
RUSPIDGE & SOUDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the MEETING held on Tuesday 9th April, 2024

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

Parish Councillors Present:

Cllrs. Chairman Jo Smith, William Acland, Norman Snell, Tony Matthews, Helen Medcraft.

County Councillors Present:

Beki Hoyland.

District Councillors Present:

Andy Moore.

Parish Council Clerk – Roland Dowding.

Apologies:

Cllrs. Denis Norman Bagwell-Johnston, Graham Morgan, Richard Burton, Lori-Leah Griffiths, Bernie O'Neill.

Standing Declarations of Interest

- A) Ruspidge Memorial Hall - Insignificant personal interest by Cllr. William Acland.
- B) St Whites School Board of Governors - Insignificant personal interest by Cllr. William Acland.

Public Present:

Minette Smith.

RUSPIDGE WELFARE TRUST (RWT)

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

3.1. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3.2. No other business.

Public Participation:

Minette Smith – Minette Smith, representing Soudley Village Hall's Committee (SVHC) and Treasure to the hall. Cllr. Jo Smith introduced Minette Smith to the members present and confirmed with Minette Smith's agreement the new SVHC are agreeable to the Parish Council continuing to maintain the play area equipment and maintain the Parish Council's Annual lease on this section of Village Hall land. This equipment consisting of one fenced area, enclosing a one bay cradle swing, a multi play junior, another one bay cradle swing, that currently is missing a cradle seat. A bench and litter bin are also sited within this fenced area. Outside of the fenced area and adjacent to it are a two bay, two flat basket seat swings with a wet pour surface, adjacent to this is basketball post, hoop and backboard. It was confirmed the teenage shelter is owned by SVHC and does not belong to the Parish Council.

Cllr. Jo Smith brought attention to the tractor tyre used for 'boot camp' that has been chained to the play area fence and confirmed that this tyre does not belong to the Parish Council, she advised that the SVHC investigate having it removed from its current location due to recommendations made in the quarterly KOMPAN safety reports. Cllr. Jo Smith confirmed the Parish Council would continue to supply the quarterly safety report to SVHC for their reference.

Minette Smith put the following questions to Council:

Why the Parish Council had not paid for hire of the hall to the SVHC, the Clerk. Mr Roland Dowding stated that the SVHC needs to submit an invoice to the Parish Council to receive payment.

The 'Lengthsman Scheme', GCC Cllr. Beki Hoyland confirmed and explained, the 'Lengthsman Scheme' is run by Highways to attend to any areas managed by Highways that are not regularly attended to throughout the year, such as public footpaths or grass verges, the Parish Council, or the Village Hall's can request the 'Lengthsman Scheme' attendance.

Grants for cutting the grass on the recreation ground. Cllr. Jo Smith, explained that the decision had been taken by Council in 2022 to pay a grant request made by the Soudley football club for £1,000 directly to the SVHC, a decision had been taken by SVHC to use the grant funds to purchase a ride on lawn mower to attend to the grass cutting. The idea being, the hall, having ownership of a ride on mower would then use a volunteer to cut the grass. Grant applications can still be made to the Parish Council, Cllr. Jo Smith requested the Clerk. Mr Roland Dowding forward details of the process on to the SVHC.

4.1. **Apologies** received and recorded from absent members.

4.2. No declaration of prejudicial interest was declared by members present.

4.3. **Minutes** - The minutes of the council meeting held on the **12th of March, 2024** 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 is attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.

4.6. **County Councillor Reports**

Reports is attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.

4.7. **Planning** – The completed schedule for **April** is attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.

4.8. **Financial Matters** - Following a report by the Treasurer the council **APPROVED** the accounts presented for the **March** payment totalling **£4,581.04** this figure is inclusive of confidential expenditure.

4.9. **Soudley Village Play Area** – Cllr. Jo Smith confirmed that Soudley Village Hall's committee had declined to take ownership of the play area equipment sited on Soudley Village Hall's land and currently owned by the Parish Council.

- 4.10. **R&SPC Standing Orders & Financial Regulations Review** – The members present approved the regulations under review and the documents were duly signed by the Chairman, Cllr. Jo Smith, the Treasurer, Cllr. Norman Snell and the Clerk, Mr. Roland Dowding.
- 4.11. **R&SPC Risk Assessment Review 2024** – The members present approved the 2024 Risk Assessment and the documents were duly signed by the Chairman, Cllr. Jo Smith.
- 4.12. **R&SPC Health & Safety Policy Review 2024** – The members present approved the 2024 Health & Safety Policy 2024 and the documents were duly signed by the Chairman, Cllr. Jo Smith and the Clerk, Mr. Roland Dowding.
- 4.13. **ANPR SNEYD WOOD** – The members present approved the motion, Cllr, Tony Matthews will liaise with the Clerk, Mr. Roland Dowding to receive weekly reports from the Sneyd Wood ANPR Camera and will report back to council at the monthly meetings.
- 4.14. **Soudley Village Hall Grant Application – SVH Bugle Newsletter.** The members present unanimously approved the grant of £250.00 for the next four issues of the Soudley Bugle.
- 4.15. **Correspondence** - The council **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** the following correspondence:
The Parish Councillors accepted all relevant correspondence has been forwarded via email to all members.
- 4.16. **Next Meeting** - the next meeting of the council will be the **APM** and will be held in the **Ruspidge Memorial Hall at 7.00 p.m. Tuesday, 14th May 2024.** The monthly council meeting will follow on after the **APM**. The agenda deadline is **Monday, 6th of May, 2024.**
- 4.17. **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 7.45 p.m.

Signed:.....Chair.

Dated:.....

APPENDIX

Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council
Planning Schedules for March 2024.

Planning Reference & Site Details	Parish Comment
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P0323/24/FUL	No Objection
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17 Tramway Road, Ruspidge, Gloucestershire, GL14 3AT. "Erection of two storey side extension, renovation of existing Outbuildings to east elevation including extending the existing external ground floor WC to include shower. Creating new openings and adding to existing boundary wall"	
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Decisions notified by the Planning Authority

NO NOTICES POSTED

District Councillor Report.

Cllr. Richard Burton

Report of District Councillor Richard Burton – April 2024

Forest Linkline, the 24-hour emergency monitoring service run by Forest of Dean District Council is celebrating supporting residents in the community for over 30 years. Forest Linkline provides round-the-clock access to a trained operator, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. It works with an alarm unit positioned in the resident's home that links to a personal pendant that can be worn around the neck, wrist or clipped to clothing. Should an emergency arise then the button is pressed, and a call is triggered to the monitoring centre. From there, a trained advisor will help decide on the best course of action and call loved ones and the emergency services if necessary to ensure that the best possible action is taken so that help can be provided.

Forest of Dean District Council and partners including the Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) are working with Forest Community Energy (FCE) volunteers to help people access support to reduce their energy bills and carbon emissions. The 'Energy Café' event was held at the Sling & District Recreation Club (Sling Club) on Wednesday 28th February 2024. The event was held at the same time as the club's regular Community Café, ensuring that a large number of residents were able to be reached in a well-known and accessible community setting.

Newent Community School recently held one of Active Gloucestershire's Give it a Go session; giving young people, especially those with special educational needs, the opportunity to try new sports.

Voters across the Forest of Dean District are being encouraged to make sure they are registered, have applied for postal voting and applied for identification if needed ahead of the deadlines, so that they can vote in the police and crime commissioner elections on Thursday 2 May.

Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Meeting

Tuesday 9th April 2024

Report from Andy Moore, Newnham ward FoDDC member.

I'm the Finance Portfolio Holder and co-deputy leader of FoDDC. I'm also responsible for Recycling & Waste and Assets. Since assuming the above responsibilities this last year my efforts have been directed toward:

- FoDDC Budget 24/25. Balancing this and finding rooms for forward movement to address climate/biodiversity and capacity issues whilst addressing lossmaking services proved challenging.
- Publica Insourcing. Coming up with a harmonised strategy to bring outsourced services back from Publica into FoDDC and other districts has been a large though unsung task which is now in hand. The first phase of service movements begins this month. This will I believe result in a more democratic and more responsive FoDDC over the next two years.
- Recycling & Waste Collections etc. Change of contractor from Biffa to Ubico will happen in August. Development of depots, sorting facilities and electric collection vehicles will also be ongoing this year. Service and material range changes will have to wait until next year.
- Assets: This is mostly about the commercial premises which FoDDC owns. This last year has also focussed on the state of the public toilets, so far mostly those in the towns. It has generated various bits of casework for me.

I offer my apologies for not having been able to show my face more at the Newnham ward parishes. I've not spent any serious time on casework in Newnham ward. If fact, other than planning applications, not much local business has landed on my desk. I'm grateful to my fellow ward member Richard for picking up the various threads in the ward which have required attention and effort.

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County Councillor Reports.

County Report to Parishes in Blakeney and Bream Division April 2024

As ever you can contact me at beki.hoyland@gloucestershire.gov.uk or on 07815660013.

I hope this information is useful, some of it is for disseminating out into the community and would be great if it can be on noticeboards and websites so that it is accessible to all.

Roads and transport

There are plenty of roadworks going on, these are the road closures:

- 1st April -12 April Road from junction with the A48 to Pine Tree Way, Viney Hill, will be closed for Ash Die back work.
- 28th April - #rd May New Road Bream closed for electrical work.
- 6th May – 8th May Millend, Blakeney Closed for Gigaclear

- 13th to 17th May Awre Road, Blakeney closed for National Grid work • **A48 Minsterworth** will be closed from 27/5/24 20.00 to 31/5/24 06.00 overnight for anti-skid surfacing and signing works for Highways.
- 20th May to the 29th May A48 closed between from Lens brook junction, near Viney Hill, to the Lydney by pass will be closed for carriageway resurfacing. overnight

Here is a link to where to find out about road works <https://one.network/public> or <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/roads/roadworks/>

The way to report problems on our road network has changed.

<https://fixmystreet.gloucestershire.gov.uk>

“Food Waste, It All Adds Up” - Adult Education cookery classes 

Thursday 9 May, 10.30 - 1pm at Ruspidge memorial hall, Cinderford, GL14 3AE

To book, contact Karen Stiles: T: 01452 583452 or 07748 933849 or

karen.stiles@gloucestershire.gov.uk

New contact details for Healthy Lifestyles Gloucestershire

From 1 April 2024, the healthy lifestyles service will be run by a new provider, ABL Health Ltd.

Referrals to Healthy Lifestyles Gloucestershire from 1 April will need to be made using the details below:

- Phone number (new): 0800 755 553
- Email: glicb.hlsghos@nhs.net
- Website: <https://hlsghos.org>

Referrals forms will be available on the website. Please note, there may be some initial disruption in website accessibility due to the changeover.

Referrals can still be made using the current phone number until 31 March 2024:

- Phone number (current): 0800 122 3788
- Email: glicb.hlsghos@nhs.net
- Website: <https://hlsghos.org>

Have your say on adult social care

We are asking for views on proposed changes to the adult social care fairer contributions policy. The council wants to make sure its fairer contributions policy is clear, accessible, and fair, to support individuals with choice and control over their care. Following a public engagement in 2023, the council reviewed its fairer contributions policy and is proposing changes which include:

- increasing the Minimum Income Guarantee (either for everyone or for some), and a change to the Disability Related Expenditure process, which may allow some people to keep more of their income
- a change to how the council charges for short break and respite care and
- the introduction of an admin fee for people who pay the full cost of their care, but wish the council to arrange care and support services on their behalf.

The consultation began on Monday and will close on 6 May 2024.

Everyone is encouraged to have their say, whether they currently pay for their care or may do so in the future, to make sure that it works for people now and for years to come.

People will be able to share their views by taking part in an online survey and by attending focus groups.

To find out more and to have your say, visit the survey at <http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/fairer-contributions-policy>

Please help us by sharing details of this consultation with residents in your local area, or by sharing our social media posts promoting it.

Gloucestershire Care and Support Guidance

Please use this link to view the new Gloucestershire Care and Support Guidance

<https://www.carechoices.co.uk/publication/gloucestershire-care-services-directory/>

Hard copies will be available from the main Shire Hall Reception from 25th March

Homes for Ukrainians and other refugees.

A £600 monthly 'thank you' payment for people hosting Ukrainian refugees has been extended for the next financial year.

All hosts in Gloucestershire offering accommodation for Ukrainian nationals and their immediate family members through the Homes for Ukraine scheme will continue to get £600 a month to thank them for their support.

Funding from central government provides a payment of £350 or £500 per month for hosts depending on whether their Ukrainian guests are in their first or second year in the UK.

In March 2023, the county council approved an increase to the 'thank you' payment to £600 per month for all hosts. This offered more support and stability to hosts and their guests, particularly while the cost of living was rising.

The £600 monthly payment has been extended to continue for at least the next financial year to 31 March 2025.

Homes for Refugees

With the success of this national scheme, the county council has recently launched [Homes for Refugees](#): a local scheme to help refugees from other countries rebuild their lives.

Gloucestershire residents with a spare room, annexe, or even another property, can host a refugee for short-term placements of up to three months and receive £600 per month. Both hosts and guests receive wrap-around support to help their guests to move towards independence. The scheme is for refugees who have been granted asylum, meaning they have the legal right to live and work in the UK, having fled conflict or persecution in their own country. Once an asylum claim is approved, refugees must move out of Home Office accommodation. The Homes for Refugees scheme is designed to give those who have had a successful asylum application a safe and supportive home where they can make longer term plans, such as securing employment and more permanent accommodation.

Could you become a host?

If you would be interested in supporting a refugee, from Ukraine or elsewhere, please get in touch by emailing HFR@gloucestershire.gov.uk.

For more information, or to request an informal call with a member of the team visit www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/homes-for-refugees.

Hoarding awareness

The Gloucestershire Hoarding Awareness Day, which has been organised by the county council in partnership with Hoarding UK, will mark the launch of support groups in each of the county's districts.

The free event will be held at the Gloucester Guildhall between 1pm and 3pm on Thursday 11 April and will feature presentations on the subject as well as a question-and-answer session.

To attend Gloucestershire's Hoarding Awareness Day, book your spot at

<https://hoardinguk.cademy.co.uk/gloucester-hoarding-awareness-day>.

For more information on the support sessions and how to get support, visit

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/your-community/support-hub/your-mental-health-and-wellbeing/hoarding-support-group/>.

Alternatively email hoardingsupport@gloucestershire.gov.uk, or call 01452 425 427.

Museum to launch veteran's cafe with support of County Council.

The Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum will be launching a new Veterans Cafe in Gloucester with the support of Gloucestershire County Council. The cafe is being launched for serving Armed personnel, veterans and their families, providing a space for them to gather, socialise and support each other.

It will open on Thursday 11 April and run on the second Thursday of every month from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Free tea and coffee is available for those who attend, and advice services will be

"The county council takes its commitment to our Armed Forces very seriously and we of course owe all of our Armed Forces serving personnel, veterans and their families a great debt of gratitude for their service to our country."

For more information, visit the Armed Forces Covenant pages of the county council's website,

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/your-community/the-armed-forces-covenant/>.

Help needed: School Admissions Appeals Panel Member Volunteers

We are recruiting new volunteer school admissions panel members.

[Apply to become a volunteer school appeals panel member | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

Thank you,

Secondary School admission's day was on the 1st March, if anyone is struggling with this there is help available. **Please get in touch with me** or the officer at GCC dealing with your case.

Nature Recovery Strategy event for the Forest of Dean; part of a Gloucestershire wide consultation.

-  Thurs 18 April, 6.30-9pm - Main Church Hall, The Wesley, Cinderford

For more information, please see the detail here: <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/nature-strategy>

Jobs with our partners

We need brilliant people like you to help us tackle the climate crisis! Everyone has a role to play and you don't necessarily need to be a climate expert to work in the sector.

Forest of Dean District council are currently looking for a [climate change community delivery lead](#). The role will play a key part in supporting grassroots climate action in the Forest.

Climate Leadership Gloucestershire are looking for a [Climate Change Bid Writer](#) to make more funding available in the county to support climate action.

Please help us spread the word and tell anyone who may be interested in these roles.

Home energy surveys

Severn Wye can provide selected homeowners and landlords in Gloucestershire with a **free energy efficiency survey** of their home worth £500, for a limited time. The scheme provides people with:

- Impartial advice and home survey from an energy expert
- A bespoke energy efficiency report including a new EPC
- An action plan outlining cost and carbon savings
- Plus support with quotes and installation set up

People within your community can benefit from this free service if they are looking at making energy efficiency improvements to their home and need advice to get started.
For general energy (and cost) saving tips, [visit our 'saving energy at home' web pages](#).