



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 23RD NOVEMBER 2022, 7.0PM**

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

ALSO, PRESENT: Maintenance N Williamson and one member of the public

1. APOLOGIES

1.1 Apologies were received from Cllr. Bolar and reason for absence was agreed by all councillors presents.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Other Disclosable Interest

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

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

3.1 It was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 18th October 2022 be signed as a correct record.

4. FINANCE

4.1 **Accounts for payment** - it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments. Two councillors scrutinised invoices.

Nigel Williamson	Maintenance	£870.25
RoSPA Play safety	Inspection	£130.20
Beta Signs	St Kenelms Day	£388.80
Corporate Card	Charge Card	£247.00
HMRC	Payroll Taxes Due	£668.96
Ruth Mullett	Trees from Beechcroft	£291.22
Edward Sheppard	Lengthsman	£578.00
Steve Tromans	Maintenance	£1035.00
Gallagher	Insurance	£2067.74
Ruth Mullett	Bulbs	£330.00

4.2 **Bank Reconciliation Statement** – approved by all Councillors.

4.3 **Budget 23/24** – it was agreed to set up a Working Party consisting of Cllr. Bolar, Cllr. Carr, Cllr. Gray, Cllr. Weston and Cllr. Shaw to produce a draft budget for approval at the January Full Council Meeting.

ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

November 2022

Signature

- 4.4 It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the new NALC/SLCC Salary Scales backdated to April 2022.

5. **PLANNING MATTERS**

5.1 **District Council Decisions**

Nothing to report

5.2 **Planning Applications for Parish Council Comments**

Application Type:	Full Application
Planning Reference:	22/01443/FUL
Proposal:	Conversion of existing car port to form garage, hall, and wet room with conversion of existing garage to bedroom
Location:	20 Dark Lane, Romsley
Decision:	No objection

Application Type:	Full Application
Planning Reference:	22/00907/FUL
Proposal:	Removal of existing caravan and wooden sheds and erection of a replacement building
Location:	Plot One Land Off, Chapel Lane, Romsley
Decision:	No objections

Application Type:	Full Application
Planning Reference:	22/01209/FUL
Proposal:	Single storey rear and side extensions and new retaining wall.
Location:	65 St Kenelms Road, Halesowen
Decision:	No objections

Application Type:	COU Prior Approval
Planning Reference:	22/01332/CUPRIO
Proposal:	Agricultural barn to dwelling houses
Location:	Barn at Cuckoos Corner, Holt Lane, Romsley
Decision:	No objections

Application Type:	Full Application
Planning Reference:	22/00356/FUL
Proposal:	Single storey extension
Location:	Tudor Cottage, Chapmans Hill, Romsley
Decision:	No objections

5.3 Appeals

Nothing to report

6. PLAYING FIELD/COMMUNITY AREAS/MARLHOLE

- 6.1 **Blossom Trees** – Cllr. Gray confirmed most of the trees had now been planted and Clerk had ordered the memorial plaques. The remaining trees are hoped to be planted next week.
- 6.2 **RVNR at Chapel Lane** – Cllr. Shaw confirmed he had chased a reply on this.
- 6.3 **Play area upgrade and grants** – Cllr. Weston confirmed another quotation had been received which was of the same ballpark figure as the previous one. Cllr. Weston together with Cllr. Swift are still working on acquiring grant funding and we await the intended 106 monies from the Bluebird application. Cllr. Swift to contact Bellway to discuss the timing of the 106 monies and the possibility of any further grants.
- 6.4 **RoSPA Report** – Clerk confirmed the RoSPA Play Safety Report for the playing fields had been received with only minor issues raised. Maintenance has been given a copy of the report and will deal with the highlighted issues.

7. ROADS/FOOTPATHS/TRAFFIC/HIGHWAYS

- 7.1 It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to order a new replacement noticeboard for outside St Kenelms School which is to be kindly funded from County Cllr. May's Divisional Fund.
- 7.2 An email had been received from a resident complaining about the speeding at the top of the Bromsgrove Road. Cllr. Gray agreed to pay the resident a visit.

8. PARISH LENGTHSMAN/MAINTENANCE

- 8.1 Lengthsman's report – no report
- 8.2 Maintenance – confirmed that all the bulb choices have now been forwarded to the Clerk to order.

9. COMMUNICATION

- 9.1 **Communication Working Party** – another working party meeting had taken place and councillors continued to discuss and review our current communication strategy.

Actions

1. Cllr. Gray to confirm three dates for 2023 when a newsletter would be produced, suggestion May (pre Romstock, September/October and February/March. Parish councillors are to support Cllr. Gray with content/input.
 2. Internal communications – agreement and commitment from all parish councillors is to be agreed for our own communication method.
- 9.2 **Community Hub** this is being dealt with under agenda item 15
- 9.3 **Working with Community Groups** – Cllr. Swift and Cllr. Carr confirmed that they would like to work closely with community groups and build healthy relationships. It was agreed that they would approach local groups to stretch out a hand of friendship.

10. **EVENTS PLANNING**

- 10.1 **Carol Service** – The Salvation Army Band have confirmed they can make the date of 7th December 2022, 7.00pm at the Church Hall. The same format as previous years was agreed and Clerk volunteered to get the refreshments. Children who attended are presented with a selection box. Cllr. Swift expressed concern about the public health message that gifts of chocolate and sweets given to children attending would give. However as the other parish councillors were in favour of the gifts, it was agreed to go ahead as planned.

11. **DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

- 11.1 **Cllr. May** – Apologies received. Clerk to ask Cllr. May to jet the gullies outside Dayhouse Bank Fisheries and Old House Lane.

12. **TO RECEIVE CLERK'S REPORT**

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** for Clerk to purchase contractors' gifts and Parish Path Warden from the Chairman's allowance.

13. **TO RECEIVE REPORT OF PARISH COUNCILLORS**

Cllr. Carr – Kings Coronation to be placed on next agenda.

Cllr. Shaw – Romsley Fibre – FTTP (Fibre to the Premises)

Project commenced in March 2021 and was finally completed August 22 – approximately 200 premises, residential and business now have the opportunity to connect to the new network, built by Openreach. The scheme was successful due to the support from the local community, together with the top-up voucher scheme from Worcestershire County Council and the Government Gigabit Fibre Programme. The major benefits being faster, more consistent internet speeds, increased property value and general time and money saving.

14. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – 31st January 2023, 7.00pm.

Meeting closed at 20.50

15. It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to agree that in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting for the duration of the following item on the basis that the information disclosed will be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted :-

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to set up a Finance Working Party to look at financial implications of a Community Hub consisting of Cllr. Bolar, Cllr. Weston, Cllr. Shaw, Cllr. Gray and Clerk.