#### In the Chair: Councillor K. Dunleavey

**Attendance:**

A. Cllr. D. Baverstock P. Cllr. J. Critchley

P. Cllr. J. Burnage P. Cllr. N. Daas

P. Cllr. J. Cairney P. Cllr. K. Dunleavey

P. Cllr. M. Cooper -. Cllr. M. Southey

P. Cllr. I. Culley P. Cllr. J. Parker

P. Cllr. C. Wise

Chief Officer: Judith Giles Present:

Public: 0 Mark Edgerley – Town Centre Manager

Debbie Forder – Events Manager

Howard Brisland – Building Manager

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies received from Cllr. D. Baverstock and Barbara Burbridge – Honorary Archivist

1. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

None

1. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Building & Town Committee Meeting held on 11th June 2019 were confirmed as a correct record.

**PROPOSED:** Cllr. J. Parker

**SECONDED:** Cllr. J. Cairney

**CARRIED**

**Matters Arising** - None

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1. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None**
2. **ARCHIVIST REPORT**

None received

1. **REVIEW OF BOOKINGS**

The Events Manager reported the income for 2019-20 to date suggests we will meet the projected budgeted income. The Court Room is in high demand and booked most days for the foreseeable future.

1. **FINANCE REPORT**

The Chief Officer presented the Month 3 Finance Report to the Committee. No areas of concern were identified. The Chief Officer to ensure £3,300 be transferred from EMR 7355 to General Reserve as agreed as the monies were not needed to cover Christmas Lights costs

1. **BUILDING MANAGER’S REPORT (Appendix 1)**

The Building Manager presented his report. Cllr. J. Parker asked who the appointed Consultants are for the engineering drawings with regards to a lift in the Town Hall. The Building Manager confirmed SFK Consultants. He will report back their conclusions at the next meeting.

1. **Budget 2020/21**

**RECOMMENDATION:** to recommend budget to Finance & Resources Committee

**RESOLUTION NO. 19/11**

After discussion it was **RESOLVED** to recommend budget 2020/21 to the Finance & Resources Committee

**PROPOSED:** Cllr. N. Daas

**SECONDED:** Cllr. J. Burnage

**CARRIED**

AGAINST: Cllr. J. Parker

1. **TOWN CENTRE MANAGER REPORT (Appendix 2)**

Concerns were highlighted with regards to the maintenance repairs required to Romsey road and pavements.

**RESOLUTION  NO. 19/12**

1. It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that a letter be sent to Hampshire Highways detailing concerns Romsey Town Council has with regards to the current condition of the roads and pavements in the area, in particular, the delays and quality of repairs. There are numerous prominent outstanding issues most or all of which have been notified to HCC including the disintegration of the surface in the Cornmarket and the disintegration of the granite sett island at the Plaza Roundabout. Furthermore, when pot holes are marked up with white paint it is often weeks or months before the repair work is actually undertaken.

1. If residents approach the Town Council relating to falls and injuries they have received as a result of upstanding paviours or broken surfaces it was **RESOLVED** that they be advised to contact HCC Legal Department in order to claim appropriate compensation for the injuries received in consequence of those falls.

**PROPOSED:** Cllr. M. Cooper

**SECONDED:** Cllr. J. Parker

**CARRIED**

1. **MARKET**

There has been quite a lot of interest from Market Traders in taking a stall at one of the markets. A replacement bike repair business is commencing on 10th August 2019, one of two companies that stepped forward to take vacant space. There is now a Croatian foodstall importing farm produced product, although the trader is uncertain of his future in UK. The picture Framer has returned and seems to be doing well

1. **TOWN SIGNS**

Three out of the five new Town Signs have been erected. It was suggested an official unveiling ceremony be arranged to co-incide with the Twinning visit from Paimpol on 14th September. The Chief Officer to arrange.

1. **EMERGENCY PLAN GROUP**

The Chief Officer reported the Annual General Meeting of the Emergency Plan ~Group will take place on 22nd October 2019. An Emergency Plan desk-top exercise will take place on 17th August 2019 in the Town Hall.

1. **GRANTS**

None

Meeting Closed 8.41p.m.

**Building Manager Report to Building and Town Committee 13th August 2019.**

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| 1 | **Drains** | The remedial works to the sewer access covers has now been completed. See inside and outside rear door. Previous reports have details. |
| 2. | **Water (Fresh)** | The full mains pressure water distribution system has now been implemented. Previous reports have details. |
| 3. | **Water (Hot)** | The two off ground floor toilets, failing, electric water heaters have been removed. Hot water is now supplied from the kitchen gas water heater. |
| 4. | **Garden** | Wall work will commence shortly. |
| 5. | **Staff Toilet** | This has had a new extractor fan fitted. This should be less noisy than the previous one. |
| 6. | **Office** | The kitchenette electric water heater failed and has been replaced. |
| 7. | **Mace Pole & Market Place Electrics** | I have had to spend a considerable amount of time on this, beyond which I believe should have been necessary. That been said I now believe things are agreed and should move forward at HCC’s pace. |
| 8. | **New Access To Basement** | Is currently being installed as part of the Market Place improvements. HCC have had some failures to communicate and therefore made some fundamental mistakes. Therefore, is not yet complete. I have had to invest a considerable amount of time in this, beyond which I believe should have been necessary. That being said I now believe things are agreed and should move forward at HCC’s pace. |
| 9. | **Budget** | There have been some major unplanned works. See items 1, 2, 3 & 6 above. However, with some movement of priorities I am still forecasting to be within the agreed budget for this year. |
| 10. | **Lift** | I have tasked a company of Consulting Engineers with the Feasibility Study. |

**Appendix 2**

**Mark L. Edgerley - Romsey Town Centre Manager**

**Report to RTC Building and Town Committee June & July**

**Introduction**

The formal opening of The Market Place took place on 23rd July, contractors still completing some minor snagging works. Due to use of faulty batches of tarmac the majority of the area needs to be planned off and relayed, 8th / 9th August are planned dates for these works.

Now seeing and hearing some very positive comments about the enhancements although a small band of local residents continue to “resist the change”

Church Place contractor cabins to be removed on 16th August, parking available from Saturday 17th

Market Place was used to great effect on Beggars Fair Day and through Carnival Week, buskers have used the space and we have a number of others looking at how they might benefit from using the area.

**Town Centre occupancy summary**

Please see Annex A

**Town Centre Events**

**The Mayor’s Picnic and Duck Race** attracted its usual large crowd in the Park and generated extra business in the Town Centre as the flow of people seemed even greater than previous years.

**The Beggars Fair** was deemed a great success, Romsey was once again filled with music and dance, including some spontaneous Jiving in The Market Place. There were two police incidents of note on the day neither directly related to the even.

On social media several people how clean and tidy the town was in that evening, this despite the TVBC cleanup being scheduled for following morning, this in contrast to a few years back when the council had to run their large road sweeper up Latimer Street to clear debris.

A number of local businesses reported record takings during Beggars Fair, clear evidence that the event contributes to the economic viability of our “High Street”

**The Carnival Week** was a success, with more public interest in bed races and more floats in the Parade. It was pleasing to see the town full during all the July events.

**Markets**

There has been quite a lot of interest from Market Traders interested in taking stall at one of the markets, we have replacement bike repair business starting on the 10th August, one of two companies that stepped forward to take vacant space. We now have a Croatian foodstall importing farm produced product, although trader is uncertain of his future in UK.

The picture Framer has returned ands seems to be doing well

**Business Support**

We had to cancel free digital event we planned with Newsquest, event did not generate enough interest from local businesses

**Romsey Future**

Launch of “Refill Romsey” was held on 27th July at the Saturday Market. So far, some twenty businesses will offer free water bottle refills, we need to get most to sign up on the “Refill App” but they are offering the service. As part of this project a potable water supply is being installed in the former horse trough by main entrance to Barclay’s Bank, funded as part of Market Place enhancement.

**Other issues**

It is good that Cllrs Gidley and Daas have taken up the cause of surface of the Cornmarket that continues to cause concern, the local Highway Management share our concerns but lack resources to repair it properly. Frankly the quality of repairs undertaken by the HCC contractor is little better than pathetic with workers spending longer sat in their vehicle than actually working.

We have supported an expression of interest bid made to Historic England for funding under the Historic High Streets Programme for enhancement works in the Cornmarket which will improve its appearance and usability for Markets and other events

We are very disappointed that for no reason yet conveyed to us the scheduled repairs to Latimer Street pavements were abandoned on the first day, but only after five workmen spent five hours waiting around in the street on day one of announced repairs. A total waste of public resources and frankly made HCC Highways look rather foolish. There is no indication as to when they will return to undertake the now urgent repairs but we understand plan is to do works under an overnight road closure.

**Mark L. Edgerley,**

**Romsey Town Centre Manager 5th August 2019**