correspondence that includes abuse, profanity, threat or unjustified harming of a person's good reputation. Such correspondence will be ignored. In the case of e-mail and social media a returning message will be sent informing the user of the contents of this policy. Further misuse will be reported to the relevant authorities.*
- *Councillors will often be able to explain what is happening about a particular issue or how the Council is handling something. But if the resident raises something that requires a formal decision or explanation of Council policy then it will need to be raised at a Council meeting or passed to the Clerk as appropriate.*
- *When Councillors are offering an explanation of Council decisions or policies they should do so with respect. There is no collective responsibility, and no requirement to show support for a decision, but any explanation should, as relevant, describe opposing views fairly (and briefly).*

12. EVENTS PLANNING

12.1 Romstock

It was discussed and agreed that this was a fantastic day with everyone including Parish Council, volunteers and Hillside Ladies working as a team to put on a successful community event which brought the parish together. We have received nothing but good feedback, comments including it was professionally run, fantastic atmosphere and will it be happening again! Cllr. Powell will arrange a

debriefing meeting shortly to discuss the event and also start commencement of next year's event which will be held on the same weekend as this year, Saturday 10th June 2016.

- 11.2 It was agreed in conjunction with the school HSA to hold a joint Outdoor Cinema Event on 17th September 2016.
- 11.3 It was also agreed to arrange a sponsored walk with the school and the Parish Path Warden on Sunday 10th July 2016.

18. TRAINING

Nothing to report

19. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S

- 19.1 Apologies given

20. COUNTY COUNCILLOR

- 20.1 Apologies given

21. TO RECEIVE CLERK'S PROGRESS REPORT

- 21.1 Commemoration of the First World War – 160 poppy plugs has been planted at the allotments for the memorial walk in the playing fields.
- 21.2 Birmingham Resilience Project – the next meeting of the Community Liaison Group is to be held on 21st June 2016.
- 21.3 Parish/Neighbourhood Plan – sixteen people have volunteered to be on the working party, Cllr. Bolar is to arrange a meeting with them in the near future. Clerk to source a suitable venue and let him have dates.
- 21.4 Youth Council – Hunnington Parish Council agreed that we could approach their youth to see if they would like to join as a joint Youth Council.
- 21.5 30mph wheelie bin stickers – it was agreed for the school children to design the wheelie bin sticker as part of a completion.
- 21.6 Road signs – It was agreed for the Chairman to work in conjunction with Steve Pitt to design some child height traffic calming signs.

22. TO RECEIVE REPORT OF PARISH COUNCILLORS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Nothing to report

23. CORRESPONDENCE

Nothing to report

23. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – Monday 11th July 2016, at 7.00pm to be held at St Kenelms Primary School

24. **To consider the exclusion of the public and press in the public interest for consideration of the following item:-**

- to discuss Clerk's annual 12 month appraisal and agree increase in increment steps – it was unanimously **RESOLVED** for Clerk to move to salary scale 28 with effect from 1st April 2016.