

# Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council

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## **MINUTES of the MEETING** **held on the Tuesday 14th June, 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,  
Helen Medcraft, Bernadette Wood.

### **County Councillors Present:**

Cllr. Beki Hoyland.

### **District Councillors Present:**

No District Councillors Present.

**The Clerk** – Roland Dowding.

### **Public Present:**

Bridget Tanner, Adam Taylor,  
Adrian Peacey.

### **Apologies:**

Cllrs. Nicky Packer,  
Bernie O'Neill, Graham Morgan.

### **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. Wood.

### **Public Participation**

**Bridget Tanner.** Objection to the placement of both, “30 is plenty” & “20 is plenty” signs around Sneyd Wood estate.

Would like to see the signs removed and replaced with one sign at the entrance to Sneyd Wood estate.

**Adam Taylor.** Would like to have a TRO (traffic regulation order) in place on Sneyd Wood Rd and a 20mph speed limit. He asked for the support of the Parish Council. The Parish Council agreed to support Adam Taylor’s proposal.

Cllr. Hoyland suggested Mr Taylor conduct a petition to establish support for his proposals and submit said petition to County Council, via Cllr. Morgan.

**Adrian Peacey.** Concerns with the Blue Rock Trail, issues with mud obstructing accessibility along the Blue Rock Trail. Damage to the surrounding walls and stone being removed. Concerns for the safety of cyclists & the public using the Trail due to the new gullies. The Parish Council members will investigate further by walking the trail.

### **RUSPIDGE WELFARE TRUST**

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

6.1. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

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

- 6.2. No declaration of personal or prejudicial interest declared.
- 6.3. **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.
- 6.4. **MATTERS ARISING** – The Clerk (Roland Dowding) noted that both Roger Jackson & Steve Wood had accepted the positions of Snow Wardens for the Parish. No other Matters Arising were reported.

6.5 **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

*Report attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.*

6.6. **COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

*Reports attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.*

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

**FINANCIAL MATTERS**

- 6.8. Following report by the Treasurer the council **APPROVED** the accounts presented for payment totalling **£13,924.50**, this figure being inclusive of confidential expenditure.
- 6.9. **INTERNAL AUDIT** - Parish Council members acknowledged and noted receipt of the signed statement from Mrs Fowler Internal Auditor, for accounts year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

**ANNUAL GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN 2021/22**

- 6.10. **AGAR COMPLIANCE** - Section one, assertions two & six.  
Members noted and were satisfied that consideration of the Internal Audit arrangements took place when adopting the Financial Regulations and Risk Assessment at January's Meeting 2022.
- 6.11. **AGAR SECTION ONE** – The Parish Council approved by unanimous resolution, the Audit Annual Return, Section 1, Annual Governance Statement 2021/22 and the Chairman & Clerk duly signed the document in presence of full Council.
- 6.12. **AGAR SECTION TWO.** - The Parish Council approved by unanimous resolution, Section 2, Accounting Statements 2021/22. Signed and dated by the Clerk before submitting to Council for approval (as per audit regulations). Section 2 duly signed by the Chairman in presence of full Council.
- 6.13. **EXERCISE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS** - Members noted the public rights inspection of the Councils accounts to be the 16th June to 27th July inclusive.
- 6.14. **SNEYD WOOD RD** - Speed Survey vote.  
Members voted unanimously **YES** for the Speed Survey.
- 6.15. **SOUDLEY VILLAGE HALL ROOF**  
Cllr. Mark Ogden will investigate further quotes for Soudley Village Hall's roof repair's and also to advise the Village Hall committee of potential grants that might be available. The Parish Council will consider awarding a grant. To be discussed at a later Council meeting.
- 6.16. **SOUDLEY VILLAGE HALL GRANT**  
The Parish Council declined to award a grant for a skip but will fund a suitable contractor with a removal van to clear Soudley recreation ground of the assorted junk that is obscuring the grounds.

- 6.17. **FOOTPATH SOUDLEY.** Footpath maintenance, Soudley (by abandoned house).  
The Parish Council have agreed to consult with Highways Agency and investigate clearing said footpath, possibly using the Lengthsman scheme.
- 6.18. **CCTV SIGN & STRONG WARNING OF PROSECUTION.** For the parks and Football field.  
The Parish Council unanimously agreed to the purchase and installation of said signage.
- 6.19. **CORRESPONDENCE** The council **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** the following correspondence:  
The Parish Councillors accepted all relevant correspondence has been forwarded via email to all members.
- 6.20. **Next Meeting** - the next meeting of the council is to be held in the **Ruspidge Memorial Hall** at 7.00pm **Tuesday, 12th July, 2022.** The agenda deadline is **Monday, 4th July, 2022.**
- 6.21. **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 8.25 p.m.

Signed: ..... Chair.      Dated: .....

# APPENDIX

## Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council

### Planning Schedule for the June, 2022 meeting.

**Planning Reference  
Site Address & Detail**

**Parish  
Comment**

**P0530/22/FUL**

Land Adjoining, Dene Vista, Ruspidge Road, Ruspidge.  
Erection of a dwelling with new vehicular access and associated works.  
Erection of garage to serve existing dwelling.

**No Objection**

**P0051/22/DISCON**

Sunnyville , Tramway Road, Ruspidge, Gloucestershire.  
Discharge of condition 04 (Surface Water Drainage Scheme)  
relating to planning permission

**Object to  
discontinuation of  
condition on the basis  
of ground water  
vulnerability.**

### Decisions notified by the Planning Authority

**Planning Reference  
Site Address & Detail**

**Parish  
Comment**

**District  
Decision**

**Date**

**P0444/22/FUL**

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

**No Obj**

**Consent**

**10/06/2022**

# District Councillor's Report.

**Cllr. Nicky Packer**

*Report to Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council – June 2022*

## **Forest Mobile Meals**

As you may know, sadly Forest Mobile Meals has ceased operating. When Age Concern ceased trading in 2020, the District Council transferred funding, premises and support to Forest Mobile Meals. Since then, the council has tried to be supportive of Forest Mobile Meals both as a funder and a landlord. The council is continuing to work with the directors of Forest Mobile Meals to look at possible options.

## **UK Shared Prosperity Fund**

Forest of Dean District Council has been allocated £1m SPF to spend from April 2022 through to March 2025. This is mainly revenue funding split over the 3 years.

The Department for Levelling Up Housing & Communities (DLUHC) is overseeing the Fund. There are three themes:

- Communities and Place
- Business Support
- People and Skills

The primary goal of the SPF is to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK, through the support of high-quality skills training, improving pay, supporting employment and productivity growth.

**Work is underway to prepare an Investment Plan for submission to Government. At the Forest Economic Partnership Stakeholder Meeting on 10 June, the FEP will be facilitating discussion on the Investment plan along with giving update on their own projects.**

To register to attend the meeting:

[https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/forest-economic-partnership-stakeholder-meeting-tickets-337133012917?utm\\_source=eventbrite&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=reminder\\_attendees\\_48hour\\_email&utm\\_term=eventname&ref=eemaileventremind](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/forest-economic-partnership-stakeholder-meeting-tickets-337133012917?utm_source=eventbrite&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=reminder_attendees_48hour_email&utm_term=eventname&ref=eemaileventremind)

## **Community Speedwatch Safety Fund**

The £600,000 Community Speedwatch Safety Fund is designed to give communities the tools they need to combat speeding in their areas. Applications for Tranche 1 of the fund must be submitted by 31st August 2022.

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/your-community/the-community-speedwatch-fund/>

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/your-community/the-community-speedwatch-fund/application-criteria-and-guidance/>

## **Full Council on 19<sup>th</sup> May**

The political group composition of the District Council has changed again. The Cabinet composition is the same and there are still 4 political parties (Green, Conservative, Labour & Lib Dem, in order of number of members of each group), but there are now 4 independent groups instead of 3 and independent members now make up more than half of the Council.

Cllr Di Martin was appointed as Domestic Abuse Champion.

The Cabinet recently approved an increase in resources to the Council Estates Management team. This has enabled a thorough review of all the Council's assets. Until this was carried out, it wasn't clear exactly what the council owned. This work has brought to light that two of the Council's assets have been neglected for decades and need repairs. Although disappointing in the current tightened financial climate that council reserves are to be used on assets that don't generate any income, the council must act responsibly. The two assets are:

1) Bridge at Newland Street, Coleford. It was acquired in 1973 by West Dean Rural District Council from the British Railways Board and thereafter inherited by Forest of Dean District Council at its inception in 1974. Council has approved that the bridge is repaired and £126,000 in capital funding has been allocated (£105,000 plus £21,000 contingency). The bridge is currently a health and safety liability. Demolition would be more expensive than repair. In any case the bridge is attractive, part of the heritage of Coleford and it is hoped in future to use it as part of a footpath or cycleway. It abuts the car park of the Council offices.

<https://meetings.fdean.gov.uk/documents/s30496/Council%20Report-%20Newland%20Street%20Bridge.pdf>

2) Repairs to Mead Lane, Lydney. Forest of Dean District Council inherited this road when the Rural District Councils merged in 1974. The businesses served by the road have no responsibility for upkeep, which unfortunately lies solely with the Council, and it is reasonable to say that the Council has a duty towards the businesses to provide adequate access. Costs to bring the roadway up to an adoptable standard, provided by Gloucestershire County Council Highways, are in the region of £1.9 million, so that isn't an option. Temporary repairs to the areas of the road of most concern have been carried out but to continue patch repairing or just to replace the surface coat of the road would be costly in the long term as they don't last. Therefore, full resurfacing is the most cost-effective solution, as it should last for 30-35 years. For the full resurfacing, £100,000 in capital funding is allocated (£70,000 plus £30,000 contingency)

<https://meetings.fdean.gov.uk/documents/s30497/Council%20report%20-%20Mead%20Lane%20Lydney.pdf>

#### Council Tax Rebate & Financial support scheme

Eligible residents should now have received their £150 council tax rebate. The criteria for paying the rebate were set by the Government. The Council has opened applications for a scheme to provide financial support to those most in need who were not eligible for the recent rebate. **The application process will be open until 14 June 2022.** It includes:

- People living in properties banded E-H who are on low income or don't pay council tax due to caring or health reasons
- People on low income who pay energy bills but not the council tax
- People living in houses of multiple occupancy and on low income
- People living in emergency or supported accommodation

Full criteria are available on the council's website along with a form to apply for the support.

**More information on the rebate can be found on the council website at [fdean.gov.uk/150rebate](https://fdean.gov.uk/150rebate)**

#### Review of Residential Design Guide & Emerging Local Plan

The design guide will make it easier for the Council to assess whether the design of new homes meets the standards residents expect from developments in their area and enables the Council to reject planning applications that don't meet these design guidelines. To learn more and get involved, people can go to: <https://fodresidentialdesignguide.online>

The Council website also includes updated web pages where residents can find out more about what a Local Plan is, why the Council has to produce a plan and how they can be involved. This can be found here: <https://www.fdean.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/our-current-local-plan/local-plan/>

A revised 'Strategic Option' for the emerging Local Plan is likely to be put to Full Council in July. If supported, a public consultation will immediately follow. This revised Strategic Option would replace the 'New Settlement' option that was consulted on over a year ago.

### Polling stations review

Views are invited of current polling districts, places and stations in the district as part of a new compulsory review that will run from 23 May 2022 until 4 July 2022. Polling stations across the district will be evaluated to ensure they are accessible for all, both accessible to electors with disabilities and that they are within reasonable walking distance for most electors.

For more information and to view an interactive map of current polling districts and polling stations: <https://fdean.gov.uk/about-the-council/elections-and-voting/polling-districts-and-places/>.

Residents are invited to submit their comments on current polling districts, places or stations:

Online form: <https://fdean.gov.uk/about-the-council/elections-and-voting/polling-districts-and-places/>

### Biosphere Reserve consultation

Forest of Dean District Council has approved recommendations to progress with the next phase of considering the Forest of Dean as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. The decision comes after a public survey found that more than 90% of residents said that the three main aims of biospheres are important to them; conservation, a sustainable economy and promoting learning and education about the local environment. The survey received 602 responses.

The nomination process to become a Biosphere Reserve should take between 18 and 24 months to complete.

In a District Council cabinet meeting on 12th May it was agreed that a new project team would be set up to coordinate further work on considering the Forest of Dean as a Biosphere Reserve. This team would include the council's Local Plan, Sustainability and Regeneration officers, along with external partners such as Hartpury University & College and the Forest Economic Partnership. The next phase would include further consultation and evaluation into the prospect of becoming a Biosphere Reserve and increasing understanding of what this could mean for Forest of Dean residents and businesses.

Residents will have the opportunity to share their thoughts, support and concerns for the prospect of a Biosphere Reserve in the Forest of Dean by attending local plan forums. Dates and details of the first forums will be announced shortly.

To view the full report of the survey, visit: <https://fep2050.co.uk/assets/Papers/The-Forest-We-Want-Report-1.pdf>

### Our Forest in Future

'Our Forest' is the new organisation set up as the sequel for Foresters' Forest, partly to support the 26 projects that will continue to work on our natural, built and cultural heritage and partly to protect Our Forest from any future issues.

The first 'Our Forest in Future' event is on Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> July at Whitemead 10.00am – 2.30pm. Please follow this link to find out more and book your place: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/our-forest-in-future-tickets-358494686257>

### 2 Vacancies for 'Independent Person'

FoDDC are looking for people with political awareness but without political affiliations, with a keen interest in local governance and a commitment to high standards and ethics in public life, to act as an Independent Person to assist our Monitoring Officer and Standards Panel. **Closing Date: 22 June 2022.**

For more information or to apply see: <https://www.fdean.gov.uk/vacancy-independentperson>

Five Acres

Demolition of the old buildings is nearing completion, however, additional asbestos was found at the site and is being removed safely, which has delayed progress slightly.

*Nicky Packer 08/06/2022*

**Cllr. Bernie O'Neill**

*Report to Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council – June 2022*

I am very grateful to Steve Hardcastle, Tony Matthews and Wendy for the information I have received, and continue to do so, regarding the Planning Application at Forest Lodge. Steve in particular has worked incredibly hard in producing diagrams and mock ups showing the plans with angle of dip etc., off Buckshaft and so on. Superb effort.

I have now received so much information regarding this application that I need to sift through to make a number of relevant points to committee in 3 minutes!! Residents are also able to speak and I would hope that perhaps Steve or Tony would be able to do so, and that is 3 minutes also!

Shared Prosperity Fund. This we have been allocated £1million over 3 years

£119,468 in year
£238,936 in year 2
£641,595 in year 3

This is not Capital expenditure but Revenue only, so we are now assessing bids for this and we have to report to Cabinet and then the submission has to be made to Govt by 1st August. Again, a very tight schedule.

Cabinet members are doing the Assessments on June 22nd and 23rd to then report to Council prior to the submission.

I am taking the lead role in Cabinet under my Portfolio of Economy.

Planning Applications are still coming in.



# County Councillor's Report.

## **Cllr. Graham Morgan**

*Report to Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council – June 2022*

We are continuing to make some progress with regard to the resurfacing work on local roads, with the very poor section of Ruspidge Road below the Rising Sun at long last being completed. we are also having Belle Vue Road resurfaced from the mini roundabout by the Fern Ticket up and down to Sawneys Lookout and its junction with St Whites Road, and I just hope the culvert that seems to be causing problems down Belle Vue Road has been inspected by Severn Trent and is not going to cause this new surface to be ripped up for repairs to this culvert after resurfacing, I have for the third time raised this issue with Glos Highways at Cannop.

We are also going to see the long awaited resurface of Edge Hills Road in Hilldene Cinderford, and I am pleased that Haywood Road has now been resurfaced up to its junction with Causeway Road. We are holding another meeting of the Forest of Dean Road Safety's on Wednesday of this week at Coleford Fire Station, and I have been in touch with councillor Dave Norman Cabinet Member for Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue Service and he has arranged for the local Fire Officer to inspect the parking issues at Meendhurst Road with regard to Fire Service access and will report his findings back to Cinderford Town Council.

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](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/privacynotices).

## **Cllr. Beki Hoyland.**

*Report to Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council – June 2022*

Funding Opportunity

Gloucestershire County Council digital innovation fund is now open to applicants, they are particularly looking for applications from around this area!

Further information on this grant, including access to application forms, can be found at: [www.yourcircle.org.uk/Information/Digital-Innovation-Fund](http://www.yourcircle.org.uk/Information/Digital-Innovation-Fund). Successful applications will demonstrate that they can target the following groups with the funding provided:

- Older people
- Disabled people of all ages
- Informal, non-paid carers
- Refugees
- People on low incomes

Unpaid Careers

The first week of June is Careers week, The theme for this year's Carers Week is 'Make caring visible, valued and supported.' The council and its health partners want to raise awareness of caring, the amazing work carers do to look after some of our county's most vulnerable people and highlight the support available for unpaid carers. There are over 63,000 unpaid carers in Gloucestershire, 1 in 10 people are carers, and 1 in 7 juggle caring responsibilities with work. Most people probably have

at least one carer living in their street, but they may not know. There is support available all year round that can be found here: [Home - Gloucestershire Carers Hub](#).

## Cycling Survey

As Part of the strategy to promote cycling and active travel the council is asking cyclists across the county to help improve bike infrastructure by taking part in a survey that includes playing a mobile game that offers cash rewards. The survey will start at 10am on Saturday, 11 June until 9pm on Sunday, 12 June and anyone with a smartphone, bike and phone holder can take part.

The Crowdsorsa (*yes that is the right spelling, you have to search the play store for it*) mobile game can now be downloaded for free from the App Store and Google Play. Within the app, there is a mission created for the Gloucestershire survey, which also features instructions for users. (*not sure the app is working but I will keep trying and feed back if and when it happens*)

## Roads

Attached here is the latest news letter from the contractors working on the land slide on New Road Blakeney, They are still on track for this to open again in August.



The Women's Cycling tour coming through the Forest of Dean has meant that some road works have been delayed and other areas have been brought forward. Please check here for up to date information: [Roadworks - Highways \(gloucestershire.gov.uk\)](http://gloucestershire.gov.uk) make sure you set the time you are interested in, it is set for one day by default but you can see up to a year in advance.

Gigaclear is working around the area through till the end of the year with Street works team trying to coordinate any issues around other road works/ clashes etc so if you know of any please let them know or tell me and I will make sure they have heard about the local issues.

As part of this year's Highways Local funding, I have requested several weeks worth of lengths men that can be called on to do minor works to roads such as blocked drains and clearing pavements. If there are issues in your parish where this would be useful do let me know and I will ask for the team to deal with it. The rest of the money will be directed to maintaining pavements, safety issues that come up and some towards TPOs. I have also requested that the underfunded footpaths officer has some so do please let me know if there are public footpaths that need maintenance in your parish.

## Ukrainian Refugees

There are many families that have opened their homes to Ukrainian refugees. This is a lot of work and I would like to express my thanks to them and to make sure that they have the support that they need. I know that Dean Academy has been very welcoming to the Children that have started there. There is an established link to GCC that I ma sure most families have now but if I can help with issues then do let me know.

The next full council meeting is in early July if there are any issues you would like me to raise there.

As ever I can be contacted on [beki.hoyland @gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:beki.hoyland@gloucestershire.gov.uk) or 07815660013.