
RUSPIDGE & SOUDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the MEETING held on Tuesday 11th June, 2024

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

Parish Councillors Present:

Cllrs. William Acland Chairman. Chairman, Jo Smith, Norman Snell, Tony Matthews, Denis Bagwell-Johnston, Lori-Leah Griffiths.

County Councillors Present:

Cllr. Beki Hoyland

District Councillors Present:

None Present.

Parish Council Clerk – Roland Dowding

Apologies:

Cllrs. Helen Medcraft, Bernie O'Neill, Richard Burton, Graham Morgan.

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:

Cheryl Wright, Minette Smith, Anthony Smith, Adrian Peacey, Tony Browning, Vicky Macdougall, Paul Billis, Graham Drew.

R&SPC Public Participation:

Tony Browning. Request to have steps placed on footpath DRP8, from Ruspidge Rd up to Buckshaft Rd. Tony Browning believes the footpath to be too steep and unsafe approximately halfway along the full length of the path, at the intersection of Hewlett Way and Fir View Rd. The Chairman, Cllr. W. Acland informed Tony Browning, a query had been raised with Highways and we await their decision.

Vicky Macdougall. The Soudley Comrades Club. Vicky Macdougall informed the members present after speaking to long term residents of Soudley, the current owners of the property are unknown, it is believed the house known locally as the Comrades Club was given to the ex-servicemen after the first world war. It is alleged that the property was given by a family from London by the name of 'Pear'. It is believed the details, deeds etc, are being held by Lloyd's bank. Also, it is further believed, there is a constitution saying, if the property were to be sold it is to be gifted to the ex-servicemen. Vicky Macdougall questioned council as to, if the property currently belongs to no-one then its ownership must default to the state, if it has an owner, why has it been allowed to fall into a state of dereliction and used as a 'dumping ground'. Vicky Macdougall is of the understanding council Tax is being paid on the property, she believes she knows who the person is that pays Council Tax on the

property and believes said person holds documents regarding the property and Comrades Club. Vicky Macdougall put to Council, why can no action be taken.

Cllr. Jo Smith answered the questions; First stating, there is NO evidence of who does, or does not own the property, if there was a Constitution/Trust, that Trust would no longer exist, if it were set up before 1964, then pre 1964 rules would apply, being a maximum of 80 years or the lives of those invested in the Trust. The PC has previously made exhaustive enquires into the Comrades Club and on multiple occasions. There is NO record of the property with the Land Registry. No records with the Charities Commission. Cllr. Jo Smith stated the Comrades Club no longer exists. Any further enquires within the village by the PC could be considered harassment. If the use of the property is causing a nuisance within the village, it comes under the powers of the FoDDC. This building is one of three derelict buildings within the village, that Cllr. Jo Smith believes falls under the powers of GCC. Cllr. Jo Smith advised should the residents have concern regarding these derelict buildings, or their use causing a statutory nuisance and health & safety issue, they should please report it using the GCC online portal, and/or contact your MP. This issue is outside of the PC's remit.

Anthony Smith – Soudley telephone box. Request to have BT attend to maintenance of the phone box due to the door being hard to open and the phone inside requiring maintenance.

Adrian Peacey – Concern regarding cars being parked inappropriately near to junctions. Cllr. William Acland advised, please photograph the vehicle causing the obstruction and report it to the Police using a 101 service. A PCSO will then attend to the situation. Also, Adrian Peacey informed the members present the fence on the footpath DRP8 along Tramway Rd and Buckshaft has fallen over. Highways will be notified.

- 6.1. **Apologies** received and recorded from absent members.
- 6.2. No declaration of prejudicial interest was declared by members present.
- 6.3. **Minutes** - The minutes of the council meeting held on the **14th of May, 2024** were **ACCEPTED** as a true record of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.
- 6.4. **Matters Arising** - There were no matters arising from the minutes.
- 6.5. **District Councillor Reports**
No District Cllr's were present.
- 6.6. **County Councillor Reports**
Report is included as an Appendix to these Minutes.
- 6.7. **Declaration Of Office Forms** - The members present duly signed Declaration of office forms.
- 6.8. **Register of Interest Forms** – The members present duly signed and completed Register of Interest Forms.
- 6.9. **Planning** – The completed schedule for **June** is attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.
- 6.10. **Financial Matters** - Following a report by Cllr. Norman Snell acting as signatory to the RFO, the council **APPROVED** the accounts presented for the **June** payment totalling **£7,338.67** this

figure is inclusive of confidential expenditure. A financial report is included in the appendix to these minutes.

- 6.11. **Internal Audit Review** - After receipt of the audit undertaken by GAPTC in May 2024. The members present accepted the review and agreed to undertake the actions advised within the report.
- 6.12. **AGAR COMPLIANCE.** Section one, assertions two & six. To note, Members have considered the internal audit arrangements when adopting the Financial Regulations and Risk Assessment at the April Meeting 2024. Appointment of the internal auditor was amended at the May 2024 meeting, appointing GAPTC as internal auditor for the financial year.
- 6.13. **AGAR SECTION ONE.** The members present approved by resolution, the Audit Annual Return, Section 1, Annual Governance Statement 2023/24 and the Chairman & Clerk duly signed the document.
- 6.14. **AGAR SECTION TWO.** The members present approved by resolution, Section 2, Accounting Statements 2023/24. Signed and dated by the Clerk prior to submitting to Council for approval (as per audit regulations). Section 2 was duly signed & dated by the Chairman.
- 6.15. **EXERCISE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS.** The members present noted and approved the public rights inspection of the Councils accounts being the 17th of June to 26th of July 2024 inclusive.
- 6.16. **Soudley Village Hall Committee Grant – £3,600.00** Replacement of Bridge Railway Sleepers. The members present deliberated, and a vote taken, Cllr. Norman Snell, **YES**, in favour of the application. Cllr's Jo Smith, Lori – Leah Griffiths, Tony Matthews, Denis Bagwell-Johnston voted **NO**, not in favour.
The Chairman, Cllr. William Acland in summing up, advises Soudley Recreation Ground & Village Hall Trust, that the Parish Council will be happy to consider match funding if additional funding can be sourced and proof provided to the outcome of your application. Should the SVHC be unsuccessful at securing match funding and proof provided of the application/s, the PC will consider an amended grant application for the repair of the bridge.
- 6.17. **Blue Rock Trail** – Members agreed to attend to the routine maintenance of the BRT trail, using wood chippings to cover any sections of the trail that are particularly muddy and difficult for the public to traverse, provided the costs remain within the current maintenance budget of £1,000.00.
- 6.18. **Comrades Club Soudley** – The chairman advised council has dealt with the issue raised by Vicky Macdougall, under public participation earlier in the meeting.
- 6.19. **Council Insurance Policy Review** – Members present agreed and accepted the policy renewal for the Council Insurance Policy 2024/25. Cllr. Jo Smith raised a query as to who's insurance policy would cover the Lower Rd bridge across to the Soudley Village Hall. The Clerk, Mr. Roland Dowding advised he believes the bridge is owned by SVH. A query was raised by a member of the SVHC who was present, as to who holds the deeds for the SVH, the Clerk advised the Soudley Village Hall Committee have ownership of the hall's deeds. The PC holds a limited amount of information referencing the SVH's deeds, as the PC are only Custodian Trustees to the hall, should a SVHC cease to be.

- 6.20. **Ron Bailey Lithium-Ion Batteries** – Vote **YES/NO** to support the campaign to improve the safety of lithium batteries (used in e-bike and e-scooters) and their disposal. The members present voted a unanimous **YES**.
- 6.21. **Community Speed Watch SNEYD WOOD** – Cllr. Tony Matthews, reported the camera currently has a flat battery due to the overgrowth of the tree sited adjacent to the camera. We are awaiting the Community Speed Watch Team to attend to the maintenance.
- 6.22. **Correspondence** - The council **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** the following correspondence: The Parish Councillors accepted all relevant correspondence has been forwarded via email to all members.
- 6.23. **Next Meeting** - the next meeting of the council will be held in the **Ruspidge Memorial Hall at 7.00 p.m. Tuesday, 9th July 2024**. The agenda deadline is **Monday, 1st of July 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:.....

Planning Schedule

<u>Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council</u>				
<u>Planning Schedule June, 2024</u>				
	<u>Planning Reference</u>	<u>Parish</u>		
	<u>Site Address & Detail</u>	<u>Comment</u>		
SUB	<u>P0648/24/DEM</u> Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order, 2015 (As Amended) Prior Approval for Method of Demolition The Bungalow Railway Road Ruspidge Prior notification for demolition of 60s pre fabricated bungalow	No Obj		
<u>Decisions notified by the Planning Authority</u>				
	<u>Planning Reference</u>	<u>Parish</u>	<u>District</u>	
	<u>Site Address & Detail</u>	<u>Comment</u>	<u>Decision</u>	<u>Date</u>
	<u>P0046/24/DISCON</u> Land At 62 Ruspidge Road Ruspidge Gloucestershire Partial discharge of Condition 03 (surface water drainage scheme) and discharge of condition 05 (biodiversity enhancement) relating to planning permission P1411/20/FUL	N/A	Refused	14th May 2024
	<u>P0409/24/FUL</u> Verlie Hewlett Way Ruspidge Cinderford Gloucestershire GL14 3AJ Erection of single-storey side extension.	No Obj	Consent	24th May 2024
	<u>P0414/24/OUT</u> 11 Ruspidge Road Ruspidge Gloucestershire Outline application for the erection of 5no. Dwellings (some matters reserved)	Objection	Refused	22nd May 2024
	<u>P0323/24/FUL</u> 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	No Obj	Consent	07th May 2024
	<u>P1958/21/FUL</u> Forest Lodge St Whites Road Cinderford Gloucestershire GL14 3ES Erection of 7 dwellings with associated parking, landscaping and works. Construction of a new access (revised scheme).	Objection	Refused	20th May 2024

County Report to Parish Councils in Blakeney and Bream division,

June 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:

- **Fancy Road Parkend.**

08:00 – 18:00 10th to 14th & 17th to 21st June 2024 weekdays only **Road Closure for Geotechnical Monitoring Works.**

A48 is being resurfaced between Aylburton and Alvington so the road will be closed over night. Between 13th and 21st June.

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>

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/>

School Governor needed

Blakeney, Pillowell and Walmore Hill Community Schools' Federation are looking for a new governor. Please get in touch with me or the school if you are interested.

Underage Vaping.

Trading standards carried out test purchase operations, supported by the police cadets, in the last week of May 2024. The volunteers went to 21 stores in total, in Gloucester, Cheltenham, Stroud, the Forest of Dean and the Cotswolds. They were sold a nicotine vape from four different shops and no one questioned their age or asked for identification. The retailers that did not sell to the underage volunteers had received advice in the past about sales to under-18s and the majority asked for ID from the volunteer. In total there were five sales of vapes to the volunteers, meaning that 76 per cent passed and 24 per cent failed. In 2022, 80 per cent passed and in 2023 there was a 100 per cent pass rate. Trading standards will write to the shops that failed within the next week advising them that a sale took place and reminding them of their legal responsibilities. A further survey will take place later in the year and if they fail again they could face prosecution.

To report underage sales of vaping products, you can email tradingstandards@gloucestershire.gov.uk, visit the website <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/trading-standards/> or report anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

New Mental Health Help line launched

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gloucestershire-county-council-news/news-june-2024/new-mental-wellbeing-helpline-launched/>

The 'Connect and Offload' helpline will:

- Offer support to adults (aged 18 plus) without the need for a referral, or an appointment.

- Enable people to access help anonymously, between the hours of 2pm-9pm, seven days a week, 365 days per year, via
 - o Phone on 0808 801 0606
 - o Text 07537 410 022
 - o Webchat via gloucestershirecando.org
 - o Email cando@rethink.org
- Provide emotional support, information on local services and a 'listening ear'.
- Promote coping strategies, safety planning and advice on self-care.
- Give advice and support to carers, friends or family.

Signpost to sources of community-based support and other mental health services, or to organisations who can help with wider issues such as concerns over finance, debt, bereavement, or employment.

Good afternoon,

I am writing with regards to the next phase of the Severn Estuary Resilience Program (SERP) that is due to commence over the coming weeks.

As you may be aware, over the last two years we have worked over a three-mile stretch of railway close to Purton, Etloe, Little Hagloe and Awre, as well as a one-mile stretch towards Wales to remove earth from the steep cutting and install mesh and bolts to hold loose material in place.

Preparation for the work is due to commence from **Monday 3 June**, with the main work taking place between **Monday 22 July to Saturday 10 August, whilst the railway is temporarily closed.**

Impact on services

For the work to be carried out safely, **the railway will be closed between Severn Tunnel Junction and Gloucester from Monday 22 July to Saturday 10 August**, so buses will replace trains for all or part of

your journey. Please note there will be some passenger services running at weekends, but please check before you travel at [nationalrail.co.uk](https://www.nationalrail.co.uk).

Want to find out more?

We will be holding a drop-in event for anyone wishing to find out more about our plans, on **Thursday 6 June 2024 between 3pm and 7pm at the Awre Village Hall, Awre, Newnham GL14 1EL**. Members of the project team and contractors will be on hand to answer any questions and no appointment is needed.

I hope you find this information useful and if you have any questions, please get in touch.



James McKenzie

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Rheolwr Cyfathrebu Prosiect

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Diversity and Inclusion Champion

24 hr Network Rail National Helpline 03457 11 41 41

