
RUSPIDGE & SOUDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the MEETING held on Tuesday 8th April, 2025.

Parish Councillors Present:

Cllrs. William Acland Chairman, Jo Smith, Norman Snell, Tony Matthews, Denis Bagwell-Johnson, Paul Firth.

County Councillors Present:

Graham Morgan.

District Councillors Present:

None-Present.

Parish Council Clerk – Roland Dowding.

Apologies:

Cllrs. Bernie O'Neill, Lori-Leah Griffiths, Richard Burton, Andy Moore, Beki Hoyland, Helen Medcraft.

Standing Declarations of Interest

- a) Ruspidge Memorial Hall - Insignificant personal interest by Cllr. William Acland.
- b) St Whites School - Insignificant personal interest by Cllr. William Acland.
- c) Soudley Village Hall - Insignificant personal interest by Cllr. Norman Snell.

Public Present:

Anne Weyman, Minette Smith, Jim Bell.

R&SPC Public Participation:

Minette Smith – General update on Soudley Village Hall. Tractor tyre attached to play area gates on Soudley recreational ground. The committee are requesting its relocation. SVH committee have changed their financial year, from 1st April - 31st March. A thank you was made to Cllr. Norman Snell on behalf of the SVH committee for his ongoing support.

- 4.1. **Apologies** received and recorded from absent members.
- 4.2. No declaration of prejudicial interest was declared by members present.
- 4.3. **Minutes** - The minutes of the council meeting held on the **11th of March, 2025** were **ACCEPTED** as a true record of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.
- 4.4. **Matters Arising** - There were no matters arising from the minutes.
- 4.5. **District Councillor Reports**
Reports are included as an appendix to these Minutes.
- 4.6. **County Councillor Reports**

- Build Back better scheme has now been cancelled.
- Play Rangers likely to continue with the last payments from the build back better scheme.
- St. Whites bus shelter window has been smashed, to be replaced with Perspex.

- 4.7. **Memorial Bench Request Soudley** – Anne Weyman, request for a memorial bench to be sited on Top Rd Soudley. Cllr. Jo Smith requested that the bench should not obstruct the plinth where the village Christmas tree is sited. Anne Weyman confirmed the memorial bench is to be sited further down and would not obstruct the Christmas tree. The members present had NO objection, provided GCC Highways & FoDDC planning are satisfied the location is appropriate and does not cause obstruction to the Highway.
- 4.8. **Planning** – The completed schedule for **April** is attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.
- 4.9. Following a report by Cllr. Norman Snell acting as signatory to the RFO, the council **APPROVED** the accounts presented for **April** payment totalling **£5,357.99**. This figure is inclusive of confidential expenditure. The Clerk, Mr. R. Dowding informed the members present an error with a direct debit payment had occurred in February, resulting in a double payment being made. The overpayment is being reimbursed to the PC's finances. The minutes from February 2025 have been corrected, to show **£3,754.10**. The correction signed and dated by the Chairman and the Clerk. A financial report is included for this month in the appendix to these minutes.
- 4.10. **Financial Regulations Review 2025** – Approved by the members present and duly signed by the Chairman, Cllr. William Acland and the RFO, Mr. Roland Dowding.
- 4.11. **Standing Orders Review 2025** - Approved by the members present and duly signed by the Chairman, Cllr. William Acland and the RFO, Mr. Roland Dowding.
- 4.12. **R&SPC Risk Assessment Review 2025** - Approved by the members present and duly signed by the Chairman, Cllr. William Acland and the RFO, Mr. Roland Dowding.
- 4.13. **Health & Safety Policy Review 2025** - Approved by the members present and duly signed by the Chairman, Cllr. William Acland.
- 4.14. **Community Speed Watch SNEYD WOOD** – Cllr. Tony Matthews reported, the top speed recorded for this month being 40mph. Queried as to if letters are being sent out to the recorded owners of the vehicles. The speeds recorded are clearly a danger to other road users and pedestrians, in particular the school children traversing Sneyd Wood rd. Cllr. T. Matthews advised that if these speed cannot be stopped, speed bumps would be an option to have sited along Sneyd Wood Rd.
- 4.15. **Liaison's Report for Soudley Village Hall** – Cllr. Norman Snell informed the members present that the Hall's bookings have improved. Public participation is also improved. The SVHC are committed to ensuring the Dementia Alliance literature is advertised within the hall. The

Chairman, Cllr. W. Acland noted, please submit any information regarding events at Soudley Village Hall to him, for submission to the Parish Council Facebook page.

- 4.16. **Correspondence** - The council **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** the following correspondence:
The Parish Councillors accepted all relevant correspondence has been forwarded via email to all members.
- 4.17. **Next Meeting** - the next meeting of the council will be the Annual Parish Meeting (APM) followed by the monthly full council meeting. To be held in the **Ruspidge Memorial Hall** at **7.00 p.m. Tuesday, 13th May 2025**. The agenda deadline is **Monday, 5th of May 2025**.
- 4.18. **Exclusion of the Press and the Public** - The council **RESOLVED** that for any remaining business of a confidential nature, the press and the public should be excluded from the meeting in accordance with Standing Order 10.xi (2020).

The meeting closed at 7.45 p.m.

Signed:.....Chair.

Dated:.....

APPENDIX

FINANCIAL REPORT for the meeting in: April 2025									
1. Reconciliation of Account as at:			end March 2025						
Ledger			£		Bank			£	
Balance b/f			121,588.85		(Com Acc) Lloyds Current A/c.			304.54	
Bank Interest Lloyds			40.91		(Com Instant) Lloyds Inst. Access A/c.			41,756.59	
Bank Interest Unity			394.64		Unity Current A/c			906.00	
					Unity Inst Access A/c			63,076.67	
Total			122,024.40		Total			106,043.80	
Less Expenditure Mar			15,980.60						
Balance			106,043.80		Balance			106,043.80	
2. Accounts for Payment			# = Paid in March but on April's ledger.						
Payee			No	Total £	VAT	Narrative			
#	Solutions In Tech	DD	76.87	12.81	Office Telephone & Broadband				
#	EE Ltd	DD	15.11		Mobile Phone				
	Module IT	DD	92.80	15.47	Monthly IT Support. Services.				
#	Community Heartbeat	1	76.74	12.79	Adult Defib Pads				
	Forest of Dean District Cour	2	-	-	National Non-Domestic Rate demand				
#	Allaston Grove	3	545.00		Play Area Fencing Repair				
#	Lloyds Bank	4	4.25		Service Charge				
	Soudley Village hall	5	25.00		Grass Cut Play Area Soudley				
	Ruspidge Memorial Hall	6	18.00		Hall rental				
	Parish.UK Network	7	19.00		One Year Listing Parish Directory				
	GSC Official	8	7.00		Community Speed Watch Letters				
	Konica Minolta	9	117.07	19.51	Copier Hire				
	Konica Minolta	10	7.45	1.24	Copier Costs				
	Complete Landscapes	11	1,032.00	172.00	Parish Grass Cutting				
	St Johns Church	12	250.00		Grass Cutting Grant. Year 1.				
	Soudley Village hall	13	250.00		Bugle Newsletter Grant. Year 1.				
	Soudley Village Hall	14	500.00		Fireworks Grant. Year 1.				
	Tim Harris	15	480.51		St Clean, Defib Checks, Park Inspections, Bus Shelter Clean, Railway Rd Footbridge Check.				
	Merlin Waste	16	280.00		Dog Waste				
TOTAL:			3,796.80	233.82					

	<u>Planning Schedule April, 2025</u>	
	<u>Planning Reference</u>	<u>Parish</u>
	<u>Site Address & Detail</u>	<u>Comment</u>
SUB	P0269/25/FUL Prouts Cottage , Road From Brains Green To Cyder Mill Cottage, Bradley Hill, Blakeney. Erection of a single storey side extension and first floor rear extension with new vehicle parking area and associated works. Demolition of exsting ground floor extension.	No Obj
SUB	P0329/25/OUT Land West Of 31 Buckshaft Road, Ruspidge, Cinderford, Gloucestershire. Outline Planning application for a proposed 2 bedroom detached dwelling with ancillary works. (All matters reserved) <i>An observation, no mention of parking provisions.</i>	No obj
SUB	P0343/25/FUL Deane Walk , Ruspidge Road, Ruspidge, Gloucestershire. Internal alterations to form additional bedroom with alterations to fenestrations.	No Obj
SUB	P0134/25/FUL Dean Heritage Centre, Road From Church Road To Bradley Cottages, Lower Soudley, Cinderford. Installation of PV panels and associated cables on the roof which covers gallery 1, the café and the library.	No Obj
SUB	P0155/25/LBC Dean Heritage Centre, Lower Soudley, Cinderford, Gloucestershire. Listed Building consent for the Installation of PV panels and associated cables on the roof which covers gallery 1, the cafe and the library.	No Obj
SUB	P0353/25/FUL The Old Police House, 15B Ruspidge Road, Ruspidge, Gloucestershire. Erection of rear balcony, construction of raised parking bay and dropped kerb. <i>Object to this application on the grounds that it is a narrow drive on a busy section of road where vehicle would either have to back in or back out with poor visibility splay.</i>	Objection
SUB	P0366/25/LD1 The Cottage, Annexe , Road From Church Road To Bradley Cottages, Lower Soudley, Gloucestershire. Application under Section 191 to establish whether the continued use of the annexe as a separate residential dwelling in breach of Condition 3 (extension to be used solely for purposes incidental to the existing dwelling and not be occupied as an independent planning unit of residential accommodation) relating to planning permission P1323/05/FUL is lawful <i>if District is satisfied that the information provided is true, then no objections.</i>	No Objection

District Councillor Reports

District Councillor Report – Richard Burton – April 2025

Voters urged to make sure that they can vote in County elections

Residents across the Forest of Dean District are being encouraged to make sure they are registered to vote, apply for a postal vote if required, and apply for photographic identification if needed, ahead of the local elections on Thursday, 1 May 2025.

New plans for Five Acres given the green light

Forest of Dean District Council has agreed on revised plans for the regeneration of Five Acres, with new leisure, community and commercial facilities to be developed as part of the Levelling Up the Forest programme.

Council moves to designate Forest of Dean District as a Biosphere

Forest of Dean District Councillors have voted unanimously to support an application to United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) to designate the Forest of Dean District as a biosphere, helping to support the long-term sustainability of the district's environment and economy.

New Thermal Camera Loan Scheme launched

Forest of Dean District Council has launched a Thermal Camera Loan Scheme to help homeowners assess the thermal efficiency of their homes in a bid to lower energy bills and reduce carbon emissions.

Council invites community groups to apply for funding

Forest of Dean District Council is offering 'not for profit' voluntary and community groups the opportunity to apply for funding to help develop stronger and more cohesive communities.

Cabinet agrees new role to support market town regeneration

Forest of Dean District Council Cabinet Members have agreed to recruit a new dedicated Market Towns Officer to work with partners to improve the vibrancy and vitality of the four market towns in the Forest of Dean.

More details of all these can be found on the Forest of Dean District Council website [All News | Forest of Dean District Council News](#)