



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 18TH JULY 2023, 7.00PM AT ST KENELMS CHURCH HALL

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

ALSO, PRESENT: Ruth Mullett, Clerk, Maintenance and 3 members of the public

1. APOLOGIES

1.1 None.

2. CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR

2.1 It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to co-opt Ian Powell as Councillor who duly signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1 Chairman asked all members present to declare any personal or prejudicial interest on any items on the agenda.
Other Disclosable Interest
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.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 It was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 21st June 2023 be signed as a correct record, the Chairman duly signed.

5. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

5.1 **Cllr. May** – Apologies were received from Cllr. May.

Cllr. Nock – Apologies were received from Cllr. Nock and the following report received.

“Just to give the Council a brief update on my work at BDC I am now one of five members of the Governance System Task Group. The Group will be meeting weekly in August to consider alternative governance structures. These range from a Committee System all the way through to a Mayoral System at the other end of the spectrum, with alternative hybrid models in between. The Committee System would involve all members in the legal act

of decision making, whereas a Mayoral System may involve only one person. On the face of it the Committee System sounds most democratic, but I am advised it is not that simple. We will aim to produce a recommendation based on what we believe is best for Bromsgrove. Not an easy task as for one, like many other councillors, I will be on leave during August. All the meetings will therefore be held on TEAMS. Clearly, I have a lot of reading to do.”

6. FINANCE

6.1 **Accounts for payment** - it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments. Cllr. Carr and Cllr. Gray to approve the online payments.

HMRC	Payroll Taxes Due	£319.61
Ruth Mullett	Expenses	£62.60
Viking Direct	Stationery and ink	£266.44
Avion TSL	Romstock	£5542.80
Beta Signs	St Kenelms Day	£249.00
Bullivant Media Group	Romstock	£60.00
E-on	Feeder pillar	£96.01
On the Scene Event	Romstock	£65.00
G Force Fireworks	St Kenelms Day	£750.00
Corporate Card	Various	£1038.70
John Weston	Meeting refreshments	£15.30
Candoo Web Design	Website hosting	£985.00
Community Heartbeat	De-fib annual support	£198.00
Lesley Gray	Romstock	£15.00

6.2 **Bank Reconciliation Statement** – scrutinised and agreed by all Councillors.

6.2 It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to appoint John Benner as Internal Auditor for 2023/24.

7. PLANNING MATTERS

7.1 District Council Decisions

Application Type:	Prior notification for enlargement of a dwellinghouse by construction of additional storeys
Planning Reference:	23/00510/HHPRIO
Proposal:	Creation of additional storey to a bungalow. Maximum height of the dwelling to be 9.5m.
Location:	Hillside, Shutmill Lane, Romsley
Decision:	Approved

Application Type:	Full Application
Planning Reference:	23/00560/FUL
Proposal:	Side extension to dwelling
Location:	Anderson House, 78A Bromsgrove Road, Romsley
Decision:	Approved

7.2 Planning Applications for Parish Council Comments

Application Type:	Full Application
Planning Reference:	23/00561/FUL
Proposal:	Conversion and extension of outbuilding to provide on dwelling
Location:	76 Bromsgrove Road, Romsley
Decision:	Objection

7.3 Appeals

Site Address:	Windyridge, Farley Lane, Romsley
Description of Development:	Demolition of existing dwelling and construction of replacement dwelling
Application Ref:	22/00549/FUL
Appeal Ref:	APP/P1805/W/23/3319860

8. PLAYING FIELD/COMMUNITY AREAS/MARLHOLE

8.1 **Play area upgrade and grants** – The Playground Working Group had a site meeting with Miracle Design and discussed modifications to the original design and quotations. We have requested amendments that incorporate some of the existing playground equipment, which can be re-sited and renovated as a means of bringing the cost more inline with available funds. We have also received one quotation for the removal of the existing wood bark and preparation of the surface in readiness for the playground construction. This may be a cheaper option for us than using the design company for the preparatory work. One further quotation is to be sought. The working group will meet again once the revised design has been received.

8.2 **Update on new bin** – it was agreed to defer this item and monitor the situation throughout the Summer.

9. WINWOOD HEATH ALLOTMENTS

9.1 Cllr. Shaw is continuing with his monthly visits to the allotments. Clerk confirmed she had now let two more plots. One of the plots has a large amount of old carpet on it and maintenance agreed to clear the site for the tenant.

10. ROADS/FOOTPATHS/TRAFFIC/HIGHWAYS

10.1 **Parking issues within the Parish** – it was agreed to set up a Working Party consisting of Cllr. Swift, Cllr. Powell, Cllr. Strain and Cllr. Shaw to take this issue forward.

10.2 **Household drives with gravel** – Cllr. Grey agreed to approach residents where gravel on the pavement was an issue.

10.3 **Proposed Stopping Up – Land at former Manchester Inn car park, Bromsgrove Road** – following advice from Worcestershire County Council it was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council had no objections to this Stopping-Up Order.

11. PARISH LENGTHSMAN/MAINTENANCE

11.1 Lengthsman's report –

- Various blocked gullies listed for Clerk to report.
- With ash dieback there are several trees over the highway which need to be taken down before they fall in the future, one past Lyttleton Croft has been reported.
- Waiting for the weather to dry up and will start spraying all the kerbs and footpath gullies.

11.2 Maintenance –

- Painting the benches on Romsley Common.
- Clearing the allotments of debris.
- The hedge at the pedestrian entrance gate to the playing fields needs cutting back.

12. COMMUNICATION

12.1 **To receive update on website enhancements** – the new design for the website will be going live shortly.

12.2 **Meeting formalities** – meeting formalities were discussed in detail, and it was agreed that the level of formality gives everyone an opportunity to speak, and meetings were held with respect given to all councillors, clerk and public.

13. EVENTS PLANNING

13.1 **Romstock** – it was agreed that Romstock 2023 was a successful event. A review meeting to be arranged with Cllr. Grey, Cllr. Weston, Cllr. Swift, Cllr. Carr and Clerk. The Chairman thanked the Event's Working Group and Shaun Bolar for all the hard work in making it such a successful event.

13.2 **St Kenelm's Day** – Sadly due to the weather this was postponed. It was agreed to reschedule the event for 23rd September subject to everyone's availability.

14. CIVILITY AND RESPECT PLEDGE

14.1 It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to sign up to the National Association of Local Councils/Society of Local Council Clerks and One Voice Wales Civility and Respect Pledge.

15. ROMSLEY TOGETHER

15.1 Comments had been collated with regards the Romsley Together Pledges. It was agreed that as a Council we remain focused as to why we were elected and to continue to have the pledges on the agenda. One of the objectives is a Working Plan for the Parish Council and it was agreed to set up a Working Parting consisting of Cllr. Strain, Cllr. Shaw, Cllr. Weston Cllr. Swift and Clerk.

16. TO RECEIVE CLERK'S REPORT

16.1 It was agreed for Cllr. Weston to collate responses to the Police and Crime Commission Town and Parish Council Survey.

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

Cllr. Shaw – Gave an update on the recent Severn Trent meeting and confirmed Severn Trent have agreed to come and give a presentation at a Parish Council meeting in September/October. They also may be interested in giving a grant towards the play area enhancements and Cllr. Shaw will follow this up.

Cllr. Strain – confirmed he had started uploading roadworks/closures on the website.

Cllr. Weston – Could Clerk ask whether the NHS “Men in Sheds” would be available to attend on a Saturday morning in September.

18. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – 19th September 2023, 7.00pm at St Kenelms Church Hall, 7.00pm.

Meeting closed at 20.55.

DRAFT