



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

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

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk, maintenance and 1 member of the public

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- 1.1 The Minutes of the previous meeting were read. It was unanimously **RESOLVED** by those able to vote that they were a true record and signed accordingly.

2. TO RECEIVE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Address read out from retired Chairman David Powell

As I look back on my year as Chairman of Romsley Parish Council it is with immense pride of the fantastic team effort to realise several community projects.

We supported the community during the last 2 years with the provision of a hotline – and assisting in the delivery of food and vital supplies to those who were unable to leave the house.

We worked with Stuart Smith the Paths Warden: to provide a permanent memorial to the servicemen who lost their lives in the plane crash near the Penny Fields Walk.

We successfully worked with the Woodland Trust to relace and repair the bridges in Uffmoor Wood – maintaining a vital link to this wonderful area from our village.

We delivered on an agreement with Openreach to move forward on the Romsley Fibre Project.

We provided a new defibrillator at St Kenelm's School.

We provided new benches in the playing fields and around the village along with blossom trees that improve our local landscape.

We continue to provide community events such as Romstock and St Kenelms Day, which are proving as popular as ever.

Lastly, we are all very proud of the new circular path in the playing fields in Romsley. Since opening this facility – it is proving to be well used and liked by our community.

This has all been achieved through the hard work and team ethic displayed by the Council. Well done to everyone involved.

You will now be aware that I recently took the decision to resign as Chairman of Romsley Parish Council.

Although I take great pride in serving my community and working with such a great team, it became difficult to balance workload and family life.

I would like to thank all on the team for their friendship and support and I wish the Parish Council all the very best for the future.

Sending my best regards

*Dave Powell
Romsley Parish Council*

3. TO RECEIVE REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

Apologies received and report below from Cllr. May.

4. TO RECEIVE REPORT OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVES

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 partly 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 expenditures 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 clear my concerns about the lack of broadband connectivity in 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.

5. TO REVIEW ANY ITEMS OF PAROCIAL INTEREST

Nothing to report.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – to be agreed