



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 3RD MAY 2022, 7.30PM**

PRESENT: Cllr. Bolar, Cllr. Carr, Cllr. Gray, Cllr. Shaw, Cllr. Weston and Cllr. Strain

ALSO, PRESENT: Two members of the public, Maintenance N Williamson, and Clerk

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

1.1 It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr. Bolar as Chairman and he duly signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office

2. APOLOGIES

2.1 None

3. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

3.1 It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr. Gray as Vice Chairman

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

4.1 Chairman asked all members present to declare any personal or prejudicial interest on any items on the agenda.

Other Disclosable Interest

Cllr. Bolar and Cllr. Shaw – member of the Severn Trent Residents Working Party

The meeting was adjourned to allow for Public Question Time

5. INSURANCE

5.1 It was confirmed all insurance arrangement cover is in place in respect of all insurable risks.

6. ASSET REGISTER

6.1 Asset Register is up to date with regards the Council's assets and has been reviewed by the Internal Auditor.

7. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- 7.1 All council policies, procedures and practices in respect of its obligations under the Freedom of Information, GDPR and data protection legislation were reviewed, and adequate policies are in place.

8. **STANDING ORDERS**

- 8.1 Standing Orders were noted with no amendments.

9. **CODE OF CONDUCT**

- 9.1 All Councillors were reminded of the continual adherence to the Code of Conduct.

10. **FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

- 10.1 Financial Regulations were noted with no amendments.

11. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

- 11.1 It was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 1st March 2022 be signed as a correct record.

12. **FINANCE**

- 12.1 It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to ratify payments made in April 2022 and agree payments for May 2022.
- 12.2 Quarterly Bank Reconciliation Statement approved by all Councillors.
- 12.3 To confirm receipt of a grant for £1,000.00 from a resident for planting in the playing fields.

13. **PLANNING MATTERS**

13.1 **District Council Decisions**

Planning Reference:	21/01760/FUL
Proposal:	Demolition of existing extensions and construction of a new two storey rear extension
Location:	368 Bromsgrove Road, Romsley
Decision:	Granted

13.2 **Planning Applications for Parish Council Comments**

Nothing to report

13.3 **Appeals**

Planning Reference:	APP/1805/D/22/3291097/21/01442/FUL
Proposal:	Alteration and extension to existing dwelling and demolition of conservatory and other outbuildings
Location:	Kenelmstowe, St Kenelms Road, Romsley

Planning Reference:	APP/P1805/W/21/3283122
Proposal:	Change of use from Sui Generis to D2
Location:	Stable and land at Holt Lane, Romsley
Decision:	Appeal allowed

14. **PLAYING FIELD/COMMUNITY AREAS/MARLHOLE**

- 14.1 **To receive update on rainbow benches and cherry trees in memory of Covid 19** – All of the benches have now been installed and Cllr. Gray is in the process of sourcing blossom trees to be planted behind the benches. Maintenance has now a lot of work improving the planting around the perimeter path and Council thanked him for all his hard work.
- 14.2 **Me Time Fitness** – A request had been received to use the playing fields for a baby exercise class and it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to grant this request with no charge.

15. **WINWOOD HEATH ALLOTMENTS**

- 15.1 Clerk confirmed she had managed to rent one of the vacant plots.

16. **ROADS/FOOTPATHS/TRAFFIC/HIGHWAYS**

- 16.1 **Defibrillator at St Kenelm's School** – Clerk confirmed the de-fib is fully installed and working. Maintenance will monitor the de-fib on a weekly basis and Clerk will log on Webnos.

17. **PARISH LENGTHSMAN/MAINTENANCE**

- 17.1 **Lengthsman** – no report given, and Council asked that the Lengthsman produce a monthly report going forward.
- 17.2 **Maintenance** – Maintenance produced an Annual Maintenance Work List.

18. **COMMUNICATION**

- 18.1 The newsletter is in the process of being completed and should be distributed in the next few weeks.
- 18.2 Cllr. Strain agreed to give the website a complete overhaul and bring it up to date.

19. **EVENTS PLANNING**

- 19.1 **Romstock** – Cllr. Bolar, Cllr. Gray and Clerk met with Social Eats today and Romstock is progressing well, and tickets sales are at present ahead of schedule. The Romstock Working Party will continue to liaise with Social Eats. Cllr. Gray also confirmed that we are hopeful we have allocated a field for parking which will be run separately by the Scouts.
- 19.2 **St Kenelms Day** – nothing to report

20. **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S**

- 20.1 Cllr. Ms Sherrey – no report given
- 20.2 Cllr. Ms May –

ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

May 2022

Signature

Firstly, please accept my sincere apologies for being unable to attend your Annual Parish Meeting tonight. Unfortunately, I have a diary clash.

As we now learn to live with Covid I thought I would highlight some of your District and County Council achievements over the past twelve months.

- *The District Council has obtained £14.5m from the levelling up fund from Central Government. This is money that was not expected, in fact I was informed that it was highly unlikely that any funding via this route would be granted. It is important that we addressed the issue of two vacant brownfield sites in the town centre which we were having great difficulty bringing forward for development. Whilst I recognise that these sites are in the centre of Bromsgrove it is anticipated that the investment of this level will be the catalyst for driving further investment throughout the district.*
- *More than £30m of grant funding has been passed through the District Council to support businesses throughout the district. This is one of the largest amounts to have been assigned to any Council and I am delighted that we have been able to support businesses in what I recognise as a particularly challenging time.*
- *The development of the old council building site in Burcot Lane is now well underway. There are sixty-one new properties under construction. Having visited the site last week one can clearly see the benefit that this will bring to Bromsgrove District. The development will not only provide housing for social rent but will also go part way to addressing the 'levelling up' agenda. On average, in Bromsgrove District, our house prices to earnings ratio stands at 14.3:1 whereas nationally it is 4:1 nationally. This makes it exceedingly difficult for our young people to find suitable housing within the district. We received a million-pound grant from central government to support this initiative as part of the accelerated homes England grant funding, again having lobbied to enable this finance to come through from Central Government. It is anticipated that this site will be completed by December 2022.*
- *I have been instrumental in introducing a project which is known as Asset-based Community Development not only across the district but also across Worcestershire County. This initiative is around the sustainability and enabling of communities. The prevention of social isolation and social interaction is fundamental to enabling communities to interact, protecting our communities into the future. Age UK is currently undertaking a feasibility study which will ensure areas like Romsley and Hunnington are visited by professionals from within their organisation. This will enable conversations to take*

place. A road show will take place in Romsley on 18th May, 10.30 to 13.00, at the Scout Centre. The goal is to enable residents to live fulfilled, independent lives in their own homes.

Following my re-election as your County Councillor for Clent Hills Division I was appointed to the cabinet with responsibility for Health and Wellbeing. May I take this opportunity to thank those residents who kindly supported me. It is very much appreciated and something that I never take for granted.

As the cabinet member one of the first matters, I addressed was the roll out of a consultation document seeking residents' opinions as to the strategy for health and well-being for this county for the next 10 years. We have obtained funding from the NHS to support the County Council with this project which is something that has never happened historically. Adult social care and special educational needs are two of the largest major spends at Worcestershire County Council. Currently around 72% of our budget is spent on 2% of the population. For this reason, it is of importance that we look at what can be done in the preventative sphere.

On Friday I met with the Under-Secretary of State, Nigel Huddleston MP to discuss the broadband roll out across my County Division. I made it clear my concerns about the lack of broadband connectivity in the rural communities. I will continue to push on this matter as it is one of the most fundamental challenges that we locally face.

In closing I once again want to thank you for your support in the work that I do. I can always be contacted both by email and telephone. My email address at Bromsgrove District Council is k.may@bromsgrove.gov.uk and for Worcestershire County Council kmay@worcestershire.gov.uk. My telephone number is 07818 085140.

21. COUNTY COUNCILLOR

22.1 Cllr. Ms May – as 20.2

23. TO RECEIVE CLERK'S REPORT/URGENT DECISIONS

23.1 Nothing to report

24. TO RECEIVE REPORT OF PARISH COUNCILLORS

24.1 Cllr. Strain confirmed he had attended the Worcestershire CALC Planning Training and found it especially useful. Clerk confirmed she is awaiting confirmation from Dale Birch at BDC for some bespoke parish council planning training.

24.2 Cllr. Shaw confirmed he had found another erratic boulder on Farley Lane and had confirmed the organisation.

ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

May 2022

Signature

25. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – Wednesday 8th June 2022, 7.00pm.

Meeting closed at 21.37