

## **MINUTES of the MEETING of RUSPIDGE and SOUDLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**held in the Ruspidge Hall on the 13th October, 2015**

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

### Parish Councillors Present:

J. Stanford, Chairman  
Cllrs. S. Phelps, B. Acland,  
C. Richardson.

The Clerk - Mrs. Helen Hook.

### Public:

Three members of the public were present.

### County Councillor Present:

R. Leppington.

### District Councillor Present:

No ward cllr. present.

### Apologies:

Cllrs. Hawkins, Rhodes, Hedges, Matthews,  
Bowes, O'Neill & Morgan.

### **Standing Declarations of Interest**

- (a) Dean Heritage Museum Trust - Insignificant personal interest by Cllr. Phelps.
- (b) Soudley Village Hall Committee - Insignificant personal interest by Cllrs. Hawkins & Stanford.
- (c) Great Oaks Hospice - Insignificant personal interest by Cllr. Hawkins.
- (d) Ruspidge Memorial Hall - Insignificant personal interest by Cllr. Bowes.

## **RUSPIDGE WELFARE TRUST**

1. The request to use the football ground for training birds of prey was withdrawn.

### **Public Participation**

1. Ruspidge Memorial Hall - The Hall Chairman advised that six Chartered Surveyors had been contacted with only three showing an interest. Two of which were unsuitable and/or unable to carry out the full comprehensive survey. The Council **RESOLVED** that under these circumstances it would suspend the need for three tenders as per Standing Order/Works Order No.3 and unanimously **AGREED** to fund the survey to a maximum of £1,000 + VAT.
2. Top Road, Soudley, Planning application - Ms. Geoghegan raised concerns that the site was outside the defined settlement boundary; there are no services; no village shops; poor public transport service; no amenities. She advised that a petition has been submitted to the planning department stating the concerns of residents and listing extracts from the National Planning Policy Framework 2012 and the FODDC Core Strategy (Development Plan). Council noted her comments and will discuss later under the relevant agenda item.

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10. **MINUTES** - The Minutes of the Council meeting held on the 8th September, 2015 were **ACCEPTED** as a true record, following approved amendment as below, and were signed by the Chairman. The minutes on the council website have been amended accordingly.

Armed Forces Covenant - The majority of the Parish Council supported the covenant, however, Cllrs. Phelps, Rhodes and Matthews wished to record that they do not unconditionally support the Armed Forces in all their activities but would support anybody returning injured and/or damaged.

- 10.1 **MATTERS ARISING** from the Minutes.

Leylandii, Ruspidge Industrial Estate - The owner is awaiting a quote which will determine if the trees are to be cut down or trimmed.

Highways Invoices - Still unpaid. Notify Cllr. Leppington if not paid by the end of October.

Defibrillator - Council **DETERMINED** that two defibrillators be purchased and training be offered.

Speeding - Cllr. Leppington reported on the speed surveys undertaken in September. Council **APPROVED** the bulk purchase of 500 x 30 mph wheelie bin stickers.

10.2 **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT** - there was no ward councillor present.

10.3 **COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

- ◆ Social care - increasing demand (statutory services) - budget cuts.
- ◆ Refugees - Gloucestershire apportioned 200 from the Syrian conflict. Unaccompanied children are to be placed within their cultural communities. If there is no such community locally (eg. Muslim) they will be placed outside the area (Bristol/Birmingham), at Gloucestershire's expense. Central Government will fund the first year, thereafter by the local tax payer.
- ◆ Fracking - Cllr. Leppington is concerned at the possible issuing of licences in the Forest of Dean, given the geology of its terrain. (See minute 10.11 for parish comments.)
- ◆ Forest Road Safety Group - task to get 40 mph throughout the Forest of Dean, outside of villages. To be put to Glos. County Council for approval, upon which will then motion for MP to lobby Government.

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

**FINANCIAL MATTERS**

10.5 Speed Gun - Council **APPROVED** payment to Cllr. Hawkins as per minute 9.13 (September minutes).

10.6 Following report by the Treasurer the Council **APPROVED** the accounts presented for payment totalling £6,036.72, this figure being inclusive of the expenditure recorded under confidential business.

10.7 Income & Expenditure Sheets - Members' received the half yearly sheets.

10.8 Co-operative Fixed Rate Deposit - Council **RESOLVED** to re-invest for 12 months.

10.9 Grant Request - Council **APPROVED** a grant of £75 to the Royal British Legion, for 2 x wreaths for Remembrance Day.

10.10 Cullimore Bridge - Council **DETERMINED** that hi-viz paint be used for the wood frame only, the concrete base be wire cleaned and the clean stones refilled as necessary.

10.11 Fracking - Cllr. Phelps led the discussion asking that council conclude its views on the proposal that licences be issued for fracking in the Forest of Dean, which could include areas within the parish. Council voted, with Cllr. Stanford abstaining. The remaining members' unanimously **RESOLVED** to endorse the following proposal:  
"This Council resolves to oppose fracking and any exploitation of unconventional fuels within and below Ruspidge & Soudley Parish. Due to the risk of water contamination affecting the complex of aquifers and water courses throughout our Parish and the small, but real risk of localised earth-tremors, this Council wishes to protect it's natural environment from such damage, now and for future generations."

10.12 Open space, Weaving's Lane/Tramway Road - Council unanimously **RESOLVED** to apply for the area to be classed as a village green.

10.13 St. White's School - Following co-options the council is now at full strength and able to liaise with and improve its relationship with the school. Cllr. Richardson volunteered to be the council representative and the chairman will notify the school accordingly.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

10.14 The Council **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** the following correspondence:

- a. WV & FOD Tourism presentation 4th November. (No rep.)
- b. Play Rangers Scheme report to date.
- c. Coleford Town Council - Charities Showcase, 1st November. (No rep.)
- d. FOD Waste & Recycling Survey results (fwded).
- e. GCC Draft Local Transport Plan Consultation (fwded).

10.15 **Next Meeting** - The next meeting of the Council is to be held in the **Soudley Hall** at 7.00pm **Tuesday, 10th November, 2015.**  
**The agenda deadline is Monday, 2nd November, 2015.**

10.16 **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 13th October, 2015.

<u>Planning Reference</u> <u>Site Address &amp; Detail</u>	<u>Parish</u> <u>Comment</u>
P1143/15/FUL <b>Buckshaft Pumping Station (Water), Forest View, Ruspidge, Cinderford.</b> Erection of a UV kiosk and above ground pipework.	No response.
P1344/15/OUT <b>Land Off Top Road, Upper Soudley, Cinderford, Gloucestershire.</b> Outline application for the erection of up to 5 dwelling houses and associated infrastructure.	Obj.
P1410/15/FUL <b>34 Buckshaft Road, Ruspidge, Cinderford, Gloucestershire.</b> Retrospective application to raise roof height of rear extension.	No obj.

**Note:**

A revised plan for the following application was received for information only - (window size altered).

P1211/15/FUL  
**166 Ruspidge Road, Ruspidge, Cinderford, Gloucestershire.**  
Two storey side extension.

**Decisions notified by the Planning Authority**

<u>Planning Reference</u> <u>Site Address &amp; Detail</u>	<u>Parish</u> <u>Comment</u>	<u>District</u> <u>Decision</u>
P1011/15/PQ3PA <b>St Whites Farm, St Whites Road, Cinderford, Gloucestershire.</b> 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)	No obj. Obs.	No prior approval req'd.

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