
RUSPIDGE & SOUDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the MEETING held on Tuesday 12th November, 2024.

Parish Councillors Present:

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

County Councillors Present:

Cllr. Beki Hoyland.

District Councillors Present:

Cllr. Bernie O'Neill, Andy Moore.

Parish Council Clerk – Roland Dowding.

Apologies:

Cllrs. Lori-Leah Griffiths, Helen Medcraft, 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:

Sarah Walker.

R&SPC Public Participation:

Sarah Walker Rural Housing Enabler. Sarah Walker from GRCC Community Action In Gloucester gave a brief presentation to the members present on affordable housing. In Sarah Walker's role she works with the Homeseekers Gloucestershire to assess need. She works with Council authorities to help educate the authority on affordable housing and to help identify potential suitable land for housing development. Sarah Walker informed the members present that GRCC will be hosting a survey around affordable housing and urges the members to take part. The survey opens at the end of November, is open for eight weeks and is in two parts. Sarah Walker requested, she will return to attend a future PC meeting and to talk through the results of the survey.

- 11.1. **Apologies** received and recorded from absent members.
- 11.2. No declaration of prejudicial interest was declared by members present.
- 11.3. **Minutes** - The minutes of the council meeting held on the **8th of October, 2024** were **ACCEPTED** as a true record of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.
- 11.4. **Matters Arising** - There were no matters arising from the minutes.

11.5. District Councillor Reports

Reports are included as an appendix to these Minutes.

Cllr. O'Neill Report

Since Greens took over control of the Council, Climate change and biodiversity spending, added to the Grant Spending comes to **£ 623101** in total with **12.9** Full-time officers, the FODDC is spending a year on climate officers.

Compare this to Regeneration, which can when utilised well and allowed to work, bring jobs, and opportunity and also see key projects through, (Lydney Harbour for example) we **have 3.5** officers directly FODDC funded at a cost of **£176,953**. They want to add another officer next year to deal with Rivers and Seas for another **£50,000!!**

Meanwhile, social media is full of people asking why Five Acres hasn't been started, why planning applications take an age, or why housing advisors are fully booked with appointments.

Cllr. Moore, objected to the Chairman, Cllr. Acland in reference to Cllr. O'Neill's report, stating, 'I do not recognise Cllr' O'Neill's report and this is not the right place for District political discussions.' The objection was noted by the Chairman, Cllr. Acland.

11.6. County Councillor Reports

Cllr. Hoyland apologised for not submitting a report for November and stated a report will follow by the end of the week. Cllr. Hoyland commented on the work being attended to along the Blue Rock Trail section of Cinderford Brook. She asked if the members were happy with the work attended to. The members present indicated they were satisfied with the ongoing work.

11.7. **Planning** – The completed schedule for **November** is attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.

11.8. **Financial Matters** - Following a report by Cllr. Norman Snell acting as signatory to the RFO, the council **APPROVED** the accounts presented for **November** payment totalling **£5,613.00**. This figure is inclusive of confidential expenditure. A financial report is included for this month in the appendix to these minutes.

11.9. **Ruspidge Defib Repair** – The members present voted unanimously to replace the Ruspidge Defib at a cost of £ 954.00. Cllr. Snell requested clarification as to if the Defib was being repaired or replaced. The Clerk, Mr. Dowding confirmed the Defib unit will be replaced.

11.10. **Budget Transfers. Requested by the RFO Mr. Dowding.**

- Transfer of funds from Contingency budget 20.00 to balance office budget, members present approved.
- Transfer of funds from Unallocated Reserve 954.00 to balance miscellaneous budget, members present approved.

11.11. **Play Area Inspections** – The members present confirmed they had received and reviewed the KOMPAN inspection report. Cllr. Smith advised all areas highlighted Yellow or Red in the

report need to be attended to. The Clerk, Mr. Dowding advised the members that we no longer have a contractor attending to the repairs and are looking to appoint a new contractor.

- 11.12. **Blue Rock Trail** – Proposal put forward by Cllr. Jo Smith seeking additional funding for repairs. Also, regarding the preservation of the heritage, in particular the banks and buttresses that form part of the railway. Cllr. Matthews suggested Nicky Packer, secretary of Ruspidge Memorial Hall might be able to advise or assist with heritage funding. Cllr. Acland agreed to provide Cllr. Smith with Nicky Packers email address.
The members present agreed with Cllr. Smith’s proposal and requested the Clerk, Mr. Dowding post the presentations off to the organisations listed by Cllr. Smith.
- 11.13. **Member Email Addresses, Device & GDPR Compliance. Best Practice** – The members present voted on the proposed best practice advice. This being all members to be issued with a .uk.gov email address, along with an Android Tablet owned by the Parish Council and maintained under an approved IT support provider. Cllr. Firth abstained, Cllr’s Smith, Snell, Matthews, Bagwell-Johnston voted **NO** against the proposal.
- 11.14. **Draft 2025/26 Budget** – The members present confirmed they had individually reviewed the draft budget proposal sent via email. The RFO, Mr. Dowding requested two amendments, BRT Contingency £1,000.00 be amended to 0. Cullimore Bridge Contingency be amended to 0. The RFO advised there is currently £8,500.00 in the allocated BRT Contingency reserve and £500.00 in the Cullimore Bridge allocated reserve. Also, Cullimore Bridge is currently under warranty. The members present approved the amendments. The Draft Budget is to be approved at the January Parish Council meeting.
- 11.15. **Community Speed Watch SNEYD WOOD** – Cllr. Tony Matthews reported, the camera is due to be fitted by the Highways team between December & January.
- 11.16. **Correspondence** - The council **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** the following correspondence:
The Parish Councillors accepted all relevant correspondence has been forwarded via email to all members.
- 11.17. **Next Meeting** - the next meeting of the council will be held in the **Ruspidge Memorial Hall** at **7.00 p.m. Tuesday, 14th January 2024**. The agenda deadline is **Monday, 6th of January 2024**.
- 11.18. **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 8.00 p.m.

Signed:.....Chair.

Dated:.....

APPENDIX

FINANCIAL REPORT for the meeting in: November 2024					
1. Reconciliation of Account as at:			end October 2024		
Ledger		£		Bank	£
Balance b/f		141,511.98	(Treasurers)	Lloyds Current A/c.	1,303.35
Bank Interest		54.96	(Reserves)	Lloyds Inst. Access A/c.	68,890.09
VAT Refund		893.38		Unity Current A/c	906.00
				Unity Inst Access A/c	62,265.02
	Total	142,460.32		Total	133,364.46
Less Expenditure Oct		9,095.86			
Balance		133,364.46		Balance	133,364.46
				* excludes last month's previously presented payments and includes this month's payments already presented, see # below	
2. Accounts for Payment		# = presented payments			
Payee	No	Total £	VAT	Narrative	
# Solutions In Tech	D/D	58.10	9.68	Telephone & Broadband	
# EE Ltd	D/D	15.11		Mobile Phone	
# Post Office	1	13.60		2nd Class Stamps	
# Matthew Kibble	2	50.00		Cash Withdraw, Bugler Remembrance Day	
# British legion	3	70.00		Wreaths Remembrance Day	
# Community Heartbeat	4	954.00	159.00	Replacment Defib	
# Amazon	5	8.98	1.50	Headphone Splitter	
# Auto Speed Watch	6	198.00		Sneyd Wood Speed Camera Support	
# Rainbow Safety	7	31.56	5.26	No Dog Signage x2	
Kompan	8	505.62	84.27	Operational Inspections	
Module IT	9	81.53	13.59	Monthly IT Support	
Complete Landscapes	10	864.00	144.00	Parish Grass Cutting	
Merlin Waste	11	224.00		Dog Bins	
Ruspidge Memorial Hall	12	22.50		Hall Hire	
Tim Harris	13	475.51		Street Clean, Weekly Checks, Defibs, Grass Cuts.	
Tim Harris	14	300.00		Tree Crowning Sneyd Wood	
Post Office	15	13.35		Speed Camerta Return	
TEEC	16	194.39	32.40	Domian Name renewal, Hosting & Website	
	TOTAL	4,080.25	449.70		

Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council

Planning Schedule November, 2024

<u>Planning Reference</u>	<u>Parish</u>	<u>District</u>
<u>Site Address & Detail</u>	<u>Comment</u>	<u>Decision</u>

No Planning Notifications Posted This Month.

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>

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District Councillor Report, October, Richard Burton

Work continues to bring Five Acres back within budget

Forest of Dean District Council remains committed to delivering the regeneration of the Five Acres site, despite the challenges faced so far and is working hard to get the project back within budget so that construction can begin.

Forest of Dean District Council officers are liaising with build contractor BAM, the Government Delivery Associates Network (DAN) and design and cost specialists to finalise plans for refurbishment and construction of Five Acres. This review process involves scrutinising all aspects of the design plans and exploring where changes can be made to help reduce costs and deliver the project within budget.

Forest of Dean District Council to review polling districts, places and stations

Residents of the Forest of Dean are being asked to share their views of current polling districts, places and stations in the district as part of a new review. For more information and to view an interactive map of current polling districts and polling stations please visit – <https://www.fdean.gov.uk/pollingreview/>.

These must be sent in by 5pm on Friday 15 November 2024. The report will then be presented to Full Council on Thursday 12 December 2024.

Grants of up to £15,000 available to help with active travel solutions

Community groups and organisations across the Forest of Dean are invited to apply for a £15,000 grant from the Forest of Dean Active Travel Grant Scheme (ATGS) to help fund projects that support and encourage active travel for residents. Full details for the scheme and the terms and conditions can be found on the Forest of Dean District Council website: <https://www.fdean.gov.uk/business-and-licensing/business-support-and-advice/finance-and-funding/>

The Forest of Dean District Council Active Travel Grant Scheme (ATGS) enables local groups to apply for funding of up to £15,000 to help with active travel solutions. Applicants will need to provide a minimum 20% 'match funding' contribution, i.e. up to £3,750 match funding for a £15,000 grant and there is £100,000 of funding to be allocated in total. The Forest of Dean Active Travel Grant Scheme is open now for applications and closes on 01 November 2024.

The Council has recently appointed two new Councillor Champions to push progress in their respective fields. Cllr Andrew McDerimid is Water Quality Champion, and Cllr Richard Burton is Active Travel Champion.

Cllr Bernie O'Neill Report October.

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