

Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council

MINUTES of the MEETING

held in the on the Tuesday 9th March, 2021

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

Parish Councillors Present:

Mrs. B. Wood Chairman
Cllrs.Ms. H. Medcraft,
T. Matthews, C. Richardson, N. Snell
J. Smith

County Councillor Present:

R. Boyles & G. Morgan.

District Councillor Present:

Ms. N. Packer, B. O'Neill & R. Boyles.

The Clerk - Ms. Joanne Rawlings.

Apologies:

B. Acland, Chairman

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. **MINUTES** - the minutes of the council meeting held on the 9th February, 2021 were **ACCEPTED** as a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

2.1 **MATTERS ARISING** from the minutes.

2.2 **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT**
(N/P)

- Full council also extended the current Ubico contract by 5 years from 1st April 2022 until 31st March 2027. Ubico performs landscape works, caretaking and cleaning, and bin deliveries on behalf of Forest of Dean District Council.
- **Local Elections** will take place on 6th May in all County Council divisions plus Berry Hill and Cinderford East District Wards. Hopefully there will be widespread take up of postal voting.
- **Flooding response measures:** Cabinet will decide on 8th April which option or combination of options (to prevent flood water entering a property) to adopt. I believe that Parish Councils were consulted on these options but let me know if you want more information.
(BO'N)
- Council agreed the budget last week and Council tax increase for the Forest Residents is £5 per annum for Band D properties (2.7%). There is also the County Council and Police and Crime Commissioner tax on top. Residents will have received their Bills by now
- Opening up after Lockdown is being carefully monitored and Officers are working on the process and progress. Leisure Centres will be allowed to open from 12th April and we are liaising with Freedom Leisure on the re-opening.
- Grants for Businesses. The round of Grants up to 15th Feb have now been processed and paid and there is now another round from 16th Feb until 31st March which will be paid automatically without need for further application. There is also further Grants available from 1st April which are being processed and are dependant on circumstances.
Update on St White's from Clive Reynolds this morning. I would be very grateful if local residents could keep me informed and I shall keep on monitoring. 'Following discussions with Stephen Colegate the developer gave an undertaking to leave the site. This has occurred and I have regularly monitored the situation. As far as I can see they have complied with their

commitment. The gates have been locked closed and there is no longer any activities taking place on site.

As such the current situation is that it would not be expedient to undertake any enforcement action as there is no current harm to highway safety occurring'

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT **(R/B)**

- A third asymptomatic (for people with no symptoms) testing site will open at the Miners Welfare Hill in Cinderford [on 10 March](#) and a fourth centre at the Link in Tewkesbury will open by the end of March. The testing centres will use Lateral Flow Devices (LFD) to detect COVID-19 when people are most infectious to prevent the spread.
- Wayne Bowcock has today been announced as the new Chief Executive and Chief Fire Officer of Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service.
- Gloucestershire County Council is supporting Food Waste Action Week this week ([1-7 March](#)), which aims to reduce food waste in the home to help tackle the climate emergency.
- Improvements to part of the Gloucester South West Bypass, also known as the A430 Llanthony Road scheme, aim to widen the carriageway to provide two lanes in each direction at a well-known pinch point, helping to improve the traffic flow on a major route through the city.
- Digital library services are continuing to provide people with comfort and support during the national lockdown and have soared in popularity.
From Thursday 25 February, the new Library app will be available for customers to access a huge range of eBooks and eMagazines.
It will replace the previous RBdigital app and will offer many new features. A vast range of children's and adults' titles are available, as well as popular magazine titles such as BBC Gardeners' World, Good Housekeeping and New Scientist.
If you have a book checked out in the RBdigital app when the switchover takes place, the title will still be available for the remainder of your lending period.
To find out more about the Library app, whether you've used the RBdigital app before or want to try eBooks for the first time, please visit www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/libraries/ and click on eBooks, eAudiobooks and eMagazines.
- The campaign has seen over 500,000 tonnes of tarmac used on the county's roads enough to fill over 31,000 lorries and cover 17 per cent of the roads. In addition to this 130,000 potholes have been filled, but it's a constant battle to keep on top of the issue.
During the cold weather the impact on roads can be much worse, as the freezing effect can lead to potholes over time. This is why Gloucestershire County Council is putting on an extra 15 highways gangs on to tackle potholes after the recent cold spell.
- **Council appoints new Director of Education.** Kirsten is currently head teacher at Chosen Hill School in Churchdown, where she will finish the school year before taking up her new post in the summer.
- Pioneering project will continue to support vulnerable women in Gloucestershire
The project, which was set up in March 2018, is informed by Gloucestershire's pioneering work on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's) which found that experiencing specific traumatic events as a child can lead to intense stress and a greater risk of health, educational and or social problems in later life.

It provides support for women who have experienced significant trauma in their lives, leading to issues such as homelessness, involvement in crime, sex working, drug and alcohol addiction, as well as difficulty in maintaining relationships and looking after their children.

Each woman is provided with a key worker who supports them practically and emotionally to address their individual issues, as well as supporting them with training and activities to increase their employment prospects. Support is provided through a variety of methods such as one to one support sessions, group sessions, access to personal care, health and laundry services, and a dedicated outreach service.

Support is delivered by the Women's Centre of Gloucestershire based charity The Nelson Trust, and jointly commissioned by Gloucestershire County Council, Gloucester City Council, Gloucester City Homes, the Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner and the NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group.

(G/M)

- I have recently communicated the fact that the Homes & Communities Agency are going to market the former Northern United Colliery site to County Cabinet Member Cllr Nigel Moore, stating pointing out that depending just how much the Homes and Communities Agency are going to be asking for this site, it could make an excellent new recycling centre for the Forest of Dean replacing the cramped site at Oak Quarry Broadwell.
- I have yet again asked Andrew Middlecote of Gloucestershire Highways to get the new VAS signs now erected at Cinderford Bridge commissioned and activated.
- I am continuing to liaise with Forestry England the County Council and the Forest of Dean District Council with regard the Flooding issues along the Cinderford Brook, these Organisations are looking at how they can work more closely with each other to solve these issues as climate change continue to produce more extreme weather events.

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

2.4 **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

Following report by the Treasurer the council **APPROVED** the accounts presented for payment totalling £4035.90, this figure being inclusive of confidential expenditure.

2.5 Play Areas – The Council **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** to place order to Greenfields Ltd for replacement chains & seat at Ruspidge Plat Area.

2.6 ViewPoint – The Council discussed April edition.

CORRESPONDENCE

2.7 The council **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** the following correspondence:

- a) Cllr. Morgan – Glos Housing Partnership, Media release NHS (fwded)
- b) GCC – Public Rights of Way (fwded)
- c) Richard Coward – Sheep Liaison Group (fwded)

2.8 **Next Meeting** - the next meeting of the council is to be held in the **Soudley Hall** at 7.00pm **Tuesday, 13th April, 2021.**
The agenda deadline is **Monday, 5th April, 2021.**

2.9 **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).

2.10 The meeting closed at 7.30p.m.

Signed: Chair. Dated: