

# Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council

## **MINUTES of the MEETING** **held on the Tuesday 8th November, 2022**

*(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, Mark Ogden,  
Gwyn Roberts, Carole Roberts,  
Helen Medcraft, William Acland.

### **County Councillors Present:**

No District Councillors Present.

### **District Councillors Present:**

Cllr. Bernie O'Neill.

**The Clerk** – Roland Dowding.

### **Public Present:**

No public present.

### **Apologies:**

Cllrs. Nicky Packer, Graham Morgan,  
Beki Hoyland.

### **Standing Declarations of Interest**

- (a) Ruspidge Memorial Hall - Insignificant personal interest by Cllr. Acland.
- (b) Ruspidge Memorial Hall - Insignificant personal interest by Cllr. C. Roberts.
- (c) Ruspidge Memorial Hall - Insignificant personal interest by Cllr. G. Roberts.
- (d) Soudley Village Hall - Insignificant personal interest by Cllr. Ogden.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**No Public Present.**

## **RUSPIDGE WELFARE TRUST**

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

11.1. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

11.1. **APOLOGIES** received and recorded from absent members.

11.2. No declaration of personal or prejudicial interest declared.

11.3. **MINUTES** - the minutes of the council meeting held on the **11th of October, 2022** were **ACCEPTED** as a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

11.4. **MATTERS ARISING** – There were no matters arising from the minutes.

### **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

*Reports attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.*

### **COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

*Reports attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.*

11.7. **PLANNING** – completed schedule is attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.

## **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

- 11.8. Following report by the Treasurer the council **APPROVED** the accounts presented for **November** payment totalling **£4,663.37**, this figure being inclusive of confidential expenditure.
- 11.9. **PRESENT DRAFT BUDGET** - The Parish Council have requested the **RFO** amend the draft budget to full cost recover for members to review at December's meeting.
- 11.10. **VOTE TO END LEASE ON BLUE ROCK TRAIL** – Due to future prohibitive costs and restrictions regrading who and how work can be undertaken to maintain the surface of the **BRT**. Parish Council members voted unanimously to end the **BRT** lease with Forestry Commission England.  
However, the Parish Council is fully prepared to maintain the sculptures and memorial benches sited at **BRT**, provided this can be agreed with Forestry Commission England.
- 11.11. **SOUDLEY COMRADES CLUB** - Due to concerns raised by the public over ownership of the Comrades Club, Tramway Road, Soudley, believed to have been left in Trust for the benefit of Soudley residents, the property is currently, allegedly being used to store flammable industrial / commercial waste.  
**FoDCC** to be contacted and informed of the concerns of the local residents.  
The Parish Council seeks to request the deeds of ownership and any **Trust** documentation in connection with the running of the Comrades Club.  
The Clerk is instructed to write to current address listed for the Comrades Club enquiring for the aforementioned information to be provided to the Parish Council.
- 11.12. **CORRESPONDENCE** The council **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** the following correspondence:  
The Parish Councillors accepted all relevant correspondence has been forwarded via email to all members.
- 11.13. **Next Meeting** - the next meeting of the council is to be held in the **Ruspidge Memorial Hall** at 7.00pm **Tuesday, 10th January, 2023**. The agenda deadline is **Wednesday, 4th January, 2023**.
- 11.14. **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 7.45 p.m.

Signed: ..... Chair.      Dated: .....

# APPENDIX

## Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council

### Planning Schedule for the October, 2022 meeting.

**Planning Reference  
Site Address & Detail**

**Parish  
Comment**

**P0098/22/DISCON**

Land Adjoining, Dene Vista, Ruspidge Road, Ruspidge.  
Discharge of Condition 8 (bicycle store) and Condition  
9 (surface water drainage) relating to P0530/22/FUL.

**No Obj**

**P1876/20/FUL**

Land At St Whites Farm St Whites Road  
Change of use of agricultural land to equestrian and  
retention of stable building, hay barn and container  
unit and associated equipment /works. (Retrospective)

**Withdrawn**

### Decisions notified by the Planning Authority

**Planning Reference  
Site Address & Detail**

**Parish  
Comment**

**District  
Decision**

**Date**

**P0087/22/DISCON**

Former St Whites Primary School , Land At Buckshaft  
Road, Cinderford, GL14 3DH. Discharge of condition 06  
(roofing and external facing materials) 15 ( biodiversity  
enhancement) 17 (Construction Method Statement ) & 18  
(external lighting) relating P2073/21/FUL

**No Obj**

**Consent**

**13/10/2022**

**P1203/22/FUL**

Former St Whites Primary School , St Whites Road,  
Cinderford, Gloucestershire. Variation of Condition 1  
(approved plans) and Condition 9 (cycle storage  
facilities). Removal of Condition 2 (approved details/plans)  
and Condition 10 (management and maintenance of  
proposed streets) relating to P2204/20/FUL.

**No Obj**

**Consent**

**18/08/2022**

# FoDDC. District Councillor's Reports.

## Cllr. Nicky Packer

*Report to Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council – November 2022*

### **Cost of Living Crisis**

The Leader of the Council has provided the following update:

A steering group has been set up between councillors, retained officers and Publica officers focused on supporting local communities, communicating with residents and exploring additional support. Councillors' input is wanted, especially where those councillors have a link or knowledge to certain sectors or demographics within society.

A website has been set up to provide residents with advice on all the support available to them: [www.fdean.gov.uk/costoflivingsupport](http://www.fdean.gov.uk/costoflivingsupport). It will continue to be developed in the coming weeks including adding information on local support available in communities.

A campaign is being run across social media, the Council's e-newsletter & media focussing on financial support, community support and energy reduction. There is also an accompanying leaflet available in the Council's customer service points.

#### *Support provided by the council*

- Council tax support scheme for those struggling to pay council tax. An update to this scheme to make it available to more people has just been consulted upon and will be coming to Cabinet for a decision on 13 October.
- Housing support - provides help to people struggling with accommodation including the Homelessness Prevention Grant, discretionary housing payments and advice for clients in financial difficulty.
- Supporting communities - Communities Team works with local communities to help build resilience and support communities to set up support networks.
- Delivering associated support including the Holidays Activities and Food Programme, handing out government support and supporting people suffering domestic abuse.

#### *How you can help*

Councillors are asked to follow the campaign and share the information with local communities.

Please let me know if you can suggest specific content or if you are experiencing additional requests and whether you want any of the leaflets.

### **Cabinet meeting 13<sup>th</sup> October**

<https://meetings.fdean.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=115&MId=4163&Ver=4>

#### *Five Acres*

A report seeking Cabinet approval to prepare for the construction stage, identify a main contractor early in the design process and provide officers with the delegated authority to proceed with the first phase of development. Possibly a Full Council decision will be needed in December 2022 to approve the budget estimate from the contractor prior to any further work commencing on site.

The project includes (with the phasing as far as I can make out)

Phase 1: the refurbishment of the existing Speedwell building to create a new community sports/leisure/education hub with ancillary car parking; a new build 4-court sports hall also suitable for use as a performance venue

Phase 2: 3G artificial sports pitch; sports pavilion; cycle hub; refurbishment of existing tennis courts; external sports equipment storage facility; car parking to include electric vehicle charge points.

## *Other items*

Updated Counter Fraud and Anti-Corruption Policy

Data Retention Policy

### **Full Council meeting 20<sup>th</sup> October**

<https://meetings.fdean.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=120&MId=4216&Ver=4>

- The Head of Paid Service has notified his retirement to take place at the end of March 2023. It was agreed by majority that the salary for his replacement should be increased to a maximum of £110,000. The recruitment process for a new Chief Executive to commence immediately by engaging the services of a recruitment consultancy at a cost of £25,250. The role title may be changed to Chief Executive.
- Notification of Cabinet changes – Green Cabinet members Chris McFarling and Sid Phelps have been relieved of their duties.
- The proposal to increase the number of members on Planning Committee from 13 to 15 and change of the name of the Planning Committee to the ‘Development Management Committee’ was referred back to the Constitution Working Group due to a proposal to review whether planning committee members should be allowed to vote on planning applications in their own ward. If it is decided to change this, that would make it easier for the planning committee to be quorum and make an increase in member numbers (which was of questionable help anyway) unnecessary.
- Member Champion reports were noted and are available on the website
- The motion to pledge allegiance to His Majesty King Charles III was carried.
- The motion for the Council to do what it can to help improve the water quality in the River Wye was carried.
- The motion concerning fracking was carried. This was a reaffirmation of a previous motion with some updating and additional actions.
- The motion concerning Cannop Ponds was amended so that it read: 'To urge Forestry England to construct new dams at Cannop Ponds to retain the existing ponds and to design them to attenuate Flood Water to protect the downstream settlements of Parkend, Whitecroft & Lydney in the event of severe storms of which these settlements are in high category flood zones.' This was carried and the Head of Paid Service has written to inform Forestry England.

### **SOSC meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> November**

<https://meetings.fdean.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=233&MId=4259&Ver=4>

The following items were discussed:

- Publica Annual Report
- Waste Services Update.
- Leisure Services Update
- Community Safety Partnership Update
- Performance Panel Report
- Cinderford Northern Quarter Update

I was unable to attend the meeting. I will try to give a better report, particularly on the Waste Services Update, in the near future.

The Robin will provide on-demand services that will fill a gap where there is no bus provision, complementing existing services. Residents can book affordable journeys via an app or over the phone. The service will provide a link from bus stops in hamlets or village centres to local transport hubs and train stations, making existing public transport services more accessible.

[https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gloucestershire-county-council-news/news-october-2022/county-council-launches-pilot-rural-minibus/?utm\\_source=Facebook&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_campaign=Orlo](https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gloucestershire-county-council-news/news-october-2022/county-council-launches-pilot-rural-minibus/?utm_source=Facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=Orlo)

Also, Forest of Dean District Council's Street Wardens have been awarded a Gold Footprint RSPCA PawPrints award for their work dealing with stray dogs for the 9th year in a row.

## **Cllr. Bernie O'Neill**

*Report to Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council – November 2022*

- A list and map view of 'warm spaces' can be found at [www.warmwelcome.uk](http://www.warmwelcome.uk)
- FoDDC have a small grants pot available to support new initiatives, such as lunch clubs, community larders and community fridges.
- Working with FVAF to progress food resilience mapping. Ruspidge Gardening Club and Soudley allotments identified
- All member and town parish briefing will be held in December
- A monthly e-newsletter is going to be circulated
- FoDDC are exploring ways for people to make a financial donation to help others if they can afford to
- Concern regarding Forest Lodge planning application, St Whites road Ruspidge.

# **GCC. County Councillor's Report.**

## **Cllr. Graham Morgan**

*Report to Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council – November 2022*

This is my report for November, the County Council have now launched The Levelling up Together Grant Scheme, Cinderford together with other urban wards will be able to apply as they rank in the 10% most deprived wards, the total monies available is £1.5 million.

Waste Wizard has now been launched by the County Council and the District Councils, this is a new on line tool to help people across the County find out how to get rid of items sustainably.

Still with Waste you can now book a visit to your household recycling centre on the same day, the booking system that was set up during lock down, is to be retained because it helps to manage people visiting these sites with out causing traffic congestion.

The County Council has expressed an interest in the Central Government Investment Zones, in Gloucestershire they are looking at two investment zones, one would be Central Gloucestershire City Region, consisting of Golden Vally Development, Elms Park, Tewksbury Garden Town, and Gloucestershire Airport & Surrounds. The Second Investment Zone being looked at in Gloucestershire is the Berkeley Alternative Energy Park.

Back locally we have been looking at ways to solve speeding issues in Woodside Street Cinderford where four cars have been written off, the answer here is more traffic calming such as what we have in Hilldene and parts of Cinderford East.

The Safety Manager from Spelle Metcalfe that are building the New Hospital has been in touch with regard the speed of vehicles coming up Steam Road towards Cinderford, Highways have suggested they put out bigger and advanced signage to warn of a concealed entrance, Speller Metcalfe are also going to cut back the Vegetation opposite the Garage on Steam Mills Road now that the door mice are hibernating.

Another major issue is parking on Buckshaft Road, it would appear that at this point in time Gloucestershire Highways have no funded schemes outside of City areas to bring in a type of Resident Parking Scheme, they have suggested the residents contact their Housing Provider to see if they can effect some form of Off Road Parking for the residents concerned,

I am currently trying to establish if any of these Resident Parking Schemes do in fact exist in the County outside of the Urban or City Area's.

Best Wishes Graham Morgan.

If you are contacting me as a local constituent please be aware I may need to share your personal information when contacting County Council Officers or other agencies relevant to your query.

For more information on how I and the County Council use personal data visit [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/privacynotices](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/privacynotices).

## **Cllr. Beki Hoyland.**

*Report to Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council – November 2022*

Feel free to contact me on [beki.hoyland@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:beki.hoyland@gloucestershire.gov.uk) if you have any questions. Some of this information may be useful to disseminate further via your website etc:

### **ROADS**

I will try and keep you updated but the best place to check is: [Roadworks - Highways \(gloucestershire.gov.uk\)](https://www.goucestershire.gov.uk/roadworks-highways) note: closed roads still allow access for residents.

Gigaclear is coming through Soudley between now and the beginning of January. There are estimates about which roads will be closed when on the above link. The main road from Blakeney to Ruspidge will not be closed but will have traffic lights for much of this time. Smaller roads will be closed to through traffic and may make access difficult but the work force do try to accommodate everyone's access needs.

I have had some communication about the fact that the road signs have been misleading, making it look as if the road from Littledean to Soudley is closed. I have spoken to Street Works and they have been in touch with Gigaclear who have moved signs to make the information clearer.

I have also been told by Street Works that Cindford Road (to Blakeney) will need to be closed for Gigaclear work but that this will not happen until New Road in Blakeney is open. The latest on that is that the road is booked for closure until the 23<sup>rd</sup> December. The piling on this job took five times as long as expected causing the long over run.

Dean Road, between Littledean and Newnham will be closed for 2 weeks from the 1<sup>st</sup> December for drainage works.

I have had conversations with both Highways and PROW team about the bridge to the village hall. Highways is not responsible, and Forestry England say: I'm afraid it remains unregistered but I can recall a second bridge be put in to replace the ageing structure to the West. What I can tell you is that the Hall and associated area was sold to the Trustees of Soudley Rec Ground in 1975. You will see below that they will have at least riparian ownership of the bridging.

### **Highways Local money**

I have had a conversation with Nathan Chout about the Highways local pot and allocated money towards one week of lengths men's work in Blakeney and Bream division which will be booked for a week in November. Please can you give me a list of any work that needs doing that is appropriate for them so that we can make sure we make the most of their time getting ready for winter. This work can include cleaning and maintaining signs, drains, gullies, hedge and verge cutting. I Would suggest that if we can make a list that can be added to at anytime and is available to Nathan then not only in this particular week but from May to October when the maintenance team are on General contract in the South Forest, we are more likely to have them do the work we would like them to do. I am happy to be the list holder, I already have a spread sheet with road issues that I work from.



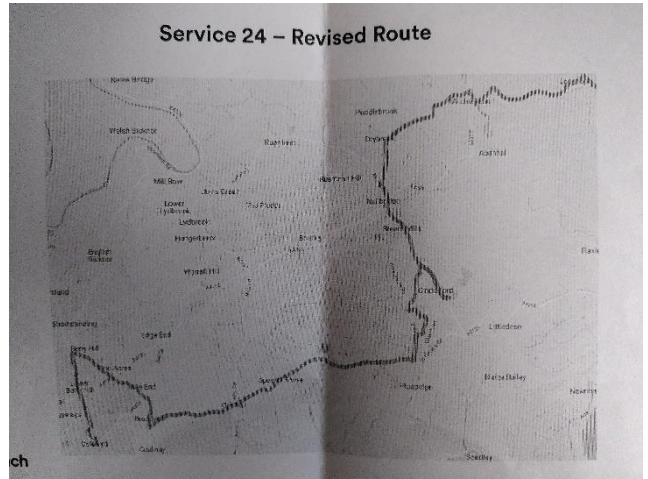
## Bus services

Stagecoach has given the following statement about busses in the Forest of Dean:

Changes to the Forest of Dean network from 20th November 2022:

From Sunday 20th November, we'll no longer be operating the following contracted routes: Service 25, 27, 710, 748, 755, 761.

We'll also no longer operate contracted journeys on the Service 24 between Cinderford and Chepstow. The route of the Service 24 will be adjusted to provide connections between Gloucester, Cinderford and Coleford, replacing journeys currently operating on the Service 25.



# The Robin

Driven by  Gloucestershire COUNTY COUNCIL

The Robin, an on-demand minibus service has just started operating in the South of the Forest of Dean, the A40 to the north and Chepstow to the South being the boundaries of its operation.

The Robin can be booked over the phone, on line or you can download the app from the play store. It can be booked up to 2 weeks in advance or an hour in in advance. The idea is that it will supplement stagecoach bus services especially in villages with no bus service. It will not take you to Gloucester but it will take you to the A48 or Littledean to catch a bus to Gloucester. Lydney dial a ride won the contract. There are 2 minibuses in operation. I have used it twice and it has been very efficient, an excellent service.

Below is copied from GCC website:

### How to book

1. Sign up / log in
2. Search for a pick up time, location and drop off location
3. Select a time that suits you
4. Select a ticket type (on the right hand side)
  - 4a. If you need a **child** or **concessionary** bus pass ticket, please select 'Add a discount/subscription', and add your ticket type
5. The correct fare and payment options appear on the left hand side

Please note, if choosing to pay on board, both contactless card payment and cash are accepted on the service.

Visit our [contact us page](#) for contact details and you can stay up to date with The Robin news.

Distance	Fare (single journey)	Concessionary Pass Holder**	Child fare (15 Years and Under)

0 – 7 miles	£2.50	FREE	£1.50
7.1 + miles	£4.00	FREE	£3.00

\*\*Concessionary passes must be presented when boarding the The Robin vehicle and scanned on the ticket machine reader when you board.

## **Children’s services**

There are currently 855 children in care across Gloucestershire, a quarter of these are placed outside of county, away from familiar school, family and friends, for some this is a necessary move but there are those that should be in County if we had more foster families. Please consider **if you or anyone you know could become Foster carers, if so please get in touch with [Fostering - Fostering \(gloucestershire.gov.uk\)](#)** These short films on You Tube give some insight into fostering [Gloucestershire - Foster for your council - YouTube <https://youtu.be/vFVmaLu-td0>](#) Sharing them within your community could help find some much needed foster parents.

I went to an event run by the ambassadors, young care experienced young people that are working with GCC to make sure that the child’s voice is heard, it was good to meet these amazing young people and hear about the launch of organising an event that will celebrate the achievements of care leavers in the County. If you know a care leaver who would benefit from being celebrated for what they have achieved in their life do let me know and I can nominate them for an award. This is aimed at under 25 year olds. Thank you.

## **Warm spaces**

[Warm spaces - Gloucestershire County Council](#)

County Libraries have been funded to make sure that there is a warm place in the community for anyone that needs it. You can have free drinks, charge your devices, work ‘from home’ so you can keep the heating off at home during the day. You can use their IT and get support with other services that the county offers. Cinderford Library is the closest for us.

**Gloucestershire County Council** has full council on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November. There are four motions being put forward.

- Violence against women and girls – Conservative.
- Action to tackle river pollution - Labour
- Tackling the crisis in NHS dentistry -Lib Dem
- Creating warm spaces – Labour/Lib Dem

[Agenda for County Council on Wednesday 9 November 2022, 10.00 am \(gloucestershire.gov.uk\)](#)

# Gloucestershire Homes for Ukraine Scheme Weekly Summary

4<sup>th</sup> November 2022

The following information provides an update on the Homes for Ukrainians (HFU) scheme in Gloucestershire.

## National visa applications <sup>i</sup>

(for each Ukraine refugee scheme) (as of 02/11/22)

Total visa applications	Received	Issued	% Issued	Arrived in UK	% Arrived
Ukraine Family Scheme	73,300	56,400	77	39,400	54
Homes for Ukraine Scheme	168,100	139,800	83	102,100	61
<b>Total</b>	<b>241,400</b>	<b>196,200</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>141,500</b>	<b>59</b>

## Local visa applications HFU scheme only

Total visa applications	Received	Issued	% Issued	Arrived in UK	% Arrived
Gloucester	148	137	93	105	71
Cheltenham	329	302	92	268	81
Stroud	324	312	96	252	78
Tewkesbury	340	207	61	160	47
Forest of Dean	262	244	93	210	80
Cotswold	331	317	96	266	80
<b>Total Gloucestershire</b>	<b>1,734</b>	<b>1,519</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>1,261</b>	<b>73</b>

## Local data on Sponsors, Guests and Checks Properties and Property checks

	Addresses requesting checks	Checks completed	Passed	Pending	Failed	Property checks outstanding
Cheltenham	190	178	171	12	7	12
Cotswold	141	139	138	2	1	2
Forest	131	127	127	4	0	4
Gloucester	78	73	64	0	9	5
Stroud	142	139	139	0	0	3
Tewkesbury	105	97	95	0	2	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>787</b>	<b>753</b>	<b>734</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>34</b>

## Guests, visits and DBS checks

Number of guests arrived in UK (or within the next week)	1262
Number of guests visited (after initial arrival in the UK)	1243
Number of properties (where guests have initially arrived)	534

<b>Number of properties visited</b> (where guests have initially arrived)	526
<b>Number of guests rematched to new hosts</b>	128
<b>Number of guests visited</b> (after having been rematched to a new host)	119
<b>Number of properties</b> (where guests have been rematched)	65
<b>Number of properties visited</b> (where guests have been rematched)	61
<b>Number of guests revisited</b> (at 6 months)	128
<b>Number of properties revisited</b> (at 6 months)	53
<b>Number of DBS checks initiated</b>	1354

#### TOTAL checks

	All 5 checks completed
Cheltenham	130
Cotswold	99
Forest	95
Gloucester	50
Stroud	115
Tewkesbury	53
Gloucestershire total	542

#### Rematching of guests with new sponsors

Number of rematches completed	80
Number of rematches in progress	35
Number of properties checked and ready for rematching	74
Number of properties with accommodation checks currently in progress	39

#### School Placements

	Families for Ukraine	Homes for Ukraine	Total
<b>Total number of places allocated</b>	69	297	366
<b>Early years</b>	2	13	15
<b>Primary</b>	34	146	180
<b>Secondary</b>	33	138	171

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ukraine-sponsorship-scheme-visa-data-by-country-upper-and-lower-tier-local-authority>