
RUSPIDGE & SOUDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the MEETING held on Tuesday 10th June, 2025.

Parish Councillors Present:

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

County Councillors Present:

Cllr. Beki Hoyland.

District Councillors Present:

None-Present.

Parish Council Clerk – Roland Dowding.

Apologies:

Cllrs. Bernie O'Neill, Richard Burton, Andy Moore, Lori-Leah Griffiths, Ray Donaghue.

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:

None Present.

R&SPC Public Participation:

None Present.

- 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 **13th of May, 2025** 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**
None Present
- 6.6. **County Councillor Reports**
County Cllr. reports are attached as an Appendix to these minutes.
- 6.7. **Planning** – The completed schedule for **June** is attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.
- 6.8. Following a report by the Honorary Treasurer, Cllr. Norman Snell the council **APPROVED** the accounts presented for **June** payment totalling **£6,053.88**. This figure is inclusive of confidential expenditure. A financial report is included for this month in the appendix to these minutes.

- 6.9. **Parish Council Insurance Renewal** – After inspection of the documents, the members present approved the insurance quote provided for the Parish of Ruspidge & Soudley by Clear Councils totalling **£ 1,214.99**.
- 6.10. **KOMPAN Quote for Ruspidge Swing Repairs** - reset and resecure of the loose front leg at a quoted cost of **£ 2,261.00**. After deliberation the members present approved the quote.
- 6.11. **Community Speed Watch SNEYD WOOD** – Cllr. Tony Matthews reported that yet again this month, unfortunately speeds have not decreased and the highest recorded speed in the last month being 41 mph.
- 6.12. **Liaison’s Report for Soudley Village Hall** – Cllr. Norman Snell informed the members present of events to be held at Soudley Village hall over the next month. Two Soudley allotments are still vacant. The 5th of July a Car boot sale will be held. Saturday mornings 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. is bacon buttie morning. 14th July, quiz & curry night.
- 6.13. **Liaison’s Report for Ruspidge Memorial Hall** – Cllr. Denis Bagwell Johnston deferred his report until receiving the most recent minutes from Ruspidge Memorial hall.
- 6.14. **Public Bench Soudley** – After inspection by Forestry Commission England, it is requested that the Parish Council either replaces or removes the bench. Discussion deferred until the July meeting as the Clerk is currently awaiting quotes.
- 6.15. **Correspondence** - The council **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** the following correspondence:
The Parish Councillors accepted all relevant correspondence has been forwarded via email to all members.
- 6.16. **Next Meeting** - the next meeting of the council will be held in the **Ruspidge Memorial Hall at 7.00 p.m. Tuesday, 8th July 2025**. The agenda deadline is **Monday, 30th of June 2025**.
- 6.17. **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 7.20 p.m.

Signed:.....Chair.

Dated:.....

APPENDIX

Financial report for the June meeting.

[illegible]

Planning Schedule June 2025

	<u>Planning Schedule June, 2025</u>			
	<u>Planning Reference</u>	<u>Parish</u>		
	<u>Site Address & Detail</u>	<u>Comment</u>		
SUB	P0517/25/FUL	No Obj.		
	82 Ruspidge Road, Ruspidge, Cinderford, Gloucestershire. Erection of a 3 bedroom chalet bungalow with associated landscaping, parking and works.			
	P0155/25/LBC	No Obj.		
	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.			
	P0134/25/FUL	No Obj.		
	Dean Heritage Centre, Lower Soudley, Cinderford, Gloucestershire.			
	Installation of PV panels and associated cables on the roof which covers gallery 1, the cafe and the library.			
SUB	P0605/25/FUL	No Obj.		
	Land At, 62 Ruspidge Road, Ruspidge, Gloucestershire.			
	Erection of a self build dwelling with associate landscaping, pedestrian access and works.			
	Retention of existing garage and off road parking.			
	<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>
	P0366/25/LD1	**	LDC Issued	13/05/2025
	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 FoDDC is satisfied that the information provided is true, then no objections.</i>			
	P0343/25/FUL	No Obj	Granted Permission	15/05/2025
	Deane Walk , Ruspidge Road, Ruspidge, Gloucestershire.			
	Internal alterations to form additional bedroom with alterations to fenestrations.			

June 2025, County report to parishes

From Beki Hoyland, beki.hoyland@gloucestershire.gov.uk 07815660013

The general website for GCC is always a good place to start looking for any information: <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk>

The new Committees I sit on in this new term are:

- Environment Scrutiny committee (which looks at infrastructure, including highways).
- Fire and Rescue Scrutiny committee
- Foster Panel
- Ambitions board (for our children)
- Corporate Parenting
- Appeals Panel (mainly home to school transport)

If you would like more detailed information on these do feel free to ask.

Roads

This link is where you can find all the planned road works, the above is the only major work I can see and have been notified about but there are several more minor roads that will be closed and have restrictions on them.

Planned road closures

- 10th -11th July, Upper Soudley to Blackpool Bridge: replacement of wooden guard rails.
- 21st July -22nd July Awre: Branches Road to Moorhen Lane: ditch clearing.
- 23rd July – 24th July Howells Lane. – ditching.
- 28th July – 15th August Green Lodge to Junction at Blackpool Bridge – Bridge repairs.
- 28th July 29th July **A48** Flaxley junction to Blaisdon junction. Railway bridge maintenance
- 4th August – 8th August Grange road, (between Littledean and Soudley) -renewing gully frame.
- 26th August – 28th August Awre: Junction with Branches Road – A48. – new gully covers.
- 20th – 23rd August. Mallards Pike to Blakeney Straights – drain jetting and maintenance
- 9th – 16th September Carriage way resurfacing in and around Oakwood Road Bream

Please continue to use and promote the use of FIX MY STREETS

<https://fixmystreet.gloucestershire.gov.uk>

It has been a year since Fix my Streets was introduced as a tool for us all to report issues with our roads and footpaths.

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

1. Gloucestershire becomes one unitary authority
2. Gloucestershire becomes two unitary authorities, east would be Tewksbury, Cheltenham and Cotswold, west would be Forest of Dean, Gloucester and Stroud

Between now and November a firm proposal (or two) needs to be worked up and presented to government at which point the government will decide which one we will adopt. Levels and how wider consultation will take place will probably be decided after elections in May.

There are working groups within the council looking at different aspects of LGR

- Locality local representation
- Combined authority

- Unitary
- Comms
- Culture
- Vision and ambition.

In the meantime, it is vital that the work of the council continues and that officers are able to get on with the core business of running the vital services that we all rely on.

Council to offer funding to community groups to tackle climate crisis

[Council to offer funding to community groups to tackle climate crisis | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

Eligible groups don't have to be climate experts to apply. The fund can be used to support communities who are starting their journey to take action and protect their local environment, increase the health of their local community and help cut costs. Priority will be given to projects that are able to reach the most people, reduce the most carbon and that provide the best value for money.

Digital Household Grant <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/your-community/digital-household-grant/>

Digital Household Grant is available to Gloucestershire households that:

- Are recognised in our address data as still requiring access to a superfast connection
- Has a download capacity below 30mbps
- Is not included in existing or planned commercially funded broadband delivery
- Is not including in any ongoing subsidised broadband delivery by Fastershire

Potentially eligible properties will receive a letter from Gloucestershire County Council explaining the scheme and what the household needs to do to apply. It is the intention for this scheme to close to new applications from June 30th 2025.

M5, Junction 10.

the Secretary of State for Transport granted development consent for the M5 Junction 10 Improvements Scheme.

[Development consent granted for M5 Junction 10 Improvements Scheme | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

New webpage launched to educate young people and parents about vaping risks [Young people and vaping : NHS Gloucestershire ICB](#)

Holiday Activity and Food - HAF

These government funded activities and food for children during the holidays is run by FVAF in the Forest of Dean and more information can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/ForestVoluntaryActionForum>

Work at Shire Hall over the last month has involved lots of different trainings for the various committees and for new councillors; from Corporate Parenting to data security. I have also been involved in conversations with the new LD leader of the council, Lisa Spivey, establishing priorities and finding areas where we can build a positive working relationship for the benefit of everyone in Gloucestershire.

In the community I have been making sure that the Road Safety liaison group continues to function, I have attended a meeting in Bream about the young people of Bream and how we can be proactive to support them and reduce the anti-social behaviour. I have been working with Newnham on the Library of Things, Blakeney with a bike shelter, Etloe with railway traffic, and many other bits of case work around the division. Do please be in touch if I can be useful in my role as County Councillor.

Cinderford County Councillor Report June 2025

Cllr. Ray Donaghue.

I will be holding a surgery from 3pm to 5pm on the second Tuesday of each month. Please encourage to book to avoid not being able to be seen or in the event I can't make it.

I have been confirmed on to Committees – Planning and Adult Social Care & Communities.

I have been doing more training and attending meetings and meetings booked – highways, public transport.

We are looking at setting up a regular meeting with all 8 of the CCs in order to share info and work together on issues that affect multiple areas.

I am trying to get more information and engagement from some services – Traffic Enforcement, Highways to try and ensure we are getting our fair share of resources.

I am awaiting a meeting with the local police to see how we can work more closely together.

I have started meeting with residents and business owners to take more of a deep dive to understand the issues we face more clearly in the area, in particular crime, ASB. This may take some time, but I think it will be useful.

If anyone wishes to share their knowledge with me, I would be very grateful either on the issues above or any other that the CC can support with.

My colleague Stuart is leading on issues around schools and football pitches at the moment and can update you. We are planning to visit SGS when the Head Teacher replies.

A landmark day for Gloucestershire!

Cllr Lisa Spivey has been elected as the new Leader of Gloucestershire County Council, the first woman to ever hold the role. LibDems were one short of a majority.

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gloucestershire-county-council-news/news-may-2025/alandmark-day-for-gloucestershire/>

WE WANT YOUR VIEWS ON DOMESTIC ABUSE

Residents are being invited to have their say on Gloucestershire's strategy to tackle domestic abuse 2025/28. Closes 16 of June.

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gloucestershire-county-council-news/news-may2025/we-want-your-views-on-domestic-abuse/>

COUNCIL TO OFFER FUNDING TO COMMUNITY GROUPS TO TACKLE CLIMATE CRISIS

Gloucestershire County Council is offering £50,000 in grant funding to communities to help reduce carbon emissions and the impacts of climate change.

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gloucestershire-county-council-news/news-may2025/council-to-offer-funding-to-community-groups-to-tackle-climate-crisis/>