

ROMSEY EXTRA PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

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ANNUAL REPORT 2019

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 residents on how we can improve our services

We welcome attendance from the public at our monthly meetings. These are now held in the Court Room, Romsey Town Hall generally on the second Thursday in the month and full details are advertised in the local press in advance of the meeting and on the council's website.

2. Council Members and Officers

2.1 Members

Chairman	Chris Wesson 11 Hestia Close Romsey SO518PA	Tel: E-mail	01794 511535 cllr.chris.wesson@romseyextra-pc.org.uk
Vice Chairman	Andy Carter 23 Avon Crescent Romsey SO51 5PX	Tel: E-mail	01794 517139 cllr.andy.carter@romseyextra-pc.org.uk
Members:	Dorothy Baverstock 7 Westering Romsey SO51 7LX	Tel: E-mail	01794 517552 cllr.dorothy.baverstock@romseyextra-pc.org.uk
	Karen Dunleavey 1 St Clements Close Romsey SO51 8FF	Tel: E-mail	07977163198 cllr.karen.dunleavey@romseyextra-pc.org.uk
	Teresa Hibberd 2 Church Cottages Lee Romsey SO51 9LG	Tel: E-mail	02380 732247 cllr.teresa.hibberd@romseyextra-pc.org.uk
	Dr Susan Tippett 22 The Thicket Romsey SO51 5SZ	Tel: E-mail:	07802733292 cllr.susan.tippett@romseyextra-pc.org.uk
	Peter Westbrook 1 Peel Close Romsey SO51 7UQ	Tel: E-mail:	01794 512751 cllr.peter.westbrook@romseyextra-pc.org.uk

2.2 Officers

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

The role of the Parish Clerk is key to the effectiveness of the Parish Council operations. Carol's positive attitude and quiet efficiency behind the scenes ensures that meetings are run smoothly, and issues resolved in a timely manner.

3. Councillor Activities

3.1 Council Meetings Attended

We met 12 times as a council for our normal monthly meetings during the year 2018/19.

3.2 Internal Duties

Public Transport – Dorothy Baverstock
Internal Audit Panel – Chris Wesson, Andy Carter & Teresa Hibberd
Website Editor – Clerk
Website Project Group – Chris Wesson, Andy Carter & The Clerk
Newsletter Editor – Clerk
Grant Co-Ordination – As required
Footpath Officers – Teresa Hibberd & Sue Tippett

3.3 Representation on External Committees & Bodies

Woodley Village Hall Management Committee – Chris Wesson & Andy Carter
Romsey Town Allotments Committee – Teresa Hibberd & Susan Tippett
Squabb Wood Liaison Panel – Sue Tippett
Yokesford Hill Liaison Panel – Dorothy Baverstock
Lee Lane Liaison Panel – Teresa Hibberd
Roke Manor Liaison Panel – Teresa Hibberd
Test Valley Association of Parish Councils – (TVAPC) – Chris Wesson, Dorothy Baverstock & Karen Dunleavey
Romsey Town Council Planning – Susan Tippett
Romsey Neighbourhood Planning – Chris Wesson, Andy Carter plus one
Romsey Forum – Chris Wesson & Dorothy Baverstock
Romsey Community Emergency Plan – Dorothy Baverstock

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 102 applications. Notably, we continued to object to

applications for development which were located outside the *Settlement Boundary (TVBLP Policy COM2)* ie in the countryside and applications for infilling along Crampmoor Lane. In addition, there were 15 tree applications.

Appeals

We are always disappointed with the findings planning appeals for housing which are located outside the settlement boundary.

Abbotswood

Whilst the site has now mainly completed there is the odd application which comes up for either the residents of Abbotswood for small extensions or conservatories or for the local centre.

Ganger Farm

The development now called *Kings Chase* for 275 dwellings at the old Ganger Farm is now well underway. Frustratingly, we are still waiting the handover of the allotments which will be gifted to the Parish Council. We met with the developers in February and are waiting for several outstanding issues to be addressed by the developers.

4.1.2 Other

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.

This year the Neighbourhood Plan Group has been quietly continuing with updating the 'Look at Romsey' document which was original adopted in 2008. Due to a lack of volunteers from the public it has been difficult to progress this further.

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.

This year we funded the installation of CCTV around the hall for security following the theft of some lead from the roof.

4.2.2 Corner of Braishfield Road and Ganger Farm Lane

We were pleased to see this corner has now been tidied up by Test valley and a planting scheme of shrubs and bulbs introduced making it a more appealing piece of land.

4.2.3 Parish Tour

The parish tour took place in June. Following this we arranged for the hedge around the open space adjacent to Woodley Village Hall and Short Hill to be reduced in height. The junction between Highwood Lane and Green Lane was identified as an area of the parish that needed tidying up, which by the time you read this it should be all but finished. Also, we requested that some daffodils were planted at the recreation space on Abbotswood.

4.3. Grants

The parish council awards 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. The Council has a Grants Policy which is available on the website. Details of the grants we gave this year are in Section 5.2 of this report.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

The CIL Regulations 2010 (as amended) enable local authorities (TVBC) to raise funding for new infrastructure by levying a charge on new development within their area. The Neighbourhood portion (15%) is passed to Parish/Town Councils on a regular basis. Monies received must be used to fund: (a) the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure; or (b) anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area. This year we started to receive the neighbourhood portion (see accounts).

4.4. Council Administration

4.4.1 Newsletter

Each year we aim to distribute 3-4. The newsletter is also to be found on the parish website.

4.4.2 Website

The parish website contains lots of information including minutes and agendas for the council meetings along with a calendar. Contact details for the council, news items and past newsletters, grant application procedure and much more. The Clerk continues to add further information to the site. Our website developer confirmed the website was compliant with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG).

www.romseyextra-pc.org.uk

4.4.3 Test Valley Borough Council Community Governance Review of Parishes

In January 2018 we responded to this consultation stating that we wished to retain our status as a fully independent parish retaining our existing boundaries except for a few minor changes to sort out anomalies with neighbouring parishes and requested that we are not warded. Test Valley issued their final recommendations September 2018 and we

were disappointed to hear that the Straight Mile and Jermyn's House had been moved from our parish despite our strong objections, but substantially the parish boundaries remain unchanged with a few minor anomalies sorted out. These changes will take place from May 2019 with the parish remaining unwarded.

4.4.4 Four Year Business Plan

The parish council has continued working on its Four Year Business Plan laying out objectives for the period 2018 - 2022.

4.4. Footpaths and Roads

4.5.1 Speed Limits

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 have another sign 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. Due to the lack of volunteer support we have now offered this device to neighbouring parishes to use.

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, the closure of School Road and traffic calming on Highwood Lane. The works for the traffic lights at the end of Braishfield Road to ease congestion at peak times were completed early last year.

A request to remove one of the chicanes on Highwood Lane was refused following a consultation with the residents.

The dedicated right turn lane into Halterworth Lane from Winchester Road is still awaited.

4.5.2 Outstanding 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 underway that does normally take us some time and effort. We are totally realistic about the financial restraints on the highway authority and we will continue to discuss with Hampshire Highways other items of concern. The footway / cycleway from Silverwood Rise to Winchester Road is still awaited.

Parish Lengthsman Scheme, it is anticipated that the funding of £1000 to pay for additional works such as sweeping and cutting back vegetation around the parish will continue in 2019/20.

4.5. Parish Amenities

4.6.1 Broadband

We continue to put pressure on new developments to provide superfast broadband.

4.6.2 Defibrillator

In addition to a public access defibrillator on the front of Woodley Village Hall we have agreed to siting one on the Romsey Rapids Sports building (the Youth in Romsey building was not suitable) and Abbotswood Community Centre.

4.6.3 Romsey Christmas Lights

Once again, we have again supported the Romsey Christmas Lights with a donation of £3000 also, we granted an additional sum of £2000 for the repair of the lights this year.

4.6.4 Romsey Exercise Circuit

We have committed to be part of the 10km circuit project around Romsey. Following a consultation with the residents in Champion Drive it was decided the open space was not an appropriate location. We remain committed to the project and are waiting for a suitable location.

5. Finance

5.1 Provisional Accounts for 2018/19

See Appendix 1 (note Council Accounts are not approved until May)

5.2 Grants / Sponsorship & Projects 2018/19

Organisation	Details	Amount
Romsey Show	Sponsorship	300.00
Abbotswood Community Day	Funding	110.00
Romsey Town Council	Community Emergency Plan	500.00
Churches Together in Romsey	Woodley Fun Day	200.00
Fishlake Meadows Volunteers	Equipment	2,000.00
Romsey Community Lantern Project	Funding	150.00
Romsey Choral Society	Concert	250.00
Romsey Tennis Club	Lessons for Children with Disabilities	1,000.00
Unity (Formerly TVCS)	Electricity for Volunteer Driver Shed	500.00
Woodley Village Hall	CCTV	1,476.00
Romsey Chamber Music	100 Yrs Commemoration of WW1	400.00
Romsey Festival 2020	Funding	1,000.00
Romsey Town Council	Christmas Lights & Repairs	5,000.00
Romsey Opportunity Group	Renew Play Facilities	500.00
Romsey CAB	Increase services	500.00
Mountbatten School	Musical Instruments & Citizenship	2,030.00
Total		£15,916.00

5.3 Precept and Budget for 2019/20

		2018-2019 Outturn - £	2019-2020 Budget - £
Carried Forward at start		70,102.66	
Income	Precept	47,821.00	47,860.00
	Other inc CIL	73,231.00	-
	VAT	1,362.63	-
	Total	122,414.73	47,860.00
Expenditure	Administration	25,913.40	29,390.00
	Running	2,668.85	4,100.00
	Projects	4,366.00	4,200.00
	Grants / Sponsorship	13,416.00	8,000.00
	VAT	1,362.63	-
	Total	47,726.88	45,690.00
Carried Forward (inc cash b fwd)		144,790.51	

The budget figure for 2019/20 was set at £45,690.

The precept is the element within the Council Tax that is paid to Parish Councils. The precept for the financial year 2019/20 is £47,860.

2017/2018	Income	2018/2019
44315.00	Precept	47821.00
5.00	Ground Rent	5.00
30.96	Interest	679.88
0.00	Other Income inc CIL	72546.22
1014.08	VAT	1362.63
45365.04	TOTAL	122,414.73

**ROMSEY EXTRA PARISH COUNCIL
PROVISIONAL ACCOUNTS 2018/19**

Expenditure		
ADMINISTRATION		
11773.92	Clerk - Net Pay	12322.56
498.91	-Tax & NI	537.98
2360.04	- Employer Pension	2560.69
748.42	- Travel	720.46
744.00	- Office All	705.00
364.00	- Training	158.80
190.59	Cllrs - Chair All	135.00
0.00	- Travel	0.00
145.00	- Conf/Course	0.00
75.16	Office - Postage	68.30
173.04	- Copying/Stationery	309.99
552.31	- Telephone	570.75
158.97	- IT	240.46
322.08	Publicity - Advertising	351.32
4060.93	- Newsletter	4575.71
884.50	General - Subs	935.50
77.60	- Publications	135.79
556.51	- Premise Hire	471.02
595.52	- Insurance	649.07
590.00	- Audit	465.00
0.00	- Election	0.00
24871.50	Sub-Total	25913.40
RUNNING COSTS		
0.00	Public Transport	0.00
682.40	Footpaths/Roads	295.34
2136.35	Landscape/Main	2074.51
438.55	Amenities	299.00
3257.30	Sub-Total	2668.85
PROJECTS		
0.00	Footpaths/Roads	0.00
3028.33	Amenities	2500.00
2090.92	Other WVH	1866.00
5119.25	Sub-Total	4366.00
GRANTS / SPONSORSHIP		
	Sponsorship	4100.00
3538.00	GPC Grants	4816.00
700.00	Other Grants - Solar	4500.00
4238.00	Sub-Total	13416.00
1014.08	VAT	1362.63
38500.13	TOTAL	47726.88

CUMULATIVE FUND BALANCE

Balance b/f 31/03/18	70,102.66
Total Income	122,414.73
	192,517.39
Total Expenditure	47,726.88
Provisional Balance c/f 31/03/19	£144,790.51

*(Note: This figure includes sums set aside for IT £1.7k , Election costs £7k Neighbourhood Plan £2.5k; Defibs £3k, CIL £72.5k & Solar Fund £35.5k, Allotments 5k, + Gen Reserve £17.6k)

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