



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

PRESENT: Cllr. Powell, Cllr. Shaw, and Cllr. Strain, Cllr. Swift and Cllr. Weston

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

The Chairman sadly confirmed the loss of Nigel Williamson who was a fantastic asset to Romsley Parish Council and will be a massive loss. The Clerk is in contact with his family with the aim of having a lasting memorial in the parish as a remembrance of Nigel. The Council adheres to a minute's silence.

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

CHAIRMAN ADJOURNED THE MEETING FOR AN 'OPEN SURGERY' TO ENABLE RESIDENTS TO DISCUSS ANY ISSUES WITH THEIR COUNCILLORS AND IDENTIFY MATTERS OF CONCERN RELATING TO THE AGENDA, THIS DOES NOT FORM PART OF THE FORMAL MEETING.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

3.1 It was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 17th October 2023 be signed as a correct record, the Chairman duly signed.

4. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

4.1 **Cllr. May**

- Gave her condolences on the loss of Nigel Williamson.
- District has a budget shortfall of £437k and the district are in the process of looking at cost-cutting options. One option maybe the

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Signature

increase to the cost of the brown bin. Also looking at Statutory Memorandum of Understanding with other groups regarding running the council for the next four years.

- Attended a meeting with the Local Government Association and District needs to be more focused on services for residents.

Cllr. Nock – Apologies were received from Cllr. Nock.

5. COUNTY COUNCILLOR

5.1 Cllr. May

- County currently has a £30m budget deficit due to statutory salary increases. This is dealing constraints on the budget and have asked for voluntary redundancies. It should be noted that 72% of the budget goes on 2% of the public.
- Currently working through the second stage of the corporate planning.

6. FINANCE

6.1 Accounts for payment - it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments.

HMRC	Payroll Taxes Due	£319.61
Ruth Mullett	Expenses	£9.00
Rospa Play Safety	Play inspection	£142.80
Beta Signs	St Kenelms Day	£57.60
SLCC	Subscription	£201.50
John Weston	Postage	£2.75
E Shepperd	Lengthsman	£1282.75

Cllr. Swift and Cllr. Strain to approve the online payments.

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

7. PLANNING MATTERS

7.1 District Council Decisions

None

7.2 Planning Applications for Parish Council Comments

Planning Reference:	23/01197/FUL
Proposal:	Proposed single storey side extension
Location:	The Bungalow, Old House Lane, Romsley
Decision:	No objections subject to reassurance the site will be fully secured

7.3 Appeals

8. PLAYING FIELD/COMMUNITY AREAS/MARLHOLE

8.1 Play area upgrade and S106

The council are now in receipt of the S106 funds from Bromsgrove District Council and it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the quotations from Miracle Deign and Wicksteed for the upgrade/renovations. A revised quote is required from Heritage as soon as possible.

- 8.2 **Marlhole** – Cllr. Shaw confirmed the Woodland Trust are in talks with their Legal Department with regards maintaining the Marlhole.
- 8.3 **Birmingham Erratic Boulders Glacial Boulder Trail 5** – Nothing to report.
- 8.4 **To receive Rospa Report** – nothing of concern to report.

9. **WINWOOD HEATH ALLOTMENTS**

- 9.1 Cllr. Shaw confirmed he had made an allotment site visitor today and the allotments were looking tidy, and the majority of plants have been locked down for the winter. There is still a large amount of rubbish to be removed from site and Cllr. Shaw will liaise with Maintenance to look at options.

10. **ROADS/FOOTPATHS/TRAFFIC/HIGHWAYS**

- 10.1 **Parking issues within the Parish** – Cllr. Swift has located the Land Agent with regards the carpark at the front of the shops, he does not want to meet with the council but would want to be informed of any proposal. Cllr. Swift has spoken to the hairdressers who do not want to be involved and is to arrange to talk with the butchers to ascertain their views.

11. **PARISH LENGTHSMAN/MAINTENANCE**

- 11.1 Lengthsman

The kerbs in the whole of the village after several sprayings are now clear of virtually all weeds and if we can keep a sweep by the District Council at least once a year it will reduce the need to spray several times.

The pedestrian gullies have also now been sprayed and with the exception of some deadheads are looking quite clear.

There are the odd tree that will need cutting down or back i.e. the ash, at the bottom of The Hedgerows overhanging the street sign, I will take those out when the ground at home dries out and I can get the tractor and trailer down the field to unload, likewise some of the bushes at the bottom of the Rolling Hills in Dark Lane.

Romsley Hill footpath is now after the rest of the leaves have fallen going to be cleared in the next week or so.

At this time of year, the grids on the road drains cover over in a day or so, so its an ongoing battle to keep them clear. I have reported several blocked gullies on the County website and have some more to do which takes time as you need a map reference for each one. Highways were working in Uffmoor Lane for four or five days solid with the gully sucker and jetter and have unblocked some of the drains that have been blocked for years, I just need them to tackle Chapel Lane next.

The problem with nitrous oxide cylinders blocking the pipes in the ditches has almost disappeared since the ban has come into force.

- 11.2 **Maintenance**
Clerk confirmed she had been in touch with Steve Tromans who has confirmed there is not anything urgent and is keeping on top of all maintenance issues they are arising. Councillors thanked Steve for his continued support.
12. **COMMUNICATION**
- 12.1 The Chairman confirmed there seemed to be an increased amount of advertising material on the noticeboards and continued to remove inappropriate information.
- 12.2 **Five Year Plan** – it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to agree with the recommendations of the Communications Working Group and adopt the Five-Year Plan subject to copyright approval of the photographs.
13. **EVENTS PLANNING**
- 13.1 **Romstock** – it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to reject the two proposals from Friends of Romsley and Hunnington and for the Parish Council to agree the recommendation from the Events Working Party to hold Romstock on 8th June 2024 in conjunction with Social Eats. As new information has come to light Chairman asked for Clerk to organise an Extra-Ordinary Meeting.
- 13.2 **Councillor and Clerk Emails** – it was agreed for council to use the new gov.uk emails from 1st December 2023.
- 13.3 **St Kenelms Day** – to agree a date for 2024 at the January meeting.
14. **TO RECEIVE CLERK'S REPORT**
- 14.1 Clerk confirmed we had passed the statutory deadline for the casual vacancies. It was agreed for Cllr. Strain to draft an advertisement which would promote enthusiastic and diverse applicants prior to posting on social media with a closing date of mid-January for applications.
- 14.2 The new NALC/CALC salary scales were agreed backdated to 1st April 2023.
- 14.3 It was agreed to set up a Budget Working Group consisting of Cllr. Weston, Cllr. Swift, Cllr. Strain and Clerk. Clerk to organise a meeting to be held in December.
15. **TO RECEIVE REPORT OF PARISH COUNCILLORS**
- 15.1 **Cllr. Shaw** – confirmed he had received an appreciated version of the presentation from Severn Trent on the Break Pressure Tank presentation. He will adapt this and place on our website.
Cllr. Swift – expressed our sadness that the Parish Council could not work together with Friends of Romsley and Hunnington for a join Carol Singing event.
16. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – 2nd January 2024, 7.00pm at St Kenelms Church Hall, 7.00pm.

Meeting closed at 20.08.

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Signature