

MINUTES of the MEETING of RUSPIDGE and SOUDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

held in the Ruspidge Hall on the 11th August, 2015

(These Minutes are subject to approval at the next Council Meeting)

Parish Councillors Present:

J. Stanford, Chairman
Cllrs. Mrs. B. Hedges, S. Phelps,
C. Hawkins, B. Acland, C. Richardson,
T. Matthews & N. Bowes.

The Clerk - Mrs. Helen Hook.

Public:

Three members of the public were present.

County Councillor Present:

R. Leppington & G. Morgan.

District Councillor Present:

No ward cllr. present.

Apologies:

Cllrs. Rhodes and O'Neill.

<u>Standing Declarations of Interest</u>	<u>Dispensation</u>
(a) Dean Heritage Museum Trust - Insignificant personal interest by Cllr. Phelps.	Granted to Cllr. Hawkins for matters relating to Soudley Village Hall - for use only if Cllr. Hawkins is required to make up the quorum numbers. The dispensation expires 4 th September, 2015.
(b) Soudley Village Hall Committee - Insignificant personal interest by Cllr. Hawkins and Cllr. Stanford.	
(c) Great Oaks Hospice - Insignificant personal interest by Cllr. Hawkins.	

Public Participation

1. Speeding Buckshaft Road - A request was received for 30mph signs at the far end of Buckshaft. The Clerk will liaise with Highways.
2. Buckshaft Road parking - There is still a problem with cars being parked on the pavement and blocking the junction. Mr. Annis advised that Two Rivers Housing are meeting with him to discuss possible solutions.
3. Hudsons Lane, bollards - Residents having heard that bollards are being installed at the top end of Hudsons Lane, were concerned that, should Buckshaft Road ever be cordoned/blocked off, there would be no alternative driving route. The Council was not aware of any such works but the Clerk will investigate further.
4. Ruspidge Memorial Hall - Dry rot has again be found within the building. Quotes have been obtained but the hall, having limited funds, wanted to seek the advice of the council to if would/could help. The hall committee manage the day to day running of the hall but estimate a loss of £1,000 per year with user groups folding and the lack of car parking space available. Council suggested the hall committee arrange a Feasibility Study of the building of which the council would fund. Members' to discuss this further under the relevant agenda item. See minute 8.10.

Council were advised that the hall committee is in desperate need of committee members and users. It suggested that the committee should announce to the community, via the media, the dire situation the hall is in and the very likelihood that it will have to close.

RUSPIDGE WELFARE TRUST

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

1. Members were advised that the Parish Council Insurers (Zurich) have included the RWT within the PC policy at a cost of £53.
This was approved by JS/CFH and thereby superseded the original approval of payment.

8. **MINUTES** - The Minutes of the Council meeting held on the 14th July, 2015 were **ACCEPTED** as a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

8.1 **MATTERS ARISING** from the Minutes.

Tim Harris, St. Cleaner - Tim offered to take any interested cllrs on a tour of duty and will attend the September meeting to be introduced to the new council. Cllr. Phelps volunteered to do the tour.

Japanese Knotweed - Highways have actioned and is awaiting confirmation of timescale.

Dog Fouling, Coombe Drive - A pavement stencil has been painted and the street warden is to speak to the main offender. The street warden will monitor the situation - the council will then determine if a bin will solve the problem.

Highways meeting, August - The Clerk will forward the notes.

Soudley Highway markings - Brian Watkins advised that these should be completed by the end of September.

Ruspidge Fish and Chip Shop, parking - Whilst attending a planning seminar the chairman suggested that more consideration should be given to similar applications where parking could be a concern.

8.2 **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT**

by Cllr. Leppington in the absence of a ward representative.

- ♦ Boar - Kevin Stannard, Deputy Surveyor, Forestry Commission advised that 361 boar have been culled (including road accidents). The latest boar count shows 1,000 in the Forest of Dean with the ideal number being 400.
- ♦ Waste & Street Cleaning - Joint Waste Management will be putting out to consultation when BIFFA contract ends.
- ♦ 5 x Leisure Centres are being taken over by Freedom Leisure in October.
- ♦ Sheep - The Scrutiny Committee are looking into the issue of free roaming sheep.

8.3 **COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

Cllr. Morgan:

- ♦ Railway Road, Ruspidge - drains and resurfacing completed.
- ♦ Football Field - raised kerbing completed.

Cllr. Leppington:

- ♦ Devolution GCC Statement of Intent.
Bill of Devolution for GCC to have more power.
- ♦ Highways Contract - displeasure voiced. Document to be fwded to pcs.
- ♦ Child sexual Exploitation - document to be fwded to pcs.
- ♦ Lengthsman Scheme - time sheet showing typical jobs to be fwded to pcs.
Scheme has to be justified - GCC will appraise at the financial year end.

8.4 **PLANNING** – Completed Schedule attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.

8.5 **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

Following report by the Treasurer the Council **APPROVED** the accounts presented for payment totalling £4,159.75, this figure being inclusive of the expenditure recorded under confidential business.

8.6 The External Auditor's report was read by the Clerk and noted by Members'. The Clerk, as the Responsible Financial Officer, therefore, reported the successful conclusion to the external audit for the year ending 31st March, 2015. A public notice has been displayed confirming closure of the audit.

8.7 Business Debit Card and payment by bank transfers - Council unanimously **APPROVED** the provision of a Debit Card for the Clerk to use for council use only and **RESOLVED** that monthly payments can be made by bank transfer.

- 8.8 Soudley Football Club/Soudley Village Field - The football club requested the annual grant towards grass cutting of the field. Council **APPROVED** a grant of £600 which will be paid directly to the Soudley Village Hall, who will then recompense the football club.
- 8.9 Gloucestershire Archives - Council unanimously **DECLINED** the request for funding towards a specialised strong room for storing archived records.
- 8.10 Ruspidge Memorial Hall, Dry Rot - Council **DETERMINED** that, upon the receipt of three quotes, it would fund a complete building survey of the hall. In light of the urgent nature councillors **RESOLVED** to grant their **APPROVAL by email** rather than wait for the next parish meeting. Council suggested that following the survey report the RMH put the work out to tender. Council further **DETERMINED** that it would not want to take over the management of the hall.
- 8.11 Defibrillators - Council considered and discussed the installation of a defibrillator in each of the villages. Members' were advised that the FODDC has part funding of £500 available to successful applicants towards the installation of public access defibrillators (PADs) and secure cabinets. Only one application per parish will be accepted. Council **RESOLVED** to apply for the grant. It was noted that a defibrillator is installed on the outside of the Two Rivers Housing Community Centre at Coombe Drive. The clerk will check with 2RH that it is for public use.
- 8.12 Armed Forces Covenant - The document will be re-circulated for members consideration.
- 8.13 Football Field - Members' were advised that there is drainage in the goal areas but more grass establishment is required. Sand slitting will be carried out shortly and both the groundsman and the contractor agree that the football pitch will benefit from being used and should be playable by early October. The Ruspidge United Football Club have been advised and will play their August and September matches at Lakers, returning in October to complete the 2015/16 season.

CORRESPONDENCE

- 8.14 The Council **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** the following correspondence:
- a) St. John's Church - 'Thank you' for the grant.
 - b) GRCC - Probably no suitable exception site.
 - c) GCC - Local Transport Plan Report link - fwded.
 - d) GCC Archaeology Service - Commended the pc website and agreed use of © for the website.
 - e) Mr. S. Williams - Speeding Ruspidge Road.
- 8.15 **Next Meeting** - The next meeting of the Council is to be held in the **Soudley Hall** at 7.00pm **Tuesday, 8th September, 2015.**
The agenda deadline is Monday, 31st August, 2015.
- 8.16 **Exclusion of the Press and the Public** - The Council **RESOLVED** that in view of the confidential nature of the remaining business the press and the public should be excluded from the meeting in accordance with Standing Order (2013) No. 55.

Signed: Chair. Dated:

Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council

GREEN

Planning Schedule for the meeting on 11th August, 2015.

Planning Reference
Site Address & Detail

Parish
Comment

P1011/15/PQ3PA

No obj. Obs.

St Whites Farm, St Whites Road, Cinderford, Gloucestershire.

Prior notification for the conversion of three barns, A, B, C.

All forming part of the original farmstead.

(Barn A being a Dutch Barn, Barn B a general purpose building and Barn C a former store stable)

Decisions notified by the Planning Authority

Planning Reference
Site Address & Detail

Parish
Comment

District
Decision

Signed: Dated: