

Romsey Town Council

Town Hall
1, Market Place
Romsey
SO51 8YZ

FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th September 2023

In the Chair: Cllr. J. Ray

Attendance:

P Councillor C. Birkett	A 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. Ray
P Councillor I. Culley	P Councillor J. Urquhart
P Councillor S. Gidley	A Councillor S. Wilkinson
P Councillor A. Goddard	P Councillor C. Burgess

Clerk: Judith Giles

Public: 0

1. PRAYERS

The Verger – Chris Harpham led prayers.

2. APOLOGIES

Cllr. N Gwynne, Cllr. R. Kohli & Cllr. S. Wilkinson

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th July 2023 were duly confirmed

PROPOSED: Cllr. Cllr. J. Burnage

SECONDED: Cllr. Culley

CARRIED

Matters Arising

Cllr. C. Birkett to be added to attendance list

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION 7.35P.M.

PROPOSED: Cllr. J. Parker

SECONDED: Cllr. J. Burnage

CARRIED

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

None

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. J. Parker reported progress has been made on the Local Plan. He advised the current TVBC Officers are looking at housing allocation and employment allocation. It is hoped progress will be made by October 2023 as to what the settlement boundaries are. Site assessments should be sorted and the draft Local Plan available by November 2023. It will then be taken to Council January 2024 followed by a Public Consultation February 2024. Final version will then go out for examination by the public followed by subsequent adoption. Cllr. J. Burnage attended the TVBC Youth Day. Youth in Romsey were not there so Cllr. J. Burnage to contact them and see if there is anything RTC can do. It was discussed to hold a similar event in the Town Hall.

HCC Report

1. Cllr. M. Cooper reported HCC has announced a Falls Prevention Week on 18 – 22 September.
2. He has received lots of complaints regarding overgrown hedgerows on the highway which are the responsibility of Hampshire Highways. Cllr. M. Cooper has a standard letter for giving to residents for cases where vegetation is overgrowing pavements. This is currently being reviewed.
3. Avon Crescent is being resurfaced next week.
4. Many motorway closures imminent. Junction 3 on M27 is being resurfaced. Overnight closures 9.00p.m. to 6.00p.m. 28th September to 16th October 2023. Best to avoid this junction if possible. Closure planned on M271 for one day. **(Appendix 1)**
5. Cllr. M. Cooper reported HCC consultation to find £132 million budget savings in addition to the £685 million already removed from the budget over the last 10 years or so has ended. This is to avoid having to issue a section 114 notice in 2025-2026 which would restrict all new expenditure.

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 reported a member of the public has contacted him regarding the Hampshire Homes site off Cupernham Lane entrance where a slope has been built down to houses. He is concerned a proper design report has not been carried out. Cllr. J. Critchley also has concerns regarding the slope. Cllr. M. Cooper thinks it is a temporary slope to protect the existing dwellings. Cllr. J. Burnage to investigate.

Questions from Town Councillors to County Councillor

Cllr. C Burgess reported overgrown hedges in Knatchbull Close and Southampton Road. Cllr. M. Cooper will post his letter thru' their doors detailing the procedure to be used. He reported he also has to use the same reporting procedure as the public.

Public participation ended – 8.35p.m.

5. PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr. J. Critchley proposed that the Full Council accept the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 22nd June 2023, 13th July 2023, 3rd August 2023 24th August 2023 (draft)

PROPOSED: Cllr. J. Critchley

SECONDED: Cllr. J. Parker

CARRIED

Cllr. J. Critchley reported there is a serious reduction in planning applications. RTC Administration Officer Faye Godwin is now putting decisions from TVBC on the agenda which Council are pleased about.

Cllr. C. Burgess asked what the process is regarding the timeline for Planning Applications. Cllr. M. Cooper reported this is dealt with by the TVBC Planning Officer. Cllr. J. Parker said RTC are just a consultee so have no timescale. Ideal timescale applications should be determined in 8 weeks. Some more complicated take a lot longer. Ultimately down to TVBC Planning Officer.

6. BUILDINGS AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

Cllr. J. Parker proposed that the Full Council accept the minutes of the Buildings and Community Committee meetings held on 6th June 2023 and 1st August 2023(draft)

PROPOSED: Cllr. J. Parker

SECONDED: Cllr. J Burnage

CARRIED

7. FINANCE & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Cllr. J. Critchley proposed that the Full Council accept the minutes of the Finance & Resources Committee meetings held on 27th June 2023 and 22nd August 2023(draft)

PROPOSED: Cllr. J. Critchley

SECONDED: Cllr. I. Culley

CARRIED

8. ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE

Southampton Road

Cllr. C. Burgess proposed that the Full Council accept the minutes of the Allotments Committee meeting held on 10th July 2023

PROPOSED: Cllr. C. Burgess

SECONDED: Cllr. A. Goddard

CARRIED

Cllr. C. Burgess to request Finance Report from Southampton Road Allotments

Kings Chase

Cllr. C. Birkett proposed that the Full Council accept the minutes of the Allotments Committee meeting held on 3rd August 2023

PROPOSED: Cllr. C. Birkett

SECONDED: Cllr. J Burnage

CARRIED

9. CIL/S106 FUNDING

Cllr. J. Critchley presented a paper regarding funding and timescales for CIL and S106 funds. He reported S106 has a healthy fund, however not easy to access. Contacts very helpful. Processes of two quite different and timescales. Cllr. J. Parker asked how much flexibility is there in the interpretation of open spaces and now we have wider boundaries how could we use. Cllr. J. Critchley said there some flexibility. Cllr. J. Parker reported that funds coming from ex REPC do not have conditions.

10. COUNCIL MEETING USE OF IPADS/LAPTOPS

The Chief Officer reported those Councillors who have requested iPADS will receive them on the return to work of the Building Manager who has ordered them.

11. REMOVAL OF BENCHES – OLD BURIAL GROUND, ABBEY WATER

The Chief Officer reported the benches removed from the Old Burial Ground, Abbey Water will be replaced imminently. Anti-social behaviour must be reported to 101 to make the police aware.

12. ROMSEY TOWN COUNCIL/ROMSEY EXTRA PARISH COUNCIL PROPOSED MERGER

The Chief Officer reported she is waiting for the REPC Annual Return 2023 to be signed off by the External Auditor. She has also made a VAT claim to HMRC but not had a reply to date.

13. ROMSEY TOWN CENTRE FOOTPATHS

The Chief Officer furnished Council with an email from Nick Adams-King – Lead Cabinet Member (Highways, Transport, Environment, Countryside & Communities) detailing map of areas in Romsey where work will be undertaken to improve footpaths.

20.41 Cllr. S Gidley joined the meeting

14. ROMSEY FUTURE

RECOMMENDATION: It is **PROPOSED** by Cllr. M. Cooper and **SECONDED** by Cllr. J. Critchley to write to TVBC Chief Executive informing him that Romsey Town Council supports the broad concepts defined in the South of the Town Centre project and wishes to see it progressed.

It is now a considerable time since the commissioning of reports into both the new Crosfield Hall and the bus interchange. RTC asks to be updated on current proposals by the end of October, including any detailed planning and also the proposed project timeline for its various components including:-

1. The design construction and commissioning of the new Crosfield Hall near the rapids
2. The re-development of the old Crosfield Hall site.
3. The redevelopment of the bus station site.
4. The parallel creation of pedestrian permeability across Broadwater Road.
5. The improvement of pedestrian links between the Town and the new Crosfield site

RESOLUTION NO. 23/28

It was **RESOLVED** the Chief Officer write to TVBC Chief Executive informing him that Romsey Town Council supports the broad concepts defined in the South of the Town Centre project and wishes to see it progressed.

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PROPOSED: Cllr. M. Cooper

SECONDED: Cllr. J. Critchley

CARRIED

Cllr. J. Parker reported the Romsey Future Programme Board presented tracker update on projects including two from RTC. He reported he aired his concerns that no progress has been made on many of the projects.

Future Events/Meetings

Stakeholder Meeting Ganger - 27th September 2023

Community Event - 19th November

15. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS ATTENDING MEETINGS OF EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

Cllr. J. Parker – Woodley Village Hall, Abbotswood Community Association, Romsey Future Program Board, Romsey Chamber of Commerce Reception, Romdag on behalf of Romsey Town Mayor

16. CORRESPONDENCE

None

17. MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

Meeting Closed 20.51hrs

Next Meeting 21st November 2023