



**MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 16TH MAY 2023, 7.00PM**

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

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk and 3 members 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 Chairman Shaun Bolar

As this has been election year, I must first congratulate all Councillors for being unanimously elected to office. This resounding election result reinforces the successful work that has been achieved over the last eight years since the last contested election. This provides a sound base for looking forward to and rising to the challenges that lie ahead.

One such challenge is the cost-of-living crisis that impacts so many people. The Parish Council continues to balance the financial requirements of covering its Statutory Duties (defined by law) and the costs of maintaining the quality of the environment in which we live. These costs are covered by the precept which is a portion of the Council Tax allocated to the Parish Council. With careful consideration and management of the budgets the Council voted to make no further increases to the precept for the year 2023/24.

Through our Clerk – Ruth Mullett, the Councils external financial audits and certification continue to be met without issue and prudent financial reserves maintained.

The Council must continue to seek innovative ways of raising funds from a broad range of sources to supplement the precept. One such source has been the Romstock Music Festival, through which the Council has managed in recent years, to achieve a profit. The growing

popularity of the event and the increasing burden it placed on its volunteer Councillors, led us to last year, seek the partnership of a local business Social Eats. Attracting around 2000 people, the event requires the professional event management skills they offer in order to comply with the burden of licensing laws and health and safety legislation. Last year's event, whilst a learning curve for all of us – managed to turn a profit despite the poor weather conditions. A huge thanks to all those that supported and attended the event. This year's event will be held on the 24th June 2023 and promises to be as entertaining as ever.

The profits raised from events such as Romstock help fund other community projects and events which are provided for free and aimed at local residents.

St Kenelm's Day is one such event and continues to be as popular as ever. This year we had the unique opportunity to host a Coronation Party in celebration of King Charles III. This event finally coincided with a day of sunshine and was enjoyed by a fantastic crowd of local residents and their families. The event was supported by the Scouts and the School HSA – a collaboration of local organisations that we hope will continue to flourish.

During the Coronation Celebrations it was a pleasure to have our local paths warden Stuart Smith – open our newly named path around the playing fields. The path was aptly named Coronation Walk following a poll of local residents. Stuart and his wife continue to be champions of our local network of paths, tirelessly maintaining access and carrying out repairs. They also organise a diary of walks around the local area which we trust will continue to be supported.

The Coronation Walk path continues to be well used and to further enhance the playing fields the parish maintenance team have planted bulbs and blossom trees which will flourish in future years. The play area remains a key focus for improvement – with a variety of options being explored and further consultation planned.

The continued dialogue with District and County Councils is vital for the Parish. We must thank Karen May, District Councillor for Belbroughton and Romsley Ward, for her regular attendance at our meetings and support of local events.

Last but not least a huge thank you to all Councillors involved in the achievements to date – only some of which are listed above. It is their dedication and many hours of free time given that makes this even possible.

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**

Apologies received from Cllr. May and Cllr Nock.

5. **TO REVIEW ANY ITEMS OF PAROCIAL INTEREST**

Nothing to report.

6. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING – to be agreed**