

ROMSEY EXTRA PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

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ANNUAL REPORT 2016

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.

2. Council Members and Officers

2.1 Members

Chairman

Chris Wesson
11 Hestia Close
Romsey SO518PA
Tel: 01794 511535
E-mail: cllrwesson@talktalk.net

Vice Chairman

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

Members:

Dorothy Baverstock
7 Westering
Romsey SO51 7LX
Tel: 01794 517552
E-mail: Dorothy.baverstock@btinternet.com

Karen Dunleavy
1 St Clements Close
Romsey SO51 8FF
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Teresa Hibberd
2 Church Cottages
Lee
Romsey SO51 9LG
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Dr Susan Tippet
22 The Thicket
Romsey SO51 5SZ
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Peter Westbrook
1 Peel Close
Romsey SO51 7UQ
Tel: 01794 512751
E-mail: jane_peter2009@btinternet.com

2.2 Officers

Parish Clerk	Carol McFarland Cowesfield Lodge, Romsey Road Whiteparish SP5 2QY	Tel: 01794 884826 E-mail: clerk.romseyextra@parish.hants.gov.uk
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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.
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Hon. Rep. to Romsey Youth Council	Rod Simpson
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3. Councillor Activities

3.1 Council Meetings Attended

Following Elections in May 2015 we met 12 times as a council for our normal monthly meetings during the year.

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 – Teresa Hibberd
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, Teresa Hibberd & Peter Westbrook
Romsey Town Council Planning – Susan Tippet
Romsey Neighbourhood Planning – Chris Wesson, Andy Carter & Karen Dunleavy
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 78 applications. Notably, we objected to a number of applications for development in the countryside at Brackenwood and land west of Cupernham Lane. In addition there were 9 tree applications which we considered following advice from our tree warden.

Abbotswood

This year we looked at 8 more applications, showing further details of the properties and layouts. The care home is now open. The bus service which runs through the service road onto Woodley Lane started in April.

Oxlease Farm Fishlake Meadows

Once again 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, in particular, the lack of a circular walk.

Solar Farms

Last year we supported an application for a Solar Park at Broadlands which Test Valley refused. This application has been allowed on appeal and is now in its final stages of development. We looked favourably at two further applications; Warren Farm off Highwood Lane and Roke Manor Farm.

4.1.2 Other

Test Valley Borough Council Revised Local Plan

In January Test Valley adopted the Revised Local Plan 2011 – 2029. From the Romsey Extra point of view it was disappointing that the Lower Whitenap development, which was opposed at all stages by the parish council will now go ahead. Proposals for the layout of the site and other matters concerning the development will come forward in due course.

One piece of good news which did come out of the plan was that the inspector, after much in-depth discussion in public, decided to retain what is known locally as the Botley Road/Highwood Lane local gap. Apart from the fact that the gap was already designated countryside and therefore had some protection from development, the retention as a designated gap gives Highwood Lane additional protection.

The robustness of the 'Gap' policy has already been put to the test. Forman Homes have withdrawn their planning appeal which was due to be heard in April. They stated that this decision had been taken '.....in the light of the findings of the Local Plan Inspector and the changed planning policy context brought about by the recent adoption of the Revised Local Plan.'

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. Romsey Extra has played an active part; in particular, the Parish Council put forward a constitution which has now been adopted by both councils.

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 undertook some extensive tree works to the open space adjacent to the village hall and in the carpark. Notably, the removal of two trees to the rear of the carpark; which were overshadowing the neighbouring properties. We thank our tree warden John Chambers for his excellent advice in this matter.

We have continued to support the Woodley Hall Management Committee. This year we funded the new oak porch installed at the front of the hall. We have continued with our input with the new proposed layout to the front entrance by updating the garden to the right of the main entrance. Further we have supported the village hall's request to install a ramp to the rear of the hall, and funded the repairs to the emergency exit.

4.2.2 Parish Tour

In March the councillors conducted a grand tour of the parish. The intention was to look at areas that need some attention. Following on from this visit it was decided that the corner of Braishfield Road and Ganger Road required some TLC and we met with Test Valley to look at some ideas to improve it. Further on 23 April a litter pick took place with residents and the scouts at Woodley and Ganger. It is hoped that the tour will be a regular event.

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. This year the Council adopted a Grants Policy. 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 or the website) 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 the newsletter is also to be found on the parish website.

4.4.2 Website

The Parish Website went live in the summer last year. Minutes and agendas for the council meetings are now available along with a calendar. Information on all the councilors along with contact details is also available and much more. The Clerk is continuing to add further information to the site.

www.romseyextra-pc.org.uk

4.4.3 Standing Orders

The Parish Council adopted new Standing Orders based on the National Association of Local Council's model standing orders.

4.4.4 Local Government Boundary Commission – New Electoral Arrangements for Hampshire County Council

We objected to the area of Crampmoor being moved to the County's Town division on the basis of its rural nature – we await the conclusion of this.

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. The Parish Council does own a SID and training was provided by Hampshire Police for the Parish Council and volunteers in July. Sadly we still need more volunteers to get the scheme up and running.

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 and the closure of School Road.

The proposals to slow traffic on Highwood Lane were considered by the Parish Council in 2014/15 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 pleased to see that following a meeting on site with the engineers in January the scheme is now being installed.

Further we agreed to a dedicated right turn lane into Halterworth Lane from Winchester Road, this should ease congestion at peak times.

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.

Speeding Traffic – Highwood Lane see 4.5.1

4.5.3 Outstanding Concerns

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.

4.6. Parish Amenities

4.6.1 Seats, School Road & The Thicket

The two seats on the corner of Short Hill were repainted. Also, the seat on The Thicket was cleared of surrounding vegetation and then painted.

4.6.2 Broadband

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

4.6.3 Defibrillator

We are pleased to announce that we have purchased a public access defibrillator which will be located on the front of Woodley Village Hall.

4.6.4 Allotments Ganger Farm

The proposed housing development at Ganger Farm provides for allotments which will be gifted to the Parish Council.

4.6.5 Romsey Christmas Lights

We have again supported the Romsey Christmas Lights with a donation of £1000.

5. Finance

5.1 Provisional Accounts for 2015/16

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

5.2 Grants given in 2015/16

Organisation	Details	Cost
Romsey Show	Sponsorship	300.00
Halterworth School	More Comic Book & Games table	900.00
Romsey Community Lantern Project	Workshop	200.00
Romsey Choral Society	To help with running costs	250.00
Mountbatten School	Montreux Music Festival	2000.00
10 th Romsey Scouts	Junior sized paddles	320.00
Woodley & Crampmoor Friendship Club	Hire Costs for Woodley Village Hall	300.00
Romsey Town Council	Xmas lights	1000.00
Total		£4,270.00

5.3 Precept and Budget for 2016/17

		2015-2016 Outturn - £	2015-2016 Budget - £
Carried Forward at start		40,768.71	33,765.46
Income	Precept	39,403.00	42,153.00
	Rest	67.85	-
	VAT	2,348.58	-
	Total	41,819.43	42,153.00
Expenditure	Administration	28,055.88	24,182.00
	Running	3,658.94	3,950.00
	Projects	10,533.78	14,000.00
	Grants	4,270.00	5,000.00
	VAT	2,304.08	-
	Total	48,822.68	47,132.00
Income less Expenditure		-7,003.25	-4,979.00
Carried Forward (inc cash bfwd)		33,765.46	28,786.46

The budget figure for 2016/17 has been set at £47,132.

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 2016/17 is £42,153.

2014/2015	Income	2015/2016
34687.00	Precept	39403.00
5.00	Ground Rent	5.00
36.91	Interest	62.85
2625.00	Grant HCC	Nil
1469.22	VAT	2348.58
38823.13	TOTAL	41819.43

**ROMSEY EXTRA PARISH COUNCIL
PROVISIONAL ACCOUNTS 2015/16**

	Expenditure	
	ADMINISTRATION	
8659.21	Clerk - Net Pay	9418.47
-1.19	-Tax & NI	58.36
1634.42	- Employer Pension	1833.83
700.31	- Travel	765.37
782.00	- Office All	762.00
174.00	- Training	146.00
308.30	Cllrs - Chair All	395.92
0.00	- Travel	0.00
0.00	- Conf/Course	0.00
92.10	Office - Postage	90.56
137.14	- Copying/Stationery	253.25
444.47	- Telephone	469.65
64.98	- IT	1562.13
387.20	Publicity - Advertising	320.00
3164.62	- Newsletter	3936.23
672.50	General - Subs	750.50
0.00	- Publications	0.00
323.75	- Premise Hire	417.75
600.74	- Insurance	586.36
445.00	- Audit	445.00
0.00	- Election	5844.50
18589.55	Sub-Total	28055.88
	RUNNING COSTS	
900.00	Public Transport	900.00
264.00	Footpaths/Roads	271.67
2050.90	Landscape/Main	2200.75
304.81	Amenities	286.52
3519.71	Sub-Total	3658.94
	PROJECTS	
0.00	Public Transport	0.00
2625.00	Footpaths/Roads	0.00
0.00	Amenities	2579.78
1163.60	Other WVH	7954.00
3788.60	Sub-Total	10533.78
	GRANTS	
1964.58	S137 Grants	3970.00
220.00	Other Grants	300.00
2184.58	Sub-Total	4270.00
1456.42	VAT	2304.08
29538.86	TOTAL	48822.68
CUMULATIVE FUND BALANCE		
Balance b/f 31/03/15		40,768.71
Total Income		41,819.43
		82,588.14
Total Expenditure		48,822.68
Provisional Balance c/f 31/03/16		£33,765.46

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