

Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council

MINUTES of the MEETING

held in the Ruspidge Hall on the 8th September, 2020

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

Parish Councillors Present:

B. Acland, Chairman
Cllrs. Mrs. B. Wood, T. Matthews,
C. Richardson.

County Councillor Present:

G. Morgan.

District Councillor Present:

The Clerk - Mrs. Helen Hook.

Apologies:

Cllr. N. Snell, Ms. H. Medcraft, Ms. N. Packer,
B. O'Neill & R. Boyles.

Public:

No members of the public were present.

Standing Declarations of Interest

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

RUSPIDGE WELFARE TRUST

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

1. There were no matters arising from the minutes.
2. Football Field – A youth football team is interested in using the field. They are aware of the drainage problem but willing to see what develops match by match.

9. **MINUTES** - the minutes of the council meeting held on the 14th July, 2020 were **ACCEPTED** as a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

Minutes of remote meetings – March, April, May, and June, 2020 minutes were **ACCEPTED** as a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman. These minutes having been accepted by council at previous remote meetings but not certified.

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

- 9.2 **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT**
(N/P)

- Leisure Centres re-opening. 5 months will be added to expiry date of all active annual memberships and one month provided free for their loyalty.
- Lydney swimming pool opened 1st September; Cinderford to open 1st November.
- Tax Support Scheme consultation open until 18th October.
- Government changes in planning – Local plan process to be speeded up and simplified and there will be no S.106 agreements.
- Climate Emergency – Part 2 online event on 23rd September.
- Five Acres site – The Secretary of State has been requested to intervene in negotiations with Homes England over the transfer of the site.
- Unitary Council – Central Government is looking to expand the prevalence of Unitary Councils. Which may be imposed on Gloucestershire within the next couple of years. District Council's would be disbanded, and the County Council would be reformed to take on the district roles and responsibilities.
- Boar – FC update on boar strategy moved to November meeting.

- DEFRA Tree Strategy Consultation to be published later this year.
- Active Travel – GCC put forward its option.
- Javelin Park Incinerator – Bristol High Court ruled that GCC concealed details of the contract with Urbaser Balfour Beatty.

(B.O’N)

- Grants to small business including Fuse.
- Outdoor Leisure Strategy to be debated for endorsement by Cabinet.
- Five Acres – soft marketing provision to start.
- Business support – on-going and encouragement to take on apprentices.

9.3 **COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

(G.M)

- Full Council meeting and planning meeting to be held in September.
- VAS at Cinderford Bridge – awaiting installation.
- VAS at Steam Mills – awaiting Highways response.
- St. White’s School – traffic congestion due to roundabout repairs.
- Growing our Communities Fund – spreadsheet of committed payments circulated.

(R/B)

- Children’s Services - Social Workers managing their case work safely and visits have continued ensuring children remain safe.
- Homes2inspire – given contract to deliver specialist support at Trevone House.
- Trevone House – supporting independent living is due to open in October.
- Highways delivering resurfacing and repairs ahead of schedule.
- Respite centres reopened and welcomed by residents and their carers.
- Positive Behaviour Support – GCC has partnered with Affinity Trust to deliver a service aiming to work alongside families to manage challenging behaviour.
- Mental Health Services available for those needing support.
- Sheep mess in Soudley – more regular visits by St. Wardens to monitor situation.

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

FINANCIAL MATTERS

- 9.5 Following report by the Treasurer the council **APPROVED** the accounts presented for payment totalling £8,468.18, this figure being inclusive of confidential expenditure.
- 9.6 The August payments totalling £9,547.43 had been approved by the Treasurer (Cllr. Snell) and the Chairman, as there was no August meeting. All payments have been cleared.
- 9.7 Audit - The External Auditor's report was read by the Clerk and noted by members. The Clerk, as the Responsible Financial Officer, reported the successful conclusion to the external audit for the year ending 31st March 2020. A public notice has been displayed confirming closure of the audit.
- 9.8 VAS Maintenance – A quote for renewal of maintenance will be requested from SWARCO.
- 9.9 Vacancy for the position of Clerk – The applicant will be invited to a preliminary interview which, if successful, will result in a second interview, following re-advertising of the vacancy.
- 9.10 Interview Panel – The panel will consist of Cllrs. Acland, Wood and Snell. The Clerk will be present in an advisory role.
- 9.11 Play Areas sub-committee – Council were advised that the sub-committee will monitor the play areas on a 4-monthly check. The proposed works for all three parks had been divided into two lists, possible jobs for the handyman Tim Harris, and the other for prospective contractors. Tim confirmed his acceptance of his list of jobs. Quotes have been requested from three play companies. Upon receipt of these quotes, council will determine what repairs/replacements are feasible considering priority, risk, and costs.
- 9.12 Council were advised of its Standing Orders and S/O Works Appendix, should it wish to proceed to invite tenders.

9.13 **CORRESPONDENCE**

All relevant correspondence whether specifically dealt with under agenda items, or not, has been forwarded via email to call Councillors.

9.14 **Next Meeting** - the next meeting of the council is to be held in the **Ruspidge Hall** at 7.00pm **Tuesday, 13th October, 2020.**

The agenda deadline is **Monday, 5th October, 2020.**

9.15 **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).

9.16 The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

Signed: Chair. Dated:

Planning Schedule for the September, 2020 meeting

Decisions notified by the Planning Authority

Signed: Dated: