



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2024, 7.00PM AT ST KENELMS CHURCH HALL**

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

**ALSO, PRESENT:** Ruth Mullett, Clerk, and three members of the public

**1. APOLOGIES**

1.1 None.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

2.1 Chair 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

**CHAIR 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 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024 be signed as a correct record, the Chair duly signed.

**4. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

4.1 **Cllr. May: –**

- Pleased to confirm BDC has a balanced budget with money to be invested in sustainable communities. There is £6m in reserves from the Levelling Up Fund to complete the project by September 2025.
- Council tax will be increased by 3% at District level.

**Cllr. Nock: –**

- BDC had been quite since the Christmas recess, Full Council in January was a full agenda with a motion from the opposition on Canals and River Trust. This motion was not carried but made the press.
- There is a full works programme over the coming months with a Community Governance Review to complete.

## 5. COUNTY COUNCILLOR

### 5.1 Cllr. May: -

- County council budget is challenging with a 4.99% council tax rise.
- There will be a £35m budget deficit and the county is currently asking for voluntary redundancies.
- County are in the process of designing the council structure.
- There is to be a fostering appeal roll-out.

## 6. FINANCE

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

HMRC	Payroll Taxes Due	£391.77
E Sheppard	Lengthsman	£421.25
Viking Direct	Stationery	£47.82
S Tromans	Maintenance	£1455.00
Corporate Card	Various	£126.03
Community Heartbeat	Annual subscription	£198.00

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

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

### 6.3 Grant to Romsley and Hunnington Show – this item was deferred to obtain further information.

## 7. PLANNING MATTERS

### 7.1 District Council Decisions

None

### 7.2 Planning Applications for Parish Council Comments

<b>Planning Reference:</b>	Retrospective
<b>Proposal:</b>	Retrospective planning application for approval to retain the existing lodge building located on land of St Kenelms Woodyard which will be used by the applicant as a forestry worker and owner of the forestry woodyard to reside onsite as his permanent dwelling
<b>Location:</b>	St Kenelms Woodyard, Uffmoor Lane, Romsley
<b>Decision:</b>	Objection – previously submitted objection still stands

### 7.3 Appeals

None

## 8. PLAYING FIELD/COMMUNITY AREAS/MARLHOLE

### 8.1 Play area upgrade

- All orders have been placed and dates have been pencilled in weather depending on the various contractors.
- Heritage is hoping to start work onsite a week earlier than planned.

- Chair to produce a Project Plan of the works and circulate to all councillors.
  - The existing bark will be offered to St Kenelms Primary School and if they do not take us up on the offer it will be offered to residents to collect via social media.
  - The project and park closure dates will be advertised on social media.
- 8.2 **Memorial for Nigel Williamson** – we are still awaiting approval of the wording from the family.
- 8.3 **20ft container** – it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to purchase a 20ft container at a cost of approximately £2,500.00 including VAT to be sited on the Playing Fields Carpark to house the parish council equipment.
9. **WINWOOD HEATH ALLOTMENTS**
- 9.1 Severn Trent Volunteer Group have agreed to work with the parish council to clear up the allotment site. It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to order a skip to collect the rubbish to be sited on the field adjacent to the allotments subject to the landowner's approval.
10. **ROADS/FOOTPATHS/TRAFFIC/HIGHWAYS**
- 10.1 **Parking issues within the Parish** – this item was deferred until April 2024.
- 10.2 **Safer Roads Grant Scheme** – Chair confirmed that a grant request had been submitted to the Safer Roads Grant Scheme for the purchase of two new VAS signs. One to replace the one opposite the Swallows Nest and another to be sited on the border of Hunnington, subject to Hunnington Parish Council approval.
11. **PARISH LENGTHSMAN/MAINTENANCE**
- 11.1 **Lengthsman** – nothing to report.
- 11.2 **Maintenance** – nothing to report.
12. **COMMUNICATION**
- 12.1 **Newsletter** – the newsletter will be ready for distribution the end of February. Council agreed contents to be included.
13. **EVENTS PLANNING**
- 13.1 **Romstock**
- Tentative enquiries have been made with regards carparking but will be dependant on the whether the field is available or has been ploughed. Other options are being investigated.
  - A Working Party meeting took place with Social Eats to agree ticket pricing and marketing strategy.
- 13.2 **St Kenelm's Day** – this event has been arranged for Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2024. Clerk to arrange a meeting with Cllr. Swift who will be the lead councillor on this event.
- 13.3 **Carol Singing** – it was agreed not to hold this event.

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

14.1 **PO Box** – Following CALC advice it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to agree for a PO Box address for parish council correspondence at a cost of £396.00 per annum.

15. **TO RECEIVE REPORT OF PARISH COUNCILLORS –**

**Cllr. Strain** – enquired why the layby by the Manchester Inn had been resurfaced – County Cllr. May confirmed it was still part of the highway and had been patched.

16. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024, 7.00pm at St Kenelm's Church Hall, 7.00pm.

**Meeting closed at 20.41.**

DRAFT