

## **Romsey Town Council**

Town Hall  
1, Market Place  
Romsey  
SO51 8YZ

### **FULL COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes of the Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2023

**In the Chair: Cllr. J. Ray**

#### **Attendance:**

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

**Clerk:** Judith Giles

**Public:** 3

#### **1. PRAYERS**

The Reverend Thomas Wharton led prayers.

#### **2. APOLOGIES**

Cllr. A. Goddard, Cllr. M. Cooper and Cllr. R. Theron

#### **3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Cllr. N Gwynne and Cllr. J. Burnage - Romsey Festival

#### **4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

To receive and approve the accuracy of the Minutes meetings held as follows:-

The minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023 were duly confirmed

**PROPOSED:** Cllr. J. Burnage

**SECONDED:** Cllr. I. Culley

**CARRIED**

##### **Matters Arising**

Cllr Parker reported that TVBC had revised the key dates for the review and adoption of the 2020-2040 local plan as follows:

Regulation 18 Stage 2 – first draft of the revised local plan for public comment including housing allocation – Q1 2024

Regulation 19 – second draft for public comment – Q1 2025

Plan submission to government – Q2 2025

Examination in public – Q3 2025

Adoption – Q2 2026.

Cllr. J. Parker reported the responsible TVBC officer advised that the study into the new Crosfield Hall was suspended to explore legal and other constraints and is now in the process of being re-started. This is at variance with more optimistic timescales previously reported.

Andover to received £18.3 million from government levelling up fund. This should free up funds for regeneration of South of Romsey Town Centre.

##### **TVBC Report**

With regards to the Test Valley Youth Day, Cllr. J. Burnage reported she has not heard back to see if there is anything RTC can do.

To receive and approve the accuracy of the Minutes meeting held as follows:-  
The minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023 were duly confirmed

**PROPOSED:** Cllr. J. Parker

**SECONDED:** Cllr. J. Burnage

**CARRIED**

**Matters Arising**

Cllr. J. Parker asked the Chief Officer if PfP had been in touch with regards to queries regarding the Nightingale Community Hub. The Chief Officer said she has not had a reply after sending several emails.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION 7.35P.M.**

**PROPOSED:** Cllr. R. Kohit

**SECONDED:** Cllr. C. Birkett

**CARRIED**

**To receive formal presentations from individuals or organisations which are an identified agenda item:-**

Chief Inspector Hayley O'Grady introduced herself and said she has been in her new job since January 2023, before that in Southampton for 21 years. The Chairman, Cllr. J. Ray asked if there is a plan to open police stations and could Romsey Police Station be one that could be re-opened. Chief Inspector Hayley O'Grady said the PCC would need to answer that, but she understands it is being looked at.

A member of the public asked how they are going to address anti-social behaviour. The Chief Inspector reported neighbourhoods' teams are dealing with this. It is planned to have a 24 hrs police presence in the future.

Cllr. J. Critchley asked are we likely to see an improvement to the 101 system. The Chief Inspector agreed there are issues and said the police are trying to improve the service. Cllr. J. Burnage asked what police cover is provided in outside areas such as Woodley, Tadburn, and Abbotswood and are there going to be more frequent patrols. The Chief Inspector said they are trying to do as much preventative work as possible. The planned 24hr police presence will target those areas as there will be additional officers to give 24hr coverage.

Cllr. C. Birkett raised concerns regarding ASBO coming in from Southampton and Redbridge. Sgt. C. Challis reported ASBO has dropped in Romsey in last 3 years and is the lowest it has been for years.

Cllr. C. Burgess said it was reported in the Romsey Advertiser it is taking up to 3 weeks to address a stolen car. The Chief Inspector said all crime reports are risk assessed. She could not go into detail but reported she is comfortable the response given was correct.

Why delays in assigning cases such as this.

Sgt. Chris Challis reported Romsey has a Neighbour Enforcement team now in addition to a response team. Missing people is a big workload which now has a dedicated team. He reported overall crime in the Test Valley is still dropping. Shoplifting perceived to be a big problem in Romsey but in reality is not as bad as many areas. Shopwatch WhatsApp Group is very good, but an information tool only. Retailers and businesses must report any crime to 101.

Police resources will not get put into place if it is not reported. Residential burglaries are low in Romsey, however burglaries in businesses are quite high. General Assaults are low.

Sgt. C. Challis reported CCTV in the town is not good. He would prefer less cameras which do a better job. Cllr. I. Culley is pleased the police are moving to 24hrs a day plan. Sgt. C. Challis reported if there is a major incidence elsewhere the police would have to attend.

Cllr. J. Parker asked about drugs and knife crime. Sgt. C. Challis confirmed drugs and knife crime is very low in the area.

**To receive verbal reports from Borough and County Councillors of what has been happening at Borough and County level which is of interest to Romsey Town Councillors**

**TVBC Report**

Cllr. N. Gwynne reported Andover has received 18.3 million for regeneration phase 2. Phil North -, Leader TVBC has stated that this will help Romsey regeneration in that it leaves more TVBC monies available for use in Romsey.

Cllr. J. Parker – work is progressing on revised the revised Local Plan.

**HCC Report**

**None**

**Questions from members of the public to Borough Councillors**

**None**

**Questions from members of the public to the County Councillor**

**None**

**Questions from Town Councillors to Borough Councillors**

Cllr. I. Culley asked if the cobblestones outside the Abbey could be attended to as they are virtually unwalkable. He was asked to report to report on Hampshire Highways.

Cllr. I. Culley reported the sign handing outside what was the Abbey Hotel is dangerous. He was asked to report it to TVBC as dangerous structure.

**Questions from Town Councillors to County Councillor**

**Public participation ended – 20.27hrs**

**5. PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Cllr. J. Critchley proposed that the Full Council accept the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2023, 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023, 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023 and 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023 (draft)

**PROPOSED:** Cllr. J. Critchley

**SECONDED:** Cllr. J Parker

**CARRIED**

**6. BUILDINGS AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**

Cllr. S. Wilkinson proposed that the Full Council accept the minutes of the Buildings and Community Committee meetings held on and 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023 and 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023(draft)

**PROPOSED:** Cllr. S. Wilkinson

**SECONDED:** Cllr. N. Gwynne

**CARRIED**

Cllr. J. Parker asked if an update has been received from Tom Crutchfield, TVBC regarding FMC project. The Chief Officer reported she is still waiting for a reply.

Cllr. N. Gwynne reported he has spoken to Kevin Harrington, TVBC with regards to getting an estimate for the “greening-up” of the town centre. Cllr. N. Gwynne will then bring a proposal to Council. He also confirmed benches in the King’s Chase Play Area will be bought and installed at a cost of £1,100 each.

**7. FINANCE & RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

Cllr. J. Critchley proposed that the Full Council accept the minutes of the Finance & Resources Committee meetings held on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2023 and 24<sup>th</sup> October 2023(draft)

**PROPOSED:** Cllr. J. Critchley

**SECONDED:** Cllr. J. Burnage

**CARRIED**

- i) **ANNUAL RETURN 2022-23 – ROMSEY TOWN COUNCIL**  
**RESOLUTION NO. 23/31**  
It was **RESOLVED** to note approval of 2022-23 Annual Return from BDO-LLP External Auditor and recommend to Full Council  
**PROPOSED:** Cllr, S. Wilkinson  
**SECONDED:** Cllr. J. Burnage  
**CARRIED**  
**RECOMMENDATION:** Full Council note approval of 2022-23 Annual Return from BDO-LLP External Auditor  
**RESOLUTION NO. 20/40**  
It was **RESOLVED** to note approval of 2022-23 Annual Return from BDO-LLP External Auditor  
**PROPOSED:** Cllr. J. Parker  
**SECONDED:** Cllr. S. Wilkinson  
**CARRIED**
- ii) **ANNUAL RETURN 2023-23 – ROMSEY EXTRA PARISH COUNCIL**  
**RESOLUTION NO. 23/32**  
It was **RESOLVED** to note approval of 2022-23 Annual Return from BDO-LLP External Auditor and recommend to Full Council  
**PROPOSED:** Cllr. N. Gwynne  
**SECONDED:** Cllr. J. Critchley  
**RECOMMENDATION:** Full Council note approval of 2022-23 Annual Return from BDO-LLP External Auditor  
**RESOLUTION NO. 20/41**  
It was **RESOLVED** to note approval of 2022-23 Annual Return from BDO-LLP External Auditor  
**PROPOSED:** Cllr. J. Parker  
**SECONDED:** Cllr. N. Gwynne  
**CARRIED**
- iii) **BUDGET 2024-25**  
**RESOLUTION NO. 23/33**  
It was **RESOLVED** in order to sustain the agreed annual target of £50,000 for projects.  
F&R recommend to Full Council an increase of 5% on the 2024-25 precept. – from £56.93 per annum to £59.77 on a Band D Equivalent  
**PROPOSED:** Cllr. N. Gwynne  
**SECONDED:** Cllr. S. Wilkinson  
**CARRIED**  
**RECOMMENDATION:** in order to sustain the agreed annual target of £50,000 for projects F&R recommend to Full Council an increase of 5% on the 2024-25 precept. – from £56.93 per annum to £59.77 on a Band D Equivalent  
**RESOLUTION NO. 20/42**  
It was **RESOLVED** to delay decision until Full Council meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024.  
**PROPOSED:** Cllr. J. Parker  
**SECONDED:** Cllr. Critchley  
**CARRIED**

## **ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE**

Southampton Road

Cllr. C. Burgess proposed that the Full Council accept the minutes of the Allotments Committee meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2023 and 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023

**PROPOSED:** Cllr. C. Burgess

**SECONDED:** Cllr. J. Burnage

**CARRIED**

Cllr. J. Parker asked why expenditure is funded by allotment fees and EMR – Cllr. C. Burgess will take Cllr. J. Parker's observation to the Allotment Committee for clarification

## **Kings Chase**

Cllr. J. Burnage proposed that the Full Council accept the minutes of the Allotments Committee meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2023

**PROPOSED:** Cllr. J. Burnage

**SECONDED:** Cllr. C. Birkett

**CARRIED**

## **8. ROMSEY FESTIVAL GRANT**

It is **PROPOSED** by Cllr. N. Gwynne and **SECONDED** by Cllr. J. Burnage Romsey Festival Grant is increased from £1,000 per annum to £1,400 per annum.

A discussion was held and it was agreed for proposal to be an agenda item at the Finance & Resources Committee meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

## **9. COUNCIL MEETING USE OF IPADS/LAPTOPS**

The Chief Officer reported those Councillors who have requested iPADS have been ordered and should be with them shortly.

## **10. ROMSEY FUTURE**

Cllr. J. Parker reported the study into the new Crosfield Hall maybe suspended. Getting mixed messages from TVBC and re-started.

Andover to receive 18.3 million from government levelling up fund. This should free up funds for regeneration of Romsey Town Centre.

## **11. ROMSEY TOWN COUNCIL/ROMSEY EXTRA PARISH COUNCIL MERGER**

The Chief Officer reported she is still awaiting payment of VAT claim from HMRC but not had a reply to date. She is currently changing REPC bank accounts into Romsey Town Council name.

## **12. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS ATTENDING MEETINGS OF EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS**

Cllr. J. Parker – Romsey Forum, TV Tourism Review, Romsey Future, Romsey Future Community Event, Community Resilience Project Group with Chief Officer, Woodley Village Hall AGM, TV Strategic Partnership

Cllr. Gwynne - Romsey Future Community Event.

## **13. CORRESPONDENCE**

None

## **14. MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor thanked the Chief Officer for organising a very smooth running Remembrance Sunday. The Councillors also agreed it was a great success

**Meeting Closed 9.03hrs**

**Next Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024**