

Romsey Town Council

Town Hall
1, Market Place
Romsey
SO51 8YZ



BUILDINGS & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 9th April 2024

In the Chair: Councillor S. Wilkinson

Attendance:

P Councillor C. Birkett	A Councillor A. Goddard
P Councillor C. Burgess	P Councillor N. Gwynne
P Councillor J. Burnage	A Councillor R. Kohli
P Councillor M. Cooper	P Councillor J. Parker
P Councillor J. Critchley	P Councillor J. Urquhart
P Councillor I. Culley	
A Councillor S. Gidley	

Clerk: Judith Giles
Public: 0

Present:

Suzi Shilling – Business, Events & Tourism Officer
Debbie Forder – Events Manager
Howard Brisland – Building Manager

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Cllr. A. Goddard and Cllr. R. Kohli, & Cllr. S. Gidley

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr N. Gwynne & Cllr. J. Burnage – RAODS

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the Building & Town Committee Meeting held on 6th February 2024 were confirmed as a correct record.

PROPOSED: Cllr. J. Burnage

SECONDED: Cllr J. Parker

Matters Arising

Agenda item 8. Progress with HCC regarding speedwatch is being made. Buildings & Community Manager is meeting with Cllr. J. Critchley to discuss implementation.

Agenda item 9. 20MPH Proposal within Romsey Town Centre. Data has been sent to HCC as requested. Cllr. M. Cooper has written to HCC Martin Wiltshire, Assistant Manager – Safer Roads & Parking, Universal Services and has had an acknowledgement from the Directors Secretary. Cllr Cooper requested this will need following up.

Agenda item 12. Business, Events & Tourism Officer reported the Traction Engine Run will take place on Saturday 28th December this year

Agenda item 15. Cllr. N. Gwynne reported Romsey Future Projects now each have a unique Reference No.

Agenda item 16. Youth Democracy Event. Cllr. C. Birkett reported the event was a great success and indications are the schools would like to do it again.

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4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

5. ARCHIVIST REPORT

None received.

6. REVIEW OF BOOKINGS

The Events Manager reported bookings for 2023/24 have exceeded the budget. Future bookings for 2024/25 are looking positive.

7. FINANCE REPORT

Noted – no concerns.

Cllr. N. Gwynne asked when RTC funds are going to be reviewed and spread into separate accounts to reduce financial risk. The Chief Officer reported the Finance & Resources Committee will be looking at this once Romsey Extra fund has been transferred fully into the Romsey Town Council account.

Cllr. N. Gwynne asked who is responsible for the Earmarked Reserve War Horse Fund. The Chief Officer reported the monies in the War Horse EMR are funds raised by members of the public for the War Horse Statue placed in the park in 2015. The surplus funds are to be used only for the War Horse Statue for maintenance CCTV camera etc. RTC are just the authority looking after the fund.

Cllr. N. Gwynne asked when the Wilder Romsey Earmarked Reserve will be included RTC accounts. The Chief Officer confirmed this will take place at Year End 31st March 2024.

8. BUILDING AND ENVIRONMENT MANAGER'S REPORT (Appendix 1)

The Committee approved the cost of £650.00 for the 1974 Display Board

The external lighting at Woodley Village Hall will be in place for the autumn when evenings are drawing in.

9. BUSINESS, EVENTS & TOURISM OFFICER'S REPORT (Appendix 2)

Noted. Cllr Parker asked what Romsey Food Partnership is. The Business, Events & Tourism Officer confirmed it is a mixture of different people/ groups working together. They are still individual groups but all working as a partnership.

Cllr. I. Culley raised concerns about the conservation area in Romsey and the preservation of buildings. Cllr. M. Cooper reported the responsibility lies with the owners. Cllr. Cooper asked if Cllr. Culley can send him a list of buildings which he felt need attention and he will send to the TVBC Conservation Officer.

Cllr. N. Gwynne noted the Business, Events & Tourism Officer's report indicates an increase in workload. He asked if she could list what she would be prepared to drop and what are most important. She agreed to do this.

10. LETTER OF SUPPORT – FREEDOM CHURCH RESOLUTION NO.

It was **RESOLVED** to send a letter of support to Test Valley Planning Department for the Freedom Church construction of church and community hub

PROPOSED: Cllr. J. Parker

SECONDED: Cllr. J. Burnage

CARRIED

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11. HCC BENCHES IN ROMSEY

To clarify maintenance responsibility for HCC benches in the town centre.
Buildings & Environment Manager displayed HCC benches which need attention.
Chief Officer, Buildings & Environment Manager and Cllr. M. Cooper to put together a letter to Martin Wiltshire HCC Universal Services with a view to asking HCC if they are going to refurbish. If not, RTC are willing to take the assets as some of them are in a perilous state.
HCC will be requested to provide a list of street furniture.

12. MARSHALLING TRAINING

RECOMMENDATION: To fulfil insurance cover requirements the Chief Officer requests for Committee's approval to go ahead with "Chapter 8" training for Romsey Town Council Volunteer Marshals.

RESOLUTION NO. 20/49

To fulfil insurance cover requirements it was **RESOLVED** to go ahead with "Chapter 8" training for Romsey Town Council Volunteer Marshals.

PROPOSED: Cllr. N. Gwynne

SECONDED: Cllr. C. Birkett

CARRIED

13. GREENING CAMPAIGN

After discussion it was agreed RTC will not sign up for the Greening Campaign however will support another group but not take the lead.

14. STREET GREENING PROPOSAL

RECOMMENDATION: It is **PROPOSED** by Cllr. N. Gwynne and **SECONDED** by Cllr. J. Burnage to accept the Street Greening Proposal

RESOLUTION NO. 20/49

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the Street Greening Proposal

PROPOSED: Cllr. N. Gwynne

SECONDED: Cllr. J. Burnage

CARRIED

15. PROTECTING GRASS VERGES IN WINTERBOURNE ROAD

RECOMMENDATION: It is **PROPOSED** by Cllr. J. Burnage and **SECONDED** by Cllr. N. Gwynne RTC to purchase the bushes – pyracantha which will be added to the RTC maintenance contract with TVBC. A cost in the region of £650 will be incurred for set-up costs.

RESOLUTION NO. 20/50

It was **RESOLVED** to purchase suitable pyracantha bushes which will be added to the RTC maintenance contract with TVBC. A cost in the region of £650 will be incurred for set-up costs.

PROPOSED: Cllr. J. Burnage

SECONDED: Cllr. N. Gwynne

CARRIED

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16. WAYMARKERS

RECOMMENDATION: It is **PROPOSED** by Cllr. N. Gwynne and **SECONDED** by Cllr. J. Critchley to ask B&C Committee to confirm which quote they favour for refurbishment of the town's waymarkers.

RESOLUTION NO. 20/51

It was **RESOLVED** to approve Quote No. 1 subject to clarification of a few points. This recommendation will then be discussed at Finance & Resources Committee on 30th April to approve cost.

PROPOSED: Cllr. N. Gwynne

SECONDED: Cllr. J. Critchley

CARRIED

17. PROJECTS LIST WORKING GROUP

Cllr. N. Gwynne reported the process is working. He asked Councillors if he can have their scores so he can re-issue.

18. ROMSEY FUTURE

Nothing noteworthy to report.

19. MARK EDGERLEY – BENCH

It is **PROPOSED** by Cllr. C Burgess and **SECONDED** by Cllr. J. Critchley to install a bench in the town in memory of Mark Edgerley – retired Town Centre Manager

RESOLUTION NO. 20/52

It is **RESOLVED** to install a bench in the town in memory of Mark Edgerley – retired Town Centre Manager

PROPOSED: Cllr. C. Burgess

SECONDED: Cllr. J. Critchley

CARRIED

20. RIVER POLLUTION

RECOMMENDATION: It is **PROPOSED** by Cllr. C. Burgess and **SECONDED** by Cllr. I. Culley that Romsey Town Council:

1. Strongly opposes Southern Water disposing untreated wastewater into the River Test or its tributaries. The Council is therefore calling on Southern Water to fix the problem by improving its infrastructure more widely and at greater speed, and work with OFWAT and the Environment Agency to enable the required investment funding to be released. In addition, we are calling on all parties to inform and closely engage with affected communities and relevant agencies, including Romsey Town Council. Water quality must be frequently monitored, and transparency must be maintained by publishing all testing data promptly. This Council also condemns Southern Water for its disregard for the SSSI status of the River Test and for endangering the Public Health of the residents of Romsey.

Note: This is based on the motion carried by Test Valley Borough Council on 29 February 2024.

2. Join the Pan Parish River Pollution Forum of Test Valley Parish Councils setup to lobby Southern Water and central government.

Note: Minutes of their last meeting showing the participating parishes and their action plan (para 6) are online at located here: [attachments.asp](#) (houghtonparishcouncil.org).

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3. Invite Dr Nick Mills; Director of Southern Water's [Clean Rivers and Seas Task Force](#) to the next Full Council Meeting to present his company's plans to stop sewage overflows into the River Test.
4. Ask the Environment Agency (EA) to share their tests of water samples taken from the River Test within our parish. Such tests should indicate whether there is a risk to residents and animals.
5. Adopts a proactive approach with this ongoing issue to safeguard the health and safety of residents and animals. Such an approach will involve liaising with:
 - a. Houghton Parish Council (member of the Pan Parish River Pollution Forum)
 - b. both TVBC Environmental Health and the EA so an emergency action plan can be agreed with these Statutory Authorities and be ready for immediate implementation in the event of the EA confirming the water quality of the River Test poses a risk to health.

Note: Houghton PC is purchasing a river probe for continuous monitoring of the water quality of the River Test at Houghton and will share their data. The probe will send alerts when pollutants exceed certain levels. This will aid our proactive approach.

RESOLUTION NO. 20/53

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the above recommendation **PROPOSED** by Cllr. C. Burgess and **SECONDED** by Cllr. I. Culley. **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**
This resolution will be emailed to CEO – Southern Water, Environment Agency and TVBC - Environmental Health

21. MAYORAL AWARD SCHEME/ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD

Nomination – RAODS It was agreed to add to list

22. GRANTS

Rotary Club of Romsey Test - £1,000

PROPOSED: Cllr. J. Parker

SECONDED: Cllr. N. Gwynne

CARRIED

Romsey Young Carers - £200

PROPOSED: Cllr. N. Gwynne

SECONDED: Cllr. C. Burgess

CARRIED

Romsey Family Support Group - £750

PROPOSED: Cllr. C. Burgess

SECONDED: Cllr. M. Cooper

CARRIED

23. RETIREMENT – HOWARD BRISLAND – BUILDINGS & ENVIRONMENT MANAGER

The Chief Officer and Councillors thanked Howard Brisland - Buildings & Environment Manager for his excellent work improving the Town Hall to a very high standard over his eight years service, in particular the installation of a lift. Cllr. M. Cooper said Howard's improvements to the Town Hall over the years have made a big difference.

Meeting Closed: 9.44