# Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council

# **Annual Financial Report**

For the year end 31st March 2025

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# **Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council**

# The Council

#### Chairman

Mr. W. Acland

## **Vice Chairman**

Mrs. J. Smith

#### **Members**

Mr. T. Matthews
Mr. N. Snell
Ms. H. Medcraft
Mr. D. N. Bagwell-Johnston
Mrs. L. Griffiths
Mr. P. Firth

# **Clerk of the Council**

Mr. R. J. Dowding

#### **Council Office**

Rheola House Belle Vue Centre Cinderford GL14 2AB

Telephone: 01594 825 343 Email: info@ruspidgesoudley-pc.gov.uk

## **Auditor**

PKF Littlejohn LLP (appointed by Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments for six years from 2023/24 to 2028/29)

# **Explanatory Foreword**

The Clerk of the Council, as the Council's Responsible Financial Officer, has prepared this Report to enable the report and accounts to be approved by Council, subject to audit, at the Annual Meeting in May.

Sjs Accountancy Service was appointed as the Council's independent auditor in March, 2025.

The inspection period for the exercise of public rights of the **2024/25** Accounts is the **16th of June, 2025** to **25**<sup>th</sup> **of July, 2025**. The necessary notices will be published within the Parish advising the public of their rights to inspect and make notes of the accounts, and of their right to object to the accounts if so desired.

The Council's statement of accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2025 is set out within this Report and consists of the following statements:

#### The Receipt & Payment Account

The Council is required to complete the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) basic review, with supporting reports and details, as requested, including explanation of variances and earmarked reserves.

The Receipts and Payments account and earmarked reserves are included in this report together with end of year comparison figures as per the completed AGAR for the external auditors.

## **The Supporting Notes**

These provide further information in support of the accounts and shows some detail of the activities of the Council during the year under report.

# **Statement of Responsibilities**

## The Responsibilities of the Council

The Council shall ensure the implementation for the proper administration of its financial affairs as per Section 151 of the LGA 1972. The Clerk is appointed the Responsible Financial Officer for the Council. The Council is required to manage its financial affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of its resources and to safeguard its assets. To meet these requirements the Council at its meeting in April, 2025, adopted Financial Regulations for the Council which incorporate the responsibilities of the Responsible Financial Officer.

The audit regime also places a responsibility on the Council as a body corporate, requiring the completion of a Statement of Assurance that the Council has scrutinised its own financial affairs and activities. This Statement of Assurance forms part of the audit proceedings.

#### The responsibilities of the Responsible Financial Officer

The responsibilities of the Responsible Financial Officer are:

- adopting accounting policies as required by both legislation and best practice
- the day to day maintenance of the Council's financial accounts
- the preparation of the Council's accounts for audit
- ensuring that the Council has adequate insurance cover for both public liability and its assets
- measures for the prevention and detection of fraud and any other irregularity

#### The role of the Honorary Treasurer

To prevent and detect fraudulent activity an independent Member of the Council is appointed as the Honorary Treasurer who conducts a rolling audit of the account on a monthly basis. Prior to the presentation of the accounts for payment at the meetings of the Council the respective invoices, ledger entries, bank statements, cheques and BACS payments are examined by the Hon. Treasurer for correctness and a verbal report is given to Council by the Hon. Treasurer to this effect. This report is recorded within the Minutes of each meeting. Furthermore, the Clerk, as the Responsible Financial Officer prepares a report for each meeting of the Council which includes all items for payment, records all income and gives a reconciliation of the account to coincide with the monthly bank statements.

#### The role of the Internal Auditor

The Council requires the appointment of an internal auditor who is totally independent of the Council and its individual members. The internal auditor applies the tests as set out in Appendix 8 of the Practitioners' Guide Governance and Accountability in Local Councils.

## **Certificate by the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO)**

I hereby certify that the statement of accounts for the year ending 31st March 2025, as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, are set out within this Report.

I further certify that the statement of accounts presents fairly the financial position of Ruspidge and Soudley Parish Council at the year ending 31st March 2025.

Signed:

Mr. R. J. Dowding

Dated: 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025

# **Bank Reconciliation**

# As at 31st March 2025

Opening Balance 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2024 Receipts in the year 2024/25 Total Payments in the year (incl. VAT) Balance at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	£ 106,842.80 + <u>70,897.65</u> 177,740.45 - <u>71,696.65</u> 106,043.80	£ 106,043.80
balance at 31 March 2024	100,043.80	1 100,043.80
Lloyds Treasurer Account No. 00968395 Lloyds Instant Access Account No. 02360831 Unity Current Account No. 20473057	£ 304.54 41,756.59 906.00	
Unity Instant Access Account No. 20473060	<u>63,076.67</u>	
Total	106,043.80	£ 106,043.80

I certify the above figures represent all transactions for the financial year 2024/25

Mr. R. J. Dowding

# Annual Income (receipts) Sheet

Month	Total	Precept & LCTS	Bank Interest	S.106 Interest	Agency	S.106	VAT	Misc
Balance B/F								
April	32,486.85	30,655.00	44.84	•	670.00	-	1,117.01	-
May	65.53	-	65.53	1	-	-	-	-
June	498.64	-	498.64	-	-	-	-	-
July	819.53	-	62.26	-	-	-	757.27	-
August	54.43	-	54.43	-	-	-	-	-
September	31,127.34	30,655.00	472.34	-	-	-	-	-
October	948.34	-	54.96	-	-	-	893.38	-
November	62.63	-	62.63	-	-	-	-	-
December	3,418.16	-	467.08	-	2,951.08	-	-	-
January	54.15	-	54.15	-	-	-	-	-
February	926.50	-	52.66	-	-	-	873.84	-
March	435.55	-	435.55	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	70,897.65	61,310.00	2,325.07	-	3,621.08	-	3,641.50	-
	70,897.65	GROSS INCOME						
minus	61,310.00	PRECEPT						
	9,587.65	NET INCOME						
	2,325.07	TOTAL BANK INTE	REST					
	AGENCY REC	EIPTS						
	2,951.08	STREET CLEANING	FoDDC					
	70.00	ROAD SIGN CLEAN	IING GCC					
	600.00	<b>GRASS CUTTING G</b>	icc					

# **Annual Expenditure (payments) Sheet**

			Clei	k (RD) Paym	ent				
Budget				£19,000.00		£1,000.00	£7,200.00	£3,360.00	£4,500.00
Month	Total	VAT	Salary	NI/PAYE	NEST	Tel/Mob/B.B.	Grass Cut	St. Cleaning	Play Areas
April	£4,581.04	£179.13	£1,223.07	£149.71	£55.35	£69.41	£660.00	£279.51	£544.98
May	£4,057.59	£251.57	£1,268.56	£177.94	£60.06	£76.61	£770.00	£279.51	£84.00
June	£7,338.67	£326.57	£1,294.05	£193.49	£62.67	£76.60	£815.00	£279.51	£1,449.27
July	£5,595.93	£409.40	£1,248.25	£165.42	£57.96	£77.33	£820.00	£279.51	£545.95
August	£4,574.59	£206.43	£1,243.27	£162.19	£57.44	£59.31	£765.00	£279.51	£84.00
September	£4,033.02	£277.55	£1,309.38	£202.78	£64.24	£99.92	£825.00	£279.51	£0.00
October	£7,997.30	£351.63	£1,268.56	£177.94	£60.06	£82.68	£775.00	£279.51	£84.00
November	£5,613.00	£449.70	£1,283.89	£187.24	£61.62	£63.53	£750.00	£279.51	£505.35
December	£3,278.25	£72.51	£1,238.09	£159.17	£56.91	£69.72	£265.00	£279.51	£84.00
January	£4,731.26	£299.45	£1,592.39	£376.95	£93.38	£64.40	£670.00	£279.51	£84.00
February	£3,754.10	£132.21	£1,345.24	£224.89	£67.94	£60.80	£30.00	£279.51	£239.00
March	£15,522.42	£2,010.45	£1,302.79	£198.91	£63.58	£66.73	£0.00	£279.51	£1,161.53
Total Paid	£71,077.17	£4,966.60	£15,617.54	£2,376.63	£761.21	£867.04	£7,145.00	£3,354.12	£4,866.08
Budget Balance	,	,	,	£244.62		£132.96	£55.00	£5.88	-£366.08
Budget		£2,896.00	£200.00	£984.00	£700.00	£2,000.00	£450.00	£2,100.00	£6,954.00
Month		Dog Waste	Office	IT/Web	Copier	F.F. Grass Cut	Training	Rent/S.Charge	Miscellaneous
April		£208.00	£0.00	£67.94	£112.31	£0.00	£0.00	£22.50	£924.15
May		£280.00	£0.00	£67.94	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£21.00	£428.40
June		£224.00	£115.85	£67.94	£0.00	£60.00	£0.00	£0.00	£2,106.72
July		£224.00	£6.80	£67.94	£112.47	£180.00	£0.00	£927.90	£246.00
August		£280.00	£0.00	£67.94	£0.00	£180.00	£0.00	£22.50	£300.00
September		£224.00	£0.00	£67.94	£0.00	£180.00	£0.00	£0.00	£460.70
October		£280.00	£26.62	£93.74	£134.15	£180.00	£0.00	£442.20	£228.75
November		£224.00	£13.60	£229.93	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£22.50	£1,492.65
December		£224.00	£0.00	£67.94	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£21.00	£140.00
January		£280.00	£0.00	£67.94	£117.79	£0.00	£0.00	£485.70	£45.00
February		£224.00	£34.87	£173.54	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£18.00	£232.10
March		£224.00	£13.60	£173.33	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£18.00	£1,162.72
Total Paid		£2,896.00	£211.34	£1,214.06	£476.72	£780.00	£0.00	£2,001.30	£7,767.19
Budget Balance		£0.00	-£11.34	-£230.06	£223.28	£1,220.00	£450.00	£98.70	-£813.19
Budget		£4,700.00	£600.00	£0.00	£100.00	£10,068.40	£200.00	£106.00	
Month		S.137	Other Grants	S.106	MUGA & Elc	BRT A/M	St. Furniture	Tech & PAT	
April		£0.00	£42.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£42.98	£0.00	
May		£250.00	£42.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	
June		£0.00	£42.00	£0.00	£0.00	£225.00	£0.00	£0.00	
July		£0.00	£42.00	£0.00	£0.00	£185.00	£0.00	£0.00	
August		£750.00	£42.00	£0.00	£0.00	£75.00	£0.00	£0.00	
September		£0.00	£42.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	
October		£3,300.00	£42.00	£0.00	£0.00	£175.00	£0.00	£15.46	
November		£0.00	£42.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£7.48	
December		£0.00	£42.00	£0.00	£0.00	£558.40	£0.00	£0.00	
January		£0.00	£42.00	£0.00	£0.00	£150.00	£0.00	£82.75	
February		£400.00	£42.00	£0.00	£0.00	£250.00	£0.00	£0.00	
March		£0.00	£42.00	£0.00	£0.00	£8,450.00	£0.00	£355.27	
Total Paid		£4,700.00	£504.00	£0.00	£0.00	£10,068.40	£42.98	£460.96	
IUlai Palu									

Net EXP	£66,110.57
minus VAT	£4,966.60
Gross EXP	£71,077.17

# **Summary of Expenditure.**

<b>Gross Expenditure</b>	71,077.17
<b>Gross Income</b>	- <u>70,897.65</u>

**179.52** Total overspend in the 2024/25 financial year.

Overspend payment taken from unallocated

reserve.

# ASSETS REGISTER as at 31st March, 2025

	Year	Asset	Declared	<b>Definition of Asset</b>		
	Acquired		Value			
Α	2001	Play equipment, Soudley		Children's play area		
	2006/7	+2 bay junior swings				
	1998	Play equipment, Woodlands		Children's play area		
		View	120,341			
	2002	Play equipment, Ruspidge		Children's play area		
	2019	Assault course unit		Children's play area		
		Insurance Definition - Stree	t Furniture			
В	2001	Hod-boy wood carving		Public amenity		
С	2021	Cullimore bridge		Public footbridge		
_						
D	2003	Youth shelter, Ruspidge		Public amenity		
_	0004/5/0	Ou lave also listere	05 004	Public amenity		
Е	2004/5/6	3x bus shellers	3x bus shelters <b>85,921</b>			
F	2010	Youth shelter, Soudley		Public amenity		
-	2010	Touth sheller, Soudley		Fublic afficility		
G	2017	VAS signs		Public safety		
~	2017	VAO SIGIIS		T ublic salety		
Н	2024	ANPR Camera		Public Safety		
		Insurance Definition - Sports	Equipment	·		
ı	2011	Outdoor gym, Ruspidge	21,017	Public amenity		
J	2017	RWT cabins	33,056	Public amenity		
K		Ground surfaces	26,476	Public amenity		
L		War memorial	40,000	Public amenity		
	_   Table and amoney					
	2000	Land at Soudley Valley Park	979	Recreational land		
	2002	Public seat at junction of St.	343	Public amenity		
		White's / Ruspidge Rd				
	2005	2x notice boards	1,100	<b>Public information</b>		
	2008	Multi-use games area (MUGA)	52,000	Public amenity		
	2009	Life size wooden carving of	10,000	Public amenity		
		adult on Blue Rock Trail				
No	Note: The items listed within this box are not included in the council's insurance					

# The basis of valuation of all assets is the historic cost or insurance value. Total of assets for Annual Financial Report & Audit Return 391,233

		•		
L	Unknown	Ruspidge playing fields	Nominal	Recreational land
			£1.00	

# **Receipt/Payment Comparison**

# Income and Expenditure comparison –

# Statement of Accounts as per the Audit Annual Return.

# Figures are rounded to the nearest £.

	2023/24	2024/25
	£	£
1. Balances brought forward as at 1st April (Treasurers, Reserves)	115,085	106,843
2. (+) Annual precept	54.890	61,310
3. (+) Total other receipts	9,286	9,588
4. (-) Staff costs	17.243	18,755
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	.nil	.nil
6. (-) Total other payments*	55,175	52,941
7. (=) Balances carried forward * Must equal (1+2+3) – (4+5+6)	106,843	106,044
8. Total cash & Investments	106,843	106,044
9. Total fixed assets	387,948	391,233
10. Total borrowings	.nil	.nil

# **Supporting Notes**

# 1. General

1.1 The credit balance carried forward on the 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2025 is **£ 106,044**The financial year end balance of **£ 106,044** includes reserves in respect of:

Summary of allocated reserves:	Thousands
Blue Rock Trail – Contingency	51
Blue Rock Trail – Wood Carving ('Nearly There' Sculpture)	1,000
Cullimore Bridge – Contingency	500
Election Costs (Estimated Figure)	3,500
Woodland View Play Area – Legal/Administration Fees	2,000
Clerk Long – Term Sick Leave	15,000
MUGA (PC's Self-Insurance)	3,000
VAS Maintenance Contract – Paid Every Three Years	2,000
(Renewal due in 2026 Estimated Cost 3,000)	
CCTV Ruspidge Recreation	4,000
Total allocated reserves Balance of accounts Balance of accounts minus allocated reserves	31,051 <u>106,044</u> 74,993

1.2 VAT payments and claims made during the financial year under report:

VAT Payments made in the financial year 24/25	4,966.60
VAT Reclaimed in the financial year 24/25	
Outstanding from 2023/24 financial year, 4th quarter. Jan – Mar	1,117.01
1 <sup>st</sup> quarter. April – June	757.27
2nd quarter. July – September	893.38
3rd quarter. October – December	<u>873.84</u>
Total of VAT Reclaimed in the financial year 24/25	3,641.50
4th quarter. Outstanding, Jan – March	2,442.11

At the time of writing this report, I can confirm that payment of the  $4^{th}$  quarter has been received in April 2024 and will be covered under the 2025/26 financial report.

#### 2. Income

- 2.1 The Council undertakes grass cutting under agency arrangements on behalf of the County Council.
- 2.2 The Council also undertakes street cleaning on behalf of the District Council.
- 2.3 The Income and Expenditure Summary Sheets for the year are on pages 6 and 7.
- 2.4 Agency receipts are listed in the Income Summary on page 6.

# 3. Expenditure

- 3.1 A salary based on the NALC recommended hourly rate is paid to the Clerk. PAYE and NIC are deducted at source. Payment is also made to NEST pension scheme.
- 3.2 Under Section 137 of the LGA 1972, as amended, the Council approved the following grants:

## **General Grant Applications**

Grants for eligible local groups, clubs and voluntary organisations, considered by Council through two funding rounds in the year.

#### Round One.

April – June, applications reviewed and grants awarded at the July PC meeting.

Busy Rascals (rental contribution)	500.00
St Johns Church (grass cutting)	250.00
Brody Trust (equipment contribution)	400.00

Round One Total £ 1,150.00

#### Round Two.

Oct – Dec, applications reviewed and grants awarded at the January PC meeting.

No 'Round Two' grant applications were received from eligible local groups, clubs and voluntary organisations.

Round Two Total £ 0.00

### **Central Grant applications.**

Organisations eligible for central grants are: Ruspidge Memorial Hall Committee, Soudley Village Hall and Recreation Ground Committee, Ruspidge Welfare Trust Committee. Central Grants will be considered throughout the year.

**Soudley Village Hall** 

Lower Road bridge	2,800.00
Fireworks	500.00
Soudley Bugle	250.00

Central Grant Payments Total £ 3,550.00

Section 137 Grants.

Total payments made in the year £ 4,700.00

3.3 Other grants made by the Council were:

# **Ruspidge Welfare Trust**

Play area weekly inspections £ 504.00

3.4 **Blue Rock Trail** - Expenditure incurred during the year under report in maintenance and further development of the Blue Rock Trail:

Maintenance work £ 10,068.40

- 3.6 No Cllrs. travelling expenses claimed during the period of this report.
- 3.7 Chairman's Allowance no payments were made under the Chairman's Allowance.
- 3.8 There are no outstanding loans either by, or to, the Council.
- 3.9 The Council has a lease agreement with Konica Minolta Ltd for a photocopier, located at the Parish Council's office.
- 3.10 A non-repairing tenancy agreement exists with Cinderford Town Council in respect of the Council's office in Room 31, Rheola House, Belle Vue Centre, Cinderford. Rent payable is £530 per quarter inc V.A.T. The Council is not party to any other tenancy agreements.
- 3.11 As Trustee of the Ruspidge Welfare Trust, the Council is responsible for the financial management of the Trust.

-End at 3.11-