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 14th July 2026 at Romsey Town Hall.

In the Chair; Councillor Colin Burgess

Attendance:
Present:

Cllr. C. Burgess
Cllr. J. Burnage
Cllr. J. Critchley
Cllr. R. Kohli
Cllr. S. Gidley
Cllr. N. Gwynne
Cllr. J. Parker
Cllr. J. Ray
Cllr. R. Theron
Cllr. S. Wilkinson
Cllr. J. Urquhart

Absent:
Cllr. A. Goddard
Cllr. C. Birkett (Apologies)
Cllr. M. Cooper (Apologies)
Cllr. I. Culley (Apologies)

Also in Attendance:
Helen Klaassen – Chief Officer (CO)
Jess Morris - Work Experience Student

Members of the Public;
Cllr. T. Burley – Mayor of Andover

TC212 APOLOGIES
Apologies were received from Cllr. Cooper, Cllr. Culley and Cllr. Birkett.

TC213 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS
None.

TC214 MINUTES

(a) To receive and approve as a true and accurate record the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 14th July 2026.

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

(b) Matters Arising from those minutes.

None.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
None.

TC215 COUNCILLOR REPORTS
Cllr. Gidley started by updating members that she would be sending out a monthly report in a new format she had introduced, with the aim of providing a monthly update on matters of relevant interest.
Cllr. Gidley noted local issues such as overgrown hedges and pavement defects must be reported directly via the Hampshire County Council's reporting portal in the first instance. Members were requested to advise residents to submit official reports before escalating matters.

Cllr. Parker noted that members of the public should report local infrastructure issues directly via the Hampshire County Council website and not 'Fix My Street' to ensure reports are logged and actioned efficiently, as HCC did not tend to rank 'Fix My Street' reports as highly.

Cllr. Parker detailed that the South of Town Centre tender document results are expected in September 2026 and noted the appointment of Sergeant Adrian Beaumont as the new police sergeant for Romsey Police Station who has transferred from Andover.

a) **Questions for County, Borough and Town Councillors.**
b) **Any other matters Councillors might like to raise.**

Cllr. Gidley; provided an update on the proposed highway changes on Cupernham Lane, which followed a community petition for safer school crossings. The proposed updates included:
Richmond Lane: To become exit-only with no access from Cupernham Lane, creating a one-way system at the junction.
Mercer Way: To be widened and become exit-only, with a one-way ingress into New Road.

Cllr. Gidley also advised that potential alterations to the crossing perimeters remained under discussion and further advised that the project would proceed to the next phase once budget completion was finalised.
Cllr. Parker noted that the Neighbourhood Planning Committee had raised queries regarding the one-way aspect of Richmond Lane, alongside a proposed directional alteration to the circulatory system around Mercer Way and New Road.

The Committee had also highlighted the need for public education regarding the new concepts of parallel crossings and continuous pavements. Cllr. Burnage proposed that directing traffic northbound would ensure higher safety standards. This layout would allow for clear, mutual visibility between motorists and cyclists, reducing risks compared to traffic approaching from behind.

TC216 MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS
To receive and note the minutes of:

a) **Planning Committee meetings held on 14th May and 25th May (draft)**
b) **Buildings and Community Committee meeting held on 2nd June (draft)**
c) **Finance & Resources Committee meeting held on 16th June (draft)**
d) **The Allotment Committees:**
    i. **Southampton Road**
    ii. **King's Chase**

The minutes were received and noted.
Cllr. Parker reported that funding from the S106 contributions, estimated to be £20-30,000 secured as part of the Halterworth development would be made available to Southampton Road allotments for such items as repairing the track, fence and garage.

TC217 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN
Cllr. Critchley gave an update that he was close to having a full draft for the Reg14 and would be sending it out to the committee for comments shortly, with a view to having a more polished copy for the meeting at the end of the month. This will then go to consultation in early autumn 2026.
Members expressed their appreciation for the significant amount of work undertaken by Cllr. Critchley in the formation of the plan.

TC218 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION MATTERS

i. **To receive and approve the payments lists for May and June 2026**

Cllr. Theron **PROPOSED,** Cllr. Parker **SECONDED** and it was **RESOLVED** to approve the payments lists.

ii. **To receive and approve the bank reconciliation for May and June 2026**

Cllr. Theron **PROPOSED,** Cllr. Parker **SECONDED** and it was **RESOLVED** to approve the bank reconciliations for May and June, subject to the CO reviewing the end balance calculations.

iii. UKSPF - Power Supply in WMP. To review quotes and confirm contractor.

Cllr. Gwynne **PROPOSED,** Cllr. Burnage **SECONDED** and it was **RESOLVED** to appoint contractor 1 to carry out the installation of the power supply in the War Memorial Park.

iv. Extra ordinem; Grant Applications

a. Romsey Youth Choir

Cllr. Theron **PROPOSED**, Cllr. Burnage **SECONDED** and it was **RESOLVED** to award Romsey Youth Choir a grant of £1000.00.

King John's House Grant

Cllr. Parker informed members that King John's House had successfully secured a smaller development grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, aided by matched funding from the town council. This initial funding would allow them to prepare a larger grant application in about a year's time to transform the site and 13 Church Street into a museum and exhibition space for Romsey.

v. Strategic Plan - Update from CO

The CO gave an update regarding the development of the Strategic Plan. It was noted that work was progressing well and a small working group of councillors would meet shortly to provide feedback. A full outline of the plan is expected to be presented at the September 2026 Full Council meeting.

TC219 CIVILITY AND RESPECT PLEDGE

The CO explained the motivation behind bringing the pledge to Council and thanked members for their positive engagement, constructive support, and professionalism since she took up the post, noting that under the current system any problems with poor behaviour could not be effectively dealt with due to the lack of appropriate sanctions. Members discussed the matter and asked the CO to add an agenda item for a motion to the next full council meeting regarding lobbying government to apply greater sanctions and support. **Action; CO.**

Thus, it was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Gwynne, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Critchley and **RESOLVED** to adopt the Civility and Respect Pledge.

TC220 ONE ROMSEY

Cllr. Burnage highlighted widespread positive cross-generational feedback, including praise from secondary school pupils who valued the safe, inclusive environment and official commendation from local MPs. The event was commended as a highly positive representation of Romsey that should be maintained and built upon as the town evolves.

Cllr. Burnage **PROPOSED**, Cllr. Theron **SECONDED** and it was **RESOLVED** that the One Romsey event would run again in 2027. Following 2027, the event will be reviewed to determine if it should become an annual occurrence.

Cllr. Gwynne proposed a future meeting to discuss all Romsey events and the best way of running them all collectively.

TC221 ROMSEY FUTURE

i. RF Update.

Cllr. Gwynne informed members that the launch of Test Valley Borough Council's Test, Learn and Grow initiative will be Tuesday, 21st July 2026. Cllr. Gwynne also detailed the next RF meeting will be held on the 13th August 2026.

ii. LGR Update.

Cllr. Gwynne advised an update had been received regarding upcoming agenda items for the next Test Valley Borough Council meeting, highlighting three key matters:

a) Judicial Review Motion: A motion will be brought forward requesting the Borough Council to formally write to Hampshire County Council regarding their judicial review.
b) Council Culture: A second motion will be presented encouraging all Borough Council members across political spectrums to advocate for and preserve the established collaborative culture of the Borough Council.

c) Local Plan Strategy: An update will be tabled regarding a shift to a new recommended planning approach for the Local Plan. The change aims to align local districts at a similar stage of preparation ahead of the transition to a unitary authority under Local Government Reorganisation (LGR).

Cllr. Gidley noted the ongoing reviews into Hampshire County Council's asset and service distribution strategies in relation to local government restructuring proposals regarding local infrastructure funding and the future management of county-controlled buildings.

TC222 REPORTS FROM MEMBERS ATTENDING MEETINGS OF EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

Kents Almshouses

Cllr. Critchley reported he had attended the Kents Almshouses Annual General Meeting and Trustees meeting, noting that overall operations continue to run satisfactorily despite the recent cancellation of a social event due to warm weather. The council noted that trustees are currently reviewing a long-term maintenance contract.

Cllr. Parker reported on his attendance at the Test Valley South Health Forum, noting a progress update from the Integrated Care Board (ICB) on the NHS 10-Year Plan.

Cllr. Wilkinson shared an update from the Bartletts Almshouses extraordinary meeting regarding ongoing discussions to resolve rising utility costs through the installation of solar panels and the impact on that from local planning constraints.

TC223 CORRESPONDENCE

None.

TC224 MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr. Burgess details his plan to take part in a fundraising skydive on 2 October 2026 alongside several other participants.

TC 225 STAFFING MATTERS – CLOSED SESSION

Cllr. Parker **PROPOSED,** Cllr. Ray **SECONDED** and it was **APPROVED** to close the meeting to the public and press.

The CO gave a verbal report.

The meeting concluded at 8.55pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____