

Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council

MINUTES of the MEETING **held on the Tuesday 8th February, 2022**

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

Parish Councillors Present:

Cllrs. Tony Matthews. Chairman,
Jo Smith, Helen Medcraft,
Mark Ogden, Norman Snell.
Gwyn Roberts, Carole Roberts.

County Councillors Present:

Cllr. Beki Hoyland.

District Councillors Present:

Cllr. Bernie O'Neill, Nicky Packer.

The Clerk – Roland Dowding.

Public Present:

Roger Jackson.

Apologies:

Cllrs. Graham Morgan,
Bernadette Wood.

Standing Declarations of Interest

- (a) Ruspidge Memorial Hall - Insignificant personal interest by Cllr. Matthews.
(b) Soudley Village Hall - Insignificant personal interest by Cllrs. Ogden & Woods.

RUSPIDGE WELFARE TRUST

Members were mindful that these items were considered and determined as trustees to the RWT.

2.1. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

2.1. **APOLOGIES** received and recorded from absent members.

2.2. No declaration of personal or prejudicial interest declared.

2.3. **MINUTES** - the minutes of the council meeting held on the **11th of January, 2022** were **ACCEPTED** as a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

2.4. **MATTERS ARISING** - there were no matters arising from the minutes.

2.5. **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

Cllr. Bernie O'Neill.

- Demolition of the former college, on the Five Acres site in Berry Hill is under way
- The recent developments at Lydney Harbour have gone well, but the access into the area is still in need of improvement, talks are underway to address this
- Start-up grants of up to £1000 for small businesses in the forest of Dean. Thirty businesses have already benefited from this start up grant
- Another round of Omicron grants is available, the Covid Additional Relief Fund. 59 million has already been given out
- Planning application for Forest Lodge, St Whites Rd, erection of seven dwellings. The deadline has been extended and approval is likely to be recommended upon certain conditions being met and in place. Cllr. O'Neill will pursue this issue and keep the Parish

Council informed. The Parish Council believes a site meeting should be called to address concerns from the public and the Parish Council.

Additional Report attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.

2.6. **COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

Request from Cllr. Beki Hoyland; Regarding roads in the Parish. It would be desirable for the Parish Council to add a link on the Parish Council's website, enabling the public to report potholes and potential road repairs that are required in the parish.

The Parish Council charged the Clerk with looking into adding this function to the Parish Council's website.

Reports attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.

2.7. **PLANNING** – completed schedule is attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

2.8. Following report by the Treasurer the council **APPROVED** the accounts presented for payment totalling **£2,890.36**, this figure being inclusive of confidential expenditure.

2.9. **FINANCIAL REPORT AMENDMENTS** - Amendments were made to the financial reports covering the periods from, April - October 2021. The amendments were inspected and signed by the Treasurer prior to February's meeting. The Chairman duly signed the financial reports, witnessed by the members present at February's meeting.

2.10. **RUSPIDGE PLAYGROUND** – Inspections of the three play areas in the Parish, the MUGGA on Ruspidge recreation ground and the basketball court on Soudley recreation ground are to be carried out through RoSPA as soon as possible. Additionally, RoSPA's routine checklist are to be used and monthly checks are to be undertaken using the advice from RoSPA. Best practice with all procedures are to be implemented and observed.

2.11. **RWT & RUSPIDGE FOOTBALL FIELD** – Historical documentation, covenants, trust documents and sale of transfer deeds are under review by the Parish Council. The purpose of this, being to establish what courses of action are open to the Parish Council, who are also the trustees for Ruspidge Welfare Trust (RWT) in regard to repurposing Ruspidge playing field. The Clerk is tasked with consulting with the Charities Commission & the Green Field Trust, to ascertain and take any appropriate action to meet the aforementioned organisations concerns and requirements to repurpose Ruspidge football pitch. The Clerk to apply to the Police Commissioners Fund for a grant for CCTV for Ruspidge football field.

2.12. **CO-OPT NEW MEMBERS** – Gwyn Roberts and Carole Roberts, of Ruspidge were co-opted as members of Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council, both standing for Ruspidge (West).

2.13. **REGISTER OF INTEREST** – Members were given the latest Register of Interest forms to be complete. Completed Register of Interest forms will be returned at March's Parish Council meeting.

2.14. **POLICY REVIEWS** – The following policy reviews were undertaken through the month of February, the appropriate following documents were emailed out to the members for their comments and approval, Financial Regulations, Full Risk Assessment and Health & Safety Policy. Council agreed to re-adopt the aforementioned documents and the policies were signed by the Chairman, Treasurer and Clerk, witnessed by the members present.

2.15. **TELECOM** – In regard to an enquiry from Clarke Telecom, of the possibility of sitting telecommunications equipment at upper Soudley, near the Village hall. The parish Council request additional more detailed information and clarification from Clarke Telecom. Do they propose cutting down any woodland near to the specified area of installation? How tall is the proposed installation? Can Council be supplied with more detail in the form of drawings in the

proposed installation location. The Council will also post a notice on the Parish website and Facebook giving notification of the proposed installation.

- 2.17. **CORRESPONDENCE** The council **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** the following correspondence: The Parish Councillors accepted all relevant correspondence has been forwarded via email to all members.
- 2.18. **Next Meeting** - the next meeting of the council is to be held in the **Ruspidge Memorial Hall** at 7.00pm **Tuesday, 8th March, 2022**. The agenda deadline is **Monday, 1st March, 2022**.
- 2.19. **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 8.10 p.m.

Signed: Chair. Dated:

APPENDIX

Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council

Planning Schedule for the February, 2022 meeting.

**Planning Reference
Site Address & Detail**

**Parish
Comment**

P0081/22/FUL

47 Coomb Drive, Ruspidge, Cinderford, Gloucestershire.
Conversion of existing garage into habitable accommodation.
Alterations to existing driveway, including widening entrance.

No Obj

Decisions notified by the Planning Authority

**Planning Reference
Site Address & Detail**

**Parish
Comment**

**District
Decision**

Date

P1956/21/FUL

Peplins Hollow Top Road Upper Soudley GL14 2TY
Erection of a rear extension with internal alterations and
associated works. Alterations to an existing outbuilding
including the erection of new decking.

No Obj

Consent

26/01/2022

P1937/21/FUL

2A Ruspidge Road Ruspidge Cinderford Gloucestershire
GL14 3AD. Erection of a garage.

No Obj

Consent

28/01/2022

District Councillor's Report.

Cllr. Nicky Packer

Report to Ruspidge and Soundly Parish Council – February 2022

Local Plan

The Leader, Tim Gwilliam, has been holding regular meetings with members about the Local Plan.

The 'preferred option' was for a new settlement to be established and to take just under a third of the housing sites that are required by the Government to be provided in the new Local Plan. Although a location for the new settlement was never discussed at Council, the residents and the Parish Council of Churcham were convinced that Churcham had been chosen and campaigned against it. The Leader has currently turned away from a new settlement as the preferred option. The strategy currently being investigated is for all the housing sites to be allocated in and around existing settlement, including small village and hamlets, called the 'Dispersal Option'.

To find enough sites, it may be necessary to allocate sites that were previously considered not to be suitable as not compliant with the Council's landscape policies, particularly visibility.

Ruspidge is classed as part of Cinderford in the Local Plan, as in previous Local Plans.

The Leader will invite Parish Councils to participate in discussions in the near future.

Cinderford Northern Quarter

The final 'evidence gathering' session for the CNQ Scrutiny Inquiry is on Monday 31st January.

Provision of affordable homes

You may have seen news that there were a good number of affordable homes provided in 2021, with 86 affordable rental properties and 63 shared ownership homes. As previously reported, in future 'shared ownership' will largely be replaced by the new 'First Homes'.

Forestry Commission

I spoke with the new Forestry Commission Woodland Officer recently. Please let me know if you would like his contact details.

County Councillor's Reports

Cllr. Graham Morgan

Report to Ruspidge and Soundly Parish Council – February 2022

This is the report for the February meetings, the Budget has been passed by the Cabinet at County Council and will now be recommended to the next full Council Meeting.

Locally I have been dealing with parking issues in Market Street Cinderford, and traffic mounting pavements in Woodside Avenue.

On Road Safety I have been contacted by Driving Instructor Mike Webb of Parkend, Mike is extremely concerned as am I about the speeds of drivers in the Forest and the horrific accident on the Coleford St Braviels Road near the Orepool Inn in which a young mother was killed.

I have been in contact with Dan Moran of the District Council to see if we can resurrect the Forest of Dean Road Safety Committee of which I was the former Chair, myself and Mike Webb are very concerned that we do not return to the high death rates of young people on Forest Roads of some years ago.

Dan Moran will get some dates together and we are going to hold a Forest of Dean Road Safety Committee in March.

I have contacted Andrew Middlecote Highways Manager with regard to the need to resurface the following roads Edge Hills Road Cinderford, Causeway Road, Colledge Road Cinderford and Ruspidge Road from Tramway Road down to the former Eastern United Colliery.

Cllr. Beki Hoyland

Report to Ruspidge and Soundly Parish Council – February 2022

Roads

Firstly I would like to express my sadness at the accidents that have happened on the Forest Roads over the last month, in particular to the family and friends of the young mother that lost her life near Bream. Road accidents are often life changing, speed limits need to be reduced and drivers need to be more aware that they are in charge of a lethal machine. I will continue to work on lowering speed limits and raising awareness.

Gigaclear are working to install fiber on the roads around Etloe; (road closures due to be completed by 21/2). These roads are in a terrible state; I have raised this with Highways several times and have some reassurance that they will be resurfaced after Gigaclear's work is done but with no commitment to timescale.

The junction between New Road and Blakeney Hill Rd is now closed to all vehicles, and will be closed to pedestrians and cyclists by the end of February. It will remain closed to vehicles for the duration of the works but we will try and reintroduce pedestrian and cyclist access as soon as it is safe to do so

Gigaclear are putting fiber down Pollards lane (due to be finished by 25/2) at the moment but then will move to New Road, leaving Pitching Green and Furnace valley until New Roads is open again. Gigaclear have also closed Neds Top in Oldcroft until 11/2. Other than that there are several traffic lights but no other road closures in the area.

Try here: <https://www.gigaclear.com/fastershire> for more information about Gigaclear

This consultation runs until 15th February.

Have your say on **the proposed M5 junction 10 improvements:**

<https://m5-junction-10-have-your-say.gloucestershire.gov.uk/-/EN/home>

Making it easy to report issues

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/roads/your-highways-report-it/>

This is the link to the place to report issues with roads such as:

- Objects on the highway network (i.e. a fallen tree)
- Faulty temporary or permanent traffic lights (i.e. stuck on red)
- Exposed cables
- Multiple street lighting faults
- Flooded roads
- Potholes over 75mm deep
- Manhole/Metal Cover (i.e. missing/dangerous)

It may be useful to put this on the Parish Council Website so that residents have easy access to it.

Forest Climate Group.

The Forest Climate Group is for Parish and Town Councillors to work together towards making the Forest more resilient to the climate crisis. They meet regularly and hope that a representative from all 40 councils in the Forest of Dean will join.

You are all invited to a day to find out more and hear about projects that are deliverable by Parish Councils.

Local Leaders For Climate Action

Parishable Projects, Townable Tasks and a People's Assembly

Saturday 5th, March 2022, 10.00-15.45 with lunch provided Please arrive at 09.45am for coffee and a prompt start at 10.00. Venue to be confirmed.

If you are interested please contact Jacky Dale: jackdale@posteo.net

Children and Families

Ofsted is visiting GCC this week and next, I will report their findings as soon as I can.

GCC council meetings:

Full council is on the 16th February where this year's budget will be presented, amendments suggested and voted on.