

Romsey Town Council Allotments Management Committee

Minutes of the meeting held at 07:30pm on the **19th November 2025** at the Mayor's Parlour, Romsey Town Hall, Romsey.

Those present: Mr Chris Davies, Mrs Clementine Kingstone, Mrs Lisa Fallowfield, Mr John Waterman, Mr Elvin Mullinger, Mrs Eleanor Vamplew, Cllr Colin Burgess, Mr Eric Gussin, Mr Bob Dalton, Mrs Mandy Berendsen

Apologies: None.

Minutes of the last meeting on 23rd October 2025 were confirmed as accurate.

Matters arising 10.2.2 – covered under 4 Allotments; 10.2.4 – CB is in process of organising a date for the photo shoot with the mayor, expected to be early December.

11.1 Election of Office Bearers

11.1.1 Chairperson – Clementine Kingstone nominated by EM, seconded by CB

11.1.2 Secretary – Chris Davies nominated by JW, seconded by EM

11.1.3 Treasurer – Eleanor Vamplew nominated by CK, seconded by LF

11.1.4 Lettings Secretary – EM would like to step down, Eric Gussin has agreed to take the position. Details of the role were discussed and EM, JW and LF offered support and EM will ensure a hand over period. No nomination required as not an office bearer position.

11.2 Correspondence:

None, correspondence from previous meeting regarding bonfires discussed under 11.4.2 below.

11.3 Finance:

11.3.1 Spreadsheets illustrating the finances for the year to date and, budget, were issued to the committee prior to meeting.

11.3.2 The Current finances for this year reflect an income of £4,149.20 and an expenditure of £3,288.48. The earmarked reserve currently stands at £4272 with £798 reserves being carried forward into the coming year totalling the reserves to £5070. The expenditure includes the payment of rent to Broadlands, which is the main expenditure in the current year.

11.3.3 EV confirmed all plot rents have been received except for 3 tenants, 2 of whom have reasons and 1 who currently EV cannot get hold of.

11.3.4 Card charges on the recent rent payments not known yet but should be known by the end of the month. Water bills currently reasonable. There was no charge for hedge cutting.

11.4 Allotments:

11.4.1 EM tabled a plot letting update dated 19/11/25 which confirmed the following: -

- a) Waiting list is currently 0 with 8 vacant plots. EM in communication with 1 interested party who is due to move into Romsey.
- b) Plot 111 resigned, EV to take on as a second plot, reducing number of vacant plots to 7.
- c) The tenant at plot 2 is currently unwell.
- d) Plots 25, 47, 63, 80a (half plot) and 111 have resigned.
- e) Plot 21 in a poor condition, covered in mare's tail. Agreed not to be let until it has been addressed. JW to organise weed killer.
- f) Plot 41 is vacant after termination letter.
- g) Plot 87, new tenant since January. No work on plot to date due to illness. EV advised tenant intends to pay rent today (19th November). Tenant advised EM would begin work in plot in Autumn. EM to contact tenant.
- h) Plot 98 is vacant but in a poor condition, this has been strimmed by the tenant of plot 96 several times.
- i) Plot 118 vacant as tenant moved to plot 43
- j) In summary the following plots are vacant 21 (but not being let until mare's tail under control), 41, 47, 63, 80a (half plot), 98, 118.

11.4.2 regarding vacant plots, it was agreed to advertise again to current plot holders who may wish to have a second plot. To be advertised in Chairpersons Newsletter. CK to do a post on Romsey News and Information facebook page to encourage new tenants.

11.4.3 Bonfires – at the last meeting it was noted that a complaint was received regarding bonfires affecting surrounding properties. Initial investigation by committee members would indicate is not coming from our site. CB communicated with Environmental Health official who had not approached RAHA site. They have now been approached. Complainant has been given a diary to note when affected by bonfires, no further complaints or communication from complainant. Closure date for complaint is very soon, so expected that complaint will be closed.

EG suggested note on noticeboard detailing dates bonfires are allowed. CK to communicate with plot holder who CD has noticed leaving fires burning after leaving site.

11.4.4 If plots remain vacant BD suggested black plastic (1,000 dpm) to cover so plots are more workable for any new tenant. BD and CB to obtain quotes for a typical plot measuring 22 x 7 meters.

11.4.5 CD to arrange removal of EM contact details from website.

11.5 Councillor's Report:

11.5.1 Safety, proposed additional clause to rules – all agreed it is not necessary to add this additional rule as current rules already cover this.

11.5.2 Funding – Potential funding for the allotments of £40,000. It was suggested that it be used to re-coat access roads and carpark. All agreed funds could be better used elsewhere within the allotments.

Other Suggestions were replacement garage (estimated £4,500), or a shipping container to replace the garage, a compostable toilet (estimated £4,500 – whilst considered a good idea, concern was raised over the ongoing maintenance and weekly emptying of the toilet), updating water main, boreholes. BD suggested that the work on the car park and edging to the road could be overseen by him, if materials paid for and volunteers found. Agreed to ask plot holders for their feedback/ideas. Once WhatsApp group has more tenant members, a vote can be carried out on WhatsApp.

11.6 AOB:

11.6.1 Defibrillator Training. CD clarified the cost would be £200.00 if obtained via Dr Peace/ Resus training department for about 10 people. CB and CK to investigate possibility of free training or online training. British Heart Foundation video suggested as good training material. Possibility to send link to tenants so that as many as possible can be trained in its use, although it was noted that both the defibrillator and emergency services operator talk through and give clear instructions as to how to use it.

11.6.2 Separate WhatsApp group proposed for committee. CK has all committee members details to set up.

11.6.3 Current site wide WhatsApp group has three committee members as admins (EV, CB, and CD). All tenants to be made aware of this WhatsApp group and invited to join.

11.6.3 Committee members need updating on notice board and on website. CK to organise photos of each committee member with short bio.

11.6.4 Next plot inspection to be completed by JW and LF in March.

11.6.5 CB to communicate with Helen Klaassen (Chief Officer) regarding social media pages for the RTCA.

11.6.6 CK to draft a Christmas newsletter, covering all points raised above, namely introducing new committee members, asking tenants to join WhatsApp, suggestions for improvements to allotment site, potential for second plot for current tenants

The meeting closed at 09:30pm.

Chris Davies

Secretary

Clementine Kingstone

Chair

Date *1st December 2025*

Next meeting is to be held on Wednesday 21st January 2026, 7:30pm at the mayor's parlour,

