

ROMSEY EXTRA PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

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ANNUAL REPORT 2015

1. Introduction

The purpose of the Annual Report is as follows:-

- a. To outline the current roles and responsibilities of parish councillors and clerk to the parish
- b. To provide more detailed information regarding our activities over the past year
- c. To demonstrate how our funds have been prioritised and allocated
- d. To invite feedback from local residents on how we can improve our services

We welcome attendance from the public at our monthly meetings. These are now held in the New Dining Room, Stroud School, Highwood Lane generally on the second Thursday in the month and full details are advertised in the local press in advance of the meeting.

2. Council Members and Officers

2.1 Members

Chairman	Chris Wesson 11 Hestia Close Romsey SO518PA	Tel: E-mail	01794 511535 cllrwesson@talktalk.net
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Vice Chairman	Teresa Hibberd 2 Church Cottages Lee Romsey SO51 9LG	Tel: E-mail	02380 732247 Hibberd67@aol.com
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Members:	Ian Hibberd 2 Church Cottages Lee Romsey SO51 9LG	Tel: E-mail	02380 732247 ihibberdleeromsey@btinternet.com
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	Alison Johnston 73 Winchester Road Romsey SO51 8JB	Tel: E-mail:	01794 517939 ali.johnston001@virginmedia.com
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	Jenny Mills 15 Champion Drive Romsey SO51 7RD	Tel: E-mail:	01794 516374 campion4@talktalk.net
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	John Parker Cornerways Highwood Lane Romsey SO51 9AF	Tel: E-mail:	07825 514348 parkerjsxx@aol.com
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	Andy Carter – From May 2014 23 Avon Crescent Romsey SO51 5PX	Tel: E-mail	01794 517139 andyc@m201.com
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2.2 Officers

Parish Clerk Carol McFarland
Cowesfield Lodge,
Romsey Road
Whiteparish Tel: 01794 884826
SP5 2QY E-mail: clerk.romseyextra@parish.hants.gov.uk

The role of the Parish Clerk is key to the effectiveness of the Parish Council operations and we are extremely fortunate in retaining Carol's services this year. Her positive attitude and quiet efficiency behind the scenes ensures that meetings are run smoothly and issues resolved in a timely manner.

Hon. Tree Warden John Chambers
John is an honorary officer of the council; we value his long standing knowledge and advice on tree planning applications that are presented to the Council.

Hon. Rep. to Rod Simpson
Romsey Youth Council

3. Councillor Activities

3.1 Council Meetings Attended

We met as a council for our normal monthly meetings during the year there were 10 held this year. In addition three extraordinary meetings to co-opt, discuss planning applications at Ganger Farm and corner of Highwood Lane and Romsey Neighbourhood Plan.

3.2 Internal Duties

Public Transport – Jenny Mills
Internal Audit Panel – Chris Wesson, Teresa Hibberd & John Parker
Website Editor – Clerk
Website Project Group – Alison Johnston & John Parker
Newsletter Editor – Clerk
Grant Co-Ordination – Jenny Mills & John Parker
Footpath Officers – Teresa Hibberd & Chris Wesson

3.3 Representation on External Committees & Bodies

Woodley Village Hall Management Committee – Chris Wesson & John Parker
Montfort Hall Community Association – John Parker
Romsey Town Allotments Committee – Alison Johnson & Teresa Hibberd
Squabb Wood Liaison Panel – Ian Hibberd
Yokesford Hill Liaison Panel – Ian Hibberd
Lee Lane Liaison Panel – Ian Hibberd
Roke Manor Liaison Panel – Ian Hibberd
Test Valley Association of Parish Councils – (TVAPC) – Chris Wesson, Alison Johnston & Jenny Mills

Romsey Town Council Planning – John Parker
Romsey Neighbourhood Planning – Ian Hibberd, John Parker & Chris Wesson
Romsey Forum – Chris Wesson & John Parker
Romsey Future:
Community Engagement – Ian Hibberd, Alison Johnston & Chris Wesson
Community Facilities – John Parker
Economy – Teresa Hibberd
Environment – John Parker
Getting Around - Alison Johnston
Housing – Alison Johnson & John Parker
Leisure – Ian Hibberd

4. Work of the Council during Year

4.1. Planning

4.1.1 Planning Applications

Our role in relation to planning applications is as a statutory consultee. Over the course of the year we have considered some 62 applications. Notably we supported an application for a solar park on Broadlands which was subsequently refused by Test Valley Borough Council. Also, we were pleased that Test Valley refused the outline application for 116 houses at the corner of Highwood Lane and Botley Road, an important Local Gap. However, Test Valley has given outline permission to land off Peel Close for 19 dwellings despite the Parish Council objecting. In addition there were 13 tree applications which we considered following advice from our tree warden.

Abbotswood

This year we looked at 5 more applications, showing further details of the properties and layouts, the local centre and care home.

Oxlease Farm Fishlake Meadows

Test Valley granted outline permission to this application despite our objections. We commented on Test Valley's Plan for the Fishlake Meadows, we felt the plan did not meet the needs of the general public but just serves the specialist user.

Tesco

We first looked at this application in October 2012 at a joint meeting with Romsey Town Council both councils decided to object for many reasons including: countryside policy, impact on the town centre and traffic. We were pleased to hear that Tesco have now withdrawn their application.

4.1.2 Other

Test Valley Borough Council Revised Local Plan

We considered this in April 2013 and again in March 2014. In summary we objected to development at Whitenap, Hoe Lane and the Housing Allocated Principles. The sports facilities at Ganger Farm were supported; as was the retention of the local gap.

The 'Examination in Public' took place in Andover during the autumn on 2014. Part of the examination process involved hearing sessions where those invited to participate by the appointed Inspector had the opportunity to respond to matters identified. Romsey Extra Parish Council took the opportunity to put forward their views on the proposed Lower Whitenap development.

The subject of 'Local gaps' was also discussed during these sessions when the parish council sought to stoutly defended the need to retain the Highwood Lane gap.

The Examination in Public process finally closed on Wednesday 21 January 2015.

As part of the examination TVBC has prepared a number of suggested changes to the plan, known as 'proposed modifications'. The Inspector has indicated which modifications to the RVL which he considers to be 'Major' or 'Minor'.

It will be up to the inspector to decide which of the Main Modifications to the Revised Local Plan should be included in his final report.

Romsey Neighbourhood Plan

The Localism Act 2011 introduced statutory Neighbourhood Planning in England. It enables communities to draw up a Neighbourhood Plan for their area and is intended to give communities like Romsey more of a say in the development of the local area. Romsey Town and Romsey Extra Parish Councils (The Romsey Councils) have agreed to jointly produce a Neighbourhood Plan for Romsey. Test Valley agreed to the designated area for the Romsey Neighbourhood Plan comprising of the administrative boundaries of Romsey Town Romsey Extra Parish Councils in August 2014. Further questionnaires have been sent to all residents of the designated area seeking their views to help draw up the plan.

4.2. Projects

4.2.1 Woodley Village Hall

As landlords we continue to do routine maintenance to the borders and fencing around the hall.

We, the Parish Council, as freeholder of the hall have continued to support the Woodley Hall Management Committee. In addition, to agreeing to help with the layout to the front entrance by updating the garden to the right of the main entrance we have agreed to fund the new porch.

4.2.2 Footpath Highwood Lane

Further to the footway constructed along Highwood Lane last year to join up with the footway near Stroud School and Footpath 15 we have supported this footway now joining up with Halterworth Lane.

4.3. Grants

The Parish Council gives grants to organisations, groups or individuals in the Parish for a fairly wide range of purposes, which are generally in the interests of the parish and the parishioners. We do ask anybody who feels that they or their group could benefit from a grant for the coming year to let us know. Submit a completed application form (available from the Clerk) together with a statement of accounts so that we can look at the cause and the financial background of the request. Details of the grants we gave this year are in Section 5.2 of this report.

4.4. Council Administration

4.4.1 Newsletter

Each year we aim to distribute 4. We are very grateful to Phoebe Merrick who writes the History Spot, these articles and old photographs are always proving very interesting. This year we decided to have the newsletter printed in full colour.

4.4.2 Website

The Parish Council had engaged Refined Line to produce our new website, however, due to unwarranted delays it was decided to terminate the contract at no cost. The website is now being developed by Ashdown Software. We hope to have it up and running soon.

4.4.3 Financial Regulations

The Parish Council adopted new Financial Regulations based on Nalc's model standing orders 2014.

4.4.4 Local Council Award Scheme

The Local Council Award Scheme was launched in January this year it is the replacement for the Quality Parish Scheme. The new Local Council Award Scheme will recognise and celebrate the successes of the very best councils, providing a framework to support all councils improve and develop to meet their full potential. Our Quality Council Status expired on 31 January 2015. We were then able to apply for an automatic transition to the Foundation level of the new Local Council Award Scheme which lasts until January 2016.

4.5. Footpaths and Roads

4.5.1 Speed Limits

We still continue to urge that certain changes are made to speed restrictions on roads in the parish. Notable successes have been 30mph speed limits on Sandy Lane, Braishfield and School Roads. Together with the extension of the 30mph along Winchester Road and 40mph along parts of the A27 at Shootash.

Speed Limit Reminder Sign (SLR)

Romsey Extra together with the parishes of Nursling & Rownhams and Wellow continue to operate a SLR sign. This sign has rotated around the 3 Parishes for approximately 17

weeks per year, per parish. Belbins, Halterworth Lane, Braishfield Road, School Road and Mainstone are the locations to find the SLR around the parish. By rotating it to other stretches of road that already have either a 30mph or 40mph limit they can have more effect. In addition we now have obtained another sign to be shared with Romsey Town Council from Abbotswood Developer's contributions.

Speed Indicator Device (SID)

Community Speed Watch is an initiative Hampshire Constabulary is rolling out across the Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. It allows members of the community to become police support volunteers and take action, helping to educate drivers on the roads of concern in your area. The Parish Council having purchased a SID is now seeking volunteers to help run the scheme.

Traffic Calming

Various traffic calming schemes have been proposed as a result of the increased traffic generated by the Abbotswood development. Some of which have already been implemented such as reduced speed limits on roads such as Sandy Lane, Winchester Road and Braishfield Road. Other schemes are about to be introduced, the closure of School Road, the works commencing in April 2015.

The proposals to slow traffic on Highwood Lane were considered by the Parish Council following a consultation with the residents of Highwood Lane. The proposals are to install chicanes on the north south section; however, we noted our disappointment that no proposals were planned for the west section. We are now awaiting the detailed design and the date for the works to commence.

4.5.2 Resolved Concerns

The concerns we have on footpaths and roads are always a strong feature of our meetings. These concerns are all brought to the attention of Hampshire Highways and at intervals we do meet with the Assistant Engineer covering Test Valley, Jonathan Bambridge. These meetings are always productive in the acceptance we receive for our concerns. It is getting promised changes actually underway that does normally take us some time and effort.

Overhanging vegetation Footway – Halterworth Lane has been cut back

Flooding – Highwood Lane the bespoke cage to cover the pipe under the road and prevent rubbish from blocking it has been installed.

4.5.3 Outstanding Concerns

We still do have a number of outstanding concerns and some have been so for a long time. We are totally realistic about the financial restraints on the highway authority and have presented our list of concerns in a priority order with the hope that over time at least we could achieve some progress on our major concerns. Some of these are listed below:

Resurfacing of footway and highway – Footner Close and Hunters Crescent. We understand that the County Council did go on site to commence works but had to leave due to differences of opinion within the local residents on this work.

We will continue to discuss with Hampshire Highways other items of outstanding concern.

4.6. Parish Amenities

4.6.1 Seats, School Road

The two seats on the corner of Short Hill are to be repainted.

4.6.2 Broadband

We welcomed Hampshire County Council's lead officer on broadband and a representative from BT to give an update on superfast broadband. At the same meeting we expressed our disappointment that Abbotswood was not included. Following that meeting BT took our concern on board and we are pleased to see that superfast broadband will be brought to Abbotswood.

5. Finance

5.1 Provisional Accounts for 2014/15

See Appendix 1 (note these are not approved until May/June)

5.2 Grants given in 2014/15

Organisation	Details	Cost
Romsey Show	Sponsorship	220.00
Halterworth School	Comic Book Project	500.00
Romsey Community Lantern Project	Workshop	125.00
Victim Support	To help with running costs	100.00
Romsey Sea Cadets	PC/Laptop	250.00
Mountbatten School	Citizenship award	189.58
Woodley Close	Community picnic	250.00
Romsey CAB	To help with replacement telephone system	300.00
Woodley & Crampmoor Friendship Club	Hire Costs for Woodley Village Hall	250.00
Romsey Town Council	Xmas lights	1000.00
Total		£3,184.58

5.3 Precept and Budget for 2015/16

		2014-2015 Outturn - £	2015-2016 Budget - £
Carried Forward at start		31,484.44	40,768.71
Income	Precept	34,687.00	39,403.00
	Rest	2666.91	-
	VAT	1,469.22	-
	Total	38,823.13	39,403.00
Expenditure	Administration	18,589.55	22,851.00
	Running	3,519.71	3,925.00
	Projects	2788.60	6,500.00
	Grants	3,184.58	2,500.00
	VAT	1,456.42	-
	Total	29,538.86	35,776.00
Income less Expenditure		9,284.27	3,627.00
Carried Forward		40,768.71	44,395.71

The budget figure for 2015/16 remains the same at £35,776.

The precept is the element within the Council Tax that is paid to Parish Councils. Again, we decided to keep the Council Tax element paid by our parishioners the same this coming year. The precept for the financial year 2015/16 is £39,403.

2013/2014	Income	2014/2015
31386.62	Precept	34687.00
5.00	Ground Rent	5.00
14.25	Interest	36.91
1605.00	Grant HCC	2625.00
1351.59	VAT	1469.22
36362.46	TOTAL	38823.13

**ROMSEY EXTRA PARISH COUNCIL
PROVISIONAL ACCOUNTS 2014/15**

Expenditure		
ADMINISTRATION		
8573.76	Clerk - Net Pay	8659.21
23.15	-Tax & NI	-1.19
1623.20	- Employer Pension	1634.42
495.55	- Travel	700.31
776.00	- Office All	782.00
0.00	- Training	174.00
79.29	Cllrs - Chair All	308.30
16.20	- Travel	0.00
0.00	- Conf/Course	0.00
67.50	Office - Postage	92.10
207.56	- Copying/Stationery	137.14
403.65	- Telephone	444.47
159.98	- IT	64.98
320.00	Publicity - Advertising	387.20
1723.91	- Newsletter	3164.62
652.50	General - Subs	672.50
120.44	- Publications	0.00
265.88	- Premise Hire	323.75
613.94	- Insurance	600.74
460.00	- Audit	445.00
0.00	- Election	0.00
16582.51	Sub-Total	18589.55
RUNNING COSTS		
931.00	Public Transport	900.00
280.05	Footpaths/Roads	264.00
1724.17	Landscape/Main	2050.90
275.60	Amenities	304.81
3210.82	Sub-Total	3519.71
PROJECTS		
0.00	Public Transport	0.00
2112.00	Footpaths/Roads	2625.00
0.00	Amenities	0.00
245	Other WVH	1163.60
2357.00	Sub-Total	3788.60
GRANTS		
3550.00	S137 Grants	1964.58
220.00	Other Grants	220.00
3770.00	Sub-Total	2184.58
1479.50	VAT	1456.42
27399.83	TOTAL	29538.86
CUMULATIVE FUND BALANCE		
	Balance b/f 31/03/14	31,484.44
	Total Income	38,823.13
		70,307.57
	Total Expenditure	29,538.86
	Provisional Balance c/f 31/03/15	£40,768.71

(Note: This figure includes sums set aside for IT renewal, Election costs & WVH)