

**MINUTES**  
**ROMSEY TOWN COUNCIL**  
**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, TUESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2015**  
**COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, ROMSEY**



**1**

In the Chair: Councillor P. Hurst, Romsey Town Mayor

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Attendance:**

P Councillor D. Baverstock	- Councillor L. Friedman
P Councillor K. Dunleavey	P Councillor J. Burnage
A Councillor M. Bramley	A Councillor S. Gidley
P Councillor J. Burgess	A Councillor G. O'Hara
P Councillor C. Collier	P Councillor I. Richards
P Councillor J. Ray	P Councillor M. Curtis
P Councillor M. Wenman	P Councillor M. Cooper

Clerk: Mrs. Judith Giles  
Members of Public: 10

Mark Edgerley – Town Centre Mgr.

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllr. S. Gidley, Cllr. G. O'Hara, and Cllr. M. Bramley

**2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

None

**3. MINUTES**

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> June 2014 were agreed and signed as a true record

**PROPOSED:** Cllr. M. Curtis

**SECONDED:** Cllr. J. Burgess

**CARRIED**

**Matter Arising:-**

There were no matters arising.

**4. ANNUAL REPORT**

**The Annual Report was received from the outgoing Mayor, Councillor P. Hurst and the Town Clerk, Judith Giles**

**Town Clerk Report**

At the first meeting of the Full Council, Councillors were invited to choose which of the three Committees (Planning, Town and Buildings and Finance and Resources) they would like to sit on. Council has met on 36 occasions this year, six Full Council Meetings, 1 Extraordinary Council Meeting, one Annual Parish Meeting, six Finance and Resources meetings, seventeen Planning meetings and six Town and Building Meetings.

Civic events included Mayor Making, Reminiscences of Romsey, Community Day, Remembrance Sunday, St. George's Day, and Mountbatten Memorial Service.

The Town Hall continues to be a popular venue for a wide diversity of events. The Rotary Club of Romsey Test continue to hold their weekly meetings in the Town Hall, which includes dinner, every Wednesday and a partners evening once a month



in the Council Chamber. The Registrars are now comfortably ensconced in the Town Hall and from what I understand it has proved to be a great location for them. Civil ceremonies and wedding receptions continue to be a good revenue stream, whilst many charity events are held at a reasonable cost. The filmshows continue to be managed by the Town Hall staff in preference to Moviola and are proving to be a huge success. We now have the flexibility of choosing the films and showing them at our convenience, which often includes putting on extra shows for the more popular films. We now have an income stream from this which we did not have before. The Lower Test Valley Archeological Society (LTVAS) continue to meet in the basement every Monday morning and Tuesday evening. The joint Romsey Town Council and Romsey Extra Parish Council continue to work together with other interested parties regarding a Romsey Neighbourhood Plan. The Town Council organised the Switching on of the Christmas Lights Event in Romsey for the second year running and also supported Late Night Shopping, Carols at Christmas by organising road closures and the road signage and marshalling of these events. The War Horse Committee has been working hard throughout the year by holding fundraising events for the War Horse Statue in the Memorial Park. We are currently in the throes of organising the unveiling of the War Horse, which will take place on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2015.

Mark Edgerley, Town Centre Manager who joined the Town Hall in March 2014 is proving to be a great asset to both the Town Hall team and the town in general.

**Mayors Report from Cllr. Peter Hurst**

The mayor's programme has been busy, particularly during the Romsey Festival and the Christmas period. It included a number of charity events, AGMs and other meetings. The civic events are detailed in the Town Clerk's report. The ex officio role of chairman of the Trustees of Bartletts Almshouses continued. Two events were run as part of the mayor's charity fund raising. They were the Charity Ceilidh and the Charity Choir Concert. Both were successful.

**5. AUDITED STATEMENT**

The Audited statement of accounts for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014 were approved. (Appendix 1)

**PROPOSED:** Cllr. M. Curtis

**SECONDED:** Cllr. K. Dunleavy

**CARRIED**

**6. FINANCES TO 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2014**

The accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014 were approved (See Appendix 2)

**PROPOSED:** Cllr. M. Curtis

**SECONDED:** Cllr. I. Richards

**CARRIED**

**7. MAYOR'S CHARITY**

Mayor's Charity Account Received. Total Funds as at 31<sup>st</sup> May 2015 £4429.49 are (See Appendix 3)



**8. COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS**

**Annual Report from Cllr. Mark Cooper, County Councillor for Romsey Town Division (Appendix 4)**

**Report from Cllr. D. Baverstock, TVBC Councillor, Cupernham Ward**

I worked in three groups with the economic group being very active indeed and having the idea for teenage markets which was given funding to implement. In the second half of the year the six groups came together to consult people of all ages about their desires for their area, for themselves and their families. The event was based on the Town Hall and around a market stall on a Saturday in September. We also did extensive questioning at events in the Park, on the estates and at the Sports Centre. Various groups were targeted for their views too.

This formed the basis for the way forward and after the quick win of coach parking at the Rapids longer term plans continue to be formulated with interested people from the original groups and councillors starting to plan Romsey in twenty years time.

Working with officers from the Leisure and Community department we have also surveyed residents for their thoughts on the redesign of the front of the War Memorial Park to incorporate the War Horse. This is currently been worked upon and the unveiling of the statue with take place on 3 July.

The Park has featured again in questionnaires when residents and visitors were asked for their views on a new cafe complex. It became very clear how well thought of the Park is and how residents were not looking for radical changes.

Council work continued with routine meetings. In addition, as a member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee I have been on panels which have looked at planning policy, the constitution and the code of conduct and currently at community safety.

It has been an exciting year in the borough council which I am sure fellow councillors will describe from their perspective

**Report from Cllr. I. Richards, TVBC, Councillor, Abbey Ward**

In representing Abbey Ward I have had a varied year. I have enjoyed trying to resolve residents problems including the more contentious ie parking , planning and accommodation issues.

The Local Plan is on the Inspector's table and we are hoping that the acceptance by him will assist in resolving some of the aggressive planning applications.

In Representing the residents of Romsey I have served on the Licensing committee as well as Southern Area Planning. Also the Romsey Future Group has produced some results . These include the provision of £2 a day workers and long stay parking at the extended parking at the Rapids. Incorporated in that area is now Coach Parking .

The Former Magistrates Court local hub for Test Valley is now fully occupied with TVCS and CAB as well as HCC adult services . The feedback appears positive .

This year has seen several public consultations on topics as varied as On street parking, Fishlake Meadows , Land at west of The Abbey, The Memorial Park upgrades (Including the kiosk.)and the Church Street enhancements.



I am waiting patiently at the time of writing for a commencement on the new build for Youth in Romsey jointly funded by TVBC and HCC. We will not see a start on Church Street until after the July Town Events

As Test Valley Councillors we have a budget of £500 project awards which it has been my pleasure to promote to some smaller organisations such as Romsey Youth Choir.

On the Business incentive Grant I have made it my mission to promote this opportunity to new businesses opening in the Town **ensuring that they get some assistance in this difficult stage.**

**Report from Test Valley Borough Cllr. Mark Cooper, Tadburn Ward.**

Whilst County Council issues generate most of my casework, it is Test Valley Borough Council that requires most commitment. In the 10 months since the last RTC Annual Parish Meeting there have been 13 Southern Area Planning Committee meetings, with some running from 5.30 pm to nearly 10 pm. They are often frustrating meetings as the planning system is currently distorted to favour developers. Planning Officers constantly tell us that TVBC is not meeting its five year housing land supply targets so we are obliged to give planning permissions for housing on green field sites that are not any part of the old Borough Local Plan (BLP) nor the new draft Revised Local Plan (RLP).

**The housing land supply figure is derived from actual houses built. We have granted Planning Permission for seven-and half years worth of housing. But developers are not implementing all of them, Redbridge Lane in Nursling being the classic example.** The reason is two-fold. Building more houses increases supply which depresses prices and hence reduces developers' profits. The second reason is that developers seek planning permissions and then don't implement them deliberately causing Test Valley to miss its housing land supply targets. They then seek more planning permissions to which we have to accede because the same developers are not then building out their previous permissions. The Government and its Planning Inspectorate insist Boroughs and Districts must meet their five year built housing land supply targets not their permissioned targets. It is a crazy situation. Genuinely a Catch-22. The Government's aim is to give developers almost carte blanche so that the construction industry can build our way out of recession which is understandable, but it's our countryside that's going under the concrete.

The only good thing that can be said about the current system, that is where the planning system has virtually lost control of what is or is not built, is that the National Planning Policy Framework's laudable aim of providing a variety of housing types, on a variety of sites, is being met.

Nor is our situation helped by the admission by the Head of Development Control at a recent Southern Area Planning Committee meeting that his department is 50% understaffed. Many highly effective and experienced staff have left the Borough in the aftermath of the closure of the Duttons Road, Romsey, Planning Department and its wholesale re-location to Andover's Beech Hurst.

What happens is that the hugely complex process of dealing with medium sized housing site applications takes longer than the statutory 13 weeks, encouraging developers to go to appeal. Appeals use up even more personnel resources thus exacerbating the staff shortages.

Of the 247 planning applications in the three Romsey Town Wards in the last 10 months, (ie between the last APM on 17th June 2014 and this APM 14th April 2015), only 43 are Tadburn Ward applications.



Only about 5% of applications come to Southern Planning Committee; the rest are dealt with under officer delegated powers although each application is run past Ward members. If there is a sound reason, the Local Member can de-delegate the item and send it to SAP Committee for determination.

In addition to the six full Council meetings, which in truth, are often very short, I sit on the General Purposes Committee; the Licensing Committee; the Employment Appeals and Ethics Sub-Committee; the Audit Committee and the Plans Advisory Panel. There has been a most interesting, positive and constructive series of local Romsey Councillor meetings to resolve details of the Church Street Enhancement, the west of the Abbey enhancement, the new Youth Provision at the Sports Centre and the new and very welcome improvements to the Romsey War Memorial Park.

The Romsey Future project, which generates a wider set of consultees and ideas, has also been a time-consuming but absorbing process.

Although Test Valley's move to Andover may have had an impact on the planning department, the overall impact of the creation of a Test Valley and community hub at the Former Magistrates Court has been a success and the foyer always seems busy with members of the public who wish to access their Borough Council in person rather than electronically. The town centre gets more footfall, too.

I have mixed feelings about the refurbishment of the Crosfield Hall. It is certainly now a better meetings' venue but the investment has deferred the time when we can consider the whole site's redevelopment. We need to 'revisit the possibilities', including how the site can better provide edge of town centre car parking.

I've completed 29 years on the Borough. Although I loathe the politics, I still love the job. We represent residents views and in return they lend to us the ability to make decisions about the environment and welfare of their town, on their behalf. It has always been, and remains, an immense privilege to do so.

#### **Report from Cllr. P. Hurst, TVBC, Councillor, Tadburn Ward**

I am currently the Test Valley Minority Group Leader. I am a member of the General Purposes Committee, Southern Area Planning Committee, Planning Control Committee and Planning Advisory Panel.

Planning this year has been dominated by the Test Valley Local Plan progressing through to inspection. The large sites of Whitenap and Hoe Lane remain the centrepiece of the housing proposal in Southern Test Valley despite significant local objection. The failure of Test Valley to identify any alternative or reserve sites made it difficult to present an alternative housing solution at the inspection. Also because Test Valley had not supported a Romsey Neighbourhood Plan when it was first suggested in 2010 there was insufficient time to use the Neighbourhood Planning process to identify an alternative housing solution.

Planning applications considered by the Southern Area Planning and Planning Control Committees ranged across all types and scales of development. They included tree work and signage in the Romsey conservation area, home extensions and conservatories, houses being proposed in gardens, sheltered accommodation, gypsy and traveller sites, large depots and solar farms. Significant applications in the Romsey Town area include the ex Test Valley Duttons Road site and the Hillers Botley Road site. Staffing shortages in the Planning department are now starting to have an effect. At least one major housing application has gone to appeal for non-determination in the



required timescale. Some of these staffing difficulties are almost certainly as a result of the unnecessary move of planning staff from Duttons Road to Beech Hurst in Andover. A long stay car park has been built at the Rapids. As a result of this some changes were made to the length of stay in other Romsey car parks. Although there remains a car parking problem in Romsey at certain times of the day these changes seem to have improved matters.

The Romsey Future project has continued with significant and effective involvement by Romsey based Test Valley councillors. In practice the project has not identified any “big ticket” proposals for changes to Romsey. This, in some respects is not surprising given that the desire of most residents to preserve and protect Romsey in its current state. However the project has thrown up some interesting ideas which can guide councillors in the future.

The Former Magistrates Court has completed its development with the Citizens Advice Bureau relocating there and improvements to the entrance.

The improvements to the memorial Park are now under way. Plans for the kiosk have been improved as a result of the joint efforts of all Romsey Test Valley councillors and it should prove to be an attractive, functional building.

Plans for the Church Street improvements and the land to the west of the Abbey are now virtually finalised and we await their commencement.

**9. Presentation by Mark Edgerley – Town Center Manager**

Now just over a year in to Romsey Town Council employing a Town Centre Manger we thought we would reprise the role, as part of RTC Annual Parish Meeting.

Typically a TCM has three principal roles, that of engagement, partnership and strategic development. Given that the post has a budget restriction of eighteen hours per week engagement is mainly delivered through working with groups. In Romsey we are very fortunate to have robust, active community who organise a vast number and range of events through the year, as part of the TCM role increasing levels of support can be provided to these groups. This support can range from provision of a meeting room, help with contacts, links between groups, co-ordinating liaison with TVBC on matters such as road closures, availability of toilets and environmental services.

Working with the Beggars Fair committee TCM has helped resolve some of the complex issues of using the town centre for what has become one of the South’s major music events

TCM is now a full member of Romsey Festival Committee, the 2014 Festival was an excellent event that built on success of previous years and we are already developing ideas for the next main event in 2017 as well as promoting the Festival through a small number of interim events.

Assisting the Food Festival group put on a fantastic event that drew in some 7,000 plus people into our town centre, really good to see the whole town really busy. Such large events take a lot of management on the day resolving any manner of minor issues that can, if not dealt with, escalate in to a real problem.

Working with the remaining members of the Lantern Parade team TCM has been trying to help them attract additional committee members, not so successfully as of yet but we continue to hope for success or we could see the demise of this key Christmas event



As folk in Romsey have got used to having a TCM it has been interesting to watch the growth in enquires and associated expectation we can support an event, whether through use of our growing number of contacts or with publicity.

Good networking with businesses is vital to understanding what concerns them and how we might help them to be successful. TCM achieves this through attendance at Chamber meeting including the Romsey Retail Forum meeting that is sponsored by RTC and held in the Town Hall. TCM is also an active member of Romsey Mutual Business Group and a member of the Test Valley Business Awards steering group. A very useful quarterly event is a networking session run by BasePoint at their local premises. Regular contact and briefing from local police is used to brief onwards when key issues are apparent.

Occasional meetings with HCC highway staff with responsibility for roads and pavements in Romsey are proving fruitful but the long standing issue of damage to pavements by vehicles will not be resolved until either policing of regulations is improved or the proposed revised specification for this infrastructure is implemented.

Partnership working has been an important part of the past year, be it with the Chamber of Commerce and their events like late night shopping or provision of training in Digital High Street Skills to a number of defined activities. RTC membership has brought direct benefit to RTC, for example cost effective first aid training.

Teenage markets have been a partnership initially with TVBC but now expanding to include Youth in Romsey. The concept is to provide free space for young people to trade and provide music, often goods they have made or music they write. We have now held two events; the programme has been delayed by difficulties over the proposed takeover of general market operation however we are looking at alternative locations. One small event has been held at Rum's Eg.

Working with Hampshire Farmers Markets TCM meets with their management occasionally and is regularly involved in promoting this event which is an import means of increasing footfall in the town on a Sunday

Cinema, we now present two performances a month at the Town Hall, due to popular demand occasional extra showings are added to the programme and later in this year we are planning our first "Romsey Film Festival". The event will be centred on the Town Hall use a number of town centre venues including The Abbey, King John's House and the Plaza Theatre.

To ensure that the Christmas lights are a continuing feature of our town TCM has worked with various local individuals and organisations to maintain appropriate levels of funding. It is great to have so many people getting behind this campaign.

The opportunity afforded by Romsey Forum meetings is used by the TCM to judge current key issues exercising the minds of part of our local population, indeed as is the letters page in the Romsey Advertiser

Strategic issues have been much harder to make the time for; we still have to develop a sustainable, worthwhile town centre panel, more effort will be put to this in the near future.

The much delayed reorganisation and improvements of local markets is a frustration, The Broadlands Estate has accepted our stated outcome that RTC are the future market operator. Some complex issues are delaying this matter at this time. The current operator Bradbeers and TVBC are also involved in the ongoing discussions. Plans to introduce specialist markets in 2015 have been put on hold until next year.



As an active member of the TVBC sponsored “Romsey Futures” steering group TCM is closely involved with a range of future ideas for Romsey and surrounding

**Romsey Local History Society (LTVAS Group) Town Hall Archivist , Barbara Burbridge**

This year has seen further movement of artefacts around the Town Hall. The contents of the Mayor’s Parlour – items on the walls and the corner cabinet – were removed prior to the room’s use by the Registrar of Births, Deaths & Marriages. These artefacts were assessed for display in alternative locations or storage for occasional use.

LTVAS members have been making an inventory of all the items – mostly pictures of various sorts – currently stored in the RTC basement awaiting decisions about their future use. The inventory is currently being entered on computer.

Advice has been offered regarding a large oil painting of an unknown 17<sup>th</sup>-century male (possibly Sir William Petty, born in Church Street 1623). This painting has been recently donated to the Council and is said to have come from the White Horse at some time. It will probably be hung in the Council Chamber.

LTVAS members continue to be on hand to help with any queries related to Romsey’s history.

**Bartlett’s Alms Houses – Report from Cllr. C. Collier**

Bartlett’s Almshouses consist of 10 residential units (6 maisonettes and 4 flats) which are fully occupied at the present time. One vacancy occurred during the past year, which was in one of the flats. This vacancy was advertised and after the receipt of a number of applications, and following a sitting of the selection panel, this unit was allocated in January of this year. In accordance with our normal procedure the flat was suitable refurbished and decorated prior to the new occupier moving in.

A rolling schedule of improvements takes place every year, and within the last twelve months one resident has had their bath replaced, one has had a new shower installed, and three have had works carried out to the flooring to ensure all bathrooms have suitable non-slip flooring fitting.

Our balance sheet remains strong, with available income and reserves currently in excess of one hundred thousand pounds. This means that when we have to consider replacing the roof, probably within the next 5 years, there will be sufficient funds available for these works.

There is always a demand for these residential units when they become empty, and it is hoped that opportunities may arise in the future for additional units to be added to the number we currently manage.



**King John’s House and Tudor Cottage Trust Ltd – Report from Gill Maddock**

.King John’s House and Heritage Centre received 8,660 visitors last year (January – December 2014), about 2,000 more than the previous year, largely due to the arts



festival and several popular exhibitions. Miss Moody's Tea Room had over 19,000 customers, even more than the previous year, thanks also to the arts festival and the sunnier weather. We had a constant stream of guided tours booked, and an increase in hirings of King John's House for exhibitions, vintage fairs and private parties. Visitor numbers do not take into account the many visitors to the garden, which - like the Heritage Centre and tea room - is open all year round. A sundial has been commissioned in memory of June Thorpe, made from green Cumberland slate, engraved and decorated in colours and gold. It is sited on the south side of the pentice wall, low enough to be read, but high enough not to be vandalised. It was installed at the beginning of April.

King John's House and Heritage Centre was featured in the March 2015 edition of Hampshire Life magazine, with 3 pages of pictures and articles which we hope will provide useful publicity. It is also one of only 6 properties in Hampshire included in the CPRE 2015 Members Guide to Properties and Attractions.

We are in the process of applying to the Arts Council England to become an Accredited Museum. We have cleared the first hurdle and have reached "Working Towards Accreditation" status. We are currently taking part in a project run by the Hampshire Solent Museum Development Programme in conjunction with the University of Portsmouth on "Thriving Museum Boards: Growing Trustee Diversity". Two post-graduate law students have been working with us since October and have been helping us to develop our succession planning and consider how to widen the diversity of our Trustee Board. The project is due to finish shortly, and is expected to contribute to the development of a resource package that other museums can use in future.

There is a full programme of events for 2015, including the popular talks on the first Wednesday of each month, events in King John's House and in the garden, and exhibitions in the Moody Museum.

We rely heavily on our many volunteers who act as stewards, gardeners, guides and much more. We could not manage without them.

We are very grateful to Romsey Town Council for its support, especially the Town Mayor and the councillors who serve as our Trustees.

### **Marshals Report – Cllr. I. Richards**

The core members of Romsey Town Marshals continue to provide a valuable service to the community having assisted in the running of 10 events throughout the year.

Without this team many of the traditional events such as carnivals, Beggars Fair and Christmas events on the street would struggle to operate road closures.

We have this year equipped the volunteers with "fit for purpose coats"

This group is self funding, through donations for their services from organisations requesting the marshals services made into a ringfenced account which is where the cost of the coats came from

As a Town Council inspired organisation they continue to be a credit to our town in their volunteering . We still welcome extra members to broaden our capabilities.

**MINUTES****ROMSEY TOWN COUNCIL****ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, TUESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2015  
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, ROMSEY****10****Youth in Romsey – Cllr. I. Richards(Trustee)**

The trustees of Youth in Romsey have unfortunately this year lost a stalwart of their Trustees, Bill who acted as treasurer to the organisation.

The group was also depleted by Mike Richardson moving out of the area. But we are actively looking for replacements.

The organisation is still providing both drop in and appointment based consultations for young people of the Romsey area who need assistance.

An average month will see at least 300 contacts on a range of issues from employment searching, to health issues, to issues of low self-esteem (a growing problem amongst young people across the social spectrum)

We have gone through a nervous period where we were not certain as regards funding to continue for the upcoming year .

This is not a service that can be provided effectively without professional staff, so sufficient funding will always be a challenge.

We as Trustees are certain that without this service a lot of young people would be “losing their way”. This would be to the detriment of the whole of the community.

The team operate school drop in facilities at both Romsey and Mountbatten schools dealing with young people’s problems.

Youth employment is uncertain especially for those low achievers and we provide assistance in job search and CV preparation. Our young people friendly Web Site also helps in this respect.

We also include a counselling service for those in difficulties, Sexual Health advice, Housing advice all of which has a beneficial effect on the community as a whole acting as preventative work before we have a large problem in disillusioned youth,

“ Allsorts” continues to be special, as a youth club for young people with disabilities. It also provides outings where they can take responsibility for themselves in a peer group.

The Trustees will continue with their efforts to ensure the future of Youth in Romsey and not just give up on our towns young people who may need help.

**Romsey Twinning – Report by Mike Bull**

Because the French pulled out of their intended visit to coincide with last year’s Beggars’ Fair, we have had just two visits during the past year. A party from Battenberg visited us over the weekend of the Romsey Show - 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> September - and we travelled to Italy during the school half-term holiday at the end of October.

The German party were fascinated by all the exhibits and entertainment on show at Broadlands and were not at all phased by the World war I theme. They visited Brighton independently on their way back to Gatwick.

20 twinningers visited Treviglio from 30<sup>th</sup> October to 2<sup>nd</sup> November. Besides a guided tour of the medieval aspects of the ‘citta’, we were entertained by the Mayor, who also presided at the dinner on the Saturday evening. A guided group tour of Mantua was in many ways the highlight of our visit.

Total membership remains steady at around 80 individuals, in spite of the fallout from an ageing population, but with our three town links we are constantly looking for ways to increase our numbers by raising awareness of our existence in Romsey and the immediate surrounding area.



Our major fund-raising event was again a Quiz Evening held on 25<sup>th</sup> October, though we have also tried manning a stall on Market Day and organising a Treasure Hunt, both of which were affected by rain!

Looking to the future, we are very pleased that Test Valley Borough Council are adopting a very positive attitude towards Twinning and see it as an important part of tourism promotion and economic development. It is hoped to organise a major event in May 2016 involving all the Twinning groups in Test Valley. We also make good use of a minibus from Test Valley Community Services to transport our visitors.

In spite of so much current scepticism about connections with Europe, we remain convinced that Romsey Twinning helps to promote our town, and its businesses, among our European friends and when we travel abroad we act as ambassadors for Romsey. It would be good to know that our local councillors recognised this and continued to support us in our work, in spite of the financial constraints forced upon them.

#### **10. Parishioner's Questions**

Concern was expressed with regards to the lack of building on the Brewery Site. Cllr. M. Cooper reported TVBC have tried to "compulsory purchase" the land, but have been informed they will not succeed, because as the law currently stands it is in favour of the developer. Cllr. J. Parker asked if Romsey Town Councillors thought it would be an advantage if Romsey Extra Parish Council and Romsey Town Council became one Council. Cllr. P. Hurst said this has been looked at in the past and is something which will be formally discussed at Council after the Elections 2015. A member of the public reported the improvements made to the barge canal have been well received as they now have interpretation boards. The speed in which vehicles come along Fishlake Meadows was of great concern to a local resident. Cllr. M. Cooper said he will investigate and report back to the concerned resident.

**The meeting closed at 8.56.m.**



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**Cllr Peter Hurst**  
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