



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
MONDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 2019, 7.00PM**

PRESENT: Cllr. Arrowsmith, Cllr. Mrs Bestwick, Cllr. Tilt, Cllr. Shaw and Cllr. Miss Gray
ALSO PRESENT: Cllr. Mrs May and Clerk
 There were 9 members of public in attendance

1. APOLOGIES

- 1.1 Cllr. Bolar and Cllr. Powell – their reasons for absence was accepted by the council.

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. Bolar and Cllr. Shaw - member of the Severn Trent Residents Working Party.
 Cllr. Mrs Bestwick – Son is member of Romsley Beavers, daughter a member of Romsley Brownies
 Cllr. Tilt – Allotment Holder and member of Hunnington and Romsley Show Committee

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- 3.1 It was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 14th January 2019 be signed as a correct record.

4. FINANCE

- 4.1 Quarterly Bank Reconciliation Statement approved by all Councillors.
 4.2 It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to grant £200.00 to Romsley Toddler Group. This grant will be taken out of Romstock funds.

4.3 Accounts for Payment

Cheques No.	Payee	Net Amount
300874	Gate Keeper	60.00
300875	SLCC - training	299.00
300876	E Sheppard - Lengthsman	582.50

300878	HMRC – payroll taxes due	419.67
300879	West Midlands Party Tents – Romstock	400.00
300880	Andyloos – Romstock	93.10
300881	GJH Electrical – Street light repair	210.59
300882	Romsley Toddler Group – grant	200.00

Cllr's Mrs Bestwick and Shaw signed the cheques.

5. **PLANNING MATTERS**

District Council Decisions

18/01405 – 2 Winston Drive, Romsley – first floor rear extension above existing ground floor - **Refused**

Planning Applications for Parish Council Comments

Nothing to report

Appeals

Nothing to report

6. **PLAYING FIELDS/RECREATION AREA**

- 6.1 Cllr. Powell designed new dog poo signage which were agreed by the council. Cllr. Arrowsmith to order them.
- 6.2 The sign in the play area needs updating. Clerk to ask Nigel to remove and then agree new wording for replacement.

7. **ROADS/FOOTPATHS**

- 7.1 Richard Clewer, Highways has agreed licence for the VAS sign. We now need to agree location.
- 7.1 Clerk confirmed that the order for the heritage sign had been placed and we are awaiting delivery.
- 7.2 Installation of new bollards on St Kenelms Road – this item was deferred.
- 7.3 Nigel Williamson to remove the Tommy Soldiers and put them into storage.

8. **WINWOOD HEATH ALLOTMENTS**

- 8.1 Clerk confirmed all new Tenancy Agreements and rent letters had gone out.

9. **PARISH LENGTHSMAN/MAINTENANCE**

Maintenance Report

Nothing to report

10. **OUTSIDE MEETINGS**

- 10.1 Cllr's. Arrowsmith, Bolar and Shaw attended Worcestershire County Council Budget Consultation evening.

11. **COMMUNICATION**

- 11.1 Clerk confirmed that purdah commenced on 22nd March. It was agreed for a newsletter to be distributed March 2019.
- 11.2 It was decided to put on the next agenda whether we should contribute articles to the parish magazine – this item was deferred
- 11.3 Clerk confirmed that she had been asked to submit an article on Romstock for the SLCC Clerk Magazine which is a national magazine distributed to all clerks in the county.

12. **EVENTS PLANNING**

- 12.1 Clerk confirmed that arrangements were progressing well for Romstock and the Premises Licence has been applied for.

13. **TRAINING**

- 13.1 Clerk confirmed she would be attending elections training provided by Worcestershire CALC. This training is being run free of charge.

14. **DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

- 14.1 Apologies given

15. **COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

- 15.1 Cllr. Arrowsmith asked Cllr. Mrs May to ascertain BDC's position with regards CIL.
- 15.2 **County Cllr. May – Investments into the County – WCC** is proposing to invest millions of pounds into tackling congestion, improving town centres and upgrading railway stations across the county. The capital investments have been announced as part of the council's proposed budget for the next financial year. Proposals include £2.5m for town centre improvements in Evesham, Redditch, Stourport and Worcester. It is proposed that the council's programme to relieve congestion will be extended with an additional £5m to be spent over the next three years. Other proposed capital investments include £4m to build a new footbridge across the River Severn in North Worcester and to refurbish Sabrina Bridge in the city to support walking and cycling. An additional £5m is to be invested into the upgrading of railway stations. Cllr. Simon Geraghty, Leader of WCC said *"These capital investments are essential for us to continue to support Worcestershire's growing economy. By investing into the county's infrastructure we will help to attract more businesses and build more homes which will help us to grow the council's income. The budget that we are proposing will invest £26m in these schemes over the next three years while at the same time providing significant revenue investments into adult social care and into improving the lives of the county's children and young people. We plan to spend an additional £23m next year on social care in Worcestershire as demand for these services grow. We have also listened to the feedback during the budget consultation process. So*

we are deleting proposed savings attributed to highways and our Countryside service. We are reducing the savings proposals for libraries and the archives service as well as proposing a new Communities Fund to help enable the changes that need to happen”.

The council's budget – WCC revenue funding is due to go up by more than £6m in the next financial year. However the pace of growth in income is not keeping up with the increase in demand for social care. A set of saving proposals were announced last month including the redesign of the council and a review of all commercial contracts. Since then councils across Worcestershire have been told that they can expect to receive an additional £4.9m, to help to reduce future demand in social care following a successful bid to the government for a one year 75% business rates pilot. The pilot means that more money from business rates gathered in Worcestershire next year will remain in the county.

It is proposed that council tax will be increased by 3.99% with 2.99% to support the general budget and 1% ring-fenced for adult social care. The increase is equivalent to 93p per week extra on a band D property. If the final budget proposals are approved by councillors next month, council tax rates in Worcestershire would continue to be amongst the lowest in the country for county councils.

Next week we mark the second annual Celebrating Social Workers Week here at WCC. Social workers and social care staff from both adults and children's services are invited to attend workshops and events taking place throughout the week.

Working in partnership with Worcestershire Wildlife Trust, we have successfully bid for £1.3m to run the Natural Networks programme which will help to improve the environment. The scheme is aimed at organisations such as parish councils, small and medium businesses, not for profit organisations and statutory bodies. To find out more go to: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/naturalnetworks

Well done to all those involved in the 2018 Summer Reading Challenge delivered in our libraries. The figures were published this week and show it was a big success. The number of children and young people who completed the challenge in Worcestershire was 2,959 which is 74.2% of those who signed up – the highest percentage in the West Midlands.

The council is now offering people who need domiciliary care but who pay for their care, access to our brokerage service to help find a provider. This service will help people to make informed choices about different options with different providers to meet their care needs and help put those arrangements in place. To access this service people need to contact the Access Centre on 01905 768053.

We have been ranked one of the best councils in the country for the time it takes us to repair potholes. New figures released by the RAC

Foundation show that it takes our highways team up to one hour to fix potholes across the county.

WCC is delighted to be sponsoring the Worcestershire Education Awards for the third year running. The awards were officially launched at the University Arena on 17th January. WCC is once again proud to be sponsoring the category teacher/lecturer of the year. Nominations are now being sought by schools, teachers, pupils and members of the public for a teacher or a lecturer who is a worthy winner in 2019.

16. TO RECEIVE CLERK'S PROGRESS REPORT

16.1 **Smartwater** – the roll-out is continuing.

16.2 **Operation London Bridge** – it was agreed to keep this item on the agenda awaiting further instructions/guidelines from NALC. Cllr. Arrowsmith agreed to start requesting an action plan.

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

17.1 **Crime Statistics – Cllr. Arrowsmith** – Bottom line statistically is we do not have a growing crime problem, its flat over three years and if anything 2018 was lower for crimes than 2017/2016. Burglary according to statistics fell by 25% in 2018 and vehicle thefts by 40%. Shoplifting has seen the biggest jump in over three years.

18. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – Monday 11th March 2019, at 7.00pm to be held at St Kenelms Primary School