

Romsey Town Council

Town Hall
1, Market Place
Romsey
SO51 8YZ



You are hereby summoned to attend the **Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30p.m.** of the above-named Council convened by the Town Mayor (Councillor J. Ray) and to be held in **THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, ROMSEY, HAMPSHIRE** on **TUESDAY 30th May 2023**

AGENDA – ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

1. **Apologies**
2. **Declaration of Interests**
3. **Minutes**
To confirm and sign the Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 19th April 2022
4. **Annual Report**
To receive the Annual Report of the Council from the Town Mayor, Cllr. N. Gwynne and Chief Officer, Judith Giles
5. **Audited Statement**
To receive the audited Annual Return of the Council's accounts for the year to the 31st March 2022.
6. **Finances**
To receive Year End Accounts for March 2022.
7. **Mayor's Charity**
To receive a copy of the Accounts for the Mayors Charity – Year to Date
8. **County and Borough Councillors**
To receive written observations of the County Councillor for Romsey and of District (Borough) Councillors for Romsey Wards.
9. **Reports from the Floor**
To receive any other reports from the floor, including the Honorary Archivist, non-elected Representatives on Outside Bodies, Elected Representatives on outside Bodies, Youth Council Representatives.
The above are invited to present their written reports.
10. **Parishioner's Questions**
To receive questions from parishioners



In the Chair: Councillor Karen Dunleavy, Romsey Town Mayor

ATTENDANCE:

Attendance:

Attendance:

P Councillor D. Baverstock	P Councillor N. Gwynne
A Councillor J. Cairney	P Councillor S. Lamb
P Councillor M. Cooper	A Councillor J. Parker
A Councillor J. Critchley	P Councillor J. Ray
A Councillor I. Culley	- Councillor M. Southey
P Councillor N. Daas	A Councillor C. Wise
P Councillor J. Burnage	P Councillor S. Wilkinson

Clerk. Judith Giles

Members of Public: 17

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr. J. Cairney, Cllr. J. Critchley, Cllr. I. Culley, Cllr. J. Parker,
Cllr. C. Wise

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 16TH April 2019 were agreed and signed as a true record

PROPOSED: Cllr. J. Burnage

SECONDED: Cllr. M. Cooper

CARRIED

Matter Arising:-

None

4. ANNUAL REPORT

The Annual Report was received from the outgoing Mayor, Councillor K. Dunleavy and the Chief Officer, Judith Giles

Chief Officer Report from Judith Giles

In view of COVID-19 restrictions an Annual Parish Meeting has not been held since April 2019. All Council meetings were held virtually. The Town Hall was completely closed in full lockdown periods and staff worked from home. Civic events did not take place as well as all Christmas Events, Antiques Fair, Markets etc. Covid guidelines were followed throughout this difficult time and the Town Hall is now open and staff back working in the office. Town Hall income was hit throughout this



period, but government grants have helped. Bookings are now good, in particular wedding ceremonies. The filmshows are back although still with reduced numbers. In 2021 a new lift was installed which has made a great difference to the hiring of the Council Chamber. Heather Stevens, Mayor's Secretary/Administrator retired in March 2022 and has been replaced by Nicqui Chatterley. Lisa Mortimer, Town & Tourism Officer left in March 2022. This role is currently being advertised as a full time position. The Piazza in the Market Place is proving to be very popular with café/bars having tables outside giving a continental atmosphere, The market is also popular on the Piazza which now includes a Romsey Makers Market every Sunday. It is hoped all town events are able to take place again in 2022.

Mayor's Report from Cllr. Karen Dunleavy

In view of the Covid restrictions in place the Council did not meet in person from March 2020 until May 2021. During this time all our meetings were held virtually chaired by the then Chair and Mayor of Romsey Town Council, Cllr Janet Burnage. Since May 2021 we have held all our meetings face to face in line with government guidelines. These meetings include: Full Council, Town and Buildings, Finance and Resources and Planning. Planning is now held jointly with Romsey Extra Parish Council and is working well.

The staff at the Town Hall have returned to working in the Town Hall after a year of working from home and have as always worked tirelessly for the good of the Council.

We have, at long last, had the lift installed in the Town Hall. I have found this a great asset and I know many others have as well. Having a lift installed has opened up the Council Chamber to use by a wider variety of groups and therefore better serves the town.

As Chair and Mayor, I have attended many events in the town representing the Council, including the Songs of Praise in the Market Place just after restrictions were lifted. It was wonderful to be back in the company of fellow Romsonians singing in the Market Place. Unfortunately, the Christmas Carol singing in the Market Place had to be cancelled due to Covid and I look forward to December 2022 being Covid free and able to meet as in years past.

I hand over the Chair of the Council on 17th May 2021 and wish my Deputy, Cllr Neil Gwynne, all good wishes for his turn as Chair of Romsey Town Council for 2022-23

5. AUDITED STATEMENT

The Audited statement of accounts for the year to 31st March 2021 was approved.
(Appendix 1)

PROPOSED: Cllr. M. Cooper

SECONDED: J. Ray

CARRIED

6. FINANCES TO 31ST MARCH 2021

The accounts for the year ending 31st March 2021 were approved (See Appendix 2)

PROPOSED: Cllr. J. Burnage

SECONDED: Cllr. N. Gwynne

CARRIED

MINUTES**ROMSEY TOWN COUNCIL****ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, TUESDAY 19th April 2022****COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, ROMSEY****3****7. MAYOR'S CHARITY**

Mayor's Charity Account was received. Total Funds as at 31st May 2022 is currently £1,811.30.

8. COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS**Cllr. Mark Cooper, County Councillor for Romsey Division Report
2019-2020, 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 to Romsey Town Council**

The last Romsey Town Council Annual Parish Meeting was in April 2019 which reported on the year 2018 to 2019. The various lockdowns and cessation of meetings in public from 23rd March 2020 onward meant no APM's in 2020 and 2021. This report, therefore, represents three council years. The first few weeks of 2020's lockdown were very quiet but by the summer my daily casework load was back to full volume and meetings of the Council were reinstated but only on Teams. On 6th May 2021 Government legislation forced us to return to 'live' meetings. Councillor attendance at Teams meetings was very high; at the same time there was no travel involved. When one bears in mind that there are 78 County Councillors and also the large size of Hampshire the carbon footprint of meeting attendance in Winchester is considerable. Whilst I prefer live meetings and the face to face, (apparently now referred to as f2f), interaction involved, it does seem a retrograde step by the government to force all committee meetings at County, Borough and Town to be live. If we are to meet sustainability targets and 'carbon net zero' we need to move to a hybrid way of working; this is already happening with many businesses and professions. Why not Local Government as well. At least the many briefings councillors receive and informal panel meetings are now held on Teams.

1 The County Council In 2022 Hampshire County Council absorbs 74% of Romsey residents' Council Taxes. HCC's remit includes Adult Services; Children's Services; Property Services - there are 7,000 HCC buildings including schools, libraries, discovery centres and social care centres; Culture and Heritage Services such as Archives, three Arts Centres and 13 museums; Countryside, with 87 sites covering 4,000 hectares, including seven country parks, five national nature reserves, 14 scheduled ancient monuments, 34 SSSI's, five outdoor activity centres and the River Hamble. Hampshire is the highways, traffic and transport authority, whilst economic development and waste planning is also covered. The County is the waste disposal authority and owns 26 Household Waste Recycling Sites of which Bunny Lane, near Romsey, is one.

The last County Council elections were on 6th May 2021. Romsey Town Division residents re-elected me to a fifth term on the County Council with 53% of the vote. Turn-out was 45% which was slightly higher than in 2017.

There's no better place on the planet than Romsey to represent at Hampshire County Council.

The boundary of the County Division is not coterminous with the three Test Valley Borough Council Romsey Wards. At present, the Town Council Wards do not match either. This is something Test Valley will try to sort out in the coming year. Suffice it to



say that the Romsey Town County Division coincides with the built up area of Romsey except the Abbotswood and Five Elms estates which are in the Romsey Rural County Division and the Parish of Romsey Extra.

My County colleagues voted me back on to the Regulatory Committee, which is the county's planning committee, very much my area of specialisation. Planning site visits are relatively common and over the last 17 years I've got to know some interesting and remote corners of Hampshire. The most recent site visit was to the Alton Incinerator site. County Councillors refused the application, 12 - 3, against officer advice. I remain Group spokesperson on Regulatory. I also continue to serve on the River Hamble Harbour Authority Management Committee which reflects my continuing interest in all matters maritime.

When the County Council's Annual Meeting took place Covid restrictions were still prevalent and we were required to sit at 2 metre intervals to minimise infection spread. As the County has 78 members that is not easy to achieve; the meeting took place at the Ageas Bowl - and, yes, we were all sat at 2 metre intervals. It was like being in the main hall at school sitting 'O' levels.

2 The Market Place Enhancement Through 2019 and 2021 I have served on the **Romsey Town Centre Enhancement Project Board**. This was a small Councillor and Officer group who designed and enabled the improvements in Bell Street, Church Street and the Market Place. Back in 1999 and 2000 I had campaigned for a Market Place Enhancement but the County withdrew the funding because of local opposition. This time a more enlightened County aided by Section 106 developer funding, pressed on with the enhancements despite a small but vociferous opposition who wanted to keep the Market Place as a roundabout for cars. I strongly supported the design, layout and colour palette and was especially keen to ensure the paved part of the Market Place was in full sunlight whilst the buff coloured running surface is redolent of the Hampshire rural roads I remember from the 1950's. I am pleased to say that I am frequently buttonholed by residents who have told me how much they are enjoying the new piazza. I am reminded of a Town Council meeting in 1986 or '87. We were discussing paving the Cornmarket. I opined how good it would be to have continental cafe tables and chairs in the open air here, in Romsey, 'just like being in France.' A voice from the public gallery scowled, "This ain't France, Councillor!"

3 Pedestrianising The Hundred In the Spring of 2020 the Town Centre Manager and I asked Hampshire County Council to make it easier for people to socially distance in Romsey Town centre by putting in place a temporary closure of The Hundred. The County Council responded, eventually, by installing temporary barriers. The temporary closure proved popular with many Romsey residents and the ambience of the Town Centre was improved. However, the impact on the lives of residents living to the west of the town and in Cherville Street, Greatbridge Road and especially in Portersbridge Street was detrimental. I was in regular contact with County officers to try and seek a solution and a local developer told me he would finance a method to close The Hundred between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. However, the County took the view that even temporary daytime closure was not viable as it would require staff on site to open and close the barriers seven days a week.



I have now made the case that the vehicle running lane through the central part of The Hundred, east of Boots, needs to be made narrower to allow a wider and more comfortable space for pedestrians and the whole surface levelled using similar materials as were used in the Market Place. I think I'm pushing at an open door but the issue may be funding. Either way it is important that the Market Place and the potential new developments that are part of Romsey Future's 'South of the Town Centre' project are linked by an attractive 'corridor' which encourages pedestrians to move freely between the two areas. Additionally, I have met with the Romsey and District Society which is also concerned that The Hundred should be upgraded and made more pedestrian friendly.

4 Grants to local organisations County Councillors have a Devolved Grant Budget which is normally £8,000 a year. This provides seed-corn funding for small local charities and organisations. Applicants need to let me know whether I approve of the grant bids in principle and then apply on the County website; each set of forms is emailed to me before I decide whether or not to offer a grant. The scheme has been running since 2012 and over that time I have awarded 121 grants in total. Some of the grants awarded in the last three Council years include:-

- 1 Romsey Abbey Primary Sch. Funding to assist PTA install a large climbing frame.
Paid June 2019 £1,000
- 2 Romsey Storytelling Festival. Paid June 2019
£450
- 3 Romsey War Memorial Archive Exhibition costs. Paid June 2019
£250
- 4 Youth in Romsey Music Festival. Funding youth participation in the Beggars' Fair.
Paid July 2019 £750
- 5 Romsey Roses Back to Netball funding kit, equipment and insurance. Paid July 2019
£500
- 6 Romsey Town Council Christmas Lights; replacement lamps and wiring. Paid August
2019 £1,000
- 7 Romsey Abbey Primary School. Drawing Workshop Paid Sep 2019
£250
- 8 Prescription Art Test Valley. Funding charity's courses and materials. Paid Oct 2019
£500
- 9 Youth in Romsey. Charity craft and activity resources. Paid November 2019
£800
- 10 Hampshire Youth Parliament funding via Dmitrijs Meiksans MYP. Paid January 2020
£250
- 11 Friends of Romsey War Memorial Park 100th anniversary celebration. Paid Jan 2020
£500
- 12 Romsey Festival. Funding contribution to the 12th Festival Brochure Paid Feb 2020
£900
- 13 Romsey Chamber Music Festival. Charity costs to put on music concerts in Romsey.
Paid Feb 2020 £400
- 14 Romsey ScrubHub. Materials for 224 volunteers making masks and scrubs for care
homes. Paid Apr 2020 £500

MINUTES**ROMSEY TOWN COUNCIL****ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, TUESDAY 19th April 2022****COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, ROMSEY****6**

- 15 MHA Test Valley Live at Home. A charity which supports the elderly in their own homes. Paid April 2020 £500
- 16 Romsey ScrubHub. Material for aprons for staff at the Leonard Cheshire Home, Romsey. Paid August 2020 £250
- 17 Romsey Town Youth Football Club Equipment. Paid Aug 2020 £400
- 18 FareShare Southern Central. This is a food redistribution charity; Paid Oct 2020 £1000
- 19 Prescription Art Test Valley Singing Courses, Oct £500
- 20 Youth in Romsey Club resources. Paid Oct 2020 £800
- 21 Youth in Romsey; furnishing of new counselling space Paid October 2020 £708
- 22 Prescription Art Test Valley, a charity support group for patients referred by local GPs . Paid Oct 2020 £750
- 23 Romsey Town Council. Romsey Christmas Lights. Renewal of lighting sets etc paid Nov 2020 £1000
- 24 Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership. Railway Station House. Legal and survey costs 2021 £1000
- 25 Greenbuttercup CIC Independent Living and Well Being workshops mainly for dementia. Paid Jan 2021 £650
- 26 Emergency Funding co-ordinated by Community First for Hampshire's vulnerable children/families 2021. £2000
- 27 Unity. Contribution to the Test Valley Covid Helpline. Paid Jan 2021 £500
- 28 Romsey Opportunity Group. Repair of playground equipment. Paid Feb 2021 £400
- 29 Romsey Town Council Romsey Christmas lights £1000
- 30 Youth in Romsey Counselling for Young People £2000
- 31 Artful Collective CIC Drawing Workshops in Romsey Abbey £250
- 32 Romsey Young Carers 2021 Christmas Appeal £500
- 33 Romsey Carnival 100s in The Hundred £500
- 34 Romsey Opportunity Group Makaton Sign Language Training £500
- 35 Romsey Chamber Music Festival 2021 paid August 2021 £500
- 36 Romsey Opportunity Group Playground repairs paid February 2022 £1500

MINUTES**ROMSEY TOWN COUNCIL****ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, TUESDAY 19th April 2022****COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, ROMSEY****7****5 Romsey's Causeway & Flood Alleviation**

After a long closure in 2020 the Causeway reopened with a new bridge installed. The bridge is part of Romsey's flood alleviation scheme and will allow water stored on the flood plain to the west to re-enter the River Test. The scheme, which has been overseen by the Environment Agency, cost £6.2 million in total with £1.49 million from Hampshire County Council, which is the flood authority for the area, £325,000 from TVBC and £1.15 million from the Southern Region Flood and Coastal Committee and the rest from central Government. The work included field bunds to the west of the town and drainage works in Middlebridge Street. The permanent flood alleviation scheme follows the severe flooding in Romsey in 2013-2014 when 186 properties and businesses were inundated. A formal opening of the Flood Alleviation Scheme is scheduled for 8th July 2022.

6 Parking Permits up from £15 to £50 a year A bad news story, I'm afraid. The administration of on-street Residents' Parking Permits has been taken back by Hampshire County Council (HCC) as from April 2020 which in turn has handed over the day-to-day administration to 'MiPermits'. £15 per household under Test Valley, the permit has increased to £50 a year under HCC. Existing permit holders had staged price increases year on year. The permits are now electronic only and the number of visits allowed by the Visitor Permit is only 100 in a year. On-street Parking Enforcement in Romsey has also been taken back by HCC which is employing a contractor, NSL, to do the enforcement. I believe the permit fee increase is most unfortunate. However, I've had very few complaints and when I do get them I contact the very helpful HCC Parking Enforcement Manager.

The need to make the Parking Permit Scheme entirely self-funding is caused by the Government continuously reducing grants to HCC amounting to £685 million over the last few years. It also explains why there are now parking charges at Hampshire's Country Parks, such that the Parks Service is now self-funded. There's another £80 million of funding cuts in the coming year. When I first became a Councillor it was relatively straightforward to achieve projects and improvements. Now every ounce of one's skill is used in trying to get Council to take action or to find cash from the Community Infrastructure Levy to fund schemes needed by the town.

7 Botley Road Refuge The new pedestrian refuge on Botley Road was completed and delivered in May 2020. Residents from both Romsey's Leonard Cheshire Home at Fryer's House and the residents at Hillier Court had approached me to see if a safe crossing could be created. I would have preferred a Puffin Crossing with traffic lights such as the one that was installed in Duttons Road relatively recently but the pedestrian/vehicle ratio did not justify it. Residents made an excellent case to me and Test Valley was persuaded to use funds from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), amounting to £35,000, to get a refuge delivered. The refuge is wide enough to allow wheelchair users to wait in the centre. Traffic in Botley Road is still travelling too fast and I've asked the Traffic Police to keep a watching brief on speeding. However, Hampshire Constabulary in Test Valley, who don't have any equipment to catch speeders, tell me that the Traffic Police have been told to focus on Motorways and trunk roads rather than town and residential streets.

MINUTES**ROMSEY TOWN COUNCIL****ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, TUESDAY 19th April 2022****COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, ROMSEY****8**

8 Speeding One of the most frequent complaints I receive relate to speeding vehicles. Cupernham Lane, Botley Road and Fishlake Meadows are the most commonly mentioned. Yet again Hampshire Constabulary says it hasn't the equipment to enforce the speed limits. I do keep on at the police to be more proactive. The Town Council has access to speed limit reminder signs. However, the signs that show a vehicle's actual speed are more effective and I am happy to purchase additional signs using my Councillor's Devolved Grant. The problem, at present, is the lack of a qualified individual to install the signs and then move them to alternative locations on a regular basis. The police tell me that speed limit adherence is better when the roads are busy. This is because one in ten motorists adhere to the speed limit, forcing other traffic to convoy behind them.

9 Hampshire's pot holes The lack of funding in Hampshire is strongly evidenced by the condition of our roads and pavements. Hampshire has more pot holes than any other county except Kent. Last year alone there were 28,825 highway defects reported on Hampshire's 5,500 mile long road network. Please report highway defects online on the Hampshire website <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance>

I have to use this route to report in casework but I would also encourage Town Councillors and the public to report to the website themselves. Rather like reporting to the police on 101, the more reports there are the more the issue rises up the priority list. Please give a precise location on the website's map and a description of the depth and size of the pot hole. If there's a genuine danger to cyclists and motorcyclists that tends to elicit a faster response from the County's contractors. The recent situation west of the Sun Arch is a case in point. It took numerous complaints and emails which resulted in a temporary repair which lasted no more than a few hours. Many more emails were needed to get a permanent repair installed.

MGC 10 04 2022

Borough Councillor for Tadburn Ward Report 2019-2022 to Romsey

Town Council There's quite a lot of overlap between borough and County on such matters as Whitenap, Town Centre enhancements and flooding. I will focus on a couple of issues.

1 Whitenap 2007-2022: Battling on Since 2019 the Ashfield Partnership has had a number of meetings with TVBC Planning officers and County Council Highways officers. Progress gets reported back to the Romsey Future members' panel. This consists of the six Romsey Ward members chaired by TVBC's deputy leader, Cllr Nick Adams-King.

The Whitenap site, to the south of Romsey between the railway and Beggarspath Wood, was first put forward by the landowner in 2007. Test Valley Borough Council then allocated 1,600 houses to the site. The insistence of central Government that we must provide a huge number of housing sites across Test Valley and the insistence of TVBC

MINUTES**ROMSEY TOWN COUNCIL****ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, TUESDAY 19th April 2022****COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, ROMSEY****9**

that the development must be attached to the existing towns of Romsey and Andover has had very real consequences for Romsey. Councillors must be constantly vigilant to retain our 'small market town' character. Test Valley is currently reviewing the next iteration of the BLP and it is likely that future housing numbers will be more manageable and not all dumped on Romsey.

You will recall that sheer scale of Whitenap, following so soon after Abbotswood, produced huge opposition especially from those most affected in the Tadburn Road area. Over the years my Romsey Councillor colleagues and I have fought the size of housing allocations forced on to the town. Gradually concessions to local Romsey opinion were made. The most significant changes were firstly a reduction of the housing numbers from 1,600 to 1,500 and then to 1,300 in the 2016 Borough Local Plan; secondly, and most importantly, the creation of a new park which is, effectively an extension of the Whitenap Playspace on Botley Road southwards and westwards in order to both protect and benefit existing residents appeared, clearly defined in the 2016 BLP. Thirdly, the creation of a cycleway and pedestrian path over the railway and on into the town centre with no vehicle access via Tadburn Road was also in the BLP.

To their credit both the County and the Borough are holding out for open space south of Tadburn Road with the new Primary school at the northern end. Some residents who back on to the site would prefer to have a school field behind their houses rather than a park as some degree of security is retained. Having lived alongside the Mountbatten School site for nearly 40 years I can certainly vouch for that point of view. The planning authorities are adamant that the Borough Local Plan's insistence of a footpath and cycleway bridge over the railway giving quick access onto the town will be adhered to. It also seems that the site capacity will be down to 1,100... that's still a huge number but better than the 1,600 we started with.

The most recent information we have received is that an outline planning application will be submitted to Test Valley Borough Council at the end of April.

2 Brewery Site Dereliction That Romsey's Brewery Site remains undeveloped is a disgrace. The 2006 planning permission for 211 dwellings has only been partly enacted by Stanborough Developments which has owned the site since 1989. The occupants of the flats and houses which have been completed have every right to be angry at the lack of progress. A few dwellings at the northern end of the site are completed. But once development starts there is no straightforward way to enforce completion. And once a permission is issued it cannot be withdrawn. The law is stacked in favour of the developer.

Over the years I have proposed formal motions at TVBC to seek a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) on the land, of itself a very expensive legal process; Councils have to pay market value which is now in the region of £15 million to £20 million because of the existing, partly implemented planning permission. Contrast that with Stanborough Development's purchase cost of £1.1 million in 1989.

Some time ago the Borough's planning consultants (the £28,000 cost was funded by two Government grants of £14,000) were asked to seek ways to bring about the site's

MINUTES**ROMSEY TOWN COUNCIL****ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, TUESDAY 19th April 2022****COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, ROMSEY****10**

completion. They failed to achieve any significant progress. **Test Valley needs to proceed with a Compulsory Purchase Order.**

3 Romsey Bandstand One of the pleasures of a Romsey summer Sunday afternoon is listen to one of the local bands perform on the War Memorial Park Bandstand. The Bandstand Trust was set up by a council colleague, Jack Kemish, and me in 2001. Cast in Glasgow from Victorian mouldings, the bandstand was erected in the winter of 2001-02 after a donation from Miss Madge Saunders in memory of her father, Alfred George Saunders. The site now occupied by the bandstand was occupied by the Japanese gun brought back to England by Lord Mountbatten. The Borough agreed that the bandstand should be to focal point in the War Memorial Park, with the gun refurbished and moved to a less high profile location south of the kiosk. Only one person objected to the gun being moved to a less prominent location.

I would like to thank the Town Council for its annual grant of £1,000 which, with the bucket collections made on the day, (thank you, Sally Lamb, who looks after these collections), contribute to the expenses of the bands. Additionally, the Town Council has taken on the Bandstand bookings for which I am very grateful. My remaining role is to act as Treasurer, do the annual Charity Commission submission and pay the bands' expenses by cheque.

4 Southern Planning Committee Since my last written report to you I have been Chairman of TVBC's Southern Planning Committee. This is a significant commitment but one which I am very happy to take on. The most significant part of the role is the long and detailed pre-meetings in which I test the officers recommendations and ask them the questions they are likely to receive from the committee. There has been a marked change in the committee reports; they used to contain many typographic errors, partly as a result of officers working under considerable pressure. The problem arises when members of the public pick on the typos to undermine the veracity of the officer recommendations which in turn undermines public confidence in the planning authority. That issue appears to have been resolved.

Before 2019 every southern TVBC borough councillor was a member of the Southern Planning Committee creating a committee of 24. Since then the committee size has been reduced to 13. The main drawback is that there is competition for places on the committee. With its three weekly cycle it is a busy committee. The current Planning Portfolio holder is Cllr Bundy who has indicated that he would like to increase the committee size in the coming year.

5 The Borough Mayoralty On 19th May 2021 my Borough colleagues elected me as Mayor of Test Valley. It is not a role I have sought but after 35 years of borough membership it was a responsibility that was getting increasingly difficult to avoid. In the post-Covid era there is a significantly reduced number of mayoral functions. I am told that Borough Mayors used to find themselves doing upwards of 400 events. My year will pan out at about 155 events. There's been a lot of tree planting as part of Test Valley's effort to assist in the Queen's Green Canopy national initiative as part of HM's Platinum Jubilee year. A number of tree plantings I have been involved with are relatively mature standards, mainly oaks, donated to schools and parish councils. In total TVBC is



planting 11,000 trees this year. Most consist of whips with a focus on hazel, hawthorn, blackthorn, field maple, beech, alder, lime and oak.

I hosted Test Valley's Civic day last September at Mottisfont Abbey followed by a tour of Romsey Abbey. The Civic days around Hampshire have been a very enjoyable part of the Mayoral year.

In addition to the usual Civic events, much of the Mayoral activity has involved promoting Test Valley, local businesses, local charities and voluntary groups. It is really pleasing to see just how much good work is being done by volunteers across our community despite the negative impact of the pandemic and it is truly an honour to be able to thank people, on behalf of us all, for the work they do.

MGC 11

04 2022

Report from Cllr. N. Daas – Abbey Ward

Aster Housing – Broadwater Flats, Linden Court, Wakeford Court and other locations. Since being elected as a councillor, I have had numerous correspondence about issues with Aster Housing and their responsibilities to their tenants. I have regular contact and a quarterly call with the Head of Housing for Aster and therefore been able to deal with these issues.

I have combined with Aster and the fire service to ensure that plans for a safe fire escape are being developed with the view to execute in the near future.

Additionally, I have also been able to resolve issues on windows, intercoms, removal amenities and rent increases. As with many organisations, Aster Housing are transiting many of their accommodations to service a wider clientele. While this may be difficult in the short-term, overall further integration of different demographic ranges, if completed correctly, shall be good for our community. I will continue to closely monitor Aster's management of their properties, with the support of local residents to whom I am extremely grateful.

Romsey Station House

The Three Rivers Partnership has put forward ideas for the Romsey Station House to renovate the house adjacent to the Romsey Train Station. Potential ideas for a café and office space look exciting and will propel this area forward as the rest of Romsey has done. I look forward to continuing to support this project.

Recycling Campaign

On behalf of Abbey Ward and the wider Town Council, I have been campaigning for further recycling methods to be brought forward as early as possible. Other towns within Hampshire have easy access to recycling glass, tetra packs and metallic items; however, Romsey and Test Valley are behind the curve. I shall continue campaigning for the widest possible items to be recycled from our homes.

Road Cycle Route

Prior to being a Councillor, I lead the youth campaign group which campaigned on matters which meant to Romsey's young people. I am pleased to see the Southampton

MINUTES**ROMSEY TOWN COUNCIL****ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, TUESDAY 19th April 2022****COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, ROMSEY****12**

Road cycle route completed, which Romsey Youth Voices campaigned on. Nevertheless, there is still work to be done on the quality of the high-viz barriers.

Nightingale Lodge

The new over 55's flats (Nightingale Lodge) on Great Well Drive are now completed and enquiries are being accepted to move in. The flats have been completed to a high standard and will provide a comfortable living which fit well with the local area. In addition, the site was left derelict for quite some period of time and therefore it is good to see this area being utilised.

Councillor Grants:

- Forest & Cove
- KutchenHaus
- Romsey Food Bank
- Romsey Community Pantry
- Romsey Young Carers

Report from Cllr. Dorothy Baverstock and Cllr. Janet Burnage and Cllr. N.eill Gwynne, TVBC Councillors, Cupernham Ward

Cllrs Baverstock, Burnage and Gwynne have continued to work closely on projects not only in their ward but on activities which support improvements to the town that benefit both residents and visitors. Examples of this include:

Unity – during the pandemic and in the dark days of lockdown Unity set up a companionship database – Cllrs Baverstock, Burnage and Gwynne all volunteered to help with contacting the more vulnerable members of our community to telephone them, to make sure that they were managing during the lockdown period, able to get their prescriptions, shopping and any other assistance that they required. It was also an opportunity to have a chat with these residents to reassure them that they were not alone and that Unity were there to help them or just to have a chat, which many people just wanted to do. Not only did it help support those who needed the services of Unity but it also helped the callers to chat to others outside their family circle.

. creation of Wilder Romsey, leading to:

- . handing out of free tree saplings, bird boxes and wildflower seed packs
- . creation of wildflower areas on Woodley Estate
- . further work on Woodley Estate in Autumn 2022, to include planting of orchard trees, bulbs and other wildflower areas
- . clearance of the banks of the Romsey canal, facilitating work from the Environment Agency re improving the water flow and canal habitat for wildlife

Cllr Burnage sought agreement from her fellow councillors and was happy to arrange a grant of £750 to Cupernham Infants School and Cupernham Junior School to help them purchase specific items to help improve the quality of the education for the children, making the learning environment more approachable.

Cllr Burnage is also involved in the Romsey Future initiative and was the Workstream Lead for Cycling and Walking – she and her fellow workstream members are very aware of the lack of dropped kerbs on the footpaths the link Viney Avenue to the Cupernham

MINUTES**ROMSEY TOWN COUNCIL****ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, TUESDAY 19th April 2022****COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, ROMSEY****13**

pre-school and play area. So an application was put in for CIL funding to be able fund the dropped kerbs. This went to TVBC Council for approval, and was approved on 6 April.

Much of the above work was done in whole or in part via the Romsey Future initiative. And the creation of Wilder Romsey was also, in part, made easier by the fact that Cllr Gwynne has been appointed as TVBC's Climate Emergency Champion member – the role being to act as a point of reference on climate change to other members.

9. Reports from the Floor**Report from Cllr. Ian Richards - Romsey Town Marshals Report**

This period including Lock Down for Covid has involved the cancellation of most public event involving people gathering together. Hence our services have not been required until this year .

With conditions temporarily improving on 21st July Rotary arranged Hymns in the Market Place in the evening which was the first event for a year but would not have been practical without the Marshals assistance

The first major event for us to assist in management was the Switch on of the Town Christmas lights and Carnival. This proved a real challenge as the public, starved of events, attended in their thousands . The Marshals and Carnival committee rose to the challenge and the event was a success despite certain hiccups.

Late Night shopping and the rescue of Father Christmas ran well but the Carols in the Market Place was cancelled due to the numbers who would have attended deemed to be unsafe on health reasons

Given adequate notice the marshals as a team rarely fail to rally to help and represent the Town Council in a professional manner with courtesy to those inconvenienced.

I would like to express my sincere thanks for this year's work to Tony Abbot who never fails to help when he can and the task is more difficult when he is not there with his van. May I through this report thank Heather who acted as co-ordinator in the Town Hall for requests for marshals on top of the other tasks she covers in obtaining road closure orders for some of the events. Her departure will be sorely missed . Not just by the Marshals but also the community groups she assisted in planning events.

This group is self funding, through donations for their services from organisations requesting the marshals services made into a ring-fenced account which is where the costs of equipment and training comes from.

As a Town Council inspired organisation they continue to be a credit to our town in their volunteering. We still welcome extra members to broaden our capabilities.

Report from Cllr. Ian Richards - Youth in Romsey – (Trustee)

Youth in Romsey started over 20 yrs ago and was set up to provide support for the young people of Romsey and Southern Test Valley. We offer a wide range of services at our Centre, including counselling, one to one and school support, careers and job advice, targeted youth groups, homework club and sexual health clinics.

When the extraordinary times of Covid and lockdown started, we took a decision to stay open, albeit initially working from home and coming to terms with the world of Zoom, but we felt it was vitally important to continue to offer our core service of counselling support for young people. We were **the only support service in Hampshire that never closed during the time of lockdown** and the pandemic. This turned out to be a great move as

MINUTES**ROMSEY TOWN COUNCIL****ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, TUESDAY 19th April 2022****COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, ROMSEY****14**

the numbers of young people looking for support soared and, the complexity of issues they had to deal with increased as well. We feel that we contributed significantly to the wellbeing of many young people including literally lifesaving incidents during that time, and we are continuing to deal with the effects of the pandemic, lockdown and disrupted schooling even now.

We opened up in the summer 2020 to provide transition support for groups of students who were due to start secondary school in the Autumn we gradually returned our services to the more traditional face to face style.

We have a fantastic staff team at the Centre who are highly skilled and very experienced. The staff are aided by a team of tremendous volunteers, and we are so very grateful to them for giving up their valuable time to help us. Without them we would not be able to run such a successful venture.

To demonstrate the high regard that Youth in Romsey is held by professionals in the health service. The CCG have asked us to pick up the waiting list of 6 to 11yr olds 34 clients in the wider Hampshire area (Lymington to Andover) requiring counselling. This we are currently doing.

A snapshot statistics of our Romsey work for February 2022 shows we had 142 sessions with 75 clients . We had 16 parent contacts seeking our help. The top issues were Anxiety and stress, Self-esteem , and body image.

We are entirely funded by grants and donations and we currently receive no funding from Romsey Town Council.

Report from Roland Matthews- Romsey Twinning

Since having to cancel a planned twinning visit to Treviglio in April 2020 Romsey Twinning has had no in-person exchanges with our twin towns. We have however used this time productively to focus on housekeeping issues, in particular on the management of our records. After we were asked to remove our archives from the Town Hall the question of storing and conserving them became an urgent one. Having investigated various options the committee decided that the sensible and most responsible course of action was to place our records on deposit at the Hampshire Record Office. As HRO has strict criteria governing the items it will accept this has meant having to sort through all our records in order to select those documents that have archival value and are suitable for deposit. With 60 years of records to go through that has meant a lot of work! I am pleased to report, though, that we have nearly finished the task and expect to be making a deposit with HRO in the next few months.

We are retaining a handful of key twinning documents, such as charters and official photographs, and hope that it will be possible to have these on display in due course on a wall in the Town Hall. A related issue we have had to tackle is what to do about the numerous artefacts and memorabilia Twinning has acquired over the years – mainly, gifts from groups visiting from the twin towns. Again, we have explored a range of options for storing and displaying these, but to no avail. Reluctantly we are left with no choice but to dispose of these in various ways, including offering them back to the local donor organisation where an item was gifted to Twinning (e.g. Broadlands, The Romsey School).

Another important housekeeping issue we have been addressing is that of our internet and social media profile. Although Romsey Twinning has a Facebook page it does not currently have its own website, having in the past had a page on the now defunct

MINUTES**ROMSEY TOWN COUNCIL****ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, TUESDAY 19th April 2022****COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, ROMSEY****15**

Romseynet. We are addressing this deficit as a matter of urgency and hope to have created a website by the end of the year.

There are signs of cautious optimism that Twinning is starting to re-emerge from its Covid hibernation. We recently held a Quiz Night, our first social and fundraising event in over two years, and we are planning a visit to Treviglio in early October. These are difficult times for the twinning movement, and it remains to be seen how well it will recover and adjust to the new landscape. Among the new challenges facing Romsey Twinning are the consequences of the Covid pandemic, the impact of post-Brexit red tape, and the absolute imperative of environmentally responsible travel. We have also taken the view that the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine outweighs any considerations around twinning visits at this time; twinners must free to open their home to a refugee if they wish and not feel constrained by their ability to act as a twinning host in the future. **Council thanked all those who submitted a report.**

10. Parishioners' Questions

A number of Parishioners attended the meeting. Cllr. Mark Cooper reported on the Market Place Enhancement, Speeding, Whitenap, Brewery Site Dereliction and The Borough Mayoralty which are all included in his Hampshire County Council Report detailed above. A major issue currently in Romsey is potholes. Cllr. M. Cooper reported the whole road at the Plaza Roundabout/Viney Avenue is scheduled to be re-surfaced in the second quarter of 2022. A parishioner aired concerns with regards to the lack of bins outside Dominoes Pizza in Dukes Mill which is leading to litter just been dumped on the pavement or thrown into the stream. Cllr. M. Cooper and Cllr. N. Daas to ask TVBC if they can include this area in their road cleaning. A parishioner commended the Café in the Park as a real gem and asset to the town. A parishioner asked for an update with regards to the re-development of Romsey Town Centre. Cllr. M. Cooper reported the proposed re-development is discussed at a group meeting called Romsey Future. This organisation is made up of the public and Councillors. He suggested anyone with an interest to check TVBC website for Romsey Future Meeting dates and to come along to the meetings.

Cllr. K. Dunleavy thanked the Councillors and Town Hall staff for all their support throughout her Mayoral Year.

The meeting closed at 8.11p.m.



TOWN COUNCILLOR CONTACT INFORMATION

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David Chase
Maintenance Technician

Wendy Broom
Housekeeper

Mayor's Annual Report

After the impact of Covid - which was still being felt at the very start of 2022 in terms of people's caution re large gatherings - I am very fortunate that my mayoral year coincided with a renewed eagerness for events to take place, and for people to attend them. So much so that I could not possibly do justice here to all the events that I was invited to. Only some personal highlights...

The Mayor's Picnic - aided by excellent weather - was one. The Queens Platinum Jubilee street party - rightly recognised (internationally!) as one of the very best - was another. Again with good weather, but also with Romsonians at their best.

I was very pleased with the three main fundraisers for the Mayor's Charity - the Old Time Music Hall at the Plaza, the concert at the Abbey, and the raffle. Massive thanks particularly to Nicqui, Judith and Suzi for all their support.

Romsonians showed themselves at their best too, at more than celebrations. As ever, both Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday were a case in point. As was Romsey's response to the passing of Queen Elizabeth the second.

And the capacity of people in Romsey - both individuals and via organisations - to help one another, continued to impress and (at times) amaze. As well as the work of the voluntary sector, it was great to be part of the launch of no less than five new businesses in and around Romsey.

Which is not to forget the excellent work of the Town Council itself of course. The creation of the new Mayor's Awards is a perfect example. Many issues were carefully thought through - including the historic merger of Romsey and Romsey Extra parishes. To have been the last Mayor of the old Romsey parish and (albeit for only 6 weeks and 3 days!) the first Mayor of the new Romsey parish, was one of many privileges in the last year.

And now we have a new Mayor - appropriately chair of one of the inaugural winners of a Mayor's Award - and six new faces on the council. Plus they now have a substantial sum of money to spend on the Town. Here's to another good year to come.

Chief Officer Annual Report

This has probably been one of the busiest years ever. RTC welcomed two new members of staff. Nicqui Chatterley – Mayor's Secretary/Planning Clerk and Suzi Shilling – Business, Events & Tourism Officer. In June 2022 to celebrate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, celebrations were held in Romsey. In particular a Street Party was organised by Romsey Carnival with RTC support which was fantastic. It was with great sadness in September 2022 the death of HRH Queen Elizabeth. A memorial service was held in the Abbey attended by a civic party and the community. The beginning of May 2023 we celebrated the King's Coronation with a street party and many other events over the weekend. Romsey Extra Parish Council was dissolved as of 31st March 2023 and merged with Romsey Town Council. The Town Hall continues to be very busy with bookings in particular weddings. With the closure of Barclays Bank in the town, Barclays now have a base in the Town Hall for two days a week and have a consultant available. No cash can change hands. Elections were held on 4th May 2023 resulting in 7 new Councillors out of 15 on Romsey Town Council.

Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2021/22 Form 3

To be completed by Local Councils, Internal Drainage Boards and other Smaller Authorities*:

- where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure exceeded £25,000 but did not exceed £6.5 million; or
- where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure was £25,000 or less but that:
 - are unable to certify themselves as exempt (fee payable); or
 - have requested a limited assurance review (fee payable)

Guidance notes on completing Form 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2021/22

1. Every smaller authority in England that either received gross income or incurred gross expenditure exceeding £25,000 **must** complete Form 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return at the end of each financial year in accordance with *Proper Practices*.
2. **The Annual Governance and Accountability Return is made up of three parts, pages 3 to 6:**
 - The **Annual Internal Audit Report** **must** be completed by the authority's internal auditor.
 - **Sections 1 and 2** **must** be completed and approved by the authority.
 - **Section 3** is completed by the external auditor and will be returned to the authority.
3. The authority **must** approve Section 1, Annual Governance Statement, before approving Section 2, Accounting Statements, and both **must** be approved and published on the authority website/webpage **before 1 July 2022**.
4. An authority with either gross income or gross expenditure exceeding £25,000 or an authority with neither income nor expenditure exceeding £25,000, but which is unable to certify itself as exempt, or is requesting a limited assurance review, **must** return to the external auditor by email or post (not both) **no later than 30 June 2022**. Reminder letters will incur a charge of £40 +VAT:
 - the Annual Governance and Accountability Return Sections 1 and 2, together with
 - a bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2022
 - an explanation of any significant year on year variances in the accounting statements
 - notification of the commencement date of the period for the exercise of public rights
 - Annual Internal Audit Report 2021/22

Unless requested, do not send any additional documents to your external auditor. Your external auditor will ask for any additional documents needed.

Once the external auditor has completed the limited assurance review and is able to give an opinion, the Annual Governance and Accountability **Section 1, Section 2 and Section 3 – External Auditor Report and Certificate** will be returned to the authority by email or post.

Publication Requirements

Under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, authorities must publish the following information on the authority website/webpage:

Before 1 July 2022 authorities **must** publish:

- Notice of the period for the exercise of public rights and a declaration that the accounting statements are as yet unaudited;
- **Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement 2021/22**, approved and signed, page 4
- **Section 2 - Accounting Statements 2021/22**, approved and signed, page 5

Not later than 30 September 2022 authorities **must** publish:

- Notice of conclusion of audit
- **Section 3 - External Auditor Report and Certificate**
- **Sections 1 and 2 of AGAR** including any amendments as a result of the limited assurance review.

It is recommended as best practice, to avoid any potential confusion by local electors and interested parties, that you also publish the Annual Internal Audit Report, page 3.

The Annual Governance and Accountability Return constitutes the annual return referred to in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. Throughout, the words 'external auditor' have the same meaning as the words 'local auditor' in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

*for a complete list of bodies that may be smaller authorities refer to schedule 2 to the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

Guidance notes on completing Form 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2021/22

- The authority **must** comply with *Proper Practices* in completing Sections 1 and 2 of this AGAR. *Proper Practices* are found in the *Practitioners' Guide** which is updated from time to time and contains everything needed to prepare successfully for the financial year-end and the subsequent work by the external auditor.
- Make sure that the AGAR is complete (no highlighted boxes left empty), and is properly signed and dated. If the AGAR contains unapproved or unexplained amendments, it may be returned and additional costs will be incurred.
- The authority **should** receive and note the Annual Internal Audit Report before approving the Annual Governance Statement and the accounts.
- Use the checklist provided below to review the AGAR for completeness before returning it to the external auditor by email or post (not both) no later than 30 June 2022.
- The Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) must be approved on the same day or before the Accounting Statements (Section 2) and evidenced by the agenda or minute references.
- The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) must certify the accounts (Section 2) before they are presented to the authority for approval. The authority must in this order; consider, approve and sign the accounts.
- The RFO is required to commence the public rights period as soon as practical after the date of the AGAR approval.
- Do not send the external auditor any information not specifically requested. However, **you must inform your external auditor about any change of Clerk, Responsible Financial Officer or Chairman, and provide relevant authority owned generic email addresses and telephone numbers.**
- Make sure that the copy of the bank reconciliation to be sent to your external auditor with the AGAR covers all the bank accounts. If the authority holds any short-term investments, note their value on the bank reconciliation. The external auditor must be able to agree the bank reconciliation to Box 8 on the accounting statements (**Section 2, page 5**). An explanation **must** be provided of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8. More help on bank reconciliation is available in the *Practitioners' Guide**.
- Explain fully significant variances in the accounting statements on **page 5**. Do not just send a copy of the detailed accounting records instead of this explanation. The external auditor wants to know that you understand the reasons for all variances. Include complete numerical and narrative analysis to support the full variance.
- If the external auditor has to review unsolicited information, or receives an incomplete bank reconciliation, or variances are not fully explained, additional costs may be incurred.
- Make sure that the accounting statements add up and that the balance carried forward from the previous year (Box 7 of 2021) equals the balance brought forward in the current year (Box 1 of 2022).
- The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO), on behalf of the authority, **must** set the commencement date for the exercise of public rights of 30 consecutive working days which **must** include the first ten working days of July.
- The authority **must** publish on the authority website/webpage the information required by Regulation 15 (2), Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, including the period for the exercise of public rights and the name and address of the external auditor **before 1 July 2022**.

Completion checklist – 'No' answers mean you may not have met requirements		Yes	No
All sections	Have all highlighted boxes have been completed?	✓	
	Has all additional information requested, including the dates set for the period for the exercise of public rights , been provided for the external auditor?	✓	
Internal Audit Report	Have all highlighted boxes been completed by the internal auditor and explanations provided?	✓	
Section 1	For any statement to which the response is 'no', has an explanation been published?		
Section 2	Has the authority's approval of the accounting statements been confirmed by the signature of the Chairman of the approval meeting?	✓	
	Has an explanation of significant variations been published where required?	✓	
	Has the bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2022 been reconciled to Box 8?	✓	
	Has an explanation of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8 been provided?	✓	
Sections 1 and 2	Trust funds – have all disclosures been made if the authority as a body corporate is a sole managing trustee? NB: do not send trust accounting statements unless requested.	MIA	

**Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices*, can be downloaded from www.nalc.gov.uk or from www.ada.org.uk

Annual Internal Audit Report 2021/22

Romsey Town Council

<https://www.romseytc.org.uk/>

During the financial year ended 31 March 2022, this authority's internal auditor acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, carried out a selective assessment of compliance with the relevant procedures and controls in operation and obtained appropriate evidence from the authority.

The internal audit for 2021/22 has been carried out in accordance with this authority's needs and planned coverage. On the basis of the findings in the areas examined, the internal audit conclusions are summarised in this table. Set out below are the objectives of internal control and alongside are the internal audit conclusions on whether, in all significant respects, the control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of this authority.

Internal control objective	Yes	No*	Not covered**
A. Appropriate accounting records have been properly kept throughout the financial year.	✓		
B. This authority complied with its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓		
C. This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	✓		
D. The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.	✓		
E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked, and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓		
F. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.	✓		
G. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with this authority's approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	✓		
H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	✓		
I. Periodic bank account reconciliations were properly carried out during the year.	✓		
J. Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments or income and expenditure), agreed to the cash book, supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records and where appropriate debtors and creditors were properly recorded.	✓		
K. If the authority certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in 2020/21, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. (If the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2020/21 AGAR tick "not covered")			✓
L. The authority publishes information on a free to access website/webpage up to date at the time of the internal audit in accordance with any relevant transparency code requirements	✓		
M. The authority, during the previous year (2020-21) correctly provided for the period for the exercise of public rights as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations (evidenced by the notice published on the website and/or authority approved minutes confirming the dates set)	✓		
N. The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2020/21 AGAR (see AGAR Page 1 Guidance Notes).	✓		
O. (For local councils only) Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.	Yes	No	Not applicable
			✓

For any other risk areas identified by this authority adequate controls existed (list any other risk areas on separate sheets if needed).

Date(s) internal audit undertaken

26/10/2021

27/04/2022

Name of person who carried out the internal audit

Chris Hall for Auditing Solutions Ltd

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit

SIGNATURE

Date

27/04/2022

*If the response is 'no' please state the implications and action being taken to address any weakness in control identified (add separate sheets if needed).

**Note: If the response is 'not covered' please state when the most recent internal audit work was done in this area and when it is next planned; or, if coverage is not required, the annual internal audit report must explain why not (add separate sheets if needed).

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2021/22

We acknowledge as the members of:

Romsey Town Council

our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for the preparation of the Accounting Statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2022, that:

	Agreed		'Yes' means that this authority:
	Yes	No*	
1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.	✓		prepared its accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
2. We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	✓		made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.
3. We took all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and Proper Practices that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of this authority to conduct its business or manage its finances.	✓		has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with Proper Practices in doing so.
4. We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.	✓		during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about this authority's accounts.
5. We carried out an assessment of the risks facing this authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	✓		considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and dealt with them properly.
6. We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.	✓		arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether internal controls meet the needs of this smaller authority.
7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	✓		responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.
8. We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on this authority and, where appropriate, have included them in the accounting statements.	✓		disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year end if relevant.
9. (For local councils only) Trust funds including charitable. In our capacity as the sole managing trustee we discharged our accountability responsibilities for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.	Yes	No	N/A
			✓
			has met all of its responsibilities where, as a body corporate, it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.

*Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'No' response and describe how the authority will address the weaknesses identified. These sheets must be published with the Annual Governance Statement.

This Annual Governance Statement was approved at a meeting of the authority on:

24.5.22



and recorded as minute reference:

22/47

Signed by the Chairman and Clerk of the meeting where approval was given:

Chairman

Clerk

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2021/22 for

	Year ending		Notes and guidance	
	31 March 2021 £	31 March 2022 £		
1. Balances brought forward	164,763	158,288	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year.	
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	309,420	316,381	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.	
3. (+) Total other receipts	82,934	233,388	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.	
4. (-) Staff costs	-163,428	-183,935	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include gross salaries and wages, employers NI contributions, employers pension contributions, gratuities and severance payments.	
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	-4,952	-7,524	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).	
6. (-) All other payments	-230,449	-234,996	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).	
7. (=) Balances carried forward	158,288	281,602	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).	
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	163,074	292,765	The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – To agree with bank reconciliation.	
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	238,034	325,118	The value of all the property the authority owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March.	
10. Total borrowings	57,246	152,542	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).	
11. (For Local Councils Only) Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)	Yes	No	N/A	The Council, as a body corporate, acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets.
			✓	N.B. The figures in the accounting statements above do not include any Trust transactions.

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2022 the Accounting Statements in this Annual Governance and Accountability Return have been prepared on either a receipts and payments or income and expenditure basis following the guidance in Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices and present fairly the financial position of this authority.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer before being presented to the authority for approval

J.A. Sils

Date

17.5.22

I confirm that these Accounting Statements were approved by this authority on this date:

24.5.22

as recorded in minute reference:

22/48

Signed by Chairman of the meeting where the Accounting Statements were approved

M.A. Campbell

Section 3 – External Auditor’s Report and Certificate 2021/22

In respect of

1 Respective responsibilities of the auditor and the authority

Our responsibility as auditors to complete a **limited assurance review** is set out by the National Audit Office (NAO). A limited assurance review is **not a full statutory audit**, it does not constitute an audit carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland) and hence it **does not** provide the same level of assurance that such an audit would. The UK Government has determined that a lower level of assurance than that provided by a full statutory audit is appropriate for those local public bodies with the lowest levels of spending.

Under a limited assurance review, the auditor is responsible for reviewing Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with NAO Auditor Guidance Note 02 (AGN 02) as issued by the NAO on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General. AGN 02 is available from the NAO website – <https://www.nao.org.uk/code-audit-practice/guidance-and-information-for-auditors/> .

This authority is responsible for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control. The authority prepares an Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with *Proper Practices* which:

- summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2022; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors.

2 External auditor’s limited assurance opinion 2021/22

(Except for the matters reported below)* on the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met. (*delete as appropriate).

(continue on a separate sheet if required)

Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority:

(continue on a separate sheet if required)

3 External auditor certificate 2021/22

We certify/do not certify* that we have completed our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, and discharged our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, for the year ended 31 March 2022.

*We do not certify completion because:

External Auditor Name

External Auditor Signature

Date

Romsey Town Council

Unaudited Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2022

Romsey Town Council

Table of Contents

31 March 2022

	Page
Table of Contents.....	2
Council Information.....	3
Statement of Accounting Policies.....	4
Income and Expenditure Account.....	6
Balance Sheet.....	7
Notes to the Accounts.....	8
1 Interest and Investment Income.....	8
2 Agency Work.....	8
3 Tenancies.....	8
4 Publicity.....	8
5 Pensions.....	8
6 Fixed Assets.....	9
7 Fixed Assets - Additions and Disposals.....	9
8 Debtors.....	10
9 Creditors and Accrued Expenses.....	10
10 Loans.....	10
11 Hire Purchase and Lease Obligations.....	10
12 Earmarked Reserves.....	10
13 Capital Commitments.....	11
14 Contingent Liabilities.....	11

Romsey Town Council

Council Information

31 March 2022

(Information current at 24th May 2022)

Mayor

Cllr N. Gwynne

Councillors

Cllr D. Baverstock
Cllr J. Burnage
Cllr J. Cairney
Cllr M. Cooper
Cllr J. Critchley
Cllr I. Culley
Cllr N. Daas
Cllr K. Dunleavey
Cllr S. Lamb
Cllr J. Parker
Cllr J. Ray
Cllr M. Southey
Cllr S. Wilkinson
Cllr C. Wise

Clerk to the Council

Judith Giles

Auditors

PKF Littlejohn
SBA Team
1 Westferry Circus
Canary Wharf
London
E14 4HD

Internal Auditors

Auditing Solutions Limited
Clackerbrook Farm
46 The Common
Bromham
Chippenham
Wiltshire
SN15 2JJ

Romsey Town Council
Statement of Accounting Policies
31 March 2022

Auditors

The name and address of the External Auditors is provided for information only.

These Statements are not subject to audit and the External Auditors have no responsibility for them.

Accounting Convention

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Accounting Guidance Notes for Local Councils (the Guide) issued by The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) as applicable to a medium sized council.

These accounts have been prepared having regard to the fundamental accounting concepts of: Going Concern, Prudence, Accruals, Relevance, Consistency, Reliability, Comparability, Understandability and Materiality.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Fixed Assets

All expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of fixed assets is reported in the notes to the accounts, provided that the fixed asset yields benefits to the authority and the services it provides for a period of more than one year. Fixed assets are valued on the basis recommended by CIPFA. The year end values are stated on the following basis:

land, operational properties and other operational assets are reported in notes to the accounts at current insurance values where available as approximating to the lower of net current replacement cost and net realisable value, except that certain community assets are the subject of restrictive covenants as to their use and/or future disposal.

Such assets are therefore considered to have no appreciable realisable value and are included at a nominal value only.

Revenue Grants

Revenue grants are credited to income when conditions attached thereto have been fulfilled and/or equivalent expenditure has been incurred. Grants received in respect of which the conditions have not been fulfilled, or expenditure incurred, are carried forward as deferred revenue grants.

Stocks and Work in Progress

Stocks held for resale, where significant (generally in excess of £1,000), are valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value. Consumable stocks have been treated as an expense when purchased because their value was not material.

Debtors and Creditors

The council reviews the level of its commercial debtors on a regular basis and provisions are made, as required, where the likelihood of amounts proving ultimately collectable is in doubt.

Value Added Tax

Income and Expenditure excludes any amounts related to VAT, as all VAT suffered/collected is recoverable from or payable to HM Revenue and Customs. Any amounts not so recoverable are treated as a separate expense.

Romsey Town Council
Statement of Accounting Policies
31 March 2022

External Loan Repayments

The council is not required by the Guide to incorporate external borrowings in its Balance Sheet. Details are shown at note 10.

Leases

The council is not required by the Guide to incorporate Hire Purchase and/or Finance Lease obligations in its Balance Sheet. Details are shown at note 11.

Reserves

The council maintains certain reserves to meet general and specific future expenditure. The purpose of the council's reserves is explained in note 12.

Interest Income

All interest receipts are credited initially to general funds.

Pensions

The pension costs that are charged against precept in the council's accounts, in respect of its employees, are equal to the contributions paid to the funded pension scheme for those employees.

These contributions are determined by the fund's actuary on a triennial basis and are set to meet 100% of the liabilities of the pension fund, in accordance with relevant government regulations.

The next actuarial valuation was due at 31st March 2022 and any change in contribution rates as a result of that valuation will take effect from 1st April 2023.

Romsey Town Council
Income and Expenditure Account
31 March 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
INCOME			
Precept on Principal Authority		316,381	309,420
Capital Receipts & Grants		125,000	-
Interest and Investment Income	1	24	53
Allotments		3,612	3,510
TCM		8,560	4,000
Markets		6,070	2,541
Town Hall		63,763	59,127
Establishment/General Administration		1,030	-
Other Grants and Donations		20,329	3,103
Romsey Security		-	6,500
Christmas Events		5,000	4,100
		549,769	392,354
EXPENDITURE			
Establishment/General Administration		101,723	106,637
Election Expenses		-	19,410
Capital Expenditure	7	87,084	47,805
Loan Interest and Capital Repayments		7,524	4,952
Operational Expenditure:			
Allotments		2,174	2,284
TCM		35,164	18,375
Town Hall		151,004	134,293
Civic		5,212	1,796
Environmental		3,343	1,936
War Horse Statue		160	2,868
Grants -other		4,900	4,200
Romsey Security		-	7,791
Christmas Events		28,167	46,482
		426,455	398,829
General Fund			
Balance at 01 April 2021		115,059	81,120
Add: Total Income		549,769	392,354
		664,828	473,474
Deduct: Total Expenditure		426,455	398,829
		238,373	74,645
Transfer (to)/from Earmarked Reserves	12	(91,160)	40,414
General Reserve Balance at 31 March 2022		147,213	115,059

The notes on pages 8 to 11 form part of these unaudited statements.

Romsey Town Council

Balance Sheet

31 March 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £
Current Assets				
Stock		1,414		1,095
Debtors and prepayments	8	8,247		25,794
Cash at bank and in hand		292,765		163,074
		<u>302,426</u>		<u>189,963</u>
Current Liabilities				
Creditors and income in advance	9	<u>(20,824)</u>		<u>(31,675)</u>
Net Current Assets			<u>281,602</u>	<u>158,288</u>
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities			<u>281,602</u>	<u>158,288</u>
Total Assets Less Liabilities			<u>281,602</u>	<u>158,288</u>
Capital and Reserves				
Earmarked Reserves	12		134,389	43,229
General Reserve			147,213	115,059
			<u>281,602</u>	<u>158,288</u>

Signed:

CLlr N. Gwynne
Mayor

24/5/22

Date:

J.A. Giles

Judith Giles
Responsible Financial Officer

24.5.22

The notes on pages 8 to 11 form part of these unaudited statements.

Romsey Town Council

Notes to the Accounts

31 March 2022

1 Interest and Investment Income

	2022 £	2021 £
Interest Income - General Funds	24	53
	<u>24</u>	<u>53</u>

2 Agency Work

During the year the Council undertook no agency work on behalf of other authorities.

During the year the Council commissioned no agency work to be performed by other authorities.

3 Tenancies

During the year the following tenancies were held:

Council as landlord

Tenant	Property	Rent p.a. £	Repairing / Non-Repairing
NONE			

Council as tenant

Landlord	Property	Rent p.a. £	Repairing / Non-Repairing
NONE			

4 Publicity

Section 5 of the Local Government Act 1986 requires the council to disclose expenditure on publicity. Details are shown under the following broad categories:

	2022 £	2021 £
Recruitment	1,625	-
Council Newsletter	540	2,035
	<u>2,165</u>	<u>2,035</u>

5 Pensions

For the year of account the council's contributions equal 20.20% of employees' pensionable pay. These contributions will increase to 21.40%, in future years.

Romsey Town Council

Notes to the Accounts

31 March 2022

6 Fixed Assets

	2022	2021
	£	£
	Value	Value
At 31 March the following assets were held:		
<u>Freehold Land and Buildings</u>		
Town Hall Building	1	1
Town Hall - Heating Boiler	32,360	32,360
Town Hall - Upgrades on 2nd Floor toilets & DDE Facility	24,485	24,485
Town Hall - Provision of Passenger Lift	116,755	29,671
Town Hall - Platform Lift	10,899	10,899
Town Hall - Stair Lift	7,235	7,235
Allotments Site Garage	1	1
Land adjacent Star Inn	1	1
	<u>191,737</u>	<u>104,653</u>
<u>Vehicles and Equipment</u>		
Christmas Light	46,169	46,169
	<u>46,169</u>	<u>46,169</u>
<u>Infrastructure Assets</u>		
Wooden Bench (4)	4	4
Wooden Memorial Bench	1	1
19 Street Lights	4,189	4,189
Mace Pole	1	1
Seat (12)	12	12
Flower Pedestals (2)	2	2
	<u>4,209</u>	<u>4,209</u>
<u>Community Assets</u>		
Large Memorial Charter Stone	1	1
Palmerston Statue	1	1
War Horse Memorial	83,000	83,000
Wall Mounted Memorial Charter Stone	1	1
	<u>83,003</u>	<u>83,003</u>
	<u>325,118</u>	<u>238,034</u>

The basis of valuation of the above assets is set out in the Statement of Accounting Policies.

7 Fixed Assets - Additions and Disposals

	2022	2021
	£	£
	Cost	Cost
During the year the following assets were purchased:		
Operational Land and Buildings	87,084	47,805
	<u>87,084</u>	<u>47,805</u>

No assets were disposed of during the year.

Romsey Town Council

Notes to the Accounts

31 March 2022

8 Debtors

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade Debtors	1,248	(84)
VAT Recoverable	4,420	15,042
Prepayments	2,579	10,836
	<u>8,247</u>	<u>25,794</u>

9 Creditors and Accrued Expenses

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade Creditors	5,922	10,027
Other Creditors	3,501	7,516
Superannuation Payable	233	-
Payroll Taxes and Social Security	18	-
Accruals	7,118	10,044
Income in Advance	4,032	4,088
	<u>20,824</u>	<u>31,675</u>

10 Loans

At the close of business on 31 March 2022 the following loans to the council were outstanding:

Lender	Loan Period	Amount	Years
		£	Remaining
Public Works Loan Board	To 18 th May 2035	54,079	13
Public Works Loan Board	To 30 th June 2046	98,463	25

11 Hire Purchase and Lease Obligations

At 31 March the following hire purchase agreement(s) and lease(s) were in operation:

Hire/Lessor	Purpose	Annual Lease/Hire	Year of Expiry
		Payable	
		£	
NONE			

12 Earmarked Reserves

	Balance at	Contribution	Contribution	Balance at
	01/04/2021	to reserve	from reserve	31/03/2022
	£	£	£	£
Capital Projects Reserves	-	-	-	-
Asset Renewal Reserves	-	-	-	-
Other Earmarked Reserves	43,229	171,061	(79,901)	134,389
Total Earmarked Reserves	<u>43,229</u>	<u>171,061</u>	<u>(79,901)</u>	<u>134,389</u>

The Other Earmarked Reserves are credited with amounts set aside from revenue to fund specific known commitments of the council.

The Other Earmarked Reserves at 31 March 2022 are set out in detail at Appendix A.

Romsey Town Council

Notes to the Accounts

31 March 2022

13 Capital Commitments

The council had no other capital commitments at 31 March 2022 not otherwise provided for in these accounts.

14 Contingent Liabilities

The council is not aware of any contingent liabilities at the date of these accounts.

MAYOR'S CHARITY FUND - CLLR NEIL GWYNNE - 2022-2023

DATE	CONTRIBUTOR	AMOUNT IN	DETAILS	REF	AMOUNT OUT	CHEQUE	DETAILS	TOTAL
19.08.22	Bal B/F	£100.00						
	Cash for Pension Form Signature	£181.50	Donation					
	Barry Young	£100.00	Donation					
	C Cole	£150.00	Xmas Lights Swith on Donation					
	Cllr J Critchley	£10.00						
		£541.50						
	Mayors Picnic/Walk The Test	£1,000.00	Rotary Donation			Civic Budget	Mayor's Picnic Food	£143.75
	Charity Concert - Plaza October 2022	£1,486.00						
	Charity Concert - March 2023							
	Ticket Sales through Ticket Source	£2,044.00			£96.00		The Studio Printing	
	Ticket Sales on the Night	£170.00			£84.65		Wine/Juice	
	Ticket Sales through VIC	£711.00			£600.00		Abbey Hire	
	Bar	£234.40						
	Bucket Collection	£89.71			£168.48		Performing Rights	
	Donations	£11.00	Cllr J Critchley /Abbey		£		Late Finishing Fee	
		£3,260.11			£60.00		Attendant Fee	
					£1,209.13			
		£1,209.13						
		£2,050.98						
	Mayors Grand Draw						Totals	
	Raffle Ticket Sales	£1,360.80						
							General Donations	541.50
							Rotary	£1,000
							Plaza Concert	1,486.00
							Mixing it Up	£2,050.98
							Grand Draw	£1,360.80
							6,439.28	

TOTALS									
--------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Mayors Allowance

Donation to Matthew Jones - Junior Mace Bearer
 Cost of Grand Draw Licence
 Cost of Grand Draw Printing

£100.00
 £40.00
 £127.14

£500.00

£100.00
 £40.00
 £127.14

Cllr N Gwynne

£267.14

CUPERNHAM WARD - Report for Annual Parish meeting – Romsey Town Council

Throughout the year, the ward councillors, Bavertstock, Burnage and Gwynne have been active in the ward, assisting residents with any issues or concerns within the ward.

As ward councillors we have a sum of money that we can give as grants to support community events that will be of benefit to residents in our ward. To this end we have granted money to both Cupernham Infants and Junior Schools, the to Abbotswood Community Association and also to the Walk&Talk initiative for mental health, that meets regularly at Abbotswood for a gentle walk and chat. Cllrs Burnage and Gwynne joined one of these walks, and it really was an opportunity to chat about anything and everything, away from the pressures that are usually with us most of the time – so highly recommend these walks!

Again, Cllrs Gwynne and Burnage remain active with the Wilder Romsey and have recently been working alongside the TVBC Countryside Officers to improve the run down areas on some of the older housing developments in our ward, starting with the Great Woodley estate, where a community orchard has been planted with the help of the volunteers from Wilder Romsey. The areas that have paving slabs have had the moss removed and some sections planted with wild flowers, enhancing the green areas of the estate. The Wilder Romsey projects are ever evolving so expect to see more activity throughout the older estates in Cupernham and other parts of Romsey over the coming months.

Chief Officer

From: ian rich <ianm.richards48@gmail.com>
Sent: 30 April 2023 11:28
To: Chief Officer
Subject: Romsey town marshals 2022 report for Romsey town annual parish meeting.

The events in Romsey would struggle to go ahead without the support in traffic management of the marshals.

This was the 14th year since its formation. We now have a wealth of experience through our members. They are all volunteers and turn out in all weathers.

2022 they serviced the needs of the following events.

St George's parade

Mayor's picnic

Beggars fair

Summer carnival

Food festival

Remembrance Sunday

Christmas Lights switch on and carnival

Santa rescue

Carols in the market place.

Romsey town council has an organisation that they and the people of Romsey should be proud of. However for it to continue the members do need recognition and recruitment.

Yours Ian Richards (retiring member)

Romsey Twinning

Parish Report 2023

After a number of years in which Romsey Twinning's activities have been severely curtailed by the Covid pandemic it has been a great relief in the course of the past year to return to a schedule that bears some resemblance to that of previous years. In October 2022 we had our first exchange with a twin town in over four years when a group from Romsey visited Treviglio in Italy. Over a long weekend we had a civic welcome from the Mayor of Treviglio, visited key sites in the town, and were given a guided tour of the nearby town of Brescia with its Roman origins.

At the end of April this year a group of 17 Romsey twidders visited Paimpol in France, our first visit there for five years. Our Paimpol hosts were as pleased as we were to be renewing our ties of friendship. As well as a civic reception from the new Mayor of Paimpol we spent a very interesting day learning about the Shelburn Network, a secret underground network set up by the War Office in conjunction with resistance groups in Brittany which evacuated and repatriated some 150 Allied airmen who had been shot down over occupied France. This hazardous operation, which took place under the eyes of the Germans, was never detected by them in the six or so months it was active in the period leading up to D-Day. After a special screening of a recent French film about the Network in the local cinema we were shown the actual locations of the Network, including the site of the principal safe house and the local beach where the evacuations took place.

As well as the twinning exchanges we have been able to resume our Romsey activities for our members. In October we once again held our popular quiz night and in March this year we held a members' dinner in a local pub. The activity, however, with the highest profile over the past year was our involvement in the Platinum Jubilee Street Party in June 2022 when we gave away free slices of Battenberg cake from a prime location in the Cornmarket. On a gloriously warm and sunny day this proved to be very good publicity for the association. The cake was made for us specially by a local bakery and we accompanied its distribution with leaflets explaining the origins of the cake (the 1884 wedding of Queen Victoria's granddaughter to the Prince of Battenberg).

An important part of our work is encouraging and supporting other local groups to make links with their counterparts in the twin towns, especially young people's groups. We were very pleased to facilitate a concert in Paimpol last August given by Ensemble Renard, an exciting young wind quintet co-founded by an ex-student of Romsey School. Ensemble Renard are appearing in the upcoming Romsey Chamber Music Festival. An ongoing project at Cupernham Junior School has produced letters from 90 Year 6 children to their French counterparts which we took with us on our recent visit for delivery to a primary school in Paimpol. And later this

summer Romsey Youth Choir will be giving a concert in Treviglio as part of their tour of northern Italy.

Planned twinning activities for this year include a visit to Romsey by a group from Treviglio to coincide with the Beggars Fair weekend and the Romsey Festival. The Italian visitors will be accompanied by TAE Teatro, a Treviglio theatre group making a return visit to Romsey following their 2017 visit when they entertained the Beggars Fair crowds with some spectacular stilt-walking. And at the end of October we will be welcoming a party from our German twin town Battenberg.

After being told by the Town Hall that they could no longer keep our twinning archives we agreed with Hampshire Record Office that they would be placed on deposit there, once they had been suitably edited and sorted. With over 60 years of records this has been a substantial undertaking, as I have previously reported. We are now finally ready to make the deposit and expect to do so within the next six months, along with a financial donation to HRO (which cannot charge for its services but which asks for, and depends to a large extent on, donations from depositors).

Roland Matthews
Chairman
Romsey Twinning

15.05.23

Annual Parish Meeting of Romsey Town Council, 2022-3

Honorary Archivist's Report

It was a pleasure to return to regular sessions caring for RTC's archives during the course of 2022. The first stage of the planned programme of work began to come together, so that Barbara Burbridge and Jennifer Wilsdon have now virtually completed the computerised inventory of artefacts and images. It is expected that a copy with cross-references and thumbnail photographs will be available for RTC. This will enable easy search for items suitable for potential exhibitions.

The highlight of the year has been the rediscovery of the ceremonial flag from the Romsey Branch of the Hampshire Volunteers. It was commissioned by Lady Barker Mills of Mottisfont Abbey and presented in 1860. This high quality flag with double sided embroidery is in a sad condition having been displayed in the past with staples which have torn and split the material. Expert opinion has been given and now funding is being sought for much needed conservation work.

Future work will include amalgamating Romsey Extra historic records into the archives; examining and advising re items stored in the Strong Room; and revising the inventories of displays in the public rooms and corridors of the Town Hall.

Barbara Burbridge, May 2023

