
RUSPIDGE & SOUDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the MEETING held on Tuesday 12th December, 2023

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

Parish Councillors Present:

Cllrs. Chairman Jo Smith, Norman Snell, Helen Medcraft, Denis Norman Bagwell-Johnston.

County Councillors Present:

Cllr. Beki Hoyland.

District Councillors Present:

None Present.

Parish Council Clerk – Roland Dowding

Apologies:

Cllrs. Tony Matthews, William Acland, Andy Moore, Richard Burton, Graham Morgan, 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:

Adrian Williams, Joanne Williams, Lori-Leah Griffiths.

RUSPIDGE WELFARE TRUST (RWT)

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

12.1 There were no matters arising from the minutes.

12.2. No other business.

Public Participation:

Lori-Leah Griffiths. Raised concern of litter around the parish and in the Forest of Dean in general. Highlighted an issue of funding for this issue and the lack of funding available. Interested in working with local authorities regarding formation of litter picking groups. Council supported Ms Griffiths concerns but at the parish level, highlight a lack of funding, personnel and the issue being a concern for the attention of FoDDC. Cllr. Smith referred Ms Lori-Leah Griffiths to GCC Cllr. Hoyland who was present at the meeting. Ms Griffiths and Cllr. Hoyland agreed to discuss the issue further and left the meeting.

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

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

- 12.3. **Minutes** - The minutes of the council meeting held on the **14th of November, 2023** were **ACCEPTED** as a true record of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.
- 12.4. **Matters Arising** - There were no matters arising from the minutes.
- 12.5. **District Councillor Reports**
- Reports is attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.*
- 12.6. **County Councillor Reports**
- Report is attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.*
- 12.7. **Planning** – The completed schedule for **December** is attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.
- 12.8. **Financial Matters** - Following a report by the Treasurer the council **APPROVED** the accounts presented for the **December** payment totalling **£7,543.20** this figure is inclusive of confidential expenditure.
- 12.9. **Parish Council Draft Budget 2024/25 Amendment** - After deliberating the draft budget amendment and confirmation of the amended figures by the Treasurer Cllr. N Snell the members and one email vote, voted unanimously to approve the amendment to the draft budget.
- 12.10. **Recreation Ground Inspection Reports November** – Members present acknowledged receipt of November inspection reports. Council instructed the Clerk Mr. R Dowding to obtain quotes to attend to the maintenance of ‘Green low level’ repairs as listed in the November KOMPAN inspection reports. The Chairman requested member put some thought into methods to attend to the low-level repairs throughout the next year, due to current budget constraints.
- 12.11. **Forest of Dean Motor Club** – Recent complaints made by the public in reference to the rally that passed through the parish in November, participants of the rally are alleged by the public to have been driving inappropriately on the public highway in-between stages of the rally, particular through Soudley Top Road area and along the Roman Road. Noise caused by the rally’s participants vehicles was cause for concern for some residents of Ruspidge and Soudley, although members present believe the weather conditions present at the time of the rally passing through the parish enhanced the noise from vehicles. Mr Adrian Williams, Treasurer of the Forest of Dean Motor Club was present at the meeting who took note of the concerns raised by council. It was agreed that communication between the Forest of Dean Motor Club and Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council could be improved. To facilitate better future communication, dialog and exchange of information, contact detail were exchanged with Mr Williams and the office of the parish council.
- 12.12. **Littering in the Parish and proposed signage** – as previously mentioned in discussion with Ms Lori-Leah Griffiths during public participation. The members present agreed littering is a problem within the parish. Anti – littering signage proposed by Ms Griffiths were provisionally agreed by the members present. The Clerk Mr Dowding instructed to obtain signage costs

and to consult with partner authorities as to the consents required to place said signage in problem areas. Council also deliberated on placement of additional litter bins, choosing to defer a decision on any additional litter bins until after consent for the signage could be obtained and assessment of how successful any proposed signage implementation would be.

- 12.13. **Severn River Trust – Blue Rock Trail** – Cllr. Jo Smith updated members present on a meeting held between the Severn River Trust and herself, the proposal being; Where Cinderford Brook runs through BRT, Severn River Trust proposes to slow the flow of water to encourage and support wildlife living in the Brook. Details of Severn River Trust’s proposal have been emailed out to members. It is proposed for any works to commence in May 2024 and it will be necessary to close the BRT whilst work is being undertaken. Cllr. Smith informed the members present she had stated that the BRT could only be closed between the hours of 9 am & 4:30pm as the route is used by residents walking from Soudley to Ruspidge who need to attend workplaces, or for children attending school. Further details are yet to be confirmed. Cllr. Smith will update council on any further developments.
- 12.14. **Correspondence** - The council **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** the following correspondence: The Parish Councillors accepted all relevant correspondence has been forwarded via email to all members.
- 12.15. **Next Meeting** - the next meeting of the council is to be held in the **Ruspidge Memorial Hall** at **7.00 p.m. Tuesday, 10th January 2024**. The agenda deadline is **Wednesday, 3rd of January, 2024**.
- 12.16. **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 8.30 p.m.

Signed:.....Chair.

Dated:.....

APPENDIX

Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council Planning Schedules for December 2023.

<u>Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council</u>			
<u>Planning Schedule December, 2023</u>			
<u>Planning Reference</u> <u>Site Address & Detail</u>	<u>Parish</u> <u>Comment</u>		
NO PLANNING NOTIFICATIONS THIS MONTH			
<u>Decisions notified by the Planning Authority</u>			
<u>Planning Reference</u> <u>Site Address & Detail</u>	<u>Parish</u> <u>Comment</u>	<u>District</u> <u>Decision</u>	<u>Date</u>
P1257/23/FUL 9 Peacock Lane Ruspidge Gloucestershire Proposed use of existing summer house for annexed accommodation ancillary to main dwelling.	Objection	Granted Permission	15/11/2023
P1883/21/FUL Land At Sneyd Wood Road Cinderford Gloucestershire Erection of residential development of 11 number dwellings with associated works drainage, roads, parking and landscaping.	No Objection	Granted Permission	29/11/2023

District Councillor Reports.

Cllrs Richard Burton, Andy Moore

District Councillor Report – 6th December 2023

Electric waste collection vehicle trial

The try-out of the RQ-E Kerb-Sort Romaquip could lead to even cleaner, greener household waste collections in the future. Transport linked to the waste, recycling and street cleansing services is by far the largest producer of emissions linked to the Council's operational activities. This vehicle could significantly reduce CO2 emissions and help achieve the Council's target of becoming net zero by 2030.

Residents warned about festive scams

Residents are being urged to be watchful over the festive period to avoid becoming victims of a fraud scam, as such schemes become ever more prevalent. In some cases fraudsters have been replacing QR codes in car parks and using fake websites to pose as on-line payment providers and have duped some drivers into entering bank details when they park to go Christmas shopping. There has been a 75% increase in people being scammed when shopping for items such as cars, tickets, clothes and holidays on Facebook Marketplace, and online shopping scams are getting even more sophisticated.

First off-gas home in Gloucestershire receives energy efficiency upgrade

A Ruardean farmhouse is the first home in Gloucestershire to receive free energy-saving measures under the latest phase of the government-backed Home Upgrade Grant (HUG), which is being delivered locally by energy efficiency advice service Warm and Well. To be considered for the energy-performance upgrades, householders must not have connection to mains gas heating and live in an energy-inefficient home with an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of D or lower. Properties without a current EPC can still apply and will be assessed as part of the application process. The funding is open to those with a combined household gross income below £31,000 or who receive means-tested benefits.

I've attended full Council meetings, Scrutiny Committee, and Development Management Committees, Councillor briefings and site inspections.

County Councillor Reports.

December Report to Parishes in Blakeney and Bream Division

Wishing you all a happy Christmas and looking forward to working with you in the New Year!

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 related.

Here is a link to where to find out about road works <https://one.network/public> the way to report problems on our road network has changed.

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

Some of the benefits and features of Fix My Street include:

- Being able to use the map to see which issues have already been reported or add a new report.
- Anyone can sign-up to receive updates about the work being done.
- Download the Fix My Street app to make reports from your phone.
- Reducing duplication of reports and admin.

I spoke to Nathan and Chris at Highways and they think that Fix my streets has made the process quicker to manage so that issues on the network are being dealt with more quickly. Do let me have any feed back for them about your own experiences as there will be teething problems and they can only get sorted if they know about them.

- Dean Road, near Blaize Bailey is closed between 11th and 22nd December for Gig a clear work

- Roman Road is closed from 11th December for three days (noted this was not on the map!)

At the Road Safety Liaison Group where county, district and parish councillors get together with Highways, fire, police and FE to work together to address and share concerns and areas that need some focus we were given a presentation by the OlderDrivers Forum

<https://olderdriversforum.com> it was a useful piece of information about an active group that are supporting older drivers to be aware of their driving skills and safety and support for families of older drivers. They run regular free webinars.

Budget Time of Year GCC are setting theirs. We are lucky in our Green Group to have an accountant who is able to scrutinise the budget and pension committee with expertise. She is looking at value added amendments to propose in February. One of our main budget amendments last year was to ask for some money to support the recommendations of the Rivers Task Group, this was agreed and the money has enabled a post to be full time for a project worker between GCC, GWT and WWT.

Please take a look at the GCC budget consultation here and respond if you are able

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/budget2024-25>

The Director of Public Health, Siobhan Farmer, has published her annual report which highlights society's

complex relationship with alcohol and the impact it has on us. **Just another drop? Director's report on alcohol**

published <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gloucestershire-county-council-news/news-november-2023/just-anotherdrop-director-s-report-on-alcohol-published/>

Free healthy lifestyle support available for families New online healthy lifestyle support called BeeZee Academy is now available for every family in Gloucestershire.

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gloucestershire-county-council-news/news-november-2023/free-healthy-lifestyle-support-available-for-families/>

The Build Back Better fund has allowed me to help several community projects, in Soudley I have supported the School with some books and help towards fixing up their amphitheatre so they can hold events for the whole school and parents, some money towards a playground at the Dean Heritage Centre that is free for children from Soudley to use a compost tumbler so that the food waste from the DHC is made into compost on site and used in their own market garden and a bit towards some new tables and chairs in the village hall. Other things I have funded have been more general and for the potential benefit of anyone from Soudley such as The Music Works, based in Cinderford, The Dean Forest Food hub and the Forest of Dean South Girl Guides. The vast majority of this money has now been spent, I will let you know if any more becomes available. I would like to thank all of you that have allowed me to see what great work so many people get up to to support their communities. We live in a vibrant and active place that cares for the people and the environment in which we live.