
RUSPIDGE & SOUDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the MEETING held on Tuesday 14th May, 2024

(These minutes remain in draft form until approved at the next meeting of the Council)

Parish Councillors Present:

Cllrs. Jo Smith. Chairman, William Acland Chairman-elect, Norman Snell, Tony Matthews, Helen Medcraft, Denis Bagwell-Johnston.

County Councillors Present:

Cllr. Beki Hoyland

District Councillors Present:

None Present.

Parish Council Clerk – Roland Dowding

Apologies:

Cllrs. Bernie O’Neill, Richard Burton, Graham Morgan, Lori-Leah Griffiths.

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. Jo Smith.

Public Present:

Minette Smith, Adrian Peacey.

RUSPIDGE WELFARE TRUST (RWT)

Members were mindful that these items were considered and determined as trustees to the RWT.

- 5.1. There were no matters arising from the minutes.
 - 5.2. Bicycle Racks for Ruspidge Recreation Ground. Mr. William Acland informed the trustees present that Ruspidge Memorial Hall had a set of new bicycle racks they wished to donate to the RWT for the Ruspidge recreation ground. The trustees present voted a majority **NOT IN FAVOUR** of accepting the donation and declined to have bicycle racks sited on Ruspidge recreational ground.
 - 5.3. The members present accepted a quote for **£410.62** from Mr. Maintenance 1000 for repairs and replacement wooden backing boards, that the electrical cabinets are secured to at the cabins on Ruspidge football ground.
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R&SPC Public Participation:

Adrian Peacey – Mr Peacey informed the members present that the orange barriers sited along the buttress area of the Blue Rock Trail have fallen. Mr Peacey explained he had been putting them back in place, but due to the recent rain fall the ground has become too muddy. The Chairman Cllr. Acland requested the Clerk instruct Mr Tim Harris, contractor for Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council to attend the site and replace the barriers.

Mr Peacey also informed the members present that the area of the Blue Rock Trail near the wooden foot bridge had become particularly muddy and was treacherous to pass. Cllr. Jo Smith suggested contacting the Forestry Commission England to obtain some wood chips to place in the area, to correct the issue. Cllr. Tony Matthews seconded the proposal. The Chairman instructed the Clerk to take the aforementioned action and liaise with Mr Tim Harris to undertake the task of placing the wood chips once obtained from the Forestry Commission.

Mr Peacey was concerned regarding nesting birds at Shakemantle quarry in Ruspidge, it is possible that members of the public who are rock climbing in the area are disturbing the nesting birds. The Clerk was instructed to inform the Forestry Commission England of the concern.

- 5.1. **Apologies** received and recorded from absent members.
- 5.2. No declaration of prejudicial interest was declared by members present.
- 5.3. **Minutes** - The minutes of the council meeting held on the **9th of April, 2024** were **ACCEPTED** as a true record of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.
- 5.4. **Matters Arising** - There were no matters arising from the minutes.
- 5.5. **District Councillor Reports**

Reports are included as an Appendix to these Minutes.

- 5.6. **County Councillor Reports**

Cllr. Hoyland informed the members present that contract terms had now been agreed by GCC with Newport Transport for the proposed 72 bus. The Bus route should now commence on the 3rd of June, the timetable being published on travel line by the week beginning 20th of May 2024.

Reports are included as an Appendix to these Minutes.

- 5.7. **Planning** – The completed schedule for **May** is attached as an Appendix to these Minutes. Cllr. Tony Matthews raised concerns regarding planning application **P0414/24/OUT, 11** Ruspidge Rd. It is alleged that trees have been cut down prior to the posting of the application. This action is believed to be a breach of the current regulations. Cllr. Matthews requested the Clerk, Mr R. Dowding inform FoDDC planning of this breach. Concerns are also raised regarding the gradient at the property being inadequate. Forest Lodge Planning Committee Site Visit. Cllr. Matthews attended the site visit. Cllr. Matthews advised the members present, that after attending the site visit it is his belief and the belief of members of the public present at the site visit that the revised application still has issues with the gradient, in particular, for the proposed house at the furthest end of the

gradient which is believed by Cllr. Matthews upon observation of the site and plans to be too steep. Concerns were also raised, due to the size of the camber on Buckshaft Rd, storm water will cause flooding at the proposed development. Cllr. Matthews believes the amendments to the proposed development remain inadequate.

- 5.8. **Financial Matters** - Following a report by the Treasurer the council **APPROVED** the accounts presented for the **May** payment totalling **£4,057.59** this figure is inclusive of confidential expenditure. A financial report is included in the appendix to these minutes.
- 5.9. **Revised Appointment of Internal Auditor of the Council for 2023/24** – Unfortunately the appointed internal auditor for 2023/24 is now unavailable, making it necessary to appoint an alternative internal auditor for the financial year of 2023/24. The service provided by GAPTC was proposed and the members present voted unanimously for the appointment of GAPTC as internal auditor 2023/24.
- 5.10. **Community Speed Watch SNEYD WOOD** – Cllr. Tony Matthews updated the members present, the highest recorded speed on Sneyd Wood Rd for the last month was 43 mph, within the last two weeks reports no speeds more than 35 mph were recorded.
- 5.15. **Correspondence** - The council **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** the following correspondence: The Parish Councillors accepted all relevant correspondence has been forwarded via email to all members.
- 5.16. **Next Meeting** - the next meeting of the council will be held in the **Soudley Village Hall** at **7.00 p.m. Tuesday, 11th June 2024**. The agenda deadline is **Monday, 3rd of June, 2024**.
- 5.17. **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 8.15 p.m.

Signed:.....Chair.

Dated:.....

APPENDIX

FINANCIAL REPORT for the meeting in: May 2023					
1. Reconciliation of Account as at: end April 2023					
Ledger		£			Bank
Balance b/f		106,842.80		(Treasurers)	Lloyds Current A/c.
Bank Interest		44.84		(Reserves)	Lloyds Inst. Access A/c.
FODDC		30,655.00			Unity Current A/c
GCC		670.00			Unity Inst Access A/c
VAT Refund		1,117.01			
	Total	139,329.65			Total
Less Expenditure April		4,669.86			
Balance		134,659.79		Balance	134,659.79
2. Accounts for Payment # = presented payments					
Payee	No	Total £	VAT	Narrative	
# Solutions in Technology	D/D	73.80	12.30	Telephone & Broadband	
# EE Ltd	D/D	15.11		Mobile Phone	
Module IT	D/D	81.53	13.59	IT Support	
Tim Harris	1	475.51		St. Cleaning, Play Area Safety Checks, Defib Checks, Grass Cutting.	
Complete Landscapes	2	888.00	148.00	Gras Cuts; Main Area, Bank Path.	
Merlin Waste	3	280.00		Dog waste bins emptied.	
Soudley Village Hall Committee	4	250.00		Grant, Soudley Bugle	
Soudley Village Hall Committee	5	21.00		SVH rental for PC meeting	
# Defib Store Ltd	6	98.40	16.40	Cardiac Adult Pads, Ready Kit	
Gary Thomas Fabrication	7	102.00	17.00	Ruspidge Rec; gate spring & repairs to gates.	
* Gary Thomas Fabrication	8	265.68	44.28	Ruspidge football ground; galvaised cover for electrical cabinets	
	TOTAL	£2,551.03	£251.57		
* Paid out in the previous month, presented on this months ledger.					
# Paid out this month, prior to the monthly meeting.					

Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council			
Planning Schedule May, 2024			
<u>Planning Reference</u>	<u>Parish</u>		
<u>Site Address & Detail</u>	<u>Comment</u>		
P0409/24/FUL	No Obj		
Town and Country Planning Act,1990 (As Amended)			
Verlie, Hewlett Way, Ruspidge, Cinderford.			
Erection of single-storey side extension.			
P0467/24/FUL	No Obj		
Old Post Office , Top Road, Upper Soudley, Cinderford.			
Erection of a replacement single storey front extension and associated works			
P0414/24/OUT	**		
11 Ruspidge Road, Ruspidge, Gloucestershire, .			
Outline application for the erection of 5no. dwellings (some matters reserved)			
** Comment.			
<i>Concerned that the number of properties applied for leaves little room for gardens as a large area of land is being used as access, with no footway.</i>			
P1958/21/FUL	**		
Forest Lodge, St Whites Road, Cinderford, Gloucestershire.			
Erection of 7 dwellings with associated parking, landscaping and works. Construction of a new access (revised scheme).			
** Comment			
<i>Object, the main reason being access to the site being over the specified gradient limit.</i>			
P0503/24/FUL	No Obj		
Bona Vista , Buckshaft Road, Ruspidge, Gloucestershire.			
Conversion of Loft into Living Accommodation with velux balcony window			
Decisions notified by the Planning Authority			
<u>Planning Reference</u>	<u>Parish</u>	<u>District</u>	
<u>Site Address & Detail</u>	<u>Comment</u>	<u>Decision</u>	<u>Date</u>
P0126/24/FUL	No Obj	Consent	23-Apr-24
The Well, Railway Road, Ruspidge, Cinderford.			
Erection of a garage/workshop to south elevation of existing dwelling, retaining garden walls and associated works			
P0323/24/FUL	No Obj	Consent	07-May-24
17 Tramway Road, Ruspidge, Gloucestershire, GL14 3AT.			
Erection of two storey side extension, renovation of existing outbuildings to east elevation including extending the existing external ground floor WC to include shower. Creating new openings and adding to existing boundary wall			

District Councillor Report.

Cllr. Richard Burton

FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS ACROSS THE FOREST OF DEAN

The community grant is aimed at building capacity of the community rather than directly delivering services. This includes projects that help to improve residents' health and wellbeing, reduce social isolation and to community projects that enable residents to reduce carbon emissions and those that respond to sustainable community food.

The total funding available to groups for 2024/2025 is £19,800 with one-off revenue grants of up to £3,000 available for constituted groups and one-off grants of up to £500 available for non-constituted groups.

NEW LEADER APPOINTED AT FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Councillors voted in favour of appointing Cllr Adrian Birch as Leader of Forest of Dean District Council at the meeting for full council held on Thursday 18 April 2024.

“As a council, we want to help our communities and local economy to thrive, whilst ensuring that we protect and enhance our natural environment and be on target to be carbon neutral by 2030. I'm thrilled to help deliver on these targets and look forward to working with councillors, officers, and partners to provide long-lasting benefits for people across the district.

“I am looking forward to starting work as leader and am confident that together we can achieve great things for the Forest of Dean, while also providing the council services we all expect.”

COUNCIL COMMITTED TO FIVE ACRES REGENERATION DESPITE COST INCREASES DUE TO INFLATION AND GLOBAL PRICE RISES

Chief Executive Officer for Forest of Dean District Council, Nigel Brinn said:

“We had originally hoped to be on site at this stage but as with the construction of any large facility such as this, the Council must ensure that the development is affordable and remains financially sustainable going forward.

“Unfortunately, costs have risen substantially since the Council was successful in its Levelling Up Fund bid, due to rising global costs of materials and the impact of high inflation.

“We would like to reassure the community that Forest of Dean District Council is committed to working with partners and key stakeholders to deliver a project that provides real and long-lasting benefit to the people of the Forest of Dean, within the budget available to us.”

County Councillor Reports.

County Report to Parish Councils in Blaney and Bream division for May 2024.

Please contact me if you would like to know more or have any queries.

Beki.hoyland@gloucestershire.gov.uk or 07815660013

ROADS

Here is a link to the interactive map that gives up to date road works. Below is a list of Road closures I could find in May, there are plenty of other road works happening on lane using traffic management.

<https://one.network/public>

Closed roads in May:

- **A48 From Blakeney High Street To Junction With Lensbrook**
20 May - 29 May
- **A48 From Junction With Lensbrook To Lydney Bypass**
20 May - 29 May
- **Awre Road – National Grid**
13 May 08:00 - 17 May 16:00
- **Ruspidge Road - Gigaclear**
20 May - 24 May
- **Driffield Road. - Drains**
13 May - 15 May

Message from highways re grass cutting

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/g3sd31uc/gcc-2024-visibility-cut-program-map.pdf>

At this time of year the grass verges are springing into life. We support No Mow May, to help Gloucestershire's biodiversity thrive. Bees and other pollinators do an important job and our beautiful county is home to many wild flowers.

To ensure the safety of road users and maintain visibility, we cut some areas at junctions and bends during the spring. The dates of cutting vary each year depending on the weather, and this year we expect to carry out some of these small safety cuts during May. Parish and district councils may also choose to cut grass verges during May. **In the Forest of Dean the visibility cut is due 27th to 31st May.**

Later in the summer we will carry out a full cut; a one-metre swathe on all roads.

Update on the Missing Link project, the A417:

<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/MbBUfUSiMAx03UWx?ref=Link>

My Questions to full council this month:

1. Please can you tell me what the checks and balances are in the system for ensuring that the council does not fund fixing potholes that fail within a year of being filled?
2. How much do claims for damage to vehicles and property caused by faulty roads and drains cost the council?
3. The A40 between Huntley and Longhope has some geological issues that mean it has been closed to traffic recently. Bearing in mind increased extreme weather events that we have to expect is the A40 likely to be closed more frequently and what are the solutions?

If you have questions you want me to ask officers or cabinet members do let me know.

Free Adult education

Could you be a numeracy Champion?

Could you, or any one you know, benefit from up skilling in numeracy?

The Skills for Life Multiply programme is designed to help adults in the county unlock their potential by providing access to [free courses](#) on essential number skills needed in daily life. We support our students in tackling the barriers they have with numbers to reach their goals, whether that is new employment opportunities, readiness for further studies, mastering effective budgeting, or anything in between!

Find out more:

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/adult-education-in-gloucestershire/multiply/>

Gloucestershire Homes for Ukraine Scheme update

3rd May 2024

This month's briefing contains an overview of the current numbers and trends for the Homes for Ukraine (HFU) Scheme in Gloucestershire.

Ukrainian arrivals and current numbers

In total, 1,686 Ukrainians have now arrived in Gloucestershire on the HFU scheme since March 2022. Two years on, the majority still remain living in county. As of 29th April 2024, there are 600 guests currently living with hosts on the HFU scheme in Gloucestershire. A further 577 guests have now moved to independent accommodation, whether that be secured via the private sector or through social housing, meaning there are 1,177 Ukrainians living in county on HFU visas in total.

There is a lot more detail if you would like me to forward it to you let me know.