
RUSPIDGE & SOUDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the MEETING held on the Tuesday 11th April, 2023

(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, Helen Medcraft.

County Councillors Present:

Cllrs. Beki Hoyland.

District Councillors Present:

Cllrs. Bernie O'Neill.

Parish Council Clerk – Roland Dowding

Apologies:

Cllrs. Nicky Packer, Graham Morgan.

Standing Declarations of Interest

- A) Ruspidge Memorial Hall - Insignificant personal interest by Cllr. William Acland.
- B) Soudley Village Hall - Insignificant personal interest by Cllr. Jo Smith.

Public Present:

No public in attendance at the meeting.

RUSPIDGE WELFARE TRUST (RWT)

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

- 4.1 There were no matters arising from the minutes.
- 4.2. Giga Clear request to access RWT land on the Ruspidge football pitch approved.
- 4.3. No other business.

- 4.1. **Apologies** received and recorded from absent members.
- 4.2. No declaration of personal or prejudicial interest declared.
- 4.3. **Minutes** - the minutes of the council meeting held on the **14th of March, 2023** were **ACCEPTED** as a true record of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.
- 4.4. **Matters Arising** – There were no matters arising from the minutes.

- 4.5. **District Councillor Reports**
Reports attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.
- 4.6. **County Councillor Reports**
Reports attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.
- 4.7. **Planning** – completed schedule is attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.
- 4.8. **Financial Matters** - Following report by the Treasurer the council **APPROVED** the accounts presented for **April** payment totalling **£3,249.70**, this figure being inclusive of confidential expenditure.
- 4.9. **Blue Rock Trail (BRT)** - Council approved the formation of a sub committee to oversee maintenance requirements at **BRT**. Cllr. Jo Smith will oversee said committee.
- 4.10. **King’s Coronation Grants** - The council had not received any grant requests from the parish halls and was unable to proceed.
- 4.11. **Grants Policy** - Members approved the 2023 grants policy revision and revised application forms.
- 4.12. **Correspondence** - The council **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** the following correspondence:
The Parish Councillors accepted all relevant correspondence has been forwarded via email to all members.
- 4.13. **Next Meeting** - the next meeting of the council is to be held in the **Ruspidge Memorial Hall** at **7.00pm Tuesday, 9th May 2023**. The agenda deadline is **Monday, 1st May, 2023**.
- 4.14. **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 8.00 p.m.

Signed:.....Chair.

Dated:.....

APPENDIX

Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council Planning Schedule for April 2023 meeting.

P0366/23/LD1

Brookview Lodge, Rolls Green, Blakeney, Gloucestershire.

Application under section 191 to establish whether the use of the converted building and segregation of garden as a separate residential dwelling is lawful.

Parish Comment

In view of the facts presented the Parish Council believe, as it is not physically attached to the main house, has its own vehicular entrance and services connected, has been treated by FODDC as a separated dwelling for a number of years, notwithstanding the fact that planning permission was not applied for, because of the passage of time the Parish Council believe that permission should be granted.

P0227/23/FUL

28 Buckshaft Road, Ruspidge, Gloucestershire, GL14 3DU.

Erection of single storey extension to include workshop.

Parish Comment

No objection.

Decisions notified by the Planning Authority

P0400/23/5DN

26 Hart Green Ruspidge Cinderford Gloucestershire GL14 3AB

5-Day Notice Acknowledgement Form to remove a dead Horse Chestnut tree at Hart Green, Ruspidge, covered by Tree Preservation Order number DFTPO 162 (G1).

Parish Comment:

District Decision: Consent.

Date: 10/03/2023

P0078/23/GPDE

Glanville Cottage Lower Road Soudley Cinderford Gloucestershire GL14 2TZ

Proposal Erection of rear single storey extension. (General Permitted Development Extension)

Parish Comment: No Objection.

District Decision: GPD Ext Approved.

Date: 16/03/2023

P1774/22/FUL

74 Ruspidge Road Ruspidge Gloucestershire GL14 3AE

Erection of a first-floor extension with associated Insulation, landscaping, parking and works.

Removal of chimney breast and chimneys. (part-retrospective)

Parish Comment: No Objection.

District Decision: Consent.

Date: 09/03/2023

District Councillors Reports

Cllr. Nicky Packer

Report to Ruspidge and Soudley Parish Council – April 2023

Cabinet meeting 16th March

1. Cinderford Northern Quarter

The Leader of the Council said that the excessive and extra costs of the road cannot be ignored. Further funding for extension of the road has not come forward in recent years, and there is no sign of it in the near future (although that may change). The Inquiry's recommendation to consider an alternative route for the Spine Road was not included in the Cabinet's work plan, which is as follows:

- Proceed with planning applications for the development of work units/live work units on plots F1 and F2 at the Cinderford Northern Quarter.
- Use the findings from this inquiry to consider how Cinderford Northern Quarter sits in the new Local Plan 2041 and consider the impact of all relevant changes to legislation, regulations, and best practice guidance.
- Engage with local educational and construction organisations to see if there is an opportunity to work in partnership with the Council in delivering residential development in a way that improves its viability and is better aligned to the challenging land conditions. This might include non standard construction /low impact homes or even student accommodation on the site. The Cabinet believes that by using those educational organisations, their apprentices, trainees, and our local companies we can possibly deliver true community housing and business premises while at the same time giving those students an opportunity to learn hands on.
- Engage with Steam Mills Primary School and the local education authorities to see if there is an appetite for discussion of relocation of the school to the Cinderford Northern Quarter in line with the current road availability. At the same time, engage with Gloucestershire Highways to look at 20mph zones outside all schools, during school hours.
- Engage with Gloucestershire College, Hartpury College and University, local secondary schools from across the district and colleagues at Wye Valley Tourism to develop the prospect of a wildlife/environment training and visitor centre on the rest of the site.

2. UK Shared Prosperity Fund & Rural England Prosperity Fund

The Rural England Prosperity Fund can be used to

- Support new and existing rural businesses to develop new products and facilities that will be of wider benefit to the local economy. This includes farm businesses looking to diversify income streams.
- Support new and improved community infrastructure, providing essential community services and assets for local people and businesses to benefit the local economy.

The Council has been allocated £614,444 capital funds to be spent across 2 years. In November 2022, Cabinet approved the proposed approach to REPF project funding and delegated authority to finalise the submission of a UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan Addendum to Government.

The £1M Shared Prosperity Fund has been allocated as follows:

Project	SPF Year 1 (£) 2022-23	SPF Year 2 (£) 2023-24	SPF Year 3 (£) 2024-25	Total Cost
FoDDC - Sustainable development - Local Biosphere Initiative	£ 18,000.00	£ 56,000.00	£ -	£ 74,000.00
FoDDC - Climate Resilience Implementation Plan	£ 18,000.00	£ 4,000.00	£ -	£ 22,000.00
FoDDC - Public Toilets Improvement Programme	£ 3,039.28	£ 40,498.56	£ 200,052.16	£ 243,590.00
Hartpury - 1	£ 20,000.00	£ -	£ -	£ 20,000.00
FoDDC - FoD Active Travel Strategy	£ 15,500.00	£ 40,000.00	£ 100,000.00	£ 155,500.00
CTC - Coleford Town Centre Regeneration Plan	£ 10,000.00	£ 20,020.00	£ 20,020.00	£ 50,040.00
FoDDC Business Grants & Loans	£ -	£ -	£ 41,000.00	£ 41,000.00
FDWVT - Film friendly & digital marketing campaigns	£ 2,150.00	£ 15,860.00	£ 15,860.00	£ 33,870.00
FEP Secretariat	£ 2,000.00	£ 10,000.00	£ 10,000.00	£ 22,000.00
FEP Action on Climate - Collaboration Tool (FACCT)	£ 10,000.00	£ 10,000.00	£ -	£ 20,000.00
FoDDC - Low Carbon Energy Business Support	£ 16,000.00	£ 13,000.00	£ -	£ 29,000.00
LEP - Gloucestershire Growth Hub	£-	£ 20,000.00	£ 59,000.00	£ 79,000.00
GCC - Gloucestershire Employment & Skills Project	£ -	£ -	£ 70,000.00	£ 70,000.00
Communities & Place	£ 84,500.00	£ 160,020.00	£ 320,020.00	£ 564,540.00
Support for Local Business	£ 30,150.00	£ 68,860.00	£ 125,860.00	£ 224,870.00
People and Skills	£ -	£ -	£ 70,000.00	£ 70,000.00
Total	£ 114,650.00	£ 228,880.00	£ 515,880.00	£ 859,410.00
Available Budget (less 4% admin fee £40,000)	£ 114,689.28	£ 229,378.56	£ 615,932.16	£ 960,000.00
Current Underspend	£ 39.28	£ 498.56	£ 100,052.16	£ 100,590.00

3. Updated procurement and contract management strategy

Changes in line with Government advice following Brexit. Also taken into account is the Council's declared Climate Emergency.

4. Flood risk management service review

5. Business rates relief: 2023/2024. Retail, hospitality and leisure scheme

This is a Government scheme. 75% Business rate relief will be paid by the Council and then reimbursed by the Government.

6. Support Small Business relief scheme

The Government has changed the small business rate relief. This scheme caps the extra that small businesses pay due to this change.

7. Service performance report 2022-23 quarter 3

This is supposed to give indicators for Publica's performance. A few headlines:

The cost of living crisis has put pressure on some services as the workload is increased, with more residents needing help from the Council.

The Council has completed the £150 Council Tax rebate programme. At the end of December 2022, the Council had paid out £4,554,450 (core scheme), and an additional £144,122 (discretionary scheme) to 32,674 households.

A total of 117 affordable homes were built in the year against a target of 45.

The Council awarded the new waste contract to Ubico – it will start in 2024.

The number of fly tips collected reduced from 444 in Q2 to 399 in Q3 but remains relatively high.

8. Financial performance report 2022-23 quarter3

Changes since the budget was set in February 2022. These were mainly caused due to higher inflation (i.e. contractual increases, pay award), higher interest rates (income) and changes in circumstances in that time.

9. Continuation of the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint committee – until 30 September 2023

This concerns Business Rates Pooling arrangements.

<https://meetings.fdean.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=115&MIId=4269&Ver=4>

Animal welfare

Forest of Dean Council take animal welfare seriously. Details of the most recent prosecution under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 can be seen here:

<https://news.fdean.gov.uk/news/blakeney-woman-sentenced-for-animal-cruelty>

Cllr. Bernie O'Neill

Report to Ruspidge and Soudley Parish Council – April 2023

Following the last meeting, a couple of things happened the day after which I would like to report.

Forest Lodge. The very next day after the last PC meeting, at which I had reported little action, I received the new application for Forest Lodge. On the report it does clearly state, after much effort over the past almost 18 months, that the application will definitely be a decision of the Planning

Committee. I am very pleased as this is very helpful as it was to be a delegated decision ,even up to the date in March when I spoke to the Officer. I have had a look at the revisions and there are still some issues I am not happy with, but I would welcome the PC's view. With elections taking place next month, the Planning Committee will inevitably be a different make-up to the current one. Also, I need to check whether, if I am not re-elected, I will be able to speak against this application!

I spoke with County Councillor Robinson at the meeting I had at Shire Hall on the Wednesday, and invited him to meet with the PC (at this meeting 11th) and he eventually agreed that he would. He was very reluctant to come initially as he felt that he would be somewhat open to some criticism/attack by members. I told him that it was part of the position he held to meet with residents, and that he should be available. He then said he would only come if Stagecoach came. I told him that Stagecoach would not come, and he then said that he would like to have an Officer with him. The eventual result was that he has agreed to attend, but he can't make the meeting on 11th.

Northern Quarter. The final report of the enquiry into the NQ has been accepted by the Council. It lasted over a year and the results will, at last mean that some development at NQ will be carried out. The spine road. It is very unlikely that funding will be available to complete the spine road. Relocation of Steam Mills Primary School to plot G and using plot D and part of plot H as playing field b. Relocation of Cinderford St John's Cricket Club to the vacated school site and Steam Mills recreation ground, alongside the bowling club c. Unlocking the current cricket club site for employment use given its Forest Vale Industrial Estate location d. A visitor eco-centre at plot C (accessed via car parking at the end of the current spine road) e. Residential development on part of plot H, accessed from the A4151 Steam Mills Road 1.2.2. If no opportunity presents itself to relocate Steam Mills Primary School, Council should lobby for a permanently reduced speed limit along an appropriate section of the A4151 Steam Mills Road. We are also recommending to The County Council to reduce the Speed limit to 20mph outside all schools in the Forest.

Assess the impact of all relevant changes to legislation, regulations and best practice guidance since the Area Action Plan was adopted in 2012 and use this to sense check all 33 AAP policies to ensure they are still relevant and compliant given these material changes.

Ensure the needs of Cinderford's people and the economic and social benefits of development continue to be balanced alongside environmental considerations.

There are other recommendations which I can outline at the meeting.

I presented 5 reports at the last Cabinet meeting.

1.updated members on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) funding programmes.

2.updated draft Procurement and Contract Management Strategy

3.consider a scheme of rate relief for retail premises as outlined by Government in the Autumn Statement 2022.

4.In the Autumn statement 2022 the Government announced a Support Small Business relief scheme which will cap bill increases for any business losing eligibility for Small Business Rate Relief.

5.provide members with details of the Council's operational performance for 2022-23 Q3

The District elections take place on My 4th and I would like to remind residents of the need for voter ID !!

County Councillor Reports

from: Beki Hoyland. County Councillor for Blakeney and Bream Division
Beki.hoyland@gloucestershire.gov.uk or 07815660013

ROADS

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/roads/roadworks/>

- Cinderford Road, between Blakeney and Soudley: works moving along between 26th April and 19th June for Gigaclear. Already about three weeks behind my last report so do use the link above for current expectations.
- 13th to 29th June the road to Blackpool bridge will be closed
- Grange Lane in Littledean is also due to be closed on the 2nd May for patching work. I have checked with Streetworks that Soudley has been considered in this double road closure.

Busses:

I have met with Ant and Minette Smith and Adrian Peacey about the number 24 and have agreed to help them form a small group to keep working on the issue.

Are you running a coronation party or know someone who is?

In line with HRH King Charles III green ethos we have put together a guide so you can have the greenest coronation party ever!

Help us spread the word and tell your colleagues, friends, family and neighbours about having a greener coronation.

Our website has lots of fun upcycling hacks, ways to keep the kids busy, DIY invitations and a downloadable greener coronation pack <https://www.gloucestershirerecycles.com/greenercoronation/>

You can have a greener coronation by

- Using our [invitation templates](#) and letting your guests know how they can take part
- Using our [planning checklist](#) to help make sure all bases are covered
- Using our [recycling station signs](#) to help your guests know where to recycle
- Sharing social media posts and your own tips on having a greener party
- Using the campaign signature below to help spread the word
- Spreading the word and telling your colleagues, friends and family about ways to have a greener coronation.

You can find out more about the campaign on the news section of the GCC

website <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gloucestershire-county-council-news/news-april-2023/help-the-environment-with-a-greener-coronation-for-king-charles/>

Car Charging points.

Plans by Gloucestershire County Council to install 1,000 electric vehicle charging points over the next three years are progressing.

About 30 locations across the county have been proposed for the first phase of the roll-out and letters have been sent to residents who live close to the sites requesting their feedback. One of the locations is Newnham on Severn.

If you are interested in this I am happy to take it to the relevant team of officers to ask what the process is to apply.

Alerts on your phone

The UK government's new Emergency Alerts system is now live.

The system will enable people to be contacted via their mobile phone when lives are in danger. **On Sunday 23 April 2023 at 3pm, there will be a national test of the Emergency Alerts service.**

The UK government's new Emergency Alerts system is now live.

The system will enable people to be contacted via their mobile phone when lives are in danger. **On Sunday 23 April 2023 at 3pm, there will be a national test of the Emergency Alerts service.**

It will be used to warn you in the event of emergencies, such as severe flooding.

Emergency Alerts are sent to all compatible mobile phones within an area of risk. They don't track your location, need your phone number, or collect personal data. Only the government and the emergency services will be able to send them. If you don't have a mobile phone, you'll still be kept informed through other channels.

You can opt out of receiving emergency alerts; for more information on how to opt out please go to gov.uk/alerts

To find out more about Emergency Alerts, visit gov.uk/alerts