

## **Rotary Club of Romsey Test**

### **Minutes of Council Meeting 6 September 2023**

**Present:** Ed Holmes Nigel Budd Bill Gidley  
Bryan Rickett Clive Collier Steve George  
Roger Shepherd Ron Bowater Nikki Jones  
Peter Hurst Brian Davies

**Apologies:** Charles Daniel-Hobbs Jackie Taphouse Bryan Taphouse

### **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

These were not agreed and a revised version will be produced for signing at the next Council Meeting.

#### **President**

As per attached report.

President Ed Holmes was sorry to have received the resignations of Jackie Taphouse, Bryan Taphouse and Nikki Jones from Council. He expressed thanks to them each for their work in undertaking the roles.

#### **Secretary**

There were two items of correspondence:

- A letter from Michelmersh and Timsbury Football Club thanking the Club for the donation to help some families with very low incomes, supporting with club fees and kit so that the children in the club can continue to come to training and play in matches. The letter also invited President Ed Holmes along to formally present a cheque for the donation.
- A letter from Becton and District Rotary Club thanking the Rotary Club of Romsey for support of their Holiday Bungalow Project which enabled many disadvantaged families and individuals to enjoy a one week holiday on the popular Hoburne Naish Holiday Park. The letter also referred to the imminent closure of the Becton Rotary Club and the termination of the project.

As per the attached report.

The usual Special General Meeting will take place on 1 November at which among other items the holders of the posts of President, Senior Vice President, Junior Vice President, Secretary and Club Treasurer for next year will be decided. Nomination forms will be sent out to all members shortly.

#### **Club Treasurer**

As per attached report.

#### **Trust Fund**

As per attached report.

The proposal in respect of the procedure for the appointment of the Trust Fund Treasurer was agreed subject to further discussions. An amendment to Standing Orders will be proposed at the next Council and Business Meetings in October.

### **Club Service**

As per attached report.

The proposal to change the fourth Wednesday meeting to a speaker meeting was rejected.

### **Communications**

As per attached report.

Bryan Taphouse's resignation as Communications Chair was noted. No replacement had been identified to date.

### **Fund Raising**

#### **WTTW**

As per attached report.

Brian Davies reported that numbers taking part were continuing to increase and were now at pre-Covid levels. Adequate marshals now seemed to have been allocated.

Nikki Jones expressed concern that a number of volunteers that she had for marshalling roles had not been included. Nikki will email Steve Simmons-Jacobs about this and Brian also noted it.

### **Relay Marathon**

Nothing to report.

### **Carols in the Square**

Planning for this event is under way.

### **Community Service**

As per attached report.

Nikki Jones reported that the Psalm 23 Garden was looking great.

The proposal for a donation to Youth in Romsey in respect of £1425.20 for additional staffing was agreed by Council subject to it being made clear that this is a one-off and should not be assumed to be a regular donation. The money is included in the Community Service budget so has already been agreed by members.

Nikki's resignation as Community Service Chair was noted. President Ed Holmes thanked Nikki for enthusiastically undertaking the role and proposed that he would take over the role. Council agreed with Ed taking over the role. (Note: At the subsequent Business Meeting Ieuan Wathen volunteered to take over the role and Members agreed to this.)

It was reported that the solar panels at the Doctor Peter Centre were now fully funded and were being installed.

### **Membership**

As per attached report.

Jackie Taphouse's resignation as Communications Chair was noted. Ed Holmes reported that Keith Cameron had volunteered to take over the role. Council agreed with Keith taking over the role.

**Foundation**

Nothing to report.

**International**

As per attached report.

**Youth**

As per attached report.

**Sports and Social**

As per attached report.

**Club Development**

Nothing to report.

**AOB**

Clive Collier referred to the What's App site and the frustration suffered by him and a number of others due to the casual chatting that appeared on it. It was agreed that a solution had been achieved with creation of a news group and a separate chat group.

Ed Holmes – President

Roger Shepherd - Secretary

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS RECEIVED**

### **President's Report**

I am pleased to be able to report that with our 20TH WTTW event imminent both the organisational aspects and walker numbers are looking brilliant. My warmest thanks to the WTTW team for all their efforts so far and the work that they will put in over the next few weeks. Our events, namely the Relay Marathon, Mayor's Picnic, WTTW, and the Christmas Carols are our flagship contribution to community life in Romsey. These events, both by enabling Rotary Giving, and individual fund raising support to aid many people in great need. As a club, we can all be immensely proud of being involved in such a contribution to our community and wider.

Then I think of my first 8 weeks as president, I am reminded of the Chinese curse, 'May you live in interesting times' and these weeks have certainly been interesting. It is clear that our club faces several challenges. To list a few, the lasting influences of Covid, our demographics, and the ongoing need to amalgamate and truly think of ourselves as a single club with a common goal.

RCRT is a large club and the merit of random seating at our dinners has proven its value over many years in encouraging wider acquaintance. I would therefore sincerely ask you not to avoid the system. If you have a personal guest then it is acceptable, but otherwise it is to all our long-term benefit to interact with our colleagues.

Congratulations and a big thank you to Norman and Gillian for providing an excellent venue and Barbecue for our Social meeting last night. Also thanks to those who were involved in the setting up.

Finally, our best wishes go to Peter Welsh on his departure from the club. He has given many years of unquestionable dedication to our club and Rotary.

Best wishes to Peter for the future.

Ed Holmes

### **Secretary's Report**

#### **Correspondence**

#### **Report**

##### **Speaker Meetings**

The Rotary Club meeting on the third Wednesday of each month is usually a Speaker Meeting. The various Committees of the Club usually take it in turn to organise a speaker for these meetings. The next Speaker Meeting on 20 September is a Briefing for Walk The Test Way so a speaker is not required. For subsequent meetings it is proposed to follow previous practice and allocate a particular Committee to organise a speaker for each meeting.

It is proposed that the following Committees will be responsible for organising Speakers on the dates listed:

20 September - Walk The Test Way Briefing

18 October - Youth Opportunities

15 November - Speaker arranged by Ed Holmes

20 December - No meeting

17 January - Communications

21 February - International

20 March - Membership & Recruitment

17 April - Community Service

15 May - Foundation

19 June - Youth Opportunities

If Committee Chairs wish to swap dates please arrange this between yourselves but inform me accordingly. Any problems please advise me at the earliest possible opportunity.

#### Committee Lists

I have received updated lists of Committee Members from several Committee Chairs. If you have not already done so please could you pass your updated list to me at the earliest opportunity. Previous practice was for all Club Members to be a Member of a Committee so as to ensure a reasonable level of involvement in the Club. Please could you ensure that so far as possible all Members are a Member of a Committee.

Roger Shepherd

#### **Club Treasurers report for July 2023**

Actual Club Account bank balance £4955.61 composed of a) £173.68 Members' dinner accounts b) £1015.50 outstanding RBL invoices and c) £3766.43 club's money.

The above includes payments taken from dinner accounts for yesterday's garden party.

Otherwise, nothing else to report.

Ron

#### **Trust Fund Treasures Report**

I attach an in-year dashboard of the Trust Fund showing how much of the 2023/24 allocated funds have been spent to date. I have also calculated how much of the allocated funds should have been spent if we are on track to spend all the funds in-year. This last figure assumes, rather crudely, that the spend each month will be roughly the same. I also identify the Free Funds available to the Club to allocate to new proposals for donations. The second attachment shows the actual spend by Trust Fund budget line.

Members will be aware that donations to Foundation and International also accumulate in the Trust Fund and are paid over once a year. I don't propose to report on these donations in-year. The club just acts as a post box and there is no useful information that can be gained from reporting on them. However if members want an in-year report on this aspect let me know at the Business Meeting.

## Trust Fund – In-year Dashboard

Trust Fund Budget Spent by 30 Aug 2023 - £5,100 - 19.6%

Trust Fund Budget should be Spent by 30 Aug 2023 - £4,269 - 16.4%

Free Funds as at 30 August 2023 - £6,785

RCoRT Trust Fund Allocated Funds 2023/24					
	Owner	2023/24 Allocation	Spend to 30th August 2023	Balance	Approved by Club
<b>YOUTH</b>					
<b>Chair - Steve George</b>					
Dictionaries for Life (D4L)	Stuart Wineberg	1,700.00	0.00	1,700.00	Y
Young Technologist	Steve Simmons-Jacobs	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00	Y
Youth Speaks	Charles Lacey	300.00	0.00	300.00	Y
Young Writer	Steve George	500.00	0.00	500.00	Y
Young Photographer	Steve George	500.00	0.00	500.00	Y
Peace Jam (ex Foundation)	Steve George	500.00	0.00	500.00	Y
Organ Scholar	Steve George	500.00	0.00	500.00	Y
Young Chef	Steve George	500.00	0.00	500.00	Y
Learn to Earn	Steve George	250.00	0.00	250.00	Y
Enterprise days	Steve George	500.00	0.00	500.00	Y
Peace Jam	Stuart Mitchell	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	Y
District Youth Levy	Ed Holmes	174.00	0.00	174.00	Y
<b>Youth Total</b>		<b>7,924.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>7,924.00</b>	
<b>COMMUNITY</b>					
<b>Chair - Nikki Jones</b>					
Michelmersh and Timsbury Youth Football Kit	Bryan Taphouse	300.00	0.00	300.00	Y
Youth in Romsey	Ed Holmes	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00	Y
Romsey Young Carers	Ron Bowater	2,000.00	250.00	1,750.00	Y
Psalm 23 Garden	Nikki Jones	3,500.00	3,500.00	0.00	Y
Minstead Tools	Nikki Jones	350.00	350.00	0.00	Y
Baby Necessities	Nikki Jones	500.00	0.00	500.00	Y
Contingency	Nikki Jones	2,500.00	0.00	2,500.00	Y
<b>Community Total</b>		<b>10,650.00</b>	<b>4,100.00</b>	<b>6,550.00</b>	
<b>INTERNATIONAL</b>					
<b>Chair - Bill Gidley</b>					
Dentaid International Uganda	Bill Gidley	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	Y
Kenya Life Aid centre	Bill Gidley	1,600.00	0.00	1,600.00	Y
Nepal Girls Sanitary Packs	Bill Gidley	1,300.00	0.00	1,300.00	Y
South African Safe House	Bill Gidley	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	Y
Disaster Relief /Shelterboxes	Bill Gidley	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	Y
<b>International Total</b>		<b>5,900.00</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>4,900.00</b>	
<b>FOUNDATION</b>					
<b>Chair - Bryan Rickett</b>					
End Polio Now	Bryan Rickett	500.00	0.00	500.00	Y
<b>Foundation Total</b>		<b>500.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>500.00</b>	
<b>OTHER ALLOCATIONS</b>					
Presidential Giving	Ed Holmes	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	Y
<b>Other Allocations Total</b>		<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>	
<b>ALLOCATED FUNDS TOTAL</b>		<b>25,974.00</b>	<b>5,100.00</b>	<b>20,874.00</b>	

### Appointment of Trustees and Trust Fund Treasurer

The RCoRT Trust Deeds contains the following:

“There will be a maximum of eight Trustees and there must be a minimum of four Trustees and the Trustees shall be the President of The Club or the President Elect (sic) for the ensuing year the Club Secretary the Club Treasurer and four additional members of the Club approved by the Club to act as Trustees in respect of the Trust Fund one of whom will be appointed the Treasurer of the Trust Fund ....”

From this I interpret that there are 4 ex-officio trustees, i.e. whose appointment as a trustee arises out of their appointment as President, Senior Vice President, Club Secretary or Club Treasurer and then (up to) 4 additional trustees appointed by the Club. The deeds are silent on who appoints the

Trust Fund Treasurer. However the sequence of events seems clear, 4 additional trustees are appointed by the club and subsequently one of them is appointed as Trust Fund Treasurer.

Club Standing Orders say that:

“A Special General Meeting shall normally be held on or before the first Wednesday in November for the purpose of those items listed in the RIBI Standard Club By-Laws. This is principally appointment of President, Senior Vice President, Junior Vice President, Secretary, Club Treasurer and Trust Fund Treasurer for the following year; and .....”

The Standing orders do not mention that the Trust Fund Treasurer should be one of the additional Trustees and the practice seems to be that when a new Trust Fund Treasurer is appointed, he/she is then appointed a Trustee; thus reversing the sequence of events implied by the Trust Deeds.

The Standing Orders are silent on how and when the additional trustees are appointed, and the current practice seems to be that when a vacancy arises a club member (normally one who is associated with one of the major fund raising events) is informally approached and if he agrees his appointment is confirmed with club members.

Once a trustee has been appointed his/her details are submitted to the Charity Commission so the list of trustees can be maintained on their website. I do not see this as part of the formal appointment process.

This informal, and rather ad-hoc, approach does seem to have led to mild confusion as to who are the current additional trustees.

I would like to propose a more formal approach to the appointment of the additional trustees and the trust Fund Treasurer.

**The appointment of the additional trustees for the following year should be an agenda item on the annual SGM. Hopefully most years this will be just confirmation that the existing additional trustees will continue in post.**

**The selection of one of the additional trustees as Trust Fund Treasurer will be made by the Trustees at their first formal meeting following the SGM and not by Club Members. This gives the Trustee some control over the management of the Trust Fund and sits comfortably with their role of charity trustee as set out by the Charity Commission. Again, most years this will be simply confirmation that the current Trust Fund Treasurer will continue in post. It is obviously slightly artificial in that the club need to ensure that one of the additional trustees they appoint/confirm is willing to be appointed as Treasurer.**

If this proposal is accepted then Standing Orders will need to be revised.

Peter Hurst

### **Club Service Report**

Thanks to the kind help from Bill G the club now has a QR code which will first see the light of day on the revamped notice board in the Memorial Park. If you access it then you will be taken directly to the Club' website. A very useful tool which I suggest that we add to any material about any activity being undertaken by the club.

After all this time I have only just asked Paul Grainger how to amend default 'pud' choice. Go into the website, scroll down to 'change details' and in there you can set your default.

I am of the opinion that the fourth Wednesday evening meeting has been unsuccessful as a purely social evening for a long time. Most times when we have a speaker the attendance is on a par with the first and third Wednesdays. Last month there was no speaker, 16 booked in but only 13 turned up. I know that we agreed to let the current system run for a while longer but I suggest that a reconsideration of the format would not go amiss.

I wish to propose to Council that the fourth Wed revert to a speaker evening but that every effort should be made to find a speaker with a subject which may be of interest to partners and that they are then made aware that their attendance would be more welcome than for any other meeting. We agreed some time ago that partners could attend any meeting and June, for a special reason, attends most meetings with David.

Clive Collier

### **Communications Report**

We met with Tunde Adelakun District Chair of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, in Basingstoke today. It will be interesting for the club to think through how it may affect our communications etc etc, if we take this subject seriously, currently we are certainly not a diverse membership.

I have put a link below to see Rotary's commitment to this important matter.

It would be good to get him to speak one evening as he would be brilliant!

The What's App group, which I thought would be so useful for the club to communicate easily and unite us more has been instructive on just how divided/different we can be. It does seem we are often more interested in process than humanity and friendship. Some will certainly disagree with this!

All the great things we do can easily be overshadowed by seeming pettiness if we're not careful.

I hope members will stick with it and not be put off. Some will also now join a separate more Social What's App group that Ron has set up alongside the strictly business only group.

### **Addendum**

Our own personal circumstances have changed somewhat, recently and we have booked lots of holidays etc. There is no way, that alongside business and church commitments as well as hospital visits I can give the time necessary to be chair of Communications, at all adequately. Unfortunately, I must resign as chair so that someone else can take over

I have been a Rotarian since 1991 and President three times and I have no intention of leaving Rotary or this club and will be more than happy, if required, to continue organising The Carols etc through Community Service. The first Christmas meeting is in the Town Hall next week which I will attend on behalf of the club.

I will be unable to attend Wednesday meetings now until mid - October as we have foreign visitors and will also be away, so apologies for the next 6 weeks. It also means I will be unable to organise a dinner for 75years of Rotary in Romsey planned for November as I really need to cut unnecessary commitments.

<https://www.rotary.org/en/about-rotary/diversity-equity-and-inclusion>

Bryan Taphouse



## **Walk The Test Way**

Registrations are still looking good with 400 walkers now registered, getting back to pre covid levels, interesting is that walkers are coming from further afield and in teams, this we believe is due to the marketing that has been done through the Echo newspaper and other marketing by ourselves and charities.

Good numbers of walkers are coming from our local charities such as Mountbatten Hampshire (44) Rose Road (24), Rotary (21). In total so far 94 charities are taking part.

The briefing for the marshals has been booked for September 20th, this presentation will be short and is directed at volunteers that have not been a marshal before to give them an overview of the event and their duties.

Hopefully if nothing changes we now have all areas manned but must be advised of any changes asap please.

Looking forward to an enjoyable but long day and raising lots of money for charity including Rotary.

Brian Davies

## **Community Service Report**

Psalm 23 Garden

Thanks to the hard work put in by Ron and his amazing team from Men's Shed the shelter is almost finished. The roof was installed just in time for the children's return back to school after their summer break.

The remaining 'shiplap' side panels are due for delivery on Friday and will be installed sometime next week.

Thanks to careful planning and budgeting, along with Elliotts generous donation, there are enough funds left for us to provide seating inside the shelter!! This will finish the project of very nicely.

There will be an official opening of the Garden on 6th October. With the attendance of local media coupled with the social media coverage, this will be a great boost for the RCORT profile.

Huge thanks again to Ron and his team for all their hard work and commitment of time and effort during the summer.

## **YOUTH IN ROMSEY**

We have had a request in from Linda at YIR via Ed Holmes. They require funding for a paid youth worker to help them cope with the ever-increasing demand on their services.

Please see attached information from Linda explaining their requirement.

**Youth in Romsey**  
**Proposal for Paid Youth Worker**

**Background**

We are looking for a Youth Worker for our Monday and Tuesday night youth groups. The successful applicant will be interacting with young people between the ages of 6 – 11 years (Monday) and 12 – 17 years (Tuesday).

They will need to be innovative, enjoy the company of young people, enthusiastic and to be able to work as part of a team to help continue to provide an outstanding youth provision.

Youth in Romsey have been running Youth Groups for over twenty year and we believe we provide a valuable resource for our local community. We are however, struggling to recruit suitable, committed volunteers to fill the role, despite extensive marketing and advertising locally, so would like to be able to offer it as a paid position.

We work with young people who struggle with self-confidence, have a low self-esteem and who find it difficult to join in social situations. The clubs provide a valuable opportunity for these young people to become more self-assured and self-reliant. It is a safe space for them to become who they want to be.

The post will be term time only which equates to 35 paid weeks per year and will be paid on a sessional basis.

**Costing**

Hours per week	Weeks per year	Total hours per year	Hourly rate	Total Cost
4	35	140	10.18	£1,425.20

The total annual cost for a youth worker, working 2 nights per week during term time is therefore **£1,425.20**.

We have money in the budget allocated for YIR which would cover this request?

Finally. As some of you will know I've struggled over the last 6 months or so with my ever-increasing workload and difference of opinion with some of the club structure. With the success of the Mayors Picnic and the completion of the Psalm 23 project I will now be stepping down as Community Committee Chair. I will also be taking a big step back from day-to-day Rotary involvement, however will, for now remain as a member and see how things go!

I have enjoyed my time as Community Chair and would like to think that I've made a difference and that the work and connections made have been able to benefit our local and wider community. I will, of course, be happy to spend time handing over information and contact details of the charities and organisations that we have helped, and developed relationships with to anyone who would like to take over the role

I would also like to thank those of you who have made me feel welcome and have been there to encourage and support, especially when I may have found it tough going!

I will be there to help and assist with the WTTW, and the opening of the Psalm 23 garden, but will take a step back soon after

Thanks and best wishes to you all

Nikki Jones

### **Membership Report**

I cancelled a planned membership open day at our house on 02/09 because of a lack of support. Most never actually replied sadly.

Bryan and I met with Tunde Adelokun District Chair Equality , Diversity, and Inclusion in Basingstoke today.

I could write a separate report but think it better to get him to speak to the club as he has lots of interesting and instructive things to say about how we can change and modernise, leave a legacy and is very inspirational.

A summary of the updated Rotary stance is in the Communications report as a link.

A detailed diversity assessment is available to see how our club represents the community on the Rotary website if we choose to use it. (I've forwarded a link to President Ed).

The details for our Speakers Secretary for Tunde are Tel 07974220000.

Peter Welsh a founder member has resigned and thanks go to him for all the service and friendship he has given over so many years.

I have contacted Nicqui Chatterley to arrange a date for induction and she is coming on September 20th.

### **ADDENDUM**

Bryan has written in the Communications report about the fact that he cannot give the time necessary to run a committee currently and I am sorry to say that I'm in the same situation and therefore must resign as Chair of Membership & Recruitment forthwith whilst continuing to be a member of the club and will help with events where I can. As a past President, I am still very committed to Rotary.

Also, apologies for the next 6 weeks as we have US visitors and will also be on our "Golden Cruise".

Jackie Taphouse

### **Foundation Report**

I have nothing to report from Foundation.

Bryan Rickett

### **International Report**

The International committee are in the process of reaching out to our supported organisations to identify projects for the 23/24 Rotary year. We have each taken one organisation to spread the load as follows:

Gren LH – Shelterbox

Nigel B – Lukhanyiso Safe House, S. Africa

John G – Life Centre School, Kisumu, Kenya

Mike T - Dentaïd

Bill G – Rainbow School, Kathmandu, Nepal

As I think I reported last month Gren has been in contact with Shelterbox and we have made a donation of £1000. It is likely that other opportunities for our support will become clear over coming months and we will bring these to the club for approval when details have been sorted out via the committee.

Bill Gidley

### **Youth Report**

Very little has happened of course whilst the schools have been on holiday and it is our intention to contact our schools next week, once they are back, to set the scene for our youth activities in the coming year.

I will come back to the club once I have more detail from Rachael Armstrong, Mountbatten Music department about the 'Brass Day' they plan to hold in January. They have asked for our support in holding this.

Mountbatten School have asked for Rotary to be involved in their Mock Interviews which are to be held on Tuesday September 19th. Thank you to the six Rotary volunteers, Steve R, leun W, Ron B, Jacqueline M, Martin R and Sandra G that have put their names forward for this. Further information will be circulated as soon as I hear from Sindy the careers teacher.

Dictionaries for Life

Stuart W is pleased with the response received from Rotarians and with Tony T is planning the delivery of dictionaries to our 12 Primary schools. We are also pleased to say that he has been successful again in securing a District grant for 50% of the costs involved. That's a massive £820 from District. We will have been supported by District for two years now which is the maximum grant for an ongoing project. Well done Stuart.

Steve George

## **Sports and Social Report**

Many thanks to Norman and Gillie for hosting the BBQ on Wednesday. 50+ attendees enjoyed good food from TASTE, convivial company and some decent weather. Attire ranged from shorts to full winter wear!!!!!!

The next Social function will be the Christmas partners evening on 13 December possibly in the RBL. Mary (the Sec) is very keen to provide some hospitality to recognise our support and may well provide an arrival drink for us. Entertainment to be discussed by the committee.

Clive Collier