
RUSPIDGE & SOUDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the MEETING held on Tuesday 8th October, 2024.

Parish Councillors Present:

Cllrs. William Acland Chairman, Jo Smith, Norman Snell, Tony Matthews, Denis Bagwell-Johnson, Helen Medcraft.

County Councillors Present:

Cllr. Beki Hoyland, Graham Morgan.

District Councillors Present:

None Present.

Parish Council Clerk – Roland Dowding

Apologies:

Cllrs. Bernie O'Neill, Richard Burton, Lori-Leah Griffiths.

Standing Declarations of Interest

- a) Ruspidge Memorial Hall - Insignificant personal interest by Cllr. William Acland.
- b) St Whites School - Insignificant personal interest by Cllr. William Acland.
- c) Soudley Village Hall - Insignificant personal interest by Cllr. Norman Snell.

Public Present:

Minette Smith, Anthony Smith, Paul Firth.

R&SPC Public Participation:

Public present but no public participation.

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

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

10.3. **Minutes** - The minutes of the council meeting held on the **10th of September, 2024** were **ACCEPTED** as a true record of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.

10.4. **Matters Arising** - There were no matters arising from the minutes.

10.5. **District Councillor Reports**

*No District Cllr's were present at the meeting.
No reports have been submitted.*

10.6. **County Councillor Reports**

Reports are included as an appendix to these Minutes.

- 10.7. **Planning** – The completed schedule for **October** is attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.
- 10.8. **Financial Matters** - Following a report by Cllr. Norman Snell acting as signatory to the RFO, the council **APPROVED** the accounts presented for **October** payment totalling **£7,997.30**. This figure is inclusive of confidential expenditure. A financial report is included for this month in the appendix to these minutes.
- The members present acknowledged receipt of R&SPC quarterly financial report July - Sept.

Requested budget transfers by RFO Mr. R Dowding.

- Transfer of funds from Contingency budget 1,300.00 to balance grants budget, members present approved.
- Transfer of funds from Contingency budget 500.00 to allocated reserve for proposed Brody Trust grant, members present approved.

- 10.9. **Conclusion of Audit (AGAR)** - The members present noted receipt of section 3 notice, conclusion of AGAR from the External Auditor PKF Littlejohn. All advised notices have been posted on the PC website and made public for conclusion of the 2023/24 Internal Audit. The Clerk advised that the External Auditor (AGAR) had noted the Parish Council had failed in its responsibility to the RWT, based on the report given by the Internal Auditor. Cllr. Matthews contested advice given to the Clerk, Mr. Dowding by the 2023/24 Internal Auditor (GAPTC) regarding arrangements for future RWT meetings. Cllr. Matthews required an answer as to why RWT meetings had to be held on a separate date to Parish Council meetings and why they could not be held as a separate meeting prior to a parish council meeting. Otherwise, the members/volunteers are forced to attend an additional meeting. Cllr. Matthews suggested that RWT meetings could be held at 6:45 – 7pm prior to a parish Council meeting.
- The Clerk remarked that arrangements for future RWT Trustee meetings had already been debated and agreed by the members in September's RWT meeting and were also based on advice given by the Charity Commission. Cllr. Medcraft, & Cllr. Bagwell appeared to support Cllr. Matthew's protest. The Chairman, Cllr. Acland intervened and closed the debate.
- 10.10. **Cancel Round Two Grant Applications** - Due to unprecedented demand for grants during this financial period, it is proposed the Round Two grant application process due through November & January be cancelled. The Members present voted unanimously for the cancellation of the 2024/25 round two grant applications.
- 10.11. **Amendments To Grants Policy for Financial Year 2025/26** – Proposal to hold one round of S.137 grants per year, round to be open from April – June, applications decided upon at the July meeting. Central funded organisations to also be included within the April – June round. Only emergency grants will be considered from organisations within the parish outside of the specified grants round. Members deliberate and vote. The members present voted unanimously for the amendment to grants policy.
- 10.12. **Community Speed Watch SNEYD WOOD** – Cllr. Tony Matthews reported, the PC are currently waiting on the trees to be crowned on Sneyd Wood Rd prior to the installation of the repaired speed camera, cost of the repairs £50.25. Installation of the speed camera is expected between towards the end of November, early December.

- 10.13. **Correspondence** - The council **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** the following correspondence:
The Parish Councillors accepted all relevant correspondence has been forwarded via email to all members.
- 10.14. **Next Meeting** - the next meeting of the council will be held in the **Ruspidge Memorial Hall** at **7.00 p.m. Tuesday, 12th November 2024**. The agenda deadline is **Monday, 4th of November 2024**.
- 10.15. **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).

The meeting closed at 7.40 p.m.

Signed:.....Chair.

Dated:.....

APPENDIX

FINANCIAL REPORT for the meeting in: October 2024								
1. Reconciliation of Account as at:					end September 2024			
Ledger		£			Bank			£
Balance b/f		114,601.57		(Treasurers)	Lloyds Current A/c.			555.83
Lloyds Bank Interest		43.72		(Reserves)	Lloyds Inst. Access A/c.			77,785.13
Unity Bank Interest		428.62			Unity Current A/c			906.00
Precept Payment		30,655.00			Unity Inst Access A/c			62,265.02
	Total	145,728.91					Total	141,511.98
Less Expenditure Sept		4,216.93						
Balance		141,511.98			Balance			141,511.98
					* excludes last month's previously presented payments and includes this month's payments already presented, see # below.			
2. Accounts for Payment					# = presented payments			
Payee	No	Total £	VAT	Narrative				
# Solutions In Technology	D/D	81.08	13.51	Telephone & Broadband				
# EE Ltd	D/D	15.11		EE Mobile				
Module IT	D/D	81.53	13.59	IT Support				
# Post Office Ltd	1	12.75		Sneyd Wood Speed Camera Postage				
Soudley Village Hall	2	500.00		Grant Fireworks				
Soudley Village Hall	3	2,800.00		Grant Lower Rd Bridge Repair.				
# Auto Speed Watch	4	50.25		Speed Watch Camera Repair				
# Wes Brown Tree Services	5	120.00	20.00	Wes Brown Tree Services				
# Amazon	6	18.55	3.09	Head Phones				
# Post Office Ltd	7	3.05		Bank Letter				
* EDS Textiles Ltd (Amazon)	8	12.99	2.17	Office Chair Seat Cushion				
Konica Minolta	9	117.07	19.51	Copier Hire Quarter				
Konica Minolta	10	43.91	7.32	Copy Totals B&W, Colour.				
Cinderford Town Council	11	530.64	88.44	Office Rental & Service Charge				
Clerks & Councils	12	108.50		Subscription Renewal				
Silverline IT Ltd	13	25.80		Website Hosting				
Tim Harris	14	585.51		St Clean, Safety Checks, Defib Checks, Cleaning Bus Shelters, Grass Cutting.				
Complete Landscapes	15	1,104.00	184.00	Grass Cutting				
Merlin Waste	16	280.00		Dog Waste removal				
	TOTAL	6,490.74	351.63					

<u>Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council</u>			
<u>Planning Schedule October, 2024</u>			
<u>Planning Reference</u>	<u>Parish</u>		
<u>Site Address & Detail</u>	<u>Comment</u>		
No Planning Notifications Posted This Month.			
<u>Decisions notified by the Planning Authority</u>			
<u>Planning Reference</u>	<u>Parish</u>	<u>District</u>	
<u>Site Address & Detail</u>	<u>Comment</u>	<u>Decision</u>	<u>Date</u>
P0895/24/FUL	No Obj	Consent	13/09/2024
Honeycott , Brains Green, Blakeney, Gloucestershire.			
Erection of a detached annex with shared drainage and power to provide accommodation for a family member			
P0893/24/FUL	No Obj	Consent	13/09/2024
24 Coomb Drive, Ruspidge, Cinderford, Gloucestershire.			
Demolition of existing garage and erection of single-storey side extension			

GCC. Cllr. Graham Morgan

My County Council Report this month deals with several issues listed below.

Dangerous parent parking at Forest High Causeway Road Cinderford and at St Whites School Snyder Wood Road Ruspidge.

Verges Victoria Street Cinderford planting of wildflowers etc.

Dangerous Bus Stop Valley Cinderford.

Parking issues at access Road rear of Parade of Shops Cinderford off Woodside Street.

Somerset Road Skate Park access children's Safety.

Flaxley Street, Pembroke Street Abbey Street and Woodside Street resurfacing.

Flaxley Street and its Junction with Belle Vue Road Dangerous Parking.

Very Best Wishes Graham.

County Report to Parish Councils

in Blakeney and Bream division,

October 2024.

Please contact me if you would like to know more or have any queries.

Beki.hoyland@gloucestershire.gov.uk or 07815660013

Highways

Here is a link to the interactive map that gives up to date road works. Below is a list of road closures I could find in there are plenty of other road works happening using traffic management. <https://one.network/public>

Fix my Streets is the place to report issues on the roads, pavements and footpaths.

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

Closed roads:

- 10th – 16th October New Road Triangle, Bream. Carriageway resurfacing.
- 22nd November – 25th November, Lydney Road, Yorkley - pre surface dressing patching.
- 3rd November 9pm to 4th November 5am A48 from Elton to Newnham High Street is closed for network rail infrastructure work.

- **Footpath RWD33 (Cannop Ponds)** will be closed with a diversion in place from 23rd September until 2nd December to replace the foot bridge and undertake dam safety work.

If you want live updates on roads around the county it can be found here:
<https://x.com/GlosRoads>

Thriving Communities Grant Gloucestershire County Council is inviting community groups across the county to apply for a share of £400k funding from its Thriving Communities Grant. The Thriving Communities Grant programme aims to invest in Gloucestershire's communities to help local organisations with projects that help people to stay well, and support them to live independently for as long as possible. Applications for grant funding open on Monday 2 September 2024 and will close on **Sunday 13 October**

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/public-health/our-communities/thriving-communities-grant/>

Recruitment for Co-opted Independent Members of Gloucestershire Police and Crime Panel

We are recruiting a new Independent Member for the Gloucestershire Police and Crime Panel.

Please share this vacancy with your residents.

[Appointment of Co-opted Independent Members of Gloucestershire Police and Crime Panel | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

Proud to Care Gloucestershire's new training, development and wellbeing resources.

Proud to Care Gloucestershire are excited to have launched brand-new training, development and wellbeing webpages dedicated to the care sector on the [Proud to Care website](#).

We understand the importance of retaining and developing a skilled and valued workforce that delivers high-quality adult social care services to Gloucestershire communities; this is why we are now proud to provide the following:

- [An A-Z training directory](#) which shares details of local and national training and how to access these courses. The resource aims to support adult social care staff and anyone interested in a career in care to easily access training to meet their needs.
- [Local career pathways](#) which showcase the different career opportunities available within the care sector. The career pathways outline the knowledge and skills required for people to reach their career goals, as well as highlight the core values needed to work in the adult social care sector. This resource is for those considering a career in care and as a Continual Professional Development tool for existing staff for discussion in their appraisals/supervisions when considering their development opportunities.
- [Wellbeing and pastoral support A-Z](#) which outlines the various offers available to Gloucestershire care providers. We are aware that wellbeing is a significant factor for retaining staff, and signposting to relevant and appropriate support can be challenging so we hope this will be a highly useful resource.

The Proud Care team are happy to hear your feedback on any of the pages outlined above as we want to ensure the resources are useful and up to date. If you feel there is something missing from the pages or you are struggling to source a particular training course, we welcome you to get in touch via the feedback form found [here](#).

GIS Healthcare rebrands to Gloucestershire Equipment Loan Service

GIS has changed its name to Gloucestershire Equipment Loan Service to make it easier for our community to understand what the service does and how it can help. The new name also emphasises that equipment is on loan and should be returned when residents are finished with it.

Our current vans have been rebranded, and we are excited to share that from October you will see new electric delivery vans out and about in your area. This move to an all-new electric fleet of vans supports our journey to becoming carbon-neutral by 2030.

You can find more information on the Gloucestershire Equipment Loan Service including contact details at [What does Gloucestershire Equipment Loan Service do? | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

Free bus travel for veterans seeking employment

A travel card providing free bus travel has been made available to veterans who are seeking employment in Gloucestershire. (As a result of a Green Group Motion)

Gloucestershire County Council is asking the county's young carers, their families and schools to share their views on services which support children and young people who care for a family member.

YOUNG CARERS, PARENTS AND EDUCATION STAFF CAN HAVE THEIR SAY BY VISITING:

- YOUNG CARERS WHO ARE AGED 8 UP TO 15
[HTTPS://HAVEYOURSAYGLOUCESTERSHIRE.UK.ENGAGEMENTHQ.COM/YOUNG-CARERS-SURVEY-AGES-8-15](https://haveyoursaygloucestershire.uk/engagementhq.com/young-carers-survey-ages-8-15)
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THE SURVEYS CLOSE ON 31 OCTOBER 2024.

WE KNOW THAT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OFTEN DON'T RECOGNISE THEIR CARING ROLE, IF THIS ARTICLE HAS HELPED YOU IDENTIFY THAT YOU ARE A YOUNG CARER OR YOU KNOW A YOUNG CARER, PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH GLOUCESTERSHIRE YOUNG CARERS ON 01452 733060 OR VISIT [WWW.GLOSOUNG CARERS.ORG.UK/CONTACT-US](http://www.glosyoungcarers.org.uk/contact-us)

Help for those effected by forced adoption Between 1949 and 1976 an estimated 185,000 babies in England and Wales were taken from unmarried mothers and placed for adoption due to pressure from their families and society. The impact of this on women and children should not be underestimated, having lifelong and significantly distressing effects. The county council has commissioned Adoption West, a Regional Adoption Agency who amongst other adoption related activity provide support to adults who were adopted and families affected by forced adoption practices. <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gloucestershire-county-council-news/news-september-2024/support-for-people-affected-by-historic-forced-adoption/>

Council campaign asks residents to ‘hand it back’! A campaign asking residents to return any mobility equipment they are no longer using. We provide the Gloucestershire Equipment Loan Service (formerly known as GIS Healthcare), which lends free equipment to people for as long as they need it. Around £500,000 worth of equipment is returned each month, however, we think there could be even more equipment in people’s homes that isn’t being used. Residents can return equipment at multiple locations around the county, or they can arrange a free collection from their home. If you know or work with someone who could have unused equipment, please let them know how they can return it to us, so that it can be used by others in the community.

For more information, visit [New council campaign asks residents to ‘hand it back’! | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

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<https://gcc.dynamicmaps.co.uk/MapThatPublic/Default.aspx>

Closed roads:

2nd September to 11th September Hyde bank Newnham Severn Trent and Gigaclear

9th September – 13th September Highfield Road Lydney as well as traffic lights on the A48 at the junction of Highfield and the A48, work on road safety improvements

9th September to 4th October traffic lights and speed limit on A48 between Awre turning and Ruddle. Drain reconstruction.

23rd September to 27th September. The Tuffts, Bream. National Grid.

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Wear Not Waste.

It's now officially [second hand September](#) (a national campaign run by Oxfam) and our Wear Not Waste campaign is running alongside this, right here in Gloucestershire.

This campaign aims to promote donating, reusing, rewearing and restyling your clothes during September – and beyond! 😊

Read on to find out what the issue with fashion waste is, what you can do about it and how to get involve with the campaign.

What's the problem?

Carbon emissions

It's estimated that more than two tonnes of clothing are bought each minute in the UK, more than any other country in Europe. That amount produces nearly 50 tonnes of carbon emissions, the same as driving 162,000 miles in a car.

Plastic and contamination

The impact of plastic fibres on the environment cannot be ignored. These tiny particles are polluting the oceans, entering our waterways and contaminating our food chain. Wastewater contaminated with toxic dyes and the use of harmful chemicals also contribute to the industry's devastating impact on the planet.

Find out more about [the issue with clothing waste](#).

So, by recirculating our clothes – buying, wearing and donating second hand – we can help to reduce the demand for new clothes. And this could in turn help to reduce the damage to our planet. 

GCC LOCAL DEVELOPMENT GUIDE (LDG) PUBLIC CONSULTATION

GCC is running a public consultation on an updated version of its Local Development Guide (LDG).

The LDG provides information to Local Planning Authorities, developers and all stakeholders on the types of infrastructure that may be needed to mitigate the impacts of development. GCC has notified District and Parish Councils, local interest groups, developers, planning professionals and others that the consultation is underway.

The consultation is running from 8th July-29th September. The consultation page can be reached using this link <https://haveyoursaygloucestershire.uk.engagementhq.com/local-development-guide-consultation>

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I hope this is useful, if there is other areas you would like me to report on from County business let me know Please let me know if there is anything that I can do as your County Councillor, if I cannot help I will try and sign post you to those that can.

Beki.hoyland@gloucestershire.gov.uk 07815660013