
RUSPIDGE & SOUDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the MEETING held on Tuesday 11th February, 2025.

Parish Councillors Present:

Cllrs. William Acland Chairman, Norman Snell, Tony Matthews, Denis Bagwell-Johnson, Paul Firth, Helen Medcraft, Lori-Leah Griffiths.

County Councillors Present:

Cllr. Beki Hoyland, Graham Morgan.

District Councillors Present:

Non-Present.

Parish Council Clerk – Roland Dowding.

Apologies:

Cllrs. Bernie O’Neill, Jo Smith, Richard Burton, Andy Moore.

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:

Non-Present.

R&SPC Public Participation: No Public Speakers.

- 2.1. **Apologies** received and recorded from absent members.
- 2.2. No declaration of prejudicial interest was declared by members present.
- 2.3. **Minutes** - The minutes of the council meeting held on the **14th of January, 2024** were **ACCEPTED** as a true record of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.
- 2.4. **Matters Arising** - There were no matters arising from the minutes.
- 2.5. **District Councillor Reports**
Reports are included as an appendix to these Minutes.
- 2.6. **County Councillor Reports**
Reports are included as an appendix to these Minutes.
- 2.7. **Planning** – The completed schedule for **February** is attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.

- 2.8. **Brody Trust Grant** – £400.00 grant request for specialist play equipment. Pledged by Council at the July 2024 Parish Council meeting, minute ref. 7.10. Pending the Brody Trust secure permanent premises. The members present approved payment of the pledged funds in the February payments.
- 2.9. Following a report by Cllr. Norman Snell acting as signatory to the RFO, the council **APPROVED** the accounts presented for **February** payment totalling **£3,696.50**. This figure is inclusive of confidential expenditure. A financial report is included for this month in the appendix to these minutes.
- 2.10. **Amendments To August & September Financial Minutes** – Prior to internal audit two errors have been found in the recording of August & Septembers financial matters. The errors have been corrected and the amended minutes inspected by the Chairman for signing at this month's meeting. The Chairman, Cllr. William Acland duly signed the amended document.
- 2.11. **Budget Transfers. Requested by the RFO Mr. Dowding.**
- Transfer from Contingency budget £ 120.00 to balance IT/Web budget, members approval requested. Approved.
 - Transfer from Contingency budget £ 120.00 to BRT Maintenance budget, member approval requested. Approved.
 - Transfer from Contingency budget £ 6.00 to balance Tech & P.A.T Testing budget, member approval requested.
 - Transfer from Contingency budget £ 400.00 to balance S.137 budget, member approval requested. Approved.
- 2.12. **Woodland View Play Area Fence Repair** – Quote for repairs to the fence by Allaston Grove fencing, £545.45. The members present approved the quote.
- 2.13. **Community Speed Watch SNEYD WOOD** – Cllr. Tony Matthews reported, the top speed recorded as being 44mph. Speed Camera signs have now been sited in the area. Reports are duly submitted weekly to the Gloucestershire Speed Watch Team.
- 2.14. **Liaison's Report for Soudley Village Hall** – Cllr. Norman Snell informed the members present that due to requests from the public, Soudley village hall's committee had requested the return of the Soudley recycling centre to the Village hall land. The SVHC has received its report back from its financial audit and Cllr. Snell was happy to report the Hall is in profit. The Hall is currently waiting on the repair of the boiler due to complications.
- 2.15. **Local Plan. FoDDC Request For Sites Within the District To Accommodate Future Housing & Employment** – Do the members have any areas within the parish that they would like to put forward. Cllr. Tony Matthews suggested the following two areas; St Whites Farm, on St Whites Rd, as the infrastructure is already in place. Secondly, possible the Eastern United site along Ruspidge Rd. Cllr. Willam Acland & The Clerk will submit the aforementioned sites to FoDDC should they prove viable.
- 2.16. **Correspondence** - The council **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** the following correspondence:

Planning Consultations

| <u>Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council</u> | | | |
|---|----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| <u>Planning Schedule February, 2025</u> | | | |
| <u>Planning Reference</u> | <u>Parish</u> | | |
| <u>Site Address & Detail</u> | <u>Comment</u> | | |
| NO PLANNING CONSULTATIONS RECEIVED THIS MONTH. | | | |
| <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> |
| P1309/24/FUL | No Obj | Consent | 06/01/2025 |
| 30A St Whites Road, Cinderford, Gloucestershire, GL14 3DG. Erection of two-storey rear extension and internal alterations. | | | |

District Councillor Reports

Cllr. Bernie O'Neill

Council budget meeting is taking place on Thursday 20th February and it seems likely that the Council tax will go up by the maximum.....just under 5 %.

We are still looking at the growth items .

Publica. FODDC is moving towards returning to employing it's staff directly.

Devolution. FODDC will be submitting interim proposals very soon and final proposals by end of November. It will very likely lead to major changes for the County structure with FODDC being amalgamated with other districts. County MPs want the County divided into 2 parts . Forest with Stroud and Gloucester. We shall keep an eye on the processes but County Council elections will be taking place this May!

Forest Lodge. An appeal against refusal was lodged by the applicants, and I am very grateful to residents, and PC, who sent in representations against the appeal.

Car Parking. I have been working on helping a resident who has had very inconsiderate parking at the end of Edmund's way and Peacock lane . The Police, District and County have been involved and, as yet there is no solution. The injured party has now put in a complaint.

County Councillor Reports.

February 2025, County report to parishes

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

I am taking part in a member's panel reviewing the Highways Road Safety Policy. We will feed our comments into the review process that is collecting views from a cross section of the council and public. The existing policy can be found here:

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/a55m00cs/road-safety-policy.pdf>

If anyone would like to feed any comments to me that I can consider feel free.

The general website for GCC is always a good place to start looking for any information:

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

Committees I sit on if you would like more detailed information on these do feel free to ask.

- Children and Families Scrutiny committee
- Adoption West
- Foster Panel
- Ambitions board (for our children)
- Corporate Parenting
- Commons and Rights of Way (Chair)

Roads

I am step closer towards getting a **speed reduction** at Nibley Crossroads with a speed survey coming back that indicates the police will support it. We are applying for a TRO to make this happen, there will be public consultation as part of this process but there is at least 18 months before it will be considered due to a huge back log.

Please be advised of the following temporary road closures:

A48 from Elton to High Street Newnham, Broadoak

This road will be closed (as per the attached plan) from **17th February 2025 to 28th February 2025** between the hours of 09.30 and 15.30 hrs each day. This is to allow for drainage investigation works on behalf of Gloucestershire County Council.

Emergency and pedestrian will be maintained.

If you should require any further information regarding this temporary closure please contact Gloucestershire Highways on Highways@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Whitecroft, New Road to Lydney (B4234 Forest Road) will be **closed** from **24th February to 14th March**

CCTV - Trial holes + Vegetation clearance.

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.

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/roads/roadworks/>

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.

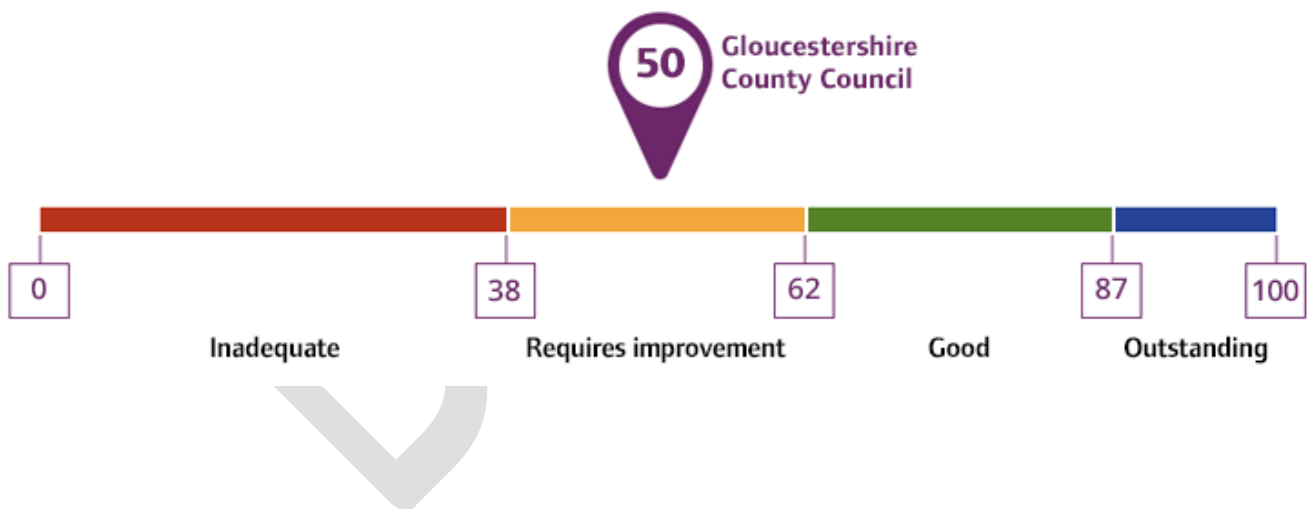
ADULT SOCIAL CARE

The results of the Care Quality Commissions findings after inspection of Gloucestershire's Adult Social Care Systems.

<https://www.cqc.org.uk/care-services/local-authority-assessment-reports/gloucestershire-0125-summary>

- Gloucestershire County Council

Requires improvement



Young People and Vaping, this page gives information about where to report illegal vape sales as well as how to inform and support young people

https://www.nhsglos.nhs.uk/your-health-services/healthy-communities/vaping/?es_c=1C9D48BB8802BBE096508D286A9A2ED5&es_cl=98A6364FCE1DE9F580AC7BFC733EFB63&es_id=phc£j6

Training provided by Gloucestershire County Council's Relational and Restorative Practice Team to schools has received accreditation from the Restorative Justice Council (RJC). https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gloucestershire-county-council-news/news-january-2025/council-s-relationships-training-receives-national-recognition/?es_c=1C9D48BB8802BBE096508D286A9A2ED5&es_cl=7701C9663C928F20DA6F1AF4F2F26131&es_id=phc£j6

Vacancy - Member of the Independent Remuneration Panel Are you interested in how local government works and what councillors are paid?
<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/vacancy-member-of-the-independent-remuneration-panel/>

The County Council has released details of its proposed spending plans for 2025/26.

This will see spending rise by more than £32.7 million on 2024/25 levels, to almost £650 million. The £649.6 million proposed budget includes significant investment into the council's priority areas of highways, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), adult services, infrastructure, and the environment.

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/budget2024-25/>

Full council will be considering amendments and voting on this budget on the 19th February.

Integrated Urgent Care Service for Gloucestershire

The Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust will be providing the service with our partners IC24.

<https://www.ghc.nhs.uk/news/integrated-urgent-care-service-for-gloucestershire/>

The new service incorporates:

- NHS 111 – telephone and online support
- A new doctor-led Clinical Assessment Service (CAS) giving the public and health professionals access to clinical advice
- An out of hours GP service – seeing people in person either at a local hospital or in their own homes

In the last six months, as we have worked to mobilise the service, we have recruited more than 50 local GPs, we have introduced new IT systems, equipped new bases and vehicles, developed onboarding and training processes and worked carefully with the former providers to transfer existing colleagues into the new team – and this work continues.

We have carried out engagement with primary care colleagues, pharmacists, our partners at Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, colleagues in our own hospitals and community services, commissioners, South West Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust and a range of other organisations to support a smooth transition and test our plans and processes. We have also taken on board feedback and suggestions around the staffing model in order to provide resilience in the initial weeks the service is running. Finally, we have established a group of Experts by Experience who have

fed in their ideas and will continue to do so in the coming weeks and months.

The IUCS will form an important part of the system's approach to ensuring patients can access the right service to meet their needs.

For the public, they should notice little change other than what we hope will be an enhanced service when they contact 111. The system's Winter Campaign, which launches very soon, under the banner 'Click of Call First' will signpost the public to 111 as it has done previously, as well as highlight the role of other NHS services locally.

If you have any questions about the new service please do contact us via ghccomms@Ghc.nhs.uk.

Gloucestershire County Council relaunches 'Made in Gloucestershire' with a special focus on rural food and drink producers and businesses

'Made in Gloucestershire' enters its third year since the launch of the campaign, this year will have a renewed focus on supporting rural food and drink businesses and producers.

This exciting development aims to shine a spotlight on the incredible diversity and quality of produce from the county's rural areas, fostering greater recognition and economic growth for these vital contributors to our local economy.

New category in the SoGlos Business Awards

In conjunction with the relaunch, GCC is delighted to announce a new category in the prestigious SoGlos Awards: 'Best Rural Food and Drink Business'. This category will celebrate the outstanding achievements of rural producers and highlight their contributions to Gloucestershire's vibrant food and drink scene. Entries for this category open in June and GCC is encouraging all eligible businesses to participate and showcase their exceptional products. For more information please visit: www.madeingloucestershire.com.

Pete Bungard, Chief Executive to retire in May 2025

After 27 years at Gloucestershire County Council, Pete Bungard has today (6 November) announced that he will be retiring on 4 May next year.

UPDATE: after a process of selection including several days of technical ability and other in depth considerations the recommendation of the cross-party appointments committee will be voted on at full council on the 19th February to offer the job to a candidate.

Residents are being invited to borrow an e-bike for up to three months in a new scheme to promote sustainable travel in Gloucestershire.

The 'Pedal Eazy' project was agreed by the county council following a budget amendment put forward by the Green Party at a meeting earlier this year. The scheme is being run by the council's Thinktravel team with the support of Gloucestershire Bike Project and Transition Stroud, and is open to anyone in the county.

The main aim of the Pedal Eazy Loan Scheme is to give people the chance to borrow an e-bike for up to three months and see how it can transform their travel and daily lives. Anyone aged 18 and over can borrow an e-bike through the scheme. To check availability and make a booking, contact [Transition Stroud](#) or [Gloucestershire Bike Project](#).

E-bikes are hired on a monthly basis, with a maximum hire period of three months. It costs £70 per month for standard rental and £30 per month for jobseekers. If you decide to purchase a bike or accessories, all hire fees are refunded in the form of a bike voucher to encourage continued cycling.

For more information on the project and support with getting going, visit: <https://www.thinktravel.info/cycling/pedal-eazy/>

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