



**MINUTES OF ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 3RD
SEPTEMBER 2024, 7.00PM AT ST KENELMS CHURCH HALL**

PRESENT: Cllr. Powell, Cllr. Shaw, Cllr. Strain, Cllr. Swift, and Cllr. Weston (Chair)

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

1. APOLOGIES

1.1 Apologies were received from Cllr. Antal and Cllr. Macaulay and reasons for absence approved by all councillors.

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. DISPENSATIONS

3.1 To consider any requests for a dispensation from a member who may have a DPI or ODI to allow them to stay/speak in the meeting during the consideration of the item.

None

4. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S

4.1 Cllr. Nock and Cllr May

- District have had a summer recess and the first meeting was on 2nd September where there was a discussion on a heat network for the town centre.
- Are concerned with regards the withdrawal of the Winter Fuel Allowance and there will be a motion brought to full council. The Bromsgrove MP has also started a petition asking for government to reconsider the decision and encouraged everyone to support it.

- There is an Extra Ordinary Meeting in September due to concerns over the new housing numbers for Bromsgrove.

5. COUNTY COUNCILLOR

5.1 Cllr. May

- Budget setting is commencing at County.
- The traffic lights have been installed on Bromsgrove Road but have yet to be commissioned due to overhanging trees and hedges. Temporary traffic lights are in place until they are fully commissioned.
- Have agreed a £1,250 grant from Divisional Fund for the materials for the projects agreed at the school.
- Are still awaiting the installation of the post for the VAS sign at the top of Romsley Hill. Lengthsman to be informed when done so that VAS units can be fitted.

6. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- 6.1 It was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 4th June 2024 be signed as a correct record, the Chair duly signed.

7. FINANCE

- 7.1 It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to ratify payments made in July and August 2024.

Ruth Mullett	Expenses	£74.50
HMRC	Payroll taxes	£375.34
Corporate Card	Various	£151.78
Andy Loos	St Kenelms Day toilets	£240.24
Candoo Web	Website hosting	£1093.00
On the Scene	Romstock medical cover	£506.00
Avion TSL	Romstock staging	£5986.00
Eastleigh Limited	Play area excavation	£29538.00
Miracle Play	Second instalment for play area	£30492.00
Ruth Mullett	Meeting refreshments	£26.90
Steve Tromans	Maintenance	£1318.24
Elan City-UK	VAS signs	£6360.00
Stourport Band	St Kenelms Day	£500.00
Avion TSL	St Kenelms Day PA	£500.00
John Weston	Play area consumables	£7.73
Emma Williamson	Container storage	£250.00
Community Heartbeat	De-fib annual support	£198.00
John Weston	Play area consumables	£10.38
JRB Enterprise Ltd	Dog gloves	£592.80
Emperor Security	Play area security	£313.50
John Weston	Security fencing for play area	£144.00
Corporate Card	Various	£889.00

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

HMRC	Payroll taxes x 2	£750.68
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IAE	Play area gate fixings	£270.00
Source for Business	Water for allotments	£130.42
PKF Littlejohn	External Audit	£504.00
Lois Swift	Meeting refreshments	£80.00
Miracle Play & Design	Post installation inspection	£505.31
Miracle Play & Design	Play area final payment	£61635.10
Ed Sheppard	Lengthsman	£403.75

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

- 7.3 **Bank Reconciliation Statement** – the bank statement and accounts had been scrutinised by Cllr. Strain as part of the internal control process and all councillors agreed to their accuracy.
- 7.4 It was unanimously **RESOLVED** for Cllr. Strain to conduct the internal control check for this month.
- 7.5 **Budget v Actual** – this item was deferred.
- 7.6 **To confirm receipt of:-**
- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| Worcestershire CC | Lengthsman Grant | £479.75 |
| Ruth Mullett | Romstock funds on day | £585.00 |
| Skiddle Ltd | Romstock ticket sales | £21460.00 |
| Jack Strain | Romstock funds on day | £613.78 |
| Tenant | Allotment rent | £40.00 |
- 7.7 Following the recommendations of the Finance Working Group it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to adopt the new NALC Financial Regulations.
- 7.8 It was confirmed the completion of PKF Littlejohn Limited Assurance Review for year ended 31st March 2024 had been completed and Notice of Conclusion of Audit had been prepared and displayed on noticeboards and website. The Chair thanked the Clerk for a clean external audit.
- 7.9 It was unanimously **RESOLVED** not to make a grant to Bromsgrove and Redditch Citizens Advice Bureau as there was no budget provision for grants this year.

8. PLANNING MATTERS

8.1 District Council Decisions

Nothing to report

8.2 Planning Applications for Parish Council Comments

Planning Type:	Full Application
Planning Reference:	24/00789/FUL
Proposal:	Proposed conversion of existing barns to 4no. residential dwellings
Location:	Romsley Hill Farm, Romsley
Decision:	No objections

Planning Type:	Full Application
Planning Reference:	24/00686/FUL
Proposal:	Replacement dwelling
Location:	The Bungalow, Old House Lane, Romsley

Decision:	Objections
Planning Type:	Full Application
Planning Reference:	24/00751/FUL
Proposal:	Replace small wooden garden shed with larger wooden shed
Location:	1 Farley Barn, Farley Lane, Romsley
Decision:	No objections

8.3 Appeals

None

9. PLAYING FIELD/COMMUNITY AREAS

9.1 The play area has now been completed and is open and feedback from residents has been really positive. The project did come in a little over budget due to the condition of the existing surface which had to be excavated deeper than originally thought. There was an unveiling ceremony for the memorial plaque which was attended by at least 30 people including Mr Williamson's family.

9.2 Following discussions with school contacts the parish council were asked if they would clear the pond area in the school grounds which had been completely engulfed with shrubs and weeds over a number of years. Eight volunteers from the parish council, Severn Trent Volunteer Group and local residents set about the task on 21st August 2024. The results have been most welcomed with the whole area being cleared making it accessible once again bringing enjoyment for both pupils and staff. A special thanks to our friends at a local company Hedgerow Environmental for their support.

10. WINWOOD HEATH ALLOTMENTS

10.1 The clear up of the allotments is still in progress with maintenance taking rubbish away from site. Complaints are still being received from plot holders that rubbish is still being dumped. A meeting is to be arranged on site with councillors, clerk and maintenance.

11. PARISH LENGTHSMAN/MAINTENANCE

11.1 **Lengthsman** – Nothing to report.

11.2 **Maintenance** – apologies given but confirmed he had repaired the cross trainer.

12. COMMUNICATION

12.1 The Summer/Autumn newsletter is in the process of being compiled with the aim of distributing the end of September.

13. EVENTS PLANNING

13.1 Romstock

It was agreed by all that Romstock 2024 was a resounding success measured by excellent ticket sales, attendance and profit. There are some areas to

improve on and it was agreed to hold an Events Working Party to analyse the event in full. It was agreed the date for next year would be 28th June 2024.

13..2 **St Kenelms Day**

Two provisional dates of 12th and 19th July were decided subject to LS obtaining confirmation from the Reverend. This event will also be part of the working party meeting.

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

14.1 A complaint had been received from a resident of overgrown trees, hedges and weeds in the playing fields. Clerk to report to maintenance.

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

JSh- had received correspondence from Severn Trent with regards the flooding in the playing fields and had been given a plan of an area which needs dredging. Next action is to ascertain the landowner.

JSt – could we have an agenda item to list the BT Exchange Building as an Asset of Community Value.

IP – overgrown hedges at the corner of Poplar Lane and confirmed he had spoken to the resident and they are due to be cut imminently.

IP – could we have an agenda item for double yellow lines on the corner of Poplar Lane.

JW – had a concerning email from the Parish Path Warden who is facing challenges maintaining the public footpaths. This to be an agenda item to see how we can support him.

18. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – 15th October 2024, 7.00pm at Waverley Hills County Park.

Meeting closed at 20.18