

# **Romsey Town Council Allotments Management Committee**

Minutes of the meeting held on the **17<sup>th</sup> January 2024** at the Court Room, Romsey Town Hall, Romsey.

**Those present:** Mr Mike Nobbs, Mr Chris Davies, Mr Roger House, Mr Elvin Mullinger, Mrs Clementine Kingstone, Mr John Waterman, Mrs Lisa Fallowfield, Mrs Eleanor Vamplew, Cllr Colin Burgess.

**Apologies:** None.

**1.1 The Minutes** of the last meeting were confirmed as read.

Any matters arising will be discussed under various headings.

**1.2 Correspondence:**

**1.2.1 Plot thefts:** CD reported that even though the response was poor there were 9 plots which had been affected and reported back. These have been marked onto a diagram for our attention only – it is not to be included for uploading to the website because of data protection laws.

It was noted that the majority were located around the entrance area. CB commented that they should all have been reported to the police via 101.

It was discussed whether a camera solution would probably bring about a greater deterrent but it is unsure as to who would pay for it and more importantly monitor it and collect/review the data so obtained. To be discussed further.

CD confirmed he had approached the RAHA site next door for the numbers of their thefts, so that any approach to the police can be made in unison.

**1.2.2 Rat attractors:** In order to reduce the rat attractions to the area, CD issued a further letter to the tenant of plot 54, to finish pruning his apple tree which he commenced last year but had not finalised. In prior years their unpicked fruit had strewn the surround paths and plots attracting many rodents to the area.

**1.2.3** CB confirmed that Howard Brisland of Romsey Town Council has now returned from his bout of illness and should be able to action the purchase of the rules board for affixing to the side of the Distribution centre.

**1.2.4** It is understood that there are ongoing discussions at Town Hall with contractors regarding the necessary repairs to the car park areas but as indicated by CB these are unlikely to occur in the near future.

**1.2.5** CD confirmed issue of the 'business case' for the car park repairs on 9<sup>th</sup> January, to the building manager at RTC. CB suggested that photographs of the affected areas could be added to enhance the case.

**1.3 Finance:** EV tabled the most recent accounts which are attached to the rear of these minutes and confirmed the additional £74.98 in the income section is attributable to the distribution centre sales.

**1.4 Allotments:**

**1.4.1** EM reported that the waiting list currently stands at 1 and tabled a sheet of notes, i.e. 'Allotments Plot lettings update' which is appended to the rear of these minutes.

**1.4.2** CB suggested that as the current waiting list for Kings chase is much greater than ours that maybe some of those should be transferred to us?

## **1.5 Distribution Centre:**

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

**1.6 Plot Assessments:** The first round of assessments is due soon, MN suggested that these could be carried out in first week of February. EM confirmed he could carry this out in conjunction with RH on 7<sup>th</sup> February.

**1.7 Councillor's Report:** Report received from CB on 17<sup>th</sup> January was issued to all committee members prior to this meeting and is appended to rear of these minutes.

## **1.8 AOB:**

**1.8.1** CB confirmed in his report that a defibrillator has been requested from the building manager at Romsey Town Council but reported back that it is unlikely to arrive before summer.

**1.8.2.** Apparently, there is an issue with rats around plots 91 to 96 and the placing of poison was discussed and, although necessary, some argued that its use would be detrimental to other animals and raptors which predate the rats. Should poison be necessary an initial agreement should be sought from JW to ensure the poison is placed in a secure bait box. This information is to be placed in the next tenants newsletter. CD reported that he had been using an electronic trap (A Victor unit) over the last 9 months and had caught numerous rodents including rats in that period. It was suggested that CD purchase another unit.

**1.8.3** Lease Agreements: there was discussion about the Lease agreement between Broadlands Estate and Romsey Town Council. Both CB and CD have perused the document and agreed that the document in possession of Romsey Town Council does not relate to the Town Council allotments but to the 'Romsey Allotment Holders Association' allotments and that the lease for our site is elsewhere.

the meeting closed at 09:30pm.

***Chris Davies***

Committee Secretary

***Mike Nobbs***

Chairman

Date ... ***22/02/24***

**Next meeting is to be held on Wednesday 28 February 2024, 7:30pm at the mayors parlour, Romsey Town Hall at 7:30pm.**

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

Meeting 17 January 2024

### **Councillor's Report**

#### Entrance Car Park

I am pleased to say the Town Council has added this to its Project Plan which effectively endorses the need to complete the repairs. That said, the proposals including the cost will still need to be approved by the Town Council.

I will shortly be applying to Test Valley Borough Council for a grant towards the cost of the project under their Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Funding program. There is always an oversubscription of Applications, so our bid may fail. If successful, the grant will be up to 50% of the cost. I may need help completing the application.

I note the Buildings Manager has also been asked to obtain a quote for repairing the car park by the garage. I must stress this area has not been included in the Projects List and may therefore not be approved by the Council. Bearing in mind the recent very wet period, perhaps joint inspection by Town Councillors and Committee members should be undertaken.

#### Thefts From Sheds

A planned meeting with the Police on another matter presented an opportunity for me to raise this matter. Sadly, it has been postponed. It will happen.

Maintaining the record of thefts will certainly aid the police, but it is imperative that all thefts be reported using the online 101 service at:

<https://www.hampshire.police.uk/police-forces/hampshire-constabulary/areas/campaigns/2020/think-before-you-dial/>

I know before speaking to the Police, they will ask if this has been undertaken.

If the crime statistics on sites such as [PoliceUK](#) justify action they will respond. To date, none have been reported for both Southampton Road Allotments.

All known thefts (even if a few months old) should now be reported and our neighbours should be encouraged to do likewise.

#### Defibrillator

I have asked the Building Manager to obtain and instal a battery-operated defibrillator for the allotment. This may not be procured until they are available free of charge (an annual promotion). Hopefully it will be procured by Summer.

Cllr Colin Burgess

17 January 2024

17 Jan 2024

## Allotment Plot lettings update

- 6 new tenant. Not yet started
- 17 Started clearing and digging
- 21 temporary condition relaxed for family illness. Started clearing and digging
- 38 new tenant. Not yet started
- 41 new tenant. Started clearing
- 45 new tenant, now well underway
- 56 autumn work now underway
- 59a still long term weed covers. Started clearing
  
- 63 not yet started. **To email asking intentions**
- 64 good progress
- 76 new tenant, now started ok
- 80a new tenant, all cleared
- 84 autumn weed covers, quite neat
- 87 new tenant. Started clearing. **Previous tenant decided to resign. A reimbursement 8 month?**
  
- 97 now two beds being dug. Ok
- 98 new tenant. Started clearing
- 100 no work last season. Started clearing
  
- 101h no work this season. **They replied to my email and will try in the new year.**
- 104 now two beds being dug
- 106 new tenant. Not yet started
- 114 no work this season. **They replied to my email, set back by wet ground, will start in the new year.**
  
- 116 no work this season. Had told us they would start clearance this autumn. **Emailed. No reply yet.**
  
- 119 typical autumn state, started clearing

# ROMSEY TOWN COUNCIL ALLOTMENT ACCOUNT

## Statement of Income and Expenditure

05.04.2023 to 31.12.2023

<b>Income</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Budget</b>
				<b>£</b>
Rents	3420.00	Broadland's Rent	1100.00	1100
Distribution Centre		Southern Water	576.00	750
Trough	90.00	NSALG	55.00	55
Wheelbarrow	10.00	Card Reader Charges		0
	74.98	Dist Centre Stock		180
		Stationery/Post/Misc		0
		Maintenace/Equip	6.78	150
		Hedge Cutting		220
		Rat Poison/Pest Control		250
		Skip Hire		
		Sundries/Dist Centre	33.00	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3594.98</b>		<b>1770.78</b>	<b>2705</b>
Income less Expenditure	<b>1824.20</b>			
Earmarked Reserve	6170			

### NOTES:

There are no outstanding loans for repayment.