

Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council

MINUTES of the MEETING **held on the Tuesday 11th May, 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, Norman Snell,
William Acland, Mark Ogden,
Gwyn Roberts, Carole Roberts.

County Councillors Present:

No County Councillors Present.

District Councillors Present:

No District Councillors Present.

The Clerk – Roland Dowding.

Public Present:

Steve Hardcastle.

Apologies:

Cllrs. Beki Hoyland, Nicky Packer,
Bernie O'Neill, Graham Morgan,
Helen Medcraft, Bernadette Wood.

Standing Declarations of Interest

- (a) Ruspidge Memorial Hall - Insignificant personal interest by Cllr. Acland.
- (b) Soudley Village Hall - Insignificant personal interest by Cllr. Ogden.
- (c) Soudley Village Hall - Insignificant personal interest by Cllr. Woods.

Public Participation

Planning application. Forest Lodge, St Whites Rd. The public have expressed objections to the proposed application, not having appropriate and safe access routes into and from the final build. Concerns over the dangers caused by motorists accessing the final development via the three proposed access routes. The Parish Council considers these proposed access routes into the build to be too steep and with inadequate visibility. Concerns regarding the public footpath adjacent to the development joining St Whites Rd to Buckshaft Rd, it is noted that the footpath stops short of joining Buckshaft Rd. The Parish Council would like this footpath to be adopted by the FoDDC and for the footpath to adjoin Buckshaft Rd. These concerns have been raised with FoDDC Planning department & Highways by the public and by Cllr's Bernie O'Neill and Tony Matthews. The Parish Council is currently waiting on notification of a requested additional site visit. The Parish Council believes these issues have yet to be satisfactorily resolved.

RUSPIDGE WELFARE TRUST

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

5.1. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

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

5.2. No declaration of personal or prejudicial interest declared.

5.3. **ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN** Cllr. Tony Matthews was nominated for Chairman and seconded by Cllr. Norman Snell. Cllr. Matthews duly accepted and signed acceptance of office.

5.4. **APPOINTMENTS OF THE COUNCIL**

Cllr. Jo Smith was nominated for Vice Chair and seconded by Cllr. Norman Snell. Cllr. Smith duly accepted and signed acceptance of office.

Cllr. Norman Snell was nominated for Hon. Treasurer and seconded by Cllr. Tony Matthews. Cllr. Snell accepted and signed acceptance of office.

5.5. **REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COUNCIL**

Cllr. Acland accepted the position of liaison to Ruspidge Memorial Hall committee.

Cllr. Mark Ogden accepted the position of liaison to Soudley Village Hall committee.

Cllr. Tony Matthews accepted representing the Parish Council for planning applications.

The Parish Council awaits confirmation from Cllr. Helen Medcraft's role representing for planning applications, this matter will be settled under matters arising at the June 2022 meeting.

Cllr. Jo Smith accepted the role of Parish Council representative for Soudley Remembrance Day Service.

Cllr. Norman Snell accepted the role of Parish Council representative for Cinderford Remembrance Day Service.

Mr Roger Jackson of Ruspidge has confirmed acceptance of the role of Snow warden for Ruspidge. The Parish Council awaits confirmation from Mr Steve Wood regarding the role of Snow Warden for Soudley, this matter will be settled under matters arising at the June 2022 meeting.

5.6. **MINUTES** - the minutes of the council meeting held on the **12th of April, 2022** were **ACCEPTED** as a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

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

5.8. **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

Report attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.

5.9. **COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

Reports attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.

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

FINANCIAL MATTERS

5.11. Following report by the Treasurer the council **APPROVED** the accounts presented for payment totalling **£4,912.15**, this figure being inclusive of confidential expenditure.

5.12. **INTERNAL AUDIT.** Deferred until June 2022 meeting.

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN 2021/22

5.13. **AGAR COMPLIANCE.** Section one, assertions two & six. Deferred until June 2022 meeting.

5.14. **AGAR SECTION ONE.** Deferred until June 2022 meeting.

5.15. **AGAR SECTION TWO.** Deferred until June 2022 meeting.

5.16. **EXERCISE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS.** Deferred until June 2022 meeting.

5.17. **CLERK SALARY.** Approve Clerk's annual salary increase as per National Salary Award scales. Approved unanimously.

5.18. **CULLIMORE BRIDGE.** Approve maintenance of Cullimore bridge on Railway Rd. Approved unanimously.

- 5.19. **HIGH VIS JACKETS.** Printed with parish Council on the back. Approved unanimously.
- 5.10. **CORRESPONDENCE** The council **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** the following correspondence:
The Parish Councillors accepted all relevant correspondence has been forwarded via email to all members.
- 5.11. **Next Meeting** - the next meeting of the council is to be held in the **Soudley Village Hall** at 7.00pm **Tuesday, 14th June, 2022.** The agenda deadline is **Monday, 6th June, 2022.**
- 5.12. **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 7.45 p.m.

Signed: Chair. Dated:

APPENDIX

Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council

Planning Schedule for the February, 2022 meeting.

**Planning Reference
Site Address & Detail**

**Parish
Comment**

P0472/22/FUL

1A/1B Ruspidge Road, Ruspidge, Cinderford, Gloucestershire.
Erection of third storey extension to create a residential flat with associated works.

No Objection

P0444/22/FUL

13 Bells Place, Ruspidge, Cinderford, Gloucestershire.
Erection of a first floor balcony with associated works.

No Objection

Decisions notified by the Planning Authority

**Planning Reference
Site Address & Detail**

**Parish
Comment**

**District
Decision**

Date

P0134/22/FUL

46 Ruspidge Road, Ruspidge, Cinderford,
Gloucestershire.
Conversion of garage to provide dual use of annexe accommodation and holiday let.

No Obj

Consent

26/04/2022

District Councillor's Report.

Cllr. Nicky Packer

Report to Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council – May 2022

Full Council on 14th April

- A motion was passed seeking to amend Council policy in order to ban Sexual Entertainment venues in the Forest of Dean. Any public venue can hold up to 11 Sexual Entertainment events a year without a licence. Licensees would be encouraged to sign up to a voluntary scheme to notify the licensing department and the police of any such planned events.

The motion also encourages women to download the Gloucestershire Police 'Flare' app: <https://www.gloucestershire.police.uk/police-forces/gloucestershire-constabulary/areas/gloucestershire/services/flare-app/flare-app/>

A report will come to Full Council in future to amend the policy.

- Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

This will be marked by the Council by planting 7 Wild Cherry trees in the Cyril Hart Arboretum. There will also be 6 signs fixed to the railings at the entrance to the Council Offices to be in situ for the rest of the Platinum year.

The Union Jack Flag will be raised at the council offices on 2nd June and a proclamation will be made by the Chair of Council and local dignitaries will be invited.

A congratulatory message will be sent to HM the Queen on a scroll including an image of Speech House.

See the council website for the meeting documents:

<https://meetings.fdean.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=120&MId=4070&Ver=4>

Changing Places accessible toilets

These are larger accessible toilets for people who cannot use standard accessible toilets. They have equipment such as hoists, curtains, changing benches and space for carers. Forest of Dean District Council has been allocated £140,000 from the Government to install four fully accessible Changing Places toilet facilities in the district. The locations will be at Cinderford Town Council's Rheola House and former HSBC bank, at the Orchard Trust in Lydbrook and within the District Council's Community Sports Hub being planned at the Five Acres site.

Reducing Carbon Emissions

Grant funding has partly paid for the installation of cavity wall insulation of the Council Offices, as well as other measures previously reported to save money and reduce carbon emissions.

The Forest of Dean District Council's fuel poverty support service - Warm and Well - has taken first place in the Vulnerable Customer Support category at this year's West Midlands Energy Efficiency Awards while the Council has been commended for its investment in energy efficiency across the district.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Forest of Dean District Council will receive £1m, allocated over 3 years.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus/ukspf-allocations>

New Round of grants for business start ups

New businesses and social enterprises can apply for grants of up to £1,000. This round closes on 30th June, with further rounds later in the year.

<https://fdean.gov.uk/business-and-licensing/business-support-and-advice/finance-and-funding/>

New Community Speed Watch

I reported on this by email.

Town and Parish Council forum

I didn't attend this meeting, but I notice that an item on the agenda was inviting Covid safety related projects for town & village centres to use remaining Covid funding.

Nicky Packer 02/05/2022

Cllr. Bernie O'Neill

Report to Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council – May 2022

Forest Lodge. I have received some excellent work from Steve Hardcastle, Ton Matthews and Wendy James regarding this planning application, and in particular the notes from Steve have certainly put the cat amongst the pigeons. He has challenged a number of issues regarding the County Council's work with some very interesting results. I have taken this information up with our Planning Officer who has passed it on to the County Council, which has resulted in them having to do some reassessment and adjustment to their comments on the planning application. I attach the comments from Suzanne, the Officer, for the Council to have a view.

Steve has raised a number of concerns regarding the County's interpretation of their own policies and also the Public Right of Way. This has added to the ammunition for the Committee meeting which is likely to be June or July. The report has not been written yet.

Suzanne's response....

Good afternoon Cllr O'Neill

I hope all is well. Following our conversation, I advised Highways of the concerns raised following the submission of their consultation response. They have reviewed their position further, the correspondence is available on our website under the reference number.

Whilst in principle there is no objection to the access as such, it has been requested that the applicant review the levels changes for the access points to reduce the gradient. I have advised that I would not want to see levels changes elsewhere through the site. The agent has advised that this should be achievable, and I am expecting revised plans. As discussed, the footway running along the front of the site is not a designated public right of way and it is considered that conditions can be imposed to ensure that sufficient pedestrian visibility can be achieved.

Kind regards

Suzanne

Northern Quarter... The enquiry has not yet been completed, and it should have been on 25th April, but it didn't happen. This is very frustrating and will hold up any future prospect of something happening there. Contrary to some views there is interest in the site and I hope that things can happen fairly soon for the benefit of Cinderford's residents and the Forest.

Shared Prosperity fund. This is a follow up to the Levelling Up Fund and we are to receive £1 million over 3 years for revenue projects to enable us to add value to the LUF. It is based on 3 activities,... Communities and Place (Yr 1 +2)

Business Support (Yr 1 + 2)
People and Skills (Yr 3)

The funding is as follows Yr 1.....£119,468
Yr 2.....£238,936
Yr 3.....£641,596

Levelling Up Fund. 5 Acres ahead of schedule and going very well, Cinderford Town centre also on target and Hartpury as well

County Councillor's Report.

Cllr. Graham Morgan

Report to Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council – May 2022

Here is my County Councillors Report for both the Cinderford Annual Parish Meeting and also the May Meeting of Cinderford Town Council and Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council.

The year has seen many struggling organisations here in Cinderford & Ruspidge with the damage done by the Covid outbreaks and the very severe cost of living situation.

To this end the allocation of my Build Back Better Fund allocated to each Councillor is almost exhausted, the donations made have all been to very deserving causes in our area, I have listed these below.

Cinderford Area Neighbourhood initiative CANDI received £5000,00.

Cinderford Town Youth Football Club £13,000,00.

Cinderford AFC 10,000,00

The Forest of Dean Children's Opportunity Centre £1,700,00.

The Rewild Project £1,500,00.

Cinderford Town AFC £4,380,00.

Forest Sensory Services £1,000,00.

Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council £500,00.

The Forest of Dean Children's Opportunity Centre £1,800,00.

St Whites Primary School £360,00.

This makes a grand total of £39,240,00 spent to the Benefit of local organisations serving Cinderford & Ruspidge which I have had the Great pleasure in providing, there is still £760,00 unspent because of the closure of The Forest Meals Service.

We have restarted the Forest of Dean Road Safety Committee after a very tragic road traffic accident in the Coleford area in which a young Mum lost her life.

I have been working to get local roads resurfaced in our area and we are making some progress, and better signage in Cinderford High Street, I am also working on trying to get another street lamp in

Greenway Road, and have been engaged in parking issues in Market Street, and Church Road Cinderford, also St Whites Road and Ruspidge Road in Ruspidge Parish.

Very Best Wishes Graham Morgan.

Cllr G Morgan

If you are contacting me as a local constituent please be aware I may need to share your personal information when contacting County Council Officers or other agencies relevant to your query. For more information on how I and the County Council use personal data visit www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/privacynotices.

County Councillor's Report to Blakeney and Bream Division's Parish Council's AGMs.

Cllr. Beki Hoyland

It is just a year since I was elected to represent you at Gloucestershire County Council. I have been on a steep learning curve and enjoyed the challenge and the opportunities it has given me to get to know Blakeney and Bream Division from new and more in depth perspectives. I am so impressed by all that so many people do for their communities, so many people work so hard to make our community stronger, more inclusive and do what can be done at the local level to tackle the climate emergency.

There are four Green County Councillors so we have a proportional share of the Scrutiny Committees that we sit on between us. I sit on the Children and Families, the Commons and Rights of Way Committee and the Equalities working Group. If anyone has questions on this or would like me to take questions from you to them or any of the other Scrutiny Committees I would be more than happy to be contacted.

We also have the opportunity to speak to Council Officers and to ask questions at Full Council which happens six times a year. We have asked many questions across all areas of the County responsibilities. At the Budget meeting in January we were able to make amendments that saw funding for a biodiversity officer and the development of Gloucestershire's first "tip shop" where materials brought to a household recycling centre will be diverted into reuse, helping to building a circular economy and divert material from the incinerator.

Apart form my work in Gloucester on the Council there has been the opportunity to give funding to local initiatives from a councillor fund. Here is a list of some of the initiatives that I have been in touch with working in Blakeney and Bream Division. It really has been an honour to be shown how hard these groups work and how they all provide something that the community needs and benefits from.

- Bream: Cricket and Rugby clubs and Canopy Arts Jab
- Parkend: Fighting Fit and Community Garden
- Blakeney: Playground and wild flowers
- Soudley: Dean Heritage Centre and Hod Boy
- Yorkley: Community Garden
- Pillowell: Onward Hall
- Newnham: Playground
- Littledean: Community Centre

- Viney Hill: Christian Adventure Centre
- General:
- Fruit tree mapping,
- Forest mobile meals,
- PSHE materials in all seven Primary Schools,
- Training in home insulation.

The Fund is now more or less allocated but if any other funding opportunities come along I will make sure that we get the most out of it.

I have worked with the PROW (Public Rights of Way) team. They are passionate about keeping our footpaths as accessible as possible and I have been able to make sure that they get some funding that has enabled them to work on the Severn Way on our side of the river, they have mended steps and styles and some of the foot bridges that needed some TLC. They have cut and strimmed so now a walk from Newnham to Purton along the river is a joy, taking in the loop around Awre and up and down the cliffs of Gatcombe. We will be promoting this more widely once some more work has been done over the summer. Other footpaths in the division have also been looked after and if there are any issues with your local footpath do please tell me so I can ask the PROW team to look into it.

I have also been working with the Highways team. They are always trying to catch up with what the weather inflicts on our roads and with our climate becoming more extreme and unpredictable their job is only getting harder.

Speeding is always an issue: where people live cars should not be moving at speeds above 20 miles per hour; this is the speed at which, not only is death and serious injury less likely in the event of an accident, it also means that people feel safer using their local roads and pavements for cycling and walking. Walking to school should not feel too dangerous an activity to expect families to do!

We all need to be aware of each other's communities when we drive through them. I will continue to work with the speed watch team, community groups and Parish Councils that want to help to reduce speeds. I backed a motion that is currently being scrutinised that would enable communities to decide that they would like a 20 mile an hour speed limit in their residential area.

In particular I am waiting for Highways to put some traffic calming measures at the Viney Hill junction on the A48 so that traffic speeds become within the tolerance of the police data so that they will support a reduction of the limit from 70mph to 50mph over the crest of the hill and down into the village.

I was very disappointed that Gloucestershire's bid for money to improve our bus service failed due to lack of ambition! I will be asking questions about how we can increase the ambition of the County Council so that we can provide alternatives to private cars that are reliable and affordable. There is however an on demand minibus service designed to compliment the existing stagecoach services being trailed in the south of the Forest that was due to start this spring. that I will be promoting it and making sure that people know about it and how to use it. I look forward to being able give more details on this soon!

I have been attending the vast majority of all five Parish Council meetings and have become an Awre Parish Councillor. This gives me a better understanding of issues in the villages that I can help with and means I feed back to the Parish Councils on a regular basis.

I have become a mentor for Breathe, an organisation based in Bream who are referred young people by Social Services and schools that may benefit from an adult they can trust and build a relationship with outside their normal day to day life, the aim is to help them with negotiating the ups and downs of being a young person in these challenging times. This helps me triangulate my understanding of the Children and Families Scrutiny Committee as well as being rewarding and in high demand. My work with Bream and Parkend Schools working with children in the school garden has also been part of deepening my understanding of the life of today's young children in Blakeney and Bream Division. Blakeney and Bream have had several families that have opened their homes to Ukrainian refugees, I have been able to support one such family by helping their guests get school places and work opportunities as well as inviting them to community activities. The generosity of the people that have opened their homes is incredible and they are taking on a

lot of work that we can all help with by welcoming Refugees from all countries into our social lives and community activities.

I am more than happy to be contacted if you have any questions on this report or if I can represent you in some way at the County Council.

Beki Hoyland

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