

Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council

MINUTES of the MEETING

held on the Tuesday 14th December, 2021

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

Parish Councillors Present:

Cllrs. Tony Matthews. Chairman,
Joanne Smith, Bernadette Wood,
Helen Medcraft, Mark Ogden, Norman Snell.

County Councillors Present:

District Councillors Present:

The Clerk – Roland Dowding.

Public Present:

Gwyn Roberts, Carole Roberts.
Martin Stephens, Theresa Bevan,
Three persons names undisclosed.

Apologies:

Cllrs. Richard Boyles, Bernie O'Neill,
Beki Hoyland, Graham Morgan, Nicky Packer.

Standing Declarations of Interest

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

RUSPIDGE WELFARE TRUST

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

12.1. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

12.2. **ANNUAL RETURN.** The Parish Councillors, acting in the role of trustees for RWT acknowledged the satisfactory completion and submission of the **2021 RWT Annual Return** to the **Charity Commission England.**

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

12.2. No declaration of personal or prejudicial interest declared.

12.3. **MINUTES** - the minutes of the council meeting held on the **9th of November, 2021** were **ACCEPTED** as a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

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

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Report attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Report attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.

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

FINANCIAL MATTERS

- 12.8 Following report by the Treasurer the council **APPROVED** the accounts presented for payment totalling **£3,366.63**, this figure being inclusive of confidential expenditure.
- 12.9. **PROPOSED TELECOM INSTALATION** Proposal for sighting of a telecommunication installation near Soudley Village Hall.
Council have instructed the Clerk to request further information and photographs of the potential telecom installation from the proposer of this installation **Clarke Telecom Limited**. Any decision deferred until further notice.
- 12.10. **COUNTY WIDE SPEED LIMIT** 20mph Gloucestershire County Wide Speed Limit.
Council to vote regarding this proposal.
Ruspidge and Soudley Parish Council have voted **NO** this proposal.
- 12.11. **VICE CHAIRMAN** Council to appoint a new **Vice Chairman**.
Cllr. Jo Smith was nominated and **accepted** the role of **Vice Chairman** to Ruspidge and Soudley Parish Council.
- 12.12. **GRANT Soudley AFC** The Parish Council **DECLINED** this grant application.
- 12.13. **NEST SWING CLAIM** Update.
The Council were updated regarding the latest developments with the **NEST SWING CLAIM**. All parties involved have now instructed their respective insurance providers. The disputed claim is ongoing.
- 12.14. **DISCUSS POTENTIAL NEW COUNCILLORS**
Gwyn Roberts and Carole Roberts of Ruspidge were introduced to the Parish Council. They provided information regarding their backgrounds and were formally interviewed by the Council for the position of Councillors for Ruspidge (West). Final acceptance of their candidacy pending submission of CV's, deferred until January 2022 Parish Council meeting.
- 12.17. **CORRESPONDENCE** The council **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** the following correspondence:
The Parish Councillors accepted all relevant correspondence has been forwarded via email to all members.
- 12.18. **Next Meeting** - the next meeting of the council is to be held in the **Ruspidge Memorial Hall** at 7.00pm **Tuesday, 11th January, 2022**. The agenda deadline is **Monday, 5th January, 2021**.
- 12.19. **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 8.30p.m.

Signed: Chair. Dated:

APPENDIX

Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council

Planning Schedule for the December, 2021 meeting.

Planning Reference Site Address & Detail	Parish Comment
P1883/21/FUL Land At Sneyd Wood Road, Cinderford, Gloucestershire, Erection of residential Development of No.11 dwellings with associated works, drainage, roads, parking and landscaping.	No Obj
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
P1958/21/FUL Forest Lodge, St Whites Road, Cinderford, Gloucestershire. Erection of 7 dwellings with associated parking, landscaping and works. Construction of a new access (revised scheme).	Objection (See note below)

Although they have attempted to address the issues of overwhelming adjacent properties by lowering the site level, this has the effect of increasing the difference in levels between the site and Buckshaft Road, where three separate accesses cross a long established well used footpath, so the drives will still have a detrimental effect on that footpath. Therefore, the amended plans have insufficient merit on previous applications to justify a change of view.

Decisions notified by the Planning Authority

Planning Reference Site Address & Detail	Parish Comment	District Decision	Date
P1249/21/FUL 22 Cullimore, View Ruspidge, Cinderford, Gloucestershire. GL14 3HP New raised decking area and timber summerhouse and associated work. (Part-retrospective).	No Obj	Consent	11/11/2021

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Cllr. Nicky Packer.

Report to Ruspidge and Soudley Parish Council – December 2021

Full Council 2nd December

Review of the Statement of Principles of the Gambling Act

The Statement must be published at least every three years.

Animal Welfare Charter

It was agreed to adopt the presented Animal Welfare Charter, with minor additions suggested. The Charter outlines the council's powers and responsibilities and contains advice for residents. It will be published on the council website.

External Audit Contract

The recommendations were adopted.

Treasury management mid-term report 2021/22

Was noted.

Business Case for Proposed Changes to Coleford Council Offices

The Coleford offices are not fully used, and occupation could be further reduced. The Business Case sought allocation of funds to increase 'agile working' and to create lettable space. This might involve moving the Civic Suite (including the Council Chamber) to the ground floor – making it more accessible and avoiding the need for the fireproofing works that will be required to keep it in its present location on the 2nd floor.

It had been expected that this would have previously been agreed by Cabinet, however, the Cabinet meeting was cancelled due to illness. This item was therefore postponed to a Full Council meeting on 16th December, so that it could be discussed in the meantime at the December Cabinet meeting. However, this item has since been withdrawn from the 16th December meeting. This is to allow a member briefing to be held to better inform members before a decision is taken.

Motion calling for 20mph limits as a default for Forest of Dean residential streets with exceptions where appropriate

This was passed. For details of the motion see:

https://meetings.fdean.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=22056&fbclid=IwAR3tn2FTGwnoeU6hVBEbFOM-yWITCK8WD59Vd_0lnd25CgA2e9tvjB08EGl

This motion is in support of a County Council motion, which can be found here:

<https://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/documents/s74608/20mph%20scrutiny%20report%20rev.pdf>

For an update on the progress of the County Council motion, see:

<https://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/documents/s76541/20mph%20scrutiny%20action%20report%20update%20November%202021%20final.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3qsGyLEYtjVexmemtMJtYgKt2Pzol0tFJeySaH1MSpmoK6nYs0u4mtyY>

Full Council 16th December

Items on the agenda are

- to give Cllr Molyneux dispensation for non-attendance due to illness
- a motion regarding the Queen's Platinum Jubilee
- a motion to update and reinforce the Armed Forces Community Covenant
- a motion to create the role of a Domestic Abuse Champion

Cinderford Norther Quarter Scrutiny Inquiry

A further 'Evidence Gathering Session' will take place on 31st January 2022.

Most of the webcam footage of previous sessions has been lost. To view what is available see

<https://aisapps.sonicfoundry.com/AuditeIScheduler/Player/Index/?id=50931038-4e39-480e-9344-18073fadf8a6&presID=15711565485b47e38fcba0777db7514e1d>

and

<https://aisapps.sonicfoundry.com/AuditeIScheduler/Player/Index/?id=5ed0dc4f-cd1c-42e7-b504-55afae7ea9ea&presID=14bb8478bd854902b4e10e260a2172ac1d>

Flooding

The Council website has a page about flooding: <https://fdean.gov.uk/environment/flooding/>

Remote Forest

The Council is creating a directory for town and village based businesses. Any businesses that want to sign up can fill in a form on this page: <https://www.fdean.gov.uk/RFDsignup/>

Growth Hub

Growth Hub Network Offering workspace, free business support and events, opened on 8 October at Vantage Point Business Village in Mitcheldean. See <https://www.thegrowthhub.biz/forestofdean>

Cllr. Bernie O'Neil

Report to Ruspidge and Soudley Parish Council – December 2021

Flooding. FoDDC have produced info regarding residents having a flood plan in place in the event of flooding. Check website.

Covid 19. Advice to residents can be found on FoDDC website.

We have held online training regarding Covid for businesses, and health and safety courses.

We are looking very carefully at the Govt's pronouncements regarding Covid and will continue to update advice.

Planning application has been put in again for the back of the lodge, St White's road, and I shall look at this carefully. If the Parish Council has a view on this or any other planning application it would be gratefully received.

Corner Buckshaft/ St White's.....very unhappy and Graham Morgan and myself continue to pursue but it is very unsatisfactory....County Highways issue.

5 acres and levelling up. Almost now in a position to start work on demolition. News is imminent.

Cllr. Richard Boyles.

Report to Ruspidge and Soudley Parish Council – December 2021

Forest of Dean Full council meeting on 02 December 2021

Papers had to be withdrawn before the meeting as cabinet members were absent for sickness, meaning that decisions needing to be made have been delayed.

Halfway through the meeting it was realised that votes were being cast by councillors on motions, but the system was not counting them. The meeting sought to rectify the issue and a motion that had been won by 1 vote was then a draw, so the chair had to cast their casting vote. In the end it changed nothing as the chair voted for the proposition, but the meeting was declared closed and the remaining papers were moved onto a special meeting for this Thursday 16 Dec 21.

The Gambling act review of statement of principles was discussed before the meeting was abandoned and I asked questions of the officer who was not able to answer them all so a vote was taken on the paper without Councillors having been given full and proper answers as the paper had to be pushed through to be on the books before 31 January 2022 to be in line with the law. The point was made that we should not be given papers to vote on at the last minute before due consideration by full council could be carried out. The vote was carried and the papers passed through and I still await the answers to my questions. I abstained.

The animal welfare charter paper (refers to domestic animals including horses only) was put to the full council for adoption, again before the meeting was abandoned. The paper was supported by me and the majority, but I have asked that this paper is given a clear focus on protecting wild animals from Domestic animals.

Millions of birds, Newts, Bats, snakes, mice and small mammals are killed every year by domestic cats. I have asked the officers and Councillors to develop policies for the council under the umbrella of this paper that educates owners of domestic animals on the impact their pets can have on local wildlife.

Premises near Newent, Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 was confirmed in birds at a premises near Newent, Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire on the 5 December 2021. All birds on the infected premises will be humanely culled.

A 3km Protection Zone and 10km Surveillance Zone has been put in place around the premises. Details of the measures that apply in these zones can be found on the council's web site.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Cllr. Graham Morgan

Report to Ruspidge and Soudley Parish Council – December 2021

This is my report for December 2021, we have at long last managed to get the road through Forest Vale Industrial Estate re-surfaced, and alongside this work on local culverts at Forest Vale which causes the road to severely flood near the north sheep grid, we have also managed to get a start on the resurfacing of Heywood in Cinderford.

I am also contacting Andrew Middlecote of Gloucestershire Highways with regard to the poor state of the of Ruspidge Road in the lower part of the Village by the Rising Sun, and also Edge Hills Road in the Hilldene Housing Estate.

There are forthcoming road closures along the A1436 Nailbridge through to Edge End, to which you should have been notified, this is necessary because of tree felling.

I have also been in touch with the District Council Officer Lawrence King with regard to the Cinderford Brook clean out at Steam Mills to avoid flooding, also stream blockages at Valley Road.

Cllr. Becki Hoyland

Report to Ruspidge and Soudley Parish Council – December 2021

ROADS

- Church Road Soudley, 20 December till 22nd December 2021 road closed for Severn Trent work. I am aware that I should have been in contact with the Dean Heritage Centre about this. I have written to them to apologise and will make sure they are aware of road issues in future. Is there any other organisation that I should be making aware? The school for example.
- I have noted the barrier along the road between Soudley and Blakeney has been repaired and looking better. There is still an area in Brains Green that has not been fixed and I will be asking about that.
- . Resurfacing and installing fibre between the A48 and Purton, Gatcombe means there are roads closed here I will try and update this information as it goes along but the dates seem to suggest this could last well into January.
- I am working with Highways and the police to reduce speed at the Viney Hill junction on the A48 near Blakeney.
- Gigaclear is working all around the Forest of Dean installing fibre, this does entail a lot of traffic lights and some smaller local road closures.
- I have asked for an online meeting with Stuart Budd to go over these issues, this should happen this week please do send any other things you would like me to raise with him. Are there any local footpaths that need clearing, drains that need rodding etc.

Market Towns Funding

The second round of funding from the county council's Build Back Better – Market Towns fund, to help our communities put on events as part of the county's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, has been made available.

Completed applications must be received by 5pm on 17 December 2021 and applicants will be informed of the outcome on 17 January 2022.

For more information on the fund and to apply, see www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/market-towns-fund/

To read the full press release, see www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gloucestershire-county-council-news/news-november-2021/more-funding-available-to-help-communities-recover-from-pandemic/

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

There are currently over 800+ children in care in Gloucestershire (Approximately 15 -20 of those are in Blakeney and Bream division) and it is becoming increasingly more of a challenge to find suitable foster families. As a result there are concerns that some children may have to wait longer for the right foster home.

The County Council is launching a new eight-week, fast track fostering assessment for people who have experience caring for children and are interested in becoming foster carers.

If you or someone you know may be interested in offering a home to a child in need please contact: www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/fostering or call 01242 532654 –

Do share this short film, it is very moving; it is part of the campaign to raise awareness and recruit more foster families for the County Council.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f2xrGUebxb8>

At Children and Families Scrutiny committee we heard from the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership (GSCP). This is county council children's services, NHS and the Police working together to make sure that information about children is shared appropriately and systems are in place to provide a safety net. They are responsible for MASH, the first port of call for any safeguarding concern within the community. The work with schools, this communication has improved during the pandemic as regular conversations and support has become built into the relationship.

Children's Services was given an inadequate Ofsted rating in 2017, it has not been formally inspected since so still holds this rating officially although their annual conversations with Ofsted and the data suggests that they have improved considerably. Ofsted is expected for another full inspection shortly. In the meantime the main areas of concern seem to be retention of social workers and their casework load, which should be around 18 but is over 25 too often. This is part of a national shortage of social workers and Gloucestershire has set up a social work training so as to "grow their own" which is starting to have effect and has been praised as exemplar.

There is an increasing number of children being home educated and while this in its self is not an issue there is some concern for the lack of visibility these children have to services. Children leaving care are much more likely to be not in Education, employment or training is considerably higher than the general population of 19 to 21 year olds. 45.1% of care leavers and 1.3% overall.

The service is monitoring itself with an accelerated improvement plan (AIP) this data shows helps build a system that offers reliable and representative findings that support continuous learning and improvement. In February 2018 an Ofsted monitoring visit suggested this was a tool that was working. As a member of the scrutiny committee I will do my best to ask relevant questions and hold officers and cabinet to account. I have been impressed with the hard work and dedication of the senior officers I have met. I have the sense that although the service must continue to improve they are putting children at the centre of what they do.

Homes needed

Calling all Gloucestershire landlords – be part of a families new beginning

Can you help a family from Afghanistan build a new life in the county by providing them with a home? Rent paid in advance and direct to you. Set up costs for furnishings available.

If you are interested in being part of a family's new beginning contact Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers (GARAS): info@garas.org.uk, 01452 550528 or visit their website: www.garas.org.uk

Read more about the appeal for [homes for Afghans who supported the British Army](#).

WASTE

Gloucestershire County Council is preparing a new countywide Waste Local Plan. As part of this process it must comply with planning legislation covering co-operation with other organisations on strategic planning matters. This is known as the 'Duty to Co-operate'.

To help identify and respond effectively to strategic matters during plan-making, the County Council has prepared a draft Duty to Co-operate Scoping Paper. A consultation is now underway looking at *what* strategic matters need to be discussed; *which* organisations need to be involved; and *how* future collaborations might be carried out and recorded.

The County Council has invited views from a wide range of organisations and others likely to have an interest in waste planning across the county over the coming years. The consultation is due to end at 5pm on Tuesday 21st December 2021.

Consultation responses can be received at [Have Your Say Gloucestershire](#).

Responses can also be received via e-mail: m-wplans@gloucestershire.gov.uk or by post to:

Minerals & Waste Policy
Strategic Infrastructure
Environment, Economy & Infrastructure
Gloucestershire County Council
Shire Hall, Westgate Street
Gloucester, GL1 2TG

We welcome contributions from GCC members, residents and businesses

Street lighting

As you know I asked a question at council about street lighting, there is evidence that moths, (significant as an indicator species) are being severely affected by the new LED lighting. The carbon savings from LEDs are really positive but the detriment to local eco system is concerning as set out in the guardian article. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/aug/25/led-streetlights-moth-england-eco-friendly-sodium-insect-decline> The Council was clear that Parish Councils can identify streetlights that can be turned off at night without causing safety issues. I know there was work done before the LEDs were installed on this and wondering if this council would relook at it to improve biodiversity. **UPDATE:** I am waiting for a map of local streetlights from Highways, which you may be able to use to consider this and will let you have it as soon as I have it. Further update: Highways have given me another name to contact I will keep going.

Build back better (and greener) councillor scheme.

This fund still has some available.

Full grant details here

When you're ready, contact me on: beki.hoyland@gloucestershire.gov.uk to discuss your project. Information on the Build Back Better Councillor Scheme can be accessed [here \(PDF, 109.2 KB\)](#). An FAQ on the Scheme can be accessed [here \(PDF, 326.4 KB\)](#).

Other

I have asked questions of Cabinet and Council around Equality Impact Assessments and how road-building contractors will be measured in relation to their net zero aims by 2050. As well as managing verges for wild

Beki Hoyland

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