Romsey Town Council

Chief Officer: Helen Klaassen PSLCC
Town Hall
1, Market Place
Romsey
SO51 8YZ

MINUTES of the MEETING of the TOWN COUNCIL held on 23rd June 2026 at Romsey Town Hall.

In the Chair; Councillor Janet Burnage

Attendance:
Present:

Councillor J. Burnage	Councillor N. Gwynne	Councillor S. Wilkinson
Councillor M. Cooper	Councillor J. Parker	
Councillor S. Gidley	Councillor R. Theron	

Absent:
Councillor A. Goddard (Apologies)
Councillor C. Birkett (Apologies)
Councillor C. Burgess (Apologies)
Councillor J. Critchley (Apologies)
Councillor I. Culley (Apologies)
Councillor R. Kohli (Apologies)
Councillor J. Ray (Apologies)
Councillor J. Urquhart

Also in Attendance:
Helen Klaassen – Chief Officer (CO)

In the absence of the Mayor Cllr. Burgess, Cllr. Burnage took the chair.

TC207 APOLOGIES
Apologies were received from Cllr. Burgess, Cllr. Critchley, Cllr. Goddard, Cllr. Kohli, Cllr. Culley and Cllr. Birkett.

TC208 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS
None.

TC209 MINUTES

i. **To receive and approve as a true and accurate record the Minutes of the Full Council Meetings held on 5th and 12th of May 2026.**

Notwithstanding a few minor amendments, Cllr. Parker **PROPOSED,** Cllr. Theron **SECONDED** and it was **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

ii. **Matters Arising from those minutes.**

TC203 – Cllr. Parker noted the minutes should read Test Valley South 'Locality' Health Forum (TVSLHF), and that the meeting of the Romsey Future Health Working Group had been moved to17th July as it clashed with TVSLHF meeting.

Cllr. Parker also noted that, alongside the two health meetings, Hampshire County Council Public Health and the NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care Board (ICB) are developing neighbourhood health plans in support of the Government's 10-year neighbourhood health policy. An initial meeting was held on 30th January, which he attended, to discuss proposed health neighbourhood boundaries based on Middle Layer Super Output Areas (MSOAs). While MSOAs are used for census and health data collection and contain similar

population sizes, they do not reflect natural communities. The draft proposals divided Test Valley into North, Central and South areas, resulting in some anomalies, including parts of Romsey (such as Abbotswood) being placed in Test Valley Central while most of Romsey was allocated to Test Valley South. Cllr. Parker subsequently submitted an objection to Simon Bryant, Director of Public Health.

Cllr. Cooper noted that he had also served on both the Town Council and Borough Council for 40 years and as on the County for 21 years. Councillors thanked him for his service.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
None.

TC210 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION MATTERS

a. Accounts and Audit Reports 2025-26

To receive and approve:

i. The Year End Accounts – 2025- 2026 – DCK/BC&A

The CO noted that the Asset Register figures were not the same on DCK's report as they appeared not have used the approved AR. The figures did not differ much, but the approved figure appeared on the Agar.
Cllr. Parker **PROPOSED,** Cllr. Cooper **SECONDED** and it was **RESOLVED** to accept the presented accounts.

ii. The Internal Audit Report – June 2026 - Audit Solutions.

Cllr. Gidley **PROPOSED,** Cllr. Parker **SECONDED** and it was **RESOLVED** to approve the internal audit report.

b. Annual Governance and Accountability Return - Audit 2025-26.

To receive and approve the AGAR and Audit Report:

i. To confirm and declare any Conflicts of Interest with the External Auditor BDO LLP – Clerk and Chair to sign.

There were no conflicts, the Chair and CO signed.

ii. AGAR: To Receive and Approve the Internal Audit Report for the period 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026.

Cllr. Wilkinson **PROPOSED,** Cllr. Theron **SECONDED** and it was **RESOLVED** to approve the IAR.

iii. AGAR: Review and Approve Section 1: Annual Governance Statement – Chair to sign.

Cllr. Parker **PROPOSED,** Cllr. Theron **SECONDED** and it was **RESOLVED** to approve Section 1 on the AGAR.
Cllr. Burnage signed.

iv. AGAR: Review and Approve Section 2: Accounting Statements – Chair to sign.

Cllr. Wilkinson **PROPOSED,** Cllr. Theron **SECONDED** and it was **RESOLVED** to approve Section 2 of the AGAR.
Cllr. Burnage signed.

v. Dates of Public Notice – To note the Dates of Public Notice for the AGAR and Accounts

The dates of public notice were noted.

c. Internal Auditor

It was noted that the current IA was retiring and confirmed that the CO will be obtaining quotes for a new IA.

d. Updated Financial Risk Assessment (FRA)

The amendments were noted, Cllr. Parker **PROPOSED,** Cllr. Wilkinson **SECONDED** and it was **RESOLVED** to approve the FRA.

TC211 LGR

i. Confirmation of wards within Mid Hampshire unitary

Cllr. Gwynne provided an update on the proposed unitary council arrangements. Based on the Current proposals, Romsey will be within the Mid Hampshire Unitary Authority. This unitary will include most of the New Forest (except the Waterside), most of Test Valley (except Chilworth, Nursling & Rownhams and Valley Park) most of Winchester and most of East Hampshire. Councillor representation will be based on current county divisions with three councils for each division in the general. In our area Romsey Rural and Baddesley will have two each as they are losing parts to South west Hampshire. Chilworth, Nursling and Rownhams and Valley Park will forma new division in Southa West Hampshire unity authority with three councillors. The existing anomalies such as Abbotswood being in Romsey Rural not Romsey town will not be addressed before the next boundary review.

ii. TVBC's Test and Learn initiative – update

Members were reminded about Test Valley Borough Council's **"Test and Learn" initiative**, which aims to influence the future unitary authority by demonstrating successful local approaches. The three focus areas are:

- The Health Hub model in Andover.
- Community support and service delivery in rural Test Valley.
- The work of **Romsey Future** as a model for community engagement.

The initiative is due to launch on 21st July and will involve approximately 12 months of work, culminating in recommendations and documentation for the new unitary authority.

An update was also given on Hampshire County Council's decision to allocate £500,000 towards pursuing a potential judicial review of local government reorganisation proposals. Discussion highlighted uncertainty around whether legal advice obtained by the County Council would be published. Concern was expressed about future local government funding, with indications that government transition funding may fall short of actual costs, increasing pressure on district councils to utilise available resources effectively before reorganisation.

Discussion followed on the implications for parish and town councils. It was emphasised that councils will not be obliged to take on additional services, although some larger councils, including Romsey and Andover, appear keen to explore opportunities to assume greater responsibilities and assets. Smaller parish councils are generally less certain about their future role and may require support as plans develop.

Attendees also discussed the future role of the Test Valley Association of Parish and Town Councils (TVAPTC) once Test Valley ceases to exist as a local authority area. It was suggested that TVAPTC could play a useful role in providing training and support to councillors as parish councils consider any expanded responsibilities under the new arrangements.

iii. HALC LGR Summit

The CO updated on the summit, noting it was a useful and enlightening day. She hoped that HALC would continue to run these sorts of things to support councils through LGR.

The meeting concluded at 8pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____