

# Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council

## MINUTES of the MEETING

held on the Tuesday 10th January, 2023

*(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:

Cllr. Beki Hoyland.

### District Councillors Present:

Cllr. Bernie O'Neill.

**The Clerk** – Roland Dowding.

### Public Present:

Adrian Peacey, Richard Carpenter,  
Georgina Carpenter, Denis Bagwell-Johnston,  
Nick Holder, Duncan Lilley.

### Apologies:

Cllrs. Nicky Packer,  
Graham Morgan.

### 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

**Adrian Peacey**, speaking on behalf of Richard Carpenter, Georgina Carpenter, Denis Bagwell-Johnston, regarding the cancellation of bus services within the parish. An update on the action the Parish Council has taken was requested. The public present were informed a letter had been drafted outlining the parishioners concerns and requesting Cllr. Phillip Robinson, cabinet member for education, skills and transport attends a public meeting within the parish. Also, the same letter was sent to Mr Mark Harper, MP for the Forest Of Dean requesting his assistance with this matter. The Parish Council are currently awaiting a reply. Adrian Peacey is arranging a petition, once concluded it will be submitted to Cllr. Graham Morgan.

**Nick Holder, Duncan Lilley.** Were both present representing Soudley Village Hall in relation to 1.12. formation of Parish Council sub-committee to support the village hall regarding the bridge at Lower Rd.

## RUSPIDGE WELFARE TRUST

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

- 1.1. There were no matters arising from the minutes.
- 1.2. Request from Cinderford Ladies Football Club, for the construction from recycled wood of a sheltered seating area at the football ground. After inspecting the construction details and the club's insurance & liability details, the trustees unanimously approved the request.
- 1.3. Cabin roof maintenance revised upon trustee Acland's request. Rubber roof is believed to be inappropriate as the roof is ridged, fiberglass paint is now proposed and consultation with contractors.

- 1.1. APOLOGIES received and recorded from absent members.

- 1.2. No declaration of personal or prejudicial interest declared.
- 1.3. **MINUTES** - the minutes of the council meeting held on the **13th of December, 2022** were **ACCEPTED** as a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.
- 1.4. **MATTERS ARISING** – There were no matters arising from the minutes.
- 1.5. **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS**
- Council Tax proposed to be increased nationally by 0.11p per week for a band D
  - A Council Tax support scheme is available for individuals on low incomes
  - Forest Lodge, St Whites Rd, planning application was due by December and as yet to been received, one month's extension has been granted
  - District Council will be holding early May elections, all seats are contested
  - Electorate will be required to show Voter photo ID to vote in the May elections
- 1.6. **COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS**
- Reports attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.*
- 1.7. **PLANNING** – completed schedule is attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.
- FINANCIAL MATTERS**
- 1.8. Following report by the Treasurer the council **APPROVED** the accounts presented for **January** payment totalling **£3,082.70**, this figure being inclusive of confidential expenditure.
- 1.9. **SALT GRIT BIN RUSPIDGE ROAD** - Request from Ruspidge residents for a grit bin on Ruspidge Rd opposite the Chip Shop, on the corner of the interconnecting road of Ruspidge Road to Tramway Road.  
Request unanimously approved, Clerk instructed to purchase lidded salt grit bin, pending Highways consideration & approval.
- 1.10. **SALT GRIT BIN BUCKSHAFT ROAD** - Request from Buckshaft residents for a grit bin at the top of Hudson Ln adjoining Buckshaft Rd.  
Request unanimously approved, Clerk instructed to purchase lidded salt grit bin, pending Highways consideration & approval.
- 1.11. **BUS STOP REQUEST** - St Whites Rd. The Parish Council decided to defer the request to Cllr. Graham Morgan and Highways, due to concerns over a suitable location being available on the parish side of St Whites Rd.
- 1.12. **SOUDLEY VILLAGE HALL SUB-COMMITTEE REQUEST** - Creation of a sub-committee to liaise between the **PC** and **SVH** in relation to Soudley Lower Road Bridge. sub-Committee approved, Cllr.Jo Smith & Norman Snell to sit on sub-committee. Cllr. Jo Smith agreed to take minutes for sub-committee.
- 1.13. **CORRESPONDENCE** The council **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** the following correspondence: The Parish Councillors accepted all relevant correspondence has been forwarded via email to all members.
- 1.14. **Next Meeting** - the next meeting of the council is to be held in the **Soudley Village Hall** at 7.00pm **Tuesday, 14th February 2023**. The agenda deadline is **Monday, 6th February, 2023**.

- 1.15. **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 8.10 p.m.

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

# APPENDIX

## Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council

Planning Schedule for the January, 2023 meeting.

**No Planning Submitted To Council For January.**

Decisions notified by the Planning Authority

**No Decision Notifications For January.**

# County Councillor's Report.

## Cllr. Beki Hoyland

### Report to Parish Councils, January 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 \(gloucestershire.gov.uk\)](#) note: closed roads still allow access for residents.

New Road in Blakeney is still closed with the latest date for opening between the 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> January. I have been assured that Viney Hill and Soudley Roads will not be closed for work while New Road is closed.

#### Highways Local money

I am waiting for a report from Highways on the work completed as part of the highway's local money, I do know they did some grass cutting in Bream and allowed water to get to the drains around the Awre area.

The pavement between Broadoak and Blakeney, where it exists, has now been cleared so that it is safer to walk along.

Do please continue to let me know about the kind of jobs that the community lengths men teams can do, they will be starting work again once the weather is better.

[A417 Missing Link \(gloucestershire.gov.uk\)](#) The A417 (near the Air Balloon round a bout above Gloucester) has had the go ahead.

#### GCC Budget

If you would like to add your thoughts to the budget for GCC here is a link to the consultation. The green Group have been working with the administration to try and make sure that environmental issues are considered at all levels. The Biodiversity officer that we were able to secure funding for at the last budget is starting work this month.

[Budget Consultation 2023-24 - Gloucestershire County Council](#)

At the **Equality working group** we reviewed the newly drafted equalities working document. My main area of concern is how consultation takes place across the board. There was acknowledgement from officers that this needs work and I will keep asking for updates at our next meeting.

### Food Waste - It All Adds Up

Gloucestershire Recycles have launched their latest campaign 'Food Waste – It All Adds Up'. Both the environmental and financial costs of food waste are huge. About 55,000 tonnes of domestic food waste were created in the county last year and 137,500 tonnes of CO2 are created producing and transporting this food. The average 4 person household could save £60 a month by reducing food waste.

You can help the campaign by:

- Spreading the message about food waste and encouraging people to visit <https://www.gloucestershirerecycles.com/food/>
- Sharing this [poster](#)
- [Signing up to Gloucestershire County Council's Waste newsletters to find out more](#)
- Requesting Food Waste leaflets for your local area by emailing [waste@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:waste@gloucestershire.gov.uk)
- [Reducing your food waste at home](#)

- [Recycling](#) and [composting](#) any food waste that you can't avoid

You can view the press release for the campaign here

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gloucestershire-county-council-news/news-november-2022/recycle-your-food-to-help-cut-waste-and-carbon/>

## Have your say! – Planning Enforcement Plan Engagement

Gloucestershire is a historic county with a rich natural, built and heritage environment. With a growing population and economy, the county requires increasing and improved infrastructure, some of which is provided through its local mineral and waste resources. Any conflict this might bring to local amenity is minimised through appropriately siting development and controlling operations; this is partly regulated through the planning system.

Effective enforcement is important in supporting the planning system, through upholding decisions made, and addressing any identified breaches of planning regulations by taking the appropriate action. Gloucestershire County Council's Planning Enforcement Plan was developed in 2019 and sets out how this is done. It not only informs how complaints can be made and how they are investigated, but also explains how we work together with operators and others, to resolve any issues where they arise.

The Planning Enforcement Plan is now being reviewed, partly as a response to changing legislation guidance and good practice, but also to give you the opportunity to tell us about your views on the planning enforcement service.

To respond to the survey visit <https://haveyoursaygloucestershire.uk.engagementhq.com/planning-enforcement-plan-feedback>

The survey closes on Monday 16 January 2023.

---

## **Children's services**

### **Have you seen our support hub?**

[The Support Hub](#) provides links to helpful information and advice and will provide you with the tools you need to help with the increased cost of living. Most of these tips also can help you reduce your emissions as well as save money, look after your mental health and wellbeing and conserve energy.

### **Homes for Ukrainians update**

#### ***New support package announced for Ukrainians***

- On 14 December, Government announced a new more than £650 million support package for Ukrainians.
- The measures announced today include:
  - Homes for Ukraine hosts 'thank you' payments to increase to £500 a month after a Ukrainian's first year of sponsorship, and will be extended from 12 months to 24 months.
  - From 1st January 2023, councils will receive £5,900 to help support each new arrival. Government will also provide £150million of new UK-wide funding in the 2023/24 financial year to local authorities and devolved governments to help mitigate homelessness in place of the tariff.
  - Councils in England to get new £500m fund to acquire housing stock for those fleeing conflict (including from Ukraine and Afghanistan) and reduce homelessness.
  - New potential hosts will also be encouraged to come forward and apply to re-match existing guests through the scheme.

- These updates are designed to ensure the sustainability of the programme over the longer term and to provide certainty to all those who are supporting close to 150,000 people that have found safety in the UK.
- All online guidance will be updated over the coming weeks to reflect these new updates to the scheme. Further information about what this means for the HFU Scheme in Gloucestershire will be shared in due course.

### ***Cabinet paper regarding HFU funding arrangements***

- In November, Cabinet ratified the allocation of the Government's ring-fenced HFU Scheme grant funding in Gloucestershire. In total, more than £15 million of Government ring-fenced funding is available to support the scheme in the county.
- In addition, Cabinet also endorsed a revised internal process for accessing this protected Government funding. This will make it easier for the county council and partners to provide essential and timely support for Ukrainians arriving in the county under the HFU scheme.
- In a press release issued by the county council, Cllr Kathy Williams, cabinet member responsible for refugees and migrants, said, "The funding we get from Government for this scheme is ringfenced and there are strict ways it should be spent. Over half of the money we are allocated is going directly back to guests and hosts in the form of support payments, or by providing specialised mental health support for trauma. The rest is allocated to our partners to make sure Ukrainian guests have access to services they need, and responsibilities set out by Government are met."

### ***Update on revisits***

- The HFU team began revisiting guests and sponsors in early September 2022. The purpose of these visits is to check on the welfare of guests and their sponsors, provide an opportunity for guests and sponsors to ask questions and to initiate a discussion about what might happen at the end of the initial six-month sponsor relationship. If plans are in place for ending the arrangement after six months, rematching and housing options are then discussed.
- As of 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022, 115 revisits have taken place across the county to a total of 260 guests. Feedback from the revisits that have taken place so far is very positive, with the majority of sponsors wishing to continue sponsoring their guests. Sponsors and guests have also welcomed the opportunity to ask questions and talk through any challenges that they are experiencing. Many guests are keen to move into private rented accommodation in future, and the HFU team are currently working with partners to consider options to help support these transitions in the future.

### ***Rematching***

- Work is ongoing to rematch guests with new sponsors where necessary. As of 15th December 2022, a total of 86 households across the county have been rematched to new sponsors, corresponding to 168 guests.
- There are a number of different reasons why guests might need to be rematched to new sponsors. Rematching is used if sponsors are unable to host beyond the initial six month commitment made when they signed up to the scheme; when the needs of guests have changed e.g. guests needing to move to a different area of the county in order to be closer to their workplace; when the circumstances of sponsors have changed e.g. sponsors wishing to move house; guests on the HFU scheme moving to Gloucestershire from other areas of the country; and in exceptional circumstances, when efforts to mediate between sponsors and guests have been unsuccessful and the sponsorship has irreparably broken down.

- A partnership approach has been taken to rematching, with responsibility shared between Gloucestershire County Council, districts and Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers (GARAS). Gloucestershire County Council provide central oversight and coordination of rematching and DBS checks, while property checks are carried out by districts. GARAS work with both sponsors and guests to ensure that any new match is appropriate and will last.

### ***Events with guests and sponsors***

- The HFU team have been continuing to support community events for Ukrainian sponsors and guests. The Department for Work and Pensions have held Job Fairs with local employers to help Ukrainians to find employment, with members of the HFU team also attending to support guests and answer any questions that they may have.
- The HFU team held a Q&A webinar for sponsors on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November. The session was focused on housing and accommodation, but questions were also answered on a range of topics including employment, access to public transport and English language classes. The HFU team have received positive feedback about the session, and further sessions will take place in the new year.

### ***ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) and other forms of community support***

- In response to feedback from guests and sponsors, the HFU team have worked with partners to develop a comprehensive list of both formal and informal English language classes. This list is provided to guests and sponsors at welcome visits and six month revisits.
- In Gloucestershire, we are fortunate to have a large number of community groups and organisations offering support to Ukrainian refugees who have arrived in the county under the HFU scheme. The HFU team are working to develop an approach to working with and engaging effectively with these groups, with regular communications to community groups being planned going forwards.