

# **ROMSEY EXTRA PARISH COUNCIL**

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2018**

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# ANNUAL REPORT 2018

## 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 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: 01794 511535  
E-mail: [cllrwesson@talktalk.net](mailto:cllrwesson@talktalk.net)

Vice Chairman

Andy Carter  
23 Avon Crescent  
Romsey SO51 5PX  
Tel: 01794 517139  
E-mail: [andyc@m201.com](mailto:andyc@m201.com)

Members:

Dorothy Baverstock  
7 Westering  
Romsey SO51 7LX  
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Karen Dunleavy  
1 St Clements Close  
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2 Church Cottages  
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Romsey SO51 5SZ  
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Peter Westbrook  
1 Peel Close  
Romsey SO51 7UQ  
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E-mail: [jane\\_peter2009@btinternet.com](mailto:jane_peter2009@btinternet.com)

## 2.2 Officers

Parish Clerk	Carol McFarland Cowesfield Lodge, Romsey Road Whiteparish SP5 2QY	Tel: 01794 884826 E-mail: <a href="mailto:clerk@romseyextra-pc.org.uk">clerk@romseyextra-pc.org.uk</a>
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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.

Hon. Tree Warden	John Chambers John Has been an honorary officer of the council since 1992, in December after some 25 years John has decided to step aside. We have valued his long standing knowledge and advice on tree planning applications and would like to thank him very much for his long and very valuable service to Romsey Extra.
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Rod Simpson	It was with great sadness to hear that Rod lost his battle with cancer in January. He had served on the parish council and was chairman between 2003 and 2007. More recently he was chairman of Woodley Village Hall where he had initiated and implemented the programme upgrading the hall.
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## 3. Councillor Activities

### 3.1 Council Meetings Attended

We met 12 times as a council for our normal monthly meetings during the year 2017/8.

### 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 & Peter Westbrook

### 3.3 Representation on External Committees & Bodies

Woodley Village Hall Management Committee – Chris Wesson & Andy Carter  
Romsey Town Allotments Committee – Teresa Hibberd & Susan Tippet  
Squabb Wood Liaison Panel – Sue Tippet  
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 & Peter Westbrook  
Romsey Town Council Planning – Susan Tippet  
Romsey Neighbourhood Planning – Chris Wesson, Andy Carter & Karen Dunleavey  
Romsey Forum – Chris Wesson & 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 76 applications. Notably, we objected to a number of applications for development which were located outside the *Settlement Boundary* (TVBLP Policy COM2) ie in the countryside such as the applications submitted around the land west of Cupernham Lane. We were pleased to see that Test Valley granted permission for the retirement village at Stanbridge Earls House. In addition there were 13 tree applications.

#### **Appeals**

We were disappointed with the findings of 2 planning appeals for housing which are located outside the settlement boundary, one at Abbotsford on Braishfield Road and the other at land west of Cupernham Lane.

#### **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. It was disappointing to hear that the access road through to Woodley Lane which is restricted in use to buses and emergency services has been abused by other vehicle users and now has been closed off. At the time of writing the lease is being finalised for the Community Centre to be handed over to the association who will be running it.

#### **Ganger Farm**

The development named *Kings Chase* for 275 dwellings at the old Ganger Farm is now well underway. We are now awaiting the handover of the allotments which will be gifted to the Parish Council.

#### **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 continuing with updating the 'Look at Romsey' document which was original adopted in 2008. However, due to a lack of volunteer numbers 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.

We have continued to support the Woodley Hall Management Committee. This year has seen a new committee and we welcome the Chairman, Peter Macfarlane and other committee members and wish them well.

### **4.2.2 Corner of Braishfield Road and Ganger Farm Lane**

The parish council has been concerned for a while about this unsightly patch of land. A meeting has taken place with Test Valley Borough Council landscape management team to see what could be done to improve the appearance of this corner. The parish council will fund the clearing and the planting of shrubs and bulbs to make it a more appealing piece of land.

### **4.2.3 Fence – Romsey Town Football Club**

Following the joint project with the Romsey and District Society last year to smarten up the fence around Romsey Town Football, we were pleased to see this year the Football Club replacing the fencing along the footpath.

### **4.2.4 Parish Tour**

The parish tour took place in late July. This year we looked at the areas west of the parish will be concentrating on the north-west area of the parish such as Shootash, Stanbridge Earls and out towards Ower. Following our tour and reports to the County we were pleased to see that the signage on Pauncefoot Hill were cleared of overgrown foliage and the footway along Mainstone was cleared back.

## **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.

Following completion of the Solar Century Grove (Broadlands) Solar Farm, organisations within Romsey Extra's boundaries were able to apply for community grants between £250 and £5000, a scheme run by GrantScape. A number of organisations applied and we were pleased to see that Romsey Riverside Walk Restoration, Abbotswood Community Association, 10<sup>th</sup> Romsey Scouts and Hampshire Art and Craft all benefitted from a share of the £10,000 on offer.

## **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.

[www.romseyextra-pc.org.uk](http://www.romseyextra-pc.org.uk)

### **4.4.3 Local Government Boundary Commission – New Electoral Arrangements for Romsey Extra Borough Ward and Parish**

Despite objecting to the borough ward of Romsey Extra being removed and merged with the surrounding wards the Local Government Boundary Commission recommended the ward be split. So from May 2019 the borough ward of Romsey Extra will no longer exist. Following on from this Test Valley Borough Council is now carrying out a Community Governance Review of all its parishes. In January 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.

### **4.4.4 Four Year Business Plan**

The parish council has been working on a Four Year Business Plan to start from the new council year.

## **4.5. 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 have 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. More volunteers are needed to get this scheme up and running. We have 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 dedicated right turn lane into Halterworth Lane from Winchester Road is still be started it is hoped they will commence later this year.

The works for the traffic lights at the end of Braishfield Road to ease congestion at peak times have finally been started and at the time of writing we are waiting for them to come into operation.

### **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 actually 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 gate on Green Lane at the closed off section of Crampmoor Lane has been replaced.

We were delighted to hear that we have been accepted onto 2018/19 Parish Lengthsman Scheme, meaning we will receive funding of £1000 to pay for additional works such as sweeping and cutting back vegetation around the parish.

## **4.6. Parish Amenities**

### **4.6.2 Broadband**

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

### **4.6.3 Defibrillator**

Following the installation of a public access defibrillator on the front of Woodley Village Hall it is disappointing to note that it has been vandalised – the sticker showing the vital information on using it has been torn off – a replacement sticker has been ordered. We are awaiting permission from Test Valley Borough Council to install another on the Youth in Romsey building and also Abbotswood Community Centre.

### **4.6.4 Romsey Christmas Lights**

We have again supported the Romsey Christmas Lights with a donation of £3000.

### **4.6.5 Romsey Exercise Circuit**

We have committed to be part of the 10km circuit project around Romsey. The project is currently awaiting news of their lottery bid.



## 5. Finance

### 5.1 Provisional Accounts for 2017/18

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

### 5.2 Grants given in 2017/18

Organisation	Details	Cost
Romsey Show	Sponsorship	300.00
Abbotswood Community Ass	Furniture (Solar Farm monies)	2090.92
LTVAS	Donation	100.00
Churches Together in Romsey	Woodley Fun Day	200.00
10 <sup>th</sup> Romsey Scouts	Archery safety Net	300.00
Romsey Community Lantern Project		100.00
Romsey Choral Society	Concert	250.00
Victim Care	To help with running costs	100.00
Abbotswood Community Ass	Lantern Workshop	91.00
	100 Yrs Commemoration of WW1	2,000.00
Romsey Sea Cadets	Sailing Sessions	297.00
Romsey Town Council	Christmas Lights	3,000.00
Halterworth School	Classics & Fairy tale Library Books	500.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>£9,328.92</b>

### 5.3 Precept and Budget for 2018/19

		2017-2018 Outturn - £	2018-2019 Budget - £
Carried Forward at start		63,237.75	70,102.66
Income	Precept	44,315.00	47,821.00
	Rest	35.96	-
	VAT	1,014.08	-
	Total	45,365.04	47,821.00
Expenditure	Administration	24,871.50	28,582.00
	Running	3,257.30	4,100.00
	Projects	5,119.25	4,200.00
	Grants / Sponsorship	4,238.00	8,000.00
	VAT	1,014.08	-
	Total	38,500.13	44,882.00
Carried Forward (inc cash bfwd)		70,102.66	

The budget figure for 2018/19 was set at £44,882.

The precept is the element within the Council Tax that is paid to Parish Councils. The precept for the financial year 2018/19 is £47,821.

2016/2017	Income	2017/2018	
42153.00	Precept	44315.00	
5.00	Ground Rent	5.00	
44.56	Interest	30.96	
42000.00	Warren Farm Solar Grant	n/a	
5131.26	VAT	1014.08	
<b>89333.82</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>45365.04</b>	
	<b>Expenditure</b>		
	ADMINISTRATION		
11319.24	Clerk - Net Pay	11773.92	
442.59	-Tax & NI	498.91	
2082.85	- Employer Pension	2360.04	
732.12	- Travel	748.42	
726.00	- Office All	744.00	
201.00	- Training	364.00	
425.61	Cllrs - Chair All	190.59	
0.00	- Travel	0.00	
0.00	- Conf/Course	145.00	
84.68	Office - Postage	75.16	
338.83	- Copying/Stationery	173.04	
509.51	- Telephone	552.31	
288.98	- IT	158.97	
258.48	Publicity - Advertising	322.08	
3472.55	- Newsletter	4060.93	
828.50	General - Subs	884.50	
0.00	- Publications	77.60	
257.75	- Premise Hire	556.51	
581.19	- Insurance	595.52	
555.00	- Audit	590.00	
0.00	- Election	0.00	
<b>23104.88</b>	<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>24871.50</b>	
	RUNNING COSTS		
675.00	Public Transport	0.00	
283.83	Footpaths/Roads	682.40	
2174.14	Landscape/Main	2136.35	
286.52	Amenities	438.55	
<b>3418.99</b>	<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>3257.30</b>	
	PROJECTS		
1796.72	Romsey Town FC Fence	0.00	
2050.00	Footpaths/Roads	0.00	
3225.00	Amenities	3028.33	
12531.50	Other WVH	2090.92	
<b>19603.60</b>	<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>5119.25</b>	
	GRANTS		
6324.00	GPC Grants	3538.00	
500.00	Other Grants	700.00	
<b>6824.00</b>	<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>4238.00</b>	
<b>5203.56</b>	VAT	<b>1014.08</b>	
<b>58155.03</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>38500.13</b>	
<b>CUMULATIVE FUND BALANCE</b>			
Balance b/f 31/03/17		63,237.75	
Total Income		45,365.04	*(Note: This figure includes sums set aside for IT £1.5k , Election costs £6k
		<b>108,602.79</b>	Neighbourhood Plan £2.5k; Defibs £3k & Solar Fund £40k – Gen Reserve
Total Expenditure		38,500.13	£17.1k)
Provisional Balance c/f 31/03/18		<b>£70,102.66</b>	*