
RUSPIDGE & SOUDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on the Tuesday 13th May, 2026

Parish Councillors Present:

Cllrs. Tony Matthews. Chairman, William Acland, Norman Snell, Denis Bagwell-Johnston, Paul Firth, Nicky Packer, Priya Shukla.

County Councillors Present:

Beki Hoyland.

District Councillors Present:

Richard Burton, Andy Moore.

Parish Council Clerk – Roland Dowding.

Apologies:

Cllrs. Helen Medcraft, Bernie O’Neill, Cllr. Ray Donaghue.

Standing Declarations of Interest

- a) Ruspidge Memorial Hall - Insignificant personal interest by Cllr. Denis Bagwell-Johnston.
- b) Soudley Village Hall - Insignificant personal interest by Cllr. Norman Snell.

Public Present:

Glenn Turner, Adrian Peacey, Andy Blake, Rob Stubbs.

1. **Apologies** received and recorded from absent members.
2. **Election of the Chairman.**
Cllr. Tony Matthews accepted the post of Chairman. Supported unanimously by the members present.
3. **Declaration of Office Forms.**
Cllr’s Tony Matthews & Nicky Packer completed declaration of office forms respective of their new roles within council.
4. **Register Of Interest Forms.**
The Chairman enquired if any of the members details had changed within the previous 12 months. All the members present confirmed NO changes. No new Register of Interest forms were required.
5. **Appointments of the Council.**
Cllr. Nicky Packer proposed by Cllr. Tony Matthews for Vice-chairman, unanimously agreed by the members. Cllr. Nicky Packer accepted the role of Vice-chairman. Cllr. Norman Snell accepted the role of Honorary Treasurer, unanimously agreed by the members. Sjs Bookkeeping & Accountancy Services were nominated and unanimously agreed by the members for the Parish Council’s Internal Auditor for 2026/27.

6. **Representatives of the Council.**

Cllr. Denis Bagwell-Johnston accepted the role as liaison to Ruspidge Memorial Hall. Cllr. Norman Snell accepted the role as liaison to Soudley Village Hall. Cllr's Tony Matthews accepted the role for Parish planning considerations & site inspection panel. The Clerk confirmed Mr. Roger Jackson will be continuing in the role as Parish Snow Warden for Ruspidge. Mr. Steve Wood as Snow warden for Soudley. Cllr's William Acland & Norman Snell will attend Highways Rd safety meetings. Wreath laying on remembrance day will be undertaken by Cllr. Norman Snell for Soudley and Cllr. Denis Bagwell-Johnston for Cinderford. Cllr Denis Bagwell-Johnston accepted liaison to St Whites School.

7. **Minutes** - the minutes of the **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** held on the **13th of May, 2025** were **ACCEPTED** as a true record of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.

8. **Chairman's Report 2025/26 (Cllr. William Acland).** No report provided.

9. **Financial Report 2025/26.** Receipt and acknowledgment of the Financial report were noted by Council. No questions were raised.

10. **Matter for the benefit of the Parish.**

Mr. Andy Blake representing the Commoners Association spoke regarding the Forest of Dean District Council's proposal for a Biosphere. With the following focus being on the commoner, the common and how the proposal effects said association. Mr. Blake notified the members present that the Commoners Association do **NOT** support FoDDC's proposal's regarding the Biosphere. The association proposes the following question; they believe there are additional options and FoDDC are only presenting one option.

The Parish Council resolved to further consider the subject before forming a decision as to support the Commoners Association's view or not.

Mr. Blake is invited to address council under agenda at the June Parish Council meeting. Mr. Blake accepted the invitation.

No further concerns were raised by the members present.

APM Ended at 07:30pm

Signed:.....Chair.

Dated:.....