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# RUSPIDGE & SOUDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES of the MEETING held on Tuesday 13th February, 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, Denis Norman Bagwell-Johnston, Lori-Leah Griffiths.

**County Councillors Present:**

Beki Hoyland.

**District Councillors Present:**

Bernie O'Neill.

**Parish Council Clerk** – Roland Dowding

**Apologies:**

Cllrs. Helen Medcraft, Andy Moore, Richard Burton, Graham Morgan.

**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:**

None Present.

**RUSPIDGE WELFARE TRUST (RWT)**

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

- 2.1. There were no matters arising from the minutes.
- 2.2. Maintenance update for Ruspidge recreation ground and Ruspidge football ground. Mr James Smith of Mr Maintenance has been appointed by the PC to attend to the most urgent 'GREEN' level maintenance requirements of the PC owned play area equipment. The trustees present agreed to have a metal cage construction fabricated to protect the electrical cabinets at Ruspidge football ground. This is due to continuous vandalism of the electrical cabinets and in the interest of everyone's safety.
- 2.3. No other business.

**Public Participation: No Public Present.**

- 2.1. **Apologies** received and recorded from absent members.
- 2.2. No declaration of prejudicial interest was declared by members present.

- 2.3. **Minutes** - The minutes of the council meeting held on the **9th of January, 2024** were **ACCEPTED** as a true record of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.
- 2.4. **Matters Arising** - There were no matters arising from the minutes.
- 2.5. **District Councillor Reports**
- Reports is attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.*
- 2.6. **County Councillor Reports**
- Reports is attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.*
- 2.7. **Planning** – The completed schedule for **February** is attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.
- 2.8. **Financial Matters** - Following a report by the Treasurer the council **APPROVED** the accounts presented for the **February** payment totalling **£2,568.52** this figure is inclusive of confidential expenditure.
- 2.9. **Littering Picking Hubs** – Cllr. Lori-Leah Griffiths requested the members present consider Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council participate in the Litter Picking Hubs Scheme as advertised by Forest of Dean District Council (FoDDC) and as advised by Forest Voluntary Action Forum (FVAF).  
Cllr. Smith raised concerns about the logistics of running a litter picking hub and the impact to the Parish Council Clerk’s current workload. Cllr. Jo Smith also raised concern as to who would be accountable for public liability should members of the public be harmed whilst participating in the hub, or public property be damaged as a consequence of the litter picking hub. The members present agreed with the points put forward by Cllr. Jo Smith and requested additional information to confirm what tasks and responsibilities will be involved in running a Litter Picking Hub and who would be accountable for public liability. Cllr. Lori-Leah Griffiths agreed to research these questions with the support of the Clerk, Roland Dowding.
- 2.10. **Correspondence** - The council **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** the following correspondence:  
The Parish Councillors accepted all relevant correspondence has been forwarded via email to all members.
- 2.12. **Next Meeting** - the next meeting of the council is to be held in the **Ruspidge Memorial Hall** at **7.00 p.m. Tuesday, 12th March 2024**. The agenda deadline is **Monday, 4th of March, 2024**.
- 2.12. **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 8.10 p.m.**

Signed:.....Chair.

Dated:.....

## APPENDIX

# Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council Planning Schedules for February 2024.

### Planning Reference & Site Details

### Parish Comment

#### **P0126/24/FUL**

**No objection**

The Well, Railway Road, Ruspidge, Cinderford.  
Erection of a garage/workshop to south elevation of  
existing dwelling, retaining garden walls and  
associated works.

### Decisions notified by the Planning Authority

**NO NOTICES POSTED**

# District Councillor Reports.

## Cllr. Richard Burton

### District Councillor Report – February 2024

#### £20,000 to fund 24 lunch clubs across the district

Forest of Dean District Council will reach out to existing clubs and speak with local partners to ensure that the funding reaches those who need it most. The money is coming from the Community Lunch Club Grants.

#### UP TO £25,000 AVAILABLE TO LOCAL BUSINESSES THROUGH REPF GRANT

BUSINESSES IN THE FOREST OF DEAN ARE BEING INVITED TO APPLY FOR A SECOND ROUND OF RURAL BUSINESS GRANTS TO DEVELOP AND GROW THEIR BUSINESS. THIS FUNDING IS AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME, SO BUSINESSES ARE BEING ENCOURAGED TO ACT QUICKLY SO THEY DO NOT MISS OUT.

#### £160,000 FOR COMMUNITY LED AFFORDABLE HOUSING SCHEME

THE FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT COUNCIL HAS AGREED TO PROVIDE £160,529 OF UNALLOCATED AFFORDABLE HOUSING FUNDING TO A COMMUNITY LED HOUSING SCHEME IN LONGHOPE.

#### COUNCIL APPROVES ETHICAL INVESTMENT POLICY

Following approval of an Ethical Investment Policy, the Forest of Dean District Council will only invest in financial products that are aligned with its social and environmental goals; and avoid ones deemed unethical

#### NEW CABINET MEMBER FOR THRIVING COMMUNITIES

Councillor Jackie Dale has been appointed to the Council's cabinet as Cabinet Member for Thriving Communities.

#### PROJECT TO HELP PROTECT NEIGHBOURHOODS FROM EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE BEGINS

Nature-based solutions such as planting trees to reduce rainfall run-off or to help keep urban areas cooler, are measures residents could see implemented as part of a collaborative project to make the Forest's towns and parishes more resilient to the impacts of climate change.

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

# County Councillor Reports.

## Cllr. Graham Morgan

We are moving towards the Full County Council on Wednesday 21st of February which will be the budget setting meeting.

We have also held a meeting with Andrew Middlecote Forest Highways Manager and Steve the local Highways Manager.

For Cinderford Ann Weyman brought up several highways' issues, along with the Winner Garage request for the road to be stopped up at the bend near their entrance at Forest Vale Road, Gloucestershire Highways are against this and hoping that the Cinderford Town Council will also be against these proposals.

She also raised the issue with regards to the Bus Shelters in St Whites Road, that this need to be moved forward because the Forestry Commission England needs construction dates for a licence to be issued for work being carried out on their land.

For Ruspidge Roland raised the water issues in Tramway Road, and the Grit bin requirement in Morgans Way, the TRO for the Junction of Railway Road and St Whites Road and School Safety Zone at Buckshaft Road is still in progress.

Regarding TRO or Traffic Regulation Orders we are asking in the budget meeting next week for more revenue be put into this area of work and for more staff, as the whole TRO area of work is almost at a standstill, with in some cases private companies near Bristol being used to get things done.

The next Highways Managers meeting for Roland and Emma is Wednesday 27th of March so please log any issues picked up for this meeting.

**Cllr. Beki Hoyland.**

## **February Report to Parishes in Blakeney and Bream Division**

As ever you can contact me at [beki.hoyland@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto: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 but no road closures that I can see in the next couple of weeks.

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>

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 - **Driving safely, for longer**

<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.

### **CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

#### **Launch of Family Hubs**

This investment in the council's network of children and family centres in communities across the county will play a key role in the introduction of the family hub model to Gloucestershire, offering a wide range of family support services, or signposting to other services as needed.

The concept of family hubs was developed by the Centre for Social Justice (2014) and aims to provide support for all families with children and young people aged 0 to 19, or up to age 25 for young people with special educational needs and disabilities. The county council has appointed Family Action to run its centres in Stroud and Cotswold, with Aspire Foundation Trust managing Cheltenham and Tewkesbury. The new contracts will begin on 1 April 2024. Work is ongoing to confirm a partnership for Gloucester and the Forest of Dean.

The centres will co-ordinate and facilitate family support activity locally, making it easier for families to find out about the services and support available where they live. The aim of the family hub model is to ensure all families have access to the right support, at the right time, in the right place.

The new arrangements will offer opportunities for council services to co-locate with health partners and work more closely with local community and voluntary services in the locality making it easier for families to access support when they need it.

The children and family centres will become part of a wider network of physical and virtual family support points across the county. Families can find out more by visiting [Children & Family Centres - First steps to Family Hubs | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

I asked at the last children's meeting that the fact that Gloucester and the Forest have not yet had an organisation appointed to run the Family hubs in our area that we make sure we do not get left behind the rest of the county. The existing contract has been extended to make sure current services are maintained. I will keep asking this question at every opportunity.

**School attendance:** school attendance has dropped in Gloucestershire as in the rest of the country, going from 3.7% pre pandemic to 7.2% in 22/23. this is a concern as children missing school sessions are vulnerable from a safeguarding point of view as well as missing steps in the build up of academic knowledge.

Making sure that there is support for all families is crucial if we are to build a safe and positive future. I will continue to bring this view to the children's meetings that I attend.

**Adult Social Care Survey** Over the coming weeks a random survey of adult social care service users in the county will take place. This will give essential information to help plan future services. The survey will go out to a sample of around 1,400 adults who have received care and support services in the community and in care homes paid for or arranged by Gloucestershire adult social care. The results of the survey will help the council, Department for Health and Social Care and the Government better understand how services affect people's lives. The surveys will be posted to people in the week commencing 22 January and should be returned by 8 March. This is an annual national survey carried out under the guidance of NHS Digital. Responses will be treated in confidence and service users will not be personally identified in the results, which are shared with the Department of Health and Social Care and NHS Digital.

### **Our campaign 'food waste, it all adds up' has just launched!**

Ever wonder why we talk about food waste so much at Gloucestershire Recycles?

There are lots of reasons! Food waste has one of the highest carbon footprints of anything in your bin (second only to textiles). Plus, the average UK family could save £83 per month, around £1,000 per year, by saving food from the bin.

Each stage in the journey of our food draws resources from our planet and produces greenhouse gas emissions, which trap heat in our atmosphere. An astonishing 9% of global carbon emissions come from wasted food.

Recycling food is one of the most important things you can do kerbside but we know that food waste still makes up 25% of the waste found in non-recyclable waste bins. ?

Take a look at [our pages dedicated to food waste reduction and recycling](#).

The classes will be running at on the following dates:

- Harts Barn Cookery School, Longhope - Thursday 15 February
- Oakley Community Centre, Cheltenham - Thursday 29 February
- Wiggly Community Kitchen, Westgate St, Gloucester - Wednesday 6 March

**Low waste cooking classes** <https://www.gloucestershirerecycles.com/reduce/food/low-wastecooking-classes/>

**OneGlos recruitment event to support people moving back into employment from all ages and backgrounds.**

When: 27 February 2024

Time: 10am to 1pm

Where: Gloucester Guildhall, Eastgate St, GL1 1NS

In partnership with Prospects Training, the event will include lots of county council teams (Adults, Children's, Corporate Recruitment, Apprenticeships, Highways, Libraries, Fire & Rescue, Legal, Adult Education, Employment & Skills Hub, Shared Lives, Proud to Care) as well as our partners in health - the NHS and Gloucester Health and Care. It is a great way for job seekers to speak to teams face-to-face, ask any questions and apply for vacancies on the day.

This event is free to attend and candidates can [book a spot](#). Attendees are advised to:

- Arrive between 10am to 1pm
- Bring a CV if possible (advisable but not essential)
- Be prepared to chat to different people from various teams

Please help us by sharing these details or our posts on social media about the event. Whether people are starting their career or ready to take the next step, we'd love to chat to them about the career opportunities available.

If you need any further information, please email [ASCrecruitment@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:ASCrecruitment@gloucestershire.gov.uk)