

# **Romsey Town Council Allotments Management Committee**

Minutes of the meeting held at 07:30pm on the **21<sup>st</sup> January 2026** at the Mayor's Parlour, Romsey Town Hall, Romsey.

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

**Apologies:** Mrs Lisa Fallowfield

**Minutes of the last meeting** on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2025, CB requested update to point 11.5.2 to be reworded to state; 'within the allotments.' CD to edit on website. Otherwise, minutes agreed by all.

**Matters arising** 11.4.2 completed. 11.4.3 and 11.4.4 and 10.2.4 from matters arising from October minutes covered in Councillors report below. 11.6.2 completed. 11.6.3 CK still in process of organising. 11.6.6 completed.

## **1.1 Correspondence**

**1.1.1** Potential tenants from other areas are discussed under point 1.3.2 below.

**1.1.2** Mike Nobbs may not be on site for a few weeks due to wife having surgery, currently plot does look attended to.

## **1.2 Finance Report**

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

**1.2.2** The Current finances for this year reflect an income of £4,434.20 and an expenditure of £3,289.18. 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. Expenditure does not include the recent water bill, see 1.2.4

**1.2.3** EV confirmed all plot rents have been received, including rents from new tenants.

**1.2.4** Water rates bills received totalling £1,734.50, being £123.26 for December to January 2025 (when water was turned off!), and £1571.24 for March to December 2025. EV has queried bills with Southern Water. Bills have also been queried with Helen Klaassen and James Laffeaty, but no response yet received.

The volume of water used has doubled from the previous year when the water bills charged were under budget. CD has recently read the meter, and 376 cubic meters have been used since May. Discussed possibility of a leak. It should be noted that the water trough near the garage leaked during the summer.

JW and EM to turn on water and see if any movement in meter, and to investigate if they find any leaks.

EM and CD to do water readings alternate months and to keep an eye on the readings.

It was noted that bills go directly to council who pay the bills. Going forward EV to request that bills are forwarded to committee if out of budget.

### 1.3 Allotments:

1.3.1 EG tabled a plot letting update dated 21/1/26 which confirmed the following: -

- a) The waiting list is currently 0 with 7 vacant plots. There have been 3-4 new enquiries with 2 plots, 63 and 25 now let to new residents.
- b) Of the vacant plots, plots 21 & 98 are in a poor condition, and Plots 2 (half plot), 41, 47, 80a (half plot), and 118 remain vacant.
- c) Plot 87 was noted on previous minutes as unworked due to illness. EG keeping check on Autumn 25 and Spring 26 activity.
- d) The tenants on Plot 3 are away until the end of March.
- e) The new tenant on plot 25 has asked if he can erect a greenhouse. EG to advise tenant that it needs to be made with polycarbonate glazing and positioned on the south side of the plot.

1.3.2 Vacant plots were advertised to current plot holders in the Christmas newsletter; no tenants have come forward. Agreed not to offer plots to people outside the Romsey and Romsey Extra area.

1.4 **Plot Assessments** JW and LF will undertake assessments in March.

1.5 **Councillor's Report:** report attached. The following was noted:

1.5.1 **Safety**, proposed additional clause to rules – Dropped as per previous minutes

1.5.2 **Matters arising from previous minutes; Bonfires** – Matter closed; **Black Sheeting** – not to go ahead due to risk of vermin. BD had obtained a quote of £75 per plot; **Photoshoot** -To be organised for between 10-20<sup>th</sup> February on a Thursday morning.

1.5.3 **Constitution** – Committee members to email CD with any changes or suggestions, and these should then be circulated to the rest of the committee. EM noted it should be amended to read 'Romsey Town Council Allotments, Southampton Road'. To be included in the next meeting agenda for discussion.

1.5.4 **Defibrillator Training** -Lots of options. CK suggested Hampshire and IOW Air Ambulance, who give free training including CPR. CK to share with committee via WhatsApp. Once decided which training to sign up for CK to share with plot holders via WhatsApp/Newsletter.

1.5.5 **CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) Funding** – Committee members to give thought to the use of this funding over the coming weeks. CK to send WhatsApp message to tenants asking for ideas/suggestions for upgrades/improvements to the site. CB to clarify regarding the use of CIL fund for repairs to the track. Next meeting to discuss any suggestions and discuss the need for the distribution centre. Roof is potentially made from asbestos. BD suggested using the funds as a legacy going forward, for example the water mains which would benefit current tenants and all tenants for years to come.

**1.6 AOB:**

**1.6.1** CB's plot to be managed this year by a friend.

**1.6.2** BD suggested that plots which have been vacant for a long time could be communal fruit tree plots. CIL funding could be used for trees. Noted need for maintenance of the plots and pruning of trees. CK to share idea on WhatsApp group.

The meeting closed at 09:00pm.

**Chris Davies**

Secretary

Date **02 March 26**

**Clementine Kingstone**

Chair

**Next meeting is to be held on Thursday 5th March 2026, 7:30pm at the mayor's parlour,**



## **Romsey Town Council Southampton Road Allotments Management Committee**

Meeting 21 January 2026

### **Councillors' Representative Report**

#### **Defibrillator – Photoshoot**

According to the Mayor's online diary, Cllr Theron is currently available for a photoshoot on the following dates: 29 – 31 January and 10 – 20 February.

#### **Defibrillator (AED) Training Options**

[St John's Ambulance](#) has produced a free online video.

Free online training is also available from [AEDDontate](#). Next course 2 April 2026.

British Heart Foundation provide several free online videos covering CPR and AED Training under their RevivR program [here](#). There is a link specifically to their AED training video (QR code).

To encourage viewing and to determine uptake, we could consider a viewing of the BHF videos at the Town Hall.

And of course, there is Dr Peace's (retired GP) suggested training course costing £200.00 per group (10 participants).

#### **Bonfires - Complaint from TVBC Environmental Health**

Consider matter closed. No further contact from TVBC.

#### **Procurement of Black Plastic Sheeting**

The Chief Officer strongly recommends not using black sheeting. When overseeing her previous parish's allotments, such sheeting proved to be the perfect habitat for breeding vermin. Nests under the sheeting were kept dry and warm by the heat absorbing black (even by Winter sunshine).

#### **Vacant Plots**

The Chief Officer has offered to advertise vacant plots on Social Media. This may negate the need for plastic sheeting.

#### **Safety Proposal (mentioned on the Agenda)**

Dropped - See para 11.5.1 on the meeting minutes for 19/11/26.

#### **Draft Constitution (mentioned in the Agenda) and Proposal for dedicated Social Media account**

Will discuss both during my next meeting with the Chief Officer.

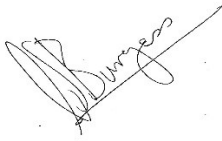
#### **CIL Funding**

Councillors clarified their position on funding. They support canvassing the allotment tenants for ideas and would consider suggestions that meet the funding criteria. Concerns were however raised that to spend CIL money at the allotments would not benefit all residents. An indicative figure of £40,000 appears to have been set aside for the allotments.

Ideas so far discussed by the committee include:

- 20ft Container to replace aging garage.

- Track repairs (edging)
- Replacement of underground mains water supply pipe to troughs
- Water extraction bores



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Cllr Colin Burgess  
Councillors' Representative  
21 January 2026