



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 21ST FEBRUARY 2023, 7.00PM AT ST KENELMS CHURCH HALL**

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

ALSO, PRESENT: Ruth Mullett, Clerk, maintenance and 2 members of the public

1. APOLOGIES

1.1 None.

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

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED TO ALLOW FOR PUBLIC QUESTION TIME, THIS DOES NOT FORM PART OF THE MINUTES.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

3.1 It was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd January 2023 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.

HMRC	Payroll Taxes Due x 2	£319.61
GJH Electrical Ltd	Christmas lights removal	£180.00
Nigel Williamson	Maintenance	£570.00
Viking Direct	Printer Ink	£207.96
Community Heartbeat	Annual subscription	£198.00
Andyloos	Romstock Deposit	£865.87
Viking Direct	Stationery	£11.18
John Weston	Magnets	£5.89
Andyloos	Deposit St Kenelms Day	£129.36
Viking Direct	Printer Drum	£126.48

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

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Signature

- 4.3 It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to grant £500.00 to Worcestershire County Council for maintenance to the public footpath adjacent to the Scout Centre.

5. PLANNING MATTERS

5.1 District Council Decisions

Application Type:	Full Application
Planning Reference:	22/01353/FUL
Proposal:	First floor side extension above existing ground floor extension to create a larger master bedroom
Location:	High Rising, 19 Bromsgrove Road, Romsley
Decision:	Granted

5.2 Planning Applications for Parish Council Comments

Application Type:	Full Application
Planning Reference:	22/00563/FUL
Proposal:	Retrospective planning application for approval to retain the existing lodge building located on the land of St Kenelms Woodyard which will be used by the applicant as a forestry worker and owner of the forestry woodyard to reside on site as his permanent dwelling
Location:	St Kenelms Woodyard, Uffmoor Lane, Romsley
Decision:	Objections

Application Type:	Full Application
Planning Reference:	23/00058/FUL
Proposal:	Single storey side and rear extensions to replace existing conservatory and garage
Location:	94 Dark Lane, Romsley
Decision:	No objections

5.3 Appeals

Nothing to report.

6. PLAYING FIELD/COMMUNITY AREAS/MARLHOLE

- 6.1 **Play area upgrade and grants** – Cllr. Weston confirmed that three quotations had now been received for the proposed new play area which were all in the six-figure bracket so are now looking at obtaining external grant funding. Cllr. Weston and Cllr. Swift met with the person who fundraised for the upgrades to Belbroughton Recreation Ground and obtained some useful information. One of which was a contact for a professional grant writer and Cllr. Swift is in the process of arranging to meet with her.

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7. **ROADS/FOOTPATHS/TRAFFIC/HIGHWAYS**

- 7.1 **To receive update on noticeboards** – this is covered under agenda item 9.1.
- 7.2 **Pavement top of Romsley Hill** – Cllr. Gray confirmed following a residents request she had reported the state of the pavement outside the newly converted barns at the top of Romsley Hill and it was pleasing to note that County Council had completed resurfacing of them.
- 7.3 Cllr. Shaw confirmed he had again reported to County Council the stretch of road from Dayhouse Bank onto Old House Lane onto Gannow Green Lane to Rubery was becoming more and more busy, especially if there are motorway problems, the roads are used as alternative routes. The electronic speed sign is not working, irrespective of vehicle speeds. This matter was raised by another resident in February 2022 and there has been no resolution since then. Vehicle speeds on Dayhouse Bank leading onto Old House Lane have not reduced and speeding is endemic on this stretch of road.
- 7.4 Cllr. Shaw confirmed he had reported to County Council that all the gullies from the bottom of Dayhouse Bank onto Old House Lane require emptying, they were last emptied in November 2020.

8. **PARISH LENGTHSMAN/MAINTENANCE**

- 8.1 Lengthsman's report – no report
- 8.2 Maintenance: -
- Have started to clear the brambles at the bottom of the playing fields with the intention of straightening the fencing.
 - Donations of plants and bulbs from residents have been planted.
 - Will get a quote for options to tidy the pathway leading down to the Scout Centre on the left hand side.
 - A list of recently completed and planned maintenance jobs to be provided for publication.

9. **COMMUNICATION**

- 9.1 **To receive update from Communication Working Party** – the working group produced a paper consisting of five areas to be approved:-
- Area One - Internal Communication**
- a) WhatsApp and emails should continue to be used.
- WhatsApp when short/brief comments are communicated.
 - Emails for more detailed communications and/or when attachments are distributed – **RESOLVED.**
- b) Individual parish council email addresses to be assigned in order to separate personal and council related communications – **this item was deferred.**

Area Two – Parish Council Website

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To propose that Cllr. Strain takes the lead role in redesigning the layout of the existing website, in collaboration, where necessary, with the existing IT Support, Candoo IT – **RESOLVED**

Area Three – Village Noticeboards

Replacement noticeboard has been installed to replace the one at the school. It was agreed at the council meeting in November that the remaining noticeboards at the playing fields, outside the butchers, bus stop Farley Lane and opposite the shops in the layby should all be revarnished or repainted in the spring by maintenance. The remaining one in the layby at the Old Manchester Inn pub is to be removed. Information posted recently is valid for the whole of 2023 unless unforeseen changes are made. New information can be posted as and when required – **No further actions required.**

Item 4 – social media

Previously agreed that Cllr. Carr, Cllr. Strain and Clerk would take the responsibility of posting new information and responding to posts on the parish council and Romsley Residents Facebook pages. Regular information previously agreed to be communicated regarding maintenance activities and other parish council activities which would be of interest to residents. Intention is to improve information flow with parish residents and the perception of the parish council – **RESOLVED**

Item 5 – Newsletter

Previously agreed that Cllr. Gray would take the lead on producing the newsletter three times a year. Proposed distribution dates:

- February/March – 20th February to 3rd March 2023
- May – week beginning 22nd May 2023
- September/October – 25th September to 6th October 2023 -

RESOLVED

10. EVENTS PLANNING

10.1 Romstock – The Romstock Working Party have had another meeting with Social Eats.

- Early bird tickets are now on sale, and this is to be communicated in the newsletter.
- Half the bands have been secured.
- It was noted that on some of the advertising Social Eats logo has a bigger presence than the parish council and this has been discussed with them.
- Full terms and conditions to be circulated on social media well ahead of the event.
- Communicate to the parish that Romstock brings in essential funds.
- Scouts have confirmed they will once again do the parking and it should be communicated that we all funds from the parking go to the Scouts.

10.2 St Kenelms Day

- Brass band is booked.
- Bluebird Belles is booked.
- Clerk to book the fireworks, same set-up as last year.

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- Toilets are booked.
- 10.3 **Carol Service** – it was agreed that we would hold the Carol Service again this year on Wednesday 6th December and would promote the event throughout the parish to hope we get more attendance.
- 10.4 **Kings Coronation** – It was agreed to hold a Romsley and Hunnington Coronation Picnic in the Park event on Sunday 7th May, 2.00pm till 6.00pm. The idea of the event would be along the lines of:
- Invite people to bring either a picnic or pre-order an afternoon tea box, being delivered around 3.00pm.
 - A DJ to create an atmosphere.
 - Book Elvis to do a set at 5.00pm, maybe ending with God Save the King?
 - Scouts/brownies to do some craft stalls.
 - St Kenelms HSA to set up some fundraising stalls.
 - Children’s rides/bouncy castle.
 - Ice cream van.
11. **DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS**
- 11.1 **Cllr. May** – apologies given, and no report received.
- 11.2 **Cllr. Sherrey** – no report received.
12. **TO RECEIVE CLERK’S REPORT**
Nothing to report.
13. **TO RECEIVE REPORT OF PARISH COUNCILLORS**
- Cllr. Strain** – can we do a social media post reminding residents they need photo ID to vote at the May elections. Clerk will post one.
- Cllr. Shaw** – The Appeal to Save Romsley Meadows has gone very quiet but have sent a chasing email to the Head of Resources at Worcestershire Wildlife Trust.
- Cllr. Weston** – if we were to be successful in obtaining external funding for the play area, a small working party would need to be set up.
14. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – 29th March 2023, 7.00pm at St Kenelms Church Hall.

Meeting closed at 20.50.