

---

# RUSPIDGE & SOUDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES of the MEETING held on Tuesday 10th September, 2024

### Parish Councillors Present:

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

### Public Present:

Minette Smith, Anthony Smith, Adrian Peacey, Brian Cook, Nicky Packer.

---

### R&SPC Public Participation:

**Nicky Packer** - Thanked the members present for a PC Central grant of 3,500 awarded to Ruspidge Memorial Hall towards the repair of the halls roof. Another 1,100 was donated by the local community and a Biffa Award of ten times the third-party funding, making 46,000 in total. This enabled the halls committee to apply and be successfully awarded additional funding, providing the funds required to repair the halls roof.

**Adrian Peacey** - Queried works being undertaken at the Blue Rock Trail and concern that areas of the trail are being damaged and blocked by the Forestry working in the area. Mr Peacey queried if the Forestry will repair the trail and improve upon its condition. He enquired as to if the PC could influence the works being undertaken, in the hope of improving the surface of the trail.

Cllr. Jo Smith answered the query, informing the public and members present that the Forestry are undertaking routine works within the area, being their right to attend to. For the section of the trail that is owned by the PC, the Forestry Commission will be asked to return it to its original condition, as to the section of BRT land owned by the Forestry Commission, the PC will ask the Forestry, but it is the Commission's decision, and the PC has no further authority. Cllr. Acland reminded the public and members present that the BRT is a trail and not a public footpath. The Clerk is instructed to query the issues raised. Mr Peacey also reported that an Oak tree had fallen blocking the trail at the Ruspidge end, near the footbridge.

**Brian Cook** - Land at Soudley Bradley Hill that has recently been purchased that lies adjacent to land owned by Mr Cook at Bradley Hill, Soudley. Mr Bradley is concerned regarding the potential use of

the land, the land is only a small section approximately ten foot square and lies between Mr Cook's land and Forestry owned land. It is alleged that the new owner is planning to put trailers on the land. Concerns are raised by Mr Cook, as to the impact on local wildlife, Mr Cook has a nature reserve on his land and he is particularly concerned the impact any development might have on said nature reserve that has taken 50 years to cultivate. Mr Cook also asserted concern regarding the new owner's attitude, potentially threatening behaviour, the Clerk and Chairman advised Mr Cook to contact the Police. Cllr. Beki Hoyland informed the members present that she had previously provided Mr Cook with the appropriate authorities to contact and the contact details. Cllr Acland had previously requested that Mr Cook write to him providing full details and the Clerk will inform the local Forestry Ranger and PCSO.

9.1. **Apologies** received and recorded from absent members.

9.2. No declaration of prejudicial interest was declared by members present.

9.3. **Minutes** - The minutes of the council meeting held on the **9th of July, 2024** were **ACCEPTED** as a true record of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.

9.4. **Matters Arising** - There were no matters arising from the minutes.

9.5. **District Councillor Reports**

*No District Cllr's were present.*

*Reports included as an appendix to these Minutes.*

9.6. **County Councillor Reports**

*Report is included as an appendix to these Minutes.*

9.7. **Planning** – The completed schedule for **August** and **September** is attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.

9.8. **Financial Matters** - Following a report by Cllr. Norman Snell acting as signatory to the RFO, the council **APPROVED** the accounts presented for the **August** payment totalling **£8,404.98** and accounts presented for the September payment totalling **£5,224.30**. Both figures are inclusive of confidential expenditure. A financial report is included for both months in the appendix to these minutes.

9.9. **Soudley Village Hall – Lower Rd Bridge Repairs Grant application for £2,800.00**. After deliberation, the members present voted unanimously, approving the grant for the repairs to Lower Rd bridge.

9.10. **Soudley Village Hall – Fireworks Grant application for £500.00**. After deliberation, the members present voted unanimously, approving the grant for Fireworks for Soudley November Fireworks display.

9.11. **Community Speed Watch SNEYD WOOD** – Cllr. Tony Matthews, reported back to the members on the recent site visit with Mr Bob Passmore, liaison to Highways for Community Speed Watch. Our local Highways have approved the request to have two trees at Sneyd

Wood crowned to a height of three meters, this will be required seasonally and will be undertaken by a Parish Council appointed contractor at cost to the Parish Council. Also, the Sneyd Wood Speed Camera has been vandalised and requires repair. Additional costs will be incurred for the repairs and reinstallation of the Speed Camera. Due to this matter being an issue of public safety, the members present agreed to the costs being incurred by the Parish Council and for this project to be budgeted for going forward. It was noted that the second Speed Camera for Sneyd Wood was declined by Mr Bob Passmore. The proposed location failed to meet the requirements need.

- 9.12. **Dog Waste Bin Tramway Rd** – After deliberation, the members present voted unanimously, approving placement of a dog waste bin on Tramway Rd. To be implemented as part of the 2025/26 financial year and planned for installation in May 2025. It was also decided to have the dog waste bins emptied twice weekly through the months of May – August.
- 9.13. **Rolling S.137 Grants for inclusion in the 2025/26 Budget** - After deliberation, the members present voted unanimously, approving in principle upon completion of a three-year grant application form, the following projects: £130.00 Ruspidge Memorial Hall Newsletter, £250.00 Soudley Village hall Newsletter, £500.00 Soudley Village Hall fireworks display and St Whites Church, grass cutting grant. To commence within the 2025/26 financial year.
- 9.14. **Overgrowth Obscuring Public Footpaths** - After deliberation, the members present decided the Clerk, Mr R Dowding should be provided with the address of any public properties that have overgrowth obstructing the pavements and a formal letter sent to the property requesting the overgrowth be cut back. Highways to be notified of overgrowth and blockage to drainage of footpath 33. Request Highways also clear public footpaths 29 & 5.
- 9.15. **December Parish Council Meetings** - After deliberation, the members present decided **NO** further Parish Council meetings would be held in the month of December.
- 9.16. **Emergency Plan** - The members present approved the current emergency plans and confirmed councillor and staff contact details for the Ruspidge and Soudley plans.
- 9.17. **Correspondence** - The council **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** the following correspondence: The Parish Councillors accepted all relevant correspondence has been forwarded via email to all members.
- 9.18. **Next Meeting** - the next meeting of the council will be held in the **Soudley Village Hall** at **7.00 p.m. Tuesday, 8th October 2024**. The agenda deadline is **Monday, 1st of October 2024**.
- 9.19. **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 8.35 p.m.**

Signed:.....Chair.

Dated:.....

# APPENDIX

## Financial Report.

<b>FINANCIAL REPORT for the meeting in: August 2024</b>					
<b>1. Reconciliation of Account as at:</b> end July 2024					
<b>Ledger</b>		<b>£</b>		<b>Bank</b>	<b>£</b>
Balance b/f		123,900.44		(Treasurers) Lloyds Current A/c.	1,396.08
Bank Interest		62.26		(Reserves) Lloyds Inst. Access A/c.	55,031.98
VAT Refund		757.27		Unity Current A/c	906.00
				Unity Inst Access A/c	61,836.40
	<b>Total</b>	<b>124,719.97</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>119,170.46</b>
Less Expenditure July		5,549.51			
<b>Balance</b>		<b>119,170.46</b>		<b>Balance</b>	<b>119,170.46</b>
<b>2. Accounts for Payment</b>					
		<b># paid in July.</b>	<b>* Paid in August prior to the meeting.</b>		
<b>Payee</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Total £</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>Narrative</b>	
# Solutions In Tech	DD	53.04	8.84	Telephone & Broadband	
# EE	DD	15.11		Mobile Phone	
Module IT	DD	81.53	13.59	IT Support	
Busy Rascals	1	500.00		S.137 Grant Payment, Rent	
St Johns Church	2	250.00		S.137 Grant Payment, Grass Cuts	
				St Cleaning, Defibs, ParkSafety	
Tim Harris	3	480.51		Checks, Bus Shelter Cleaning, Railway Rd Footbridge.	
Merlin Waste	4	280.00		Dog Waste Bins	
Complete Landscapes	5	1,104.00	184.00	Parish Grass Cut & Football Field	
Soudley Village Hall	6	25.00		SVH PC Play Area Grass Cutting	
Ruspidge Memorial Hall	7	22.50		Hall Rental	
Tim Harris	8	300.00		Cabin Painting, Grass Cut @ BRT	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,111.69</b>	<b>206.43</b>		



## Planning Schedule

<b><u>Ruspidge &amp; Soudley Parish Council</u></b>			
<b>NO MEETING IN AUGUST 2020</b>			
	<u>Planning Reference</u>	<u>Parish</u>	
	<u>Site Address &amp; Detail</u>	<u>Comment</u>	
SUB	<b>P0893/24/FUL</b>	No Obj	
	24 Coomb Drive, Ruspidge, Cinderford, Gloucestershire. Demolition of existing garage and erection of single-storey side extension		
SUB	<b>P0895/24/FUL</b>	No Obj	
	Honeycott , Brains Green, Blakeney, Gloucestershire. Erection of a detached annex with shared drainage and power to provide accommodation for a family member		
	<u>Comment</u> <i>just a suggestion that a condition of permission should be that it cannot be sold separately.</i>		
<b><u>Decisions notified by the Planning Authority</u></b>			
	<u>Planning Reference</u>	<u>Parish</u>	<u>District</u>
	<u>Site Address &amp; Detail</u>	<u>Comment</u>	<u>Decision</u> <u>Date</u>
	<b>P0467/24/FUL</b>	No Objectior	Consent      12/07/2024
	Old Post Office Top Road Upper Soudley Cinderford GL14 2TY Erection of a replacement single storey front extension and associated works		

<b><u>Ruspidge &amp; Soudley Parish Council</u></b>			
<b><u>Planning Schedule September, 2024</u></b>			
	<u>Planning Reference</u>	<u>Parish</u>	
	<u>Site Address &amp; Detail</u>	<u>Comment</u>	
<b>No Planning Consultation Requests Recieved This Month.</b>			
<b><u>Decisions notified by the Planning Authority</u></b>			
	<u>Planning Reference</u>	<u>Parish</u>	<u>District</u>
	<u>Site Address &amp; Detail</u>	<u>Comment</u>	<u>Decision</u>
<b>No Planning Notifications Posted This Month.</b>			

# Cllr. Richard Burton

## District Councillor report September, Richard Burton

### Local groups continue to grow thanks to council community grants

Forest of Dean District Council has provided £19,800 across 14 local community groups, through its community grants allocation, to help local causes continue to provide excellent services to residents. This year, the Council received 40 applications that totalled more than £86,000. Of this, 14 groups were funded with the Council's full allocation of £19,800 funding provided to those groups. The community grant is aimed at local organisations to help them build capacity at a community level and continue the great services they provide to the community.

### Forest of Dean District Council welcomes Ubico as new waste service partner

Household waste and recycling services in the Forest of Dean will be delivered by Ubico Ltd starting from next week, as the District Council looks to deliver greater efficiencies on behalf of its residents. The Council's decision to change provider, which takes effect from 5 August, will bring its kerbside service in line with those of the other five local authorities in Gloucestershire who already employ Ubico to make refuse and recycling collections from around 270,000 homes in the county.

### Forest car parks to be updated following agreed budget plans

Forest of Dean District Council car parks will soon see updated signs and line painting to ensure consistency and improve the parking experience for all visitors.

Deputy Leader of Forest of Dean District Council and Cabinet Member for Finance, Cllr Andy Moore said: *"Following the agreed budget proposals in April this year, we have been working with officers to identify changes that need to be made to standardise our approach to parking across the district. This includes installing new signage and updating the current line painting to reflect the new parking tariffs, as all visitors to the Council owned car parks in the district can now park for free for the first hour.*

### Tenants experiencing damp and mould urged to contact the FoDDC Environmental Health Team.

Damp, condensation and mould are common household issues. They can have a significant negative impact on a person's wellbeing and how they feel about their home. Tenants of private rented properties should contact their landlord in the first instance and the landlord should then investigate the matter and complete any identified works to remedy the problem. Should either the landlord, or the tenant require further assistance to help remedy the problem, they can contact the Council's Environmental Health Team by email [kevin.marlow@publicagroup.gov](mailto:kevin.marlow@publicagroup.gov) or by phone 01594 812258

### Residents urged to attend solar energy drop-in event

Residents of the Forest of Dean are invited by Forest Community Energy to find out, from the experts, how solar energy installations can reduce their carbon footprint and their electricity bills. The drop-in event will take place on 14 September 2024, 12-4pm at the Main Place in Coleford, GL16 8RH.

### Councillors vote unanimously to help clean up waterways

Leader of Forest of Dean District Council, Cllr Adrian Birch has written to The Rt Hon Steve Reed, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, inviting him to the Forest to address the Council on his plans to deal with the decline of the districts waterways.

## **Cllr. Graham Morgan**

Please find my report as County Councillor for Cinderford & Ruspidge, meetings are just starting up after the Summer Break, it is very pleasing to see the lovely Green Electric Newport Bus Company Bus coming up through Ruspidge and into Cinderford, which I call the Welsh Bus, this is not only an absolute lifeline for the residents on route, but also for Cinderford Traders who like traders in all towns that have been struggling for footfall into the town from an onslaught of on line shopping.

I must pay tribute to Tony Smith and his good lady wife and the tireless Adrian Peacy who alongside myself and fellow Soudley County Councillor Beckie Hoyland for going the extra mile to get this service back up and running, I urge everyone to please use this service, the Newport Company have placed their faith in us here in the Forest, and we must not lose this service ever again.

I have worked hard with Cinderford Town Council and the County Council to provide a lovely Bus Shelter in St Whites Road for the 30 plus Children that wait for Buses to John Curl and Dean Magna Schools in all winds and weather, this will provide much needed shelter for these young from both Cinderford & Ruspidge Parishes just before the start of winter.

We continue to press for a solution to the dangerous double parking outside the Co-op Store in Valley Road, more important than ever now we have people crossing to Cinderford Health Centre, and increased traffic to the Excellent New Hospital.

It does seem that the speed cushions are slowing traffic down near the entrance to the New Hospital, and I urge Councillors to monitor these new measures to see if this has the desired effect.

I would also urge any house holders that have experienced flooding in Cinderford & Ruspidge in the past to contact myself as County Councillor, because the County Council who are the lead Flood Authority can offer a property level surveys to assess the flood risk of that property.

The speed of vehicles continues to pose a dangerous threat to pedestrians in all areas, and indiscriminate parking of vehicles especially on pavements when people are home from work are also causing severe concerns in many areas, I urge both our councils to lobby the Police for the return of the road traffic unit back that the Forest of Dean once had.

Very Best Wishes Graham Morgan



# County Report to Parish Councils

in Blakeney and Bream division,

August 2024.

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

[Beki.hoyland@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:Beki.hoyland@gloucestershire.gov.uk) or 07815660013

## Highways

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 there are plenty of other road works happening using traffic management. <https://one.network/public>

**Fix my Streets is the place to report issues on the roads, pavements and footpaths.**

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

**Footpath RWD33 (Canop Ponds)** will be closed with a diversion in place from 23<sup>rd</sup> September until 2<sup>nd</sup> December to replace the foot bridge and undertake dam safety work.

<https://gcc.dynamicmaps.co.uk/MapThatPublic/Default.aspx>

## Closed roads:

2<sup>nd</sup> September to 11<sup>th</sup> September Hyde bank Newnham Severn Trent and Gigaclear

9<sup>th</sup> September – 13<sup>th</sup> September Highfield Road Lydney as well as traffic lights on the A48 at the junction of Highfield and the A48, work on road safety improvements

9<sup>th</sup> September to 4<sup>th</sup> October traffic lights and speed limit on A48 between Awre turning and Ruddle. Drain reconstruction.

23<sup>rd</sup> September to 27<sup>th</sup> September. The Tuffts, Bream. National Grid.

10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> October New Road Triangle, Bream. Carriageway resurfacing.

22<sup>nd</sup> November – 25<sup>th</sup> November, Lydney Road, Yorkley - pre surface dressing patching.

**Thriving Communities Grant** Gloucestershire County Council is inviting community groups across the county to apply for a share of £400k funding from its Thriving Communities Grant.

The Thriving Communities Grant programme aims to invest in Gloucestershire's communities to help local organisations with projects that help people to stay well, and support them to live independently for as long as possible.

Applications for grant funding open on Monday 2 September 2024 and will close on Sunday 13 October 2024.

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/public-health/our-communities/thriving-communities-grant/>

## **Proud to Care Gloucestershire's new training, development and wellbeing resources.**

Proud to Care Gloucestershire are excited to have launched brand-new training, development and wellbeing webpages dedicated to the care sector on the [Proud to Care website](#).

We understand the importance of retaining and developing a skilled and valued workforce that delivers high-quality adult social care services to Gloucestershire communities; this is why we are now proud to provide the following:

- [An A-Z training directory](#) which shares details of local and national training and how to access these courses. The resource aims to support adult social care staff and anyone interested in a career in care to easily access training to meet their needs.
- [Local career pathways](#) which showcase the different career opportunities available within the care sector. The career pathways outline the knowledge and skills required for people to reach their career goals, as well as highlight the core values needed to work in the adult social care sector. This resource is for those considering a career in care and as a Continual Professional Development tool for existing staff for discussion in their appraisals/supervisions when considering their development opportunities.
- [Wellbeing and pastoral support A-Z](#) which outlines the various offers available to Gloucestershire care providers. We are aware that wellbeing is a significant factor for retaining staff, and signposting to relevant and appropriate support can be challenging so we hope this will be a highly useful resource.

The Proud Care team are happy to hear your feedback on any of the pages outlined above as we want to ensure the resources are useful and up to date. If you feel there is something missing from the pages or you are struggling to source a particular training course, we welcome you to get in touch via the feedback form found [here](#).

---

## **GIS Healthcare rebrands to Gloucestershire Equipment Loan Service**

GIS has changed its name to Gloucestershire Equipment Loan Service to make it easier for our community to understand what the service does and how it can help. The new name also emphasises that equipment is on loan and should be returned when residents are finished with it.

Our current vans have been rebranded, and we are excited to share that from October you will see new electric delivery vans out and about in your area. This move to an all-new electric fleet of vans supports our journey to becoming carbon-neutral by 2030.

You can find more information on the Gloucestershire Equipment Loan Service including contact details at [What does Gloucestershire Equipment Loan Service do? | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

## **[Free bus travel for veterans seeking employment](#)**

A travel card providing free bus travel has been made available to veterans who are seeking employment in Gloucestershire. (As a result of a Green Group Motion)

## **Wear Not Waste.**

It's now officially [second hand September](#) (a national campaign run by Oxfam) and our Wear Not Waste campaign is running alongside this, right here in Gloucestershire.

This campaign aims to promote donating, reusing, rewearing and restyling your clothes during September – and beyond! 😊

Read on to find out what the issue with fashion waste is, what you can do about it and how to get involved with the campaign.

## **What's the problem?**

### **Carbon emissions**

It's estimated that more than two tonnes of clothing are bought each minute in the UK, more than any other country in Europe. That amount produces nearly 50 tonnes of carbon emissions, the same as driving 162,000 miles in a car.

### **Plastic and contamination**

The impact of plastic fibres on the environment cannot be ignored. These tiny particles are polluting the oceans, entering our waterways and contaminating our food chain. Wastewater contaminated with toxic dyes and the use of harmful chemicals also contribute to the industry's devastating impact on the planet.

Find out more about [the issue with clothing waste](#).

**So, by recirculating our clothes – buying, wearing and donating second hand – we can help to reduce the demand for new clothes.** And this could in turn help to reduce the damage to our planet. 🌍

## **GCC LOCAL DEVELOPMENT GUIDE (LDG) PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

GCC is running a public consultation on an updated version of its Local Development Guide (LDG).

The LDG provides information to Local Planning Authorities, developers and all stakeholders on the types of infrastructure that may be needed to mitigate the impacts of development. GCC has notified District and Parish Councils, local interest groups, developers, planning professionals and others that the consultation is underway.

The consultation is running from 8<sup>th</sup> July-29<sup>th</sup> September. The consultation page can be reached using this link <https://haveyoursaygloucestershire.uk.engagementhq.com/local-development-guide-consultation>

**Gloucestershire County Council is asking the county's young carers, their families and schools to share their**

# views on services which support children and young people who care for a family member.

YOUNG CARERS, PARENTS AND EDUCATION STAFF CAN HAVE THEIR SAY BY VISITING:

- YOUNG CARERS WHO ARE AGED 8 UP TO 15  
[HTTPS://HAVEYOURSAYGLOUCESTERSHIRE.UK.ENGAGEMENTHQ.COM/YOUNG-CARERS-SURVEY-AGES-8-15](https://haveyoursaygloucestershire.uk/engagementhq.com/young-carers-survey-ages-8-15)
- YOUNG CARERS WHO ARE AGED 16 UP TO 24  
[HTTPS://HAVEYOURSAYGLOUCESTERSHIRE.UK.ENGAGEMENTHQ.COM/YOUNG-CARERS-SURVEY-AGES-16-24-YEARS-OLD](https://haveyoursaygloucestershire.uk/engagementhq.com/young-carers-survey-ages-16-24-years-old)
- PARENTS OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH CARING RESPONSIBILITIES  
[HTTPS://HAVEYOURSAYGLOUCESTERSHIRE.UK.ENGAGEMENTHQ.COM/YOUNG-CARERS-SURVEY-PARENTS](https://haveyoursaygloucestershire.uk/engagementhq.com/young-carers-survey-parents)
- SCHOOLS  
[HTTPS://HAVEYOURSAYGLOUCESTERSHIRE.UK.ENGAGEMENTHQ.COM/YOUNG-CARERS-SURVEY-SCHOOLS](https://haveyoursaygloucestershire.uk/engagementhq.com/young-carers-survey-schools)

THE SURVEYS CLOSE ON 31 OCTOBER 2024.

**WE KNOW THAT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OFTEN DON'T RECOGNISE THEIR CARING ROLE, IF THIS ARTICLE HAS HELPED YOU IDENTIFY THAT YOU ARE A YOUNG CARER OR YOU KNOW A YOUNG CARER, PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH GLOUCESTERSHIRE YOUNG CARERS ON 01452 733060 OR VISIT [WWW.GLOS YOUNG CARERS.ORG.UK/CONTACT-US](http://www.glosyoungcarers.org.uk/contact-us)**

I hope this is useful, if there is other areas you would like me to report on from County business let me know Please let me know if there is anything that I can do as your County Councillor, if I cannot help I will try and sign post you to those that can.

[Beki.hoyland@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:Beki.hoyland@gloucestershire.gov.uk) 07815660013