

# **Romsey Town Council Allotments Management Committee**

Minutes of the meeting held at 07:30pm on the **12<sup>th</sup> March 2025** at the Court Room, Romsey Town Hall, Romsey.

**Those present:** Mr Mike Nobbs, Mr Chris Davies, Mrs Eleanor Vamplew, Cllr Colin Burgess, Mr Roger House, Mrs Clementine Kingstone.

**Apologies:** Mrs Lisa Fallowfield, Mr John Waterman, Mr Elvin Mullinger.

**3.1 The Minutes** of the last meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> January were confirmed as accurate.

Any further matters arising will be discussed under various headings.

## **3.2 Correspondence:**

**3.2.1** Correspondence has been underway with Mr James Laffeaty, RTC Buildings Manager, regarding a meeting which took place on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January for the defibrillator. At the meeting the position for said machine was agreed to be located at the end of plot 28. We were informed that a contractor has been appointed to form a concrete base for the siting of the cabinet and the unit will come complete with Solar panel and wind turbine thereby becoming a self-sufficient unit.

**3.2.2** By the date of this meeting, 12<sup>th</sup> March, the base has not yet been constructed.

## **3.3 Finance:**

**3.3.1** EV confirmed that the attached accounts are the only ones to have been received, from RTC, since October 24.

**3.3.2** EV reported that the card reader charges identified in RTC accounts are not consistent with the funds taken.

**3.3.3.** These accounts which are now updated into our format are current to 11<sup>th</sup> March and reflect a current income at £3270, an expenditure of £2268, with £7972 previously held in reserve.

**3.3.4.** CB informed the meeting that a £3700 cost of the defibrillator, is to be partially funded from our reserves, which will reduce our current reserve to £4272.

**3.3.5** The majority of the committee expressed their thoughts that as the defibrillator is a public facility then this should be met with public finance and not taken from our allotment reserves which have taken years to get to an appreciable level and are being held for future known expenditures.

**3.3.6** The committee were disappointed to learn that RTC have not actioned payment for the tree works recently undertaken on site.

**3.3.6** CB informed the meeting that all future costs relating to the allotments are to be ratified by the buildings manager, Mr James Laffeaty, prior to any payment taking place.

**3.3.7** The minutes for Allotment portal meeting from last month are to be lodged with Town Hall for their records.

### **3.4 Allotments:**

**3.4.1** At the last meeting it was agreed that the waiting list at Kings chase be asked if they wished to take up a plot at Southampton Road instead. EM has actively pursued this and all have refused, deciding to wait for a plot at Kings chase only.

**3.4.2** Currently there is only 1 person waiting for a full-size plot and 1 person waiting for a half size plot.

**3.4.3** At present there are 5 vacant plots, numbers, 21,47,98,100 &109.

**3.4.4** Plot 60, vacated last month, has already been re-allocated.

**3.4.5** It was agreed that plots 16 & 63 which were under review have now achieved an agreeable standard.

**3.4.6** No further 'improvement required' notices have been issued since August 24.

**3.4.7** RH presented the current plot assessment recently undertaken by John Waterman and Lisa fallowfield, who were not present.

### **3.5 Distribution Centre:**

The shop is open to tenants when a committee member is present on site.

### **3.6 Councillor's Report:**

The report is appended to the rear of these minutes, briefly :

**Car Parks:** The committee were informed that the work on the car park repairs is unlikely to commence until March 31<sup>st</sup> due to delays with both Hampshire County Council (HCC) and Romsey Town Council (RTC).

**Defibrillator:** A meeting is to be held on site with Mr James Laffeaty, the buildings manager, to locate the unit. Originally the cost of the unit, £5418, was to be met by RTC, however, we are informed that this is to be taken partially from our 'Earmarked reserves' which raises concern with some committee members who consider that there will be insufficient funds left in reserve to meet future known expenditures. The new reserve will now be £4272, i.e. £7972 less £3700

We were assured by Councillor Burgess that future 'known' expenditures will be met by Town Hall.

### **3.7 AOB:**

**3.7.1** The matter of the committee's constitution was discussed. RH told the meeting that he believes he has a paper copy of the original, somewhere. It was considered that we should be able to compile a new one based on current trends.

**3.7.2** Regarding the issue of the upcoming 'Newsletter', it was agreed that apart from issuing the letter to all by E-mail, that for those tenants who are under scrutiny through past inspections not having come up to standard, that they should also be presented with a paper copy as well as a reminder of the state of their plot.

**3.7.3.** CD suggested that since plots 98 and 100 are vacant and unattractive to potential tenants that they be turned into a community wild flower garden thereby attracting a greater range of biodiversity on site.

**3.7.4** EV informed the committee that the wife of the holder of plot 112 has recently passed. It was agreed that those carrying out upcoming assessments to take note of this point.

the meeting closed at 09:30pm.

***Chris Davies***

Committee Secretary

Date ... **09/04/2025**

***Mike Nobbs***

Chairman

**Next meeting is to be held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2025 , 7:30pm at the mayor's parlour, Romsey Town Hall.**