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# RUSPIDGE & SOUDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES of the MEETING held on Tuesday 12th March, 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.

**County Councillors Present:**

Graham Morgan.

**District Councillors Present:**

None Present.

**Parish Council Clerk** – Roland Dowding

**Apologies:**

Cllrs. Helen Medcraft, Andy Moore, Richard Burton, Lori-Leah Griffiths, Beki Hoyland, 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:**

None Present.

**RUSPIDGE WELFARE TRUST (RWT)**

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

3.1. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3.2. No other business.

**Public Participation: No Public Present.**

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

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

3.3. **Minutes** - The minutes of the council meeting held on the **13th of February, 2024** were **ACCEPTED** as a true record of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.

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

3.5. **District Councillor Reports**

*Reports is attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.*

**3.6. County Councillor Reports**

*Reports is attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.*

- 3.7. Planning** – The completed schedule for **March** is attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.
- 3.8. Financial Matters** - Following a report by the Treasurer the council **APPROVED** the accounts presented for the **March** payment totalling **£8,409.18** this figure is inclusive of confidential expenditure.
- 3.9. Soudley Village Post Box** – The members present voted unanimously in support of having a new post box sited near to the community notice board along Top Road.
- 3.10. Soudley Village Hall – CCTV** - The members present contested any necessity to vote on this issue, stating, this request is outside of the Parish Council’s remit, the Parish Council has **NO** authority to comment on this issue and therefore cannot approve, or disapprove of Soudley Village Hall’s committee deciding to install CCTV cameras. The decision is for Soudley Village Hall’s committee to decide.
- 3.11. Clarke Telecom Tower** – The members present voted unanimously in favour to the proposal from Clarke Telecom for the siting of a telecom tower in Soudley, at the Beeches, near to Hillside house. This under the proviso, the majority of Soudley’s residents are also in favour of the current Clarke Telecom proposal.
- 3.12. Litter Picking Hub** – The Chairman deferred this subject for discussion at April’s Parish Council meeting.
- 3.13. Recreational Area Annual Reports** – The members present acknowledged they had received and reviewed the Annual Inspection reports from the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February 2024 for Ruspidge recreation play area, the MUGA at Ruspidge recreation ground, Soudley recreation ground play area, Soudley Basketball area and Woodland View play area. Also, the members present acknowledged receipt and review of the February Operational reports for the aforementioned areas. To note, the Operational reports were performed and sent in error by KOMPAN as they are not required in the same month as the Annual reports. KOMPAN has confirmed no charge will be made for these Operational reports. Concern was raised regarding discrepancy between the Operational and Annual reports, the Clerk, Mr Roland Dowding will query this discrepancy with KOMPAN and report back to Council. It was agreed the Clerk will continue to review the quarterly inspection reports, consult and liaise with the PC’s appointed contractors in regard to said reports and organise any routine maintenance required. Council members will also review the Quarterly and Annual inspection reports and raise any concerns they might have regarding the findings of the reports directly with the Clerk. Any major concerns and maintenance costs over £500.00 will be brought to the attention of full Council for debate.
- 3.14. Ruspidge Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)** – The members present approved the highlighted repairs for the MUGA as informed in the KOMPAN Annual report and after being advised by Cllr. Tony Matthews who had recently performed his own inspection of the MUGA are

confident once repairs are attended to, the MUGA will continue to be of service to the youth of the parish for the next 5 – 10 years.

- 3.15. **Correspondence** - The council **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** the following correspondence:  
The Parish Councillors accepted all relevant correspondence has been forwarded via email to all members.
- 3.16. **Next Meeting** - the next meeting of the council is to be held in the **Soudley Village Hall** at **7.00 p.m. Tuesday, 9th April 2024**. The agenda deadline is **Monday, 1st of April, 2024**.
- 3.17. **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 8.20 p.m.**

Signed:.....Chair.

Dated:.....

**APPENDIX**

# **Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council Planning Schedules for March 2024.**

**Planning Reference & Site Details**

**Parish Comment**

**NO NOTICES POSTED**

**Decisions notified by the Planning Authority**

**NO NOTICES POSTED**

# District Councillor Report.

## Cllr. Richard Burton

District councillor report March 2024 – Richard Burton

### **Cabinet Members agree on amended budget proposals**

Following consultation with residents, Forest of Dean District Council Cabinet Members have agreed on an amended draft budget for 2024/25. The proposed budget maintains local services in the face of reducing funding and plans for further expected cuts to local government finance.

### **Voters encouraged to make sure they are registered and have photo ID ahead of May Police and Crime Commissioner elections**

Voters across the Forest of Dean District are being encouraged to make sure they are registered, have applied for postal voting and applied for identification if needed ahead of the deadlines, so that they can vote in the police and crime commissioner elections on Thursday 2 May.

### **FOREST LEADS ON TRAINING TO SUPPORT VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE**

Forest of Dean District Council is supporting partners Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Support Service (GDASS) and Gloucestershire College to provide hairdressers, barbers and beauty therapists with training to respond and support clients who disclose that they are victims of domestic abuse.

### **Council Tax reduction for care leavers increased to include 25-year-olds**

The Forest of Dean District Council will increase the age limit of its council tax reduction for care leavers from twenty-one to twenty-five years-old and make care leavers from outside the district eligible for the reduction.

### **Five Acres receives planning approval for new business, leisure and education facilities**

The new leisure, enterprise and education facility at Five Acres in Berry Hill received planning permission on Tuesday 13 February, following a decision by the Council's Development Management Committee.

# County Councillor Reports.

## Cllr. Graham Morgan

Please see the County Councillors Report for March 2024, as you no doubt have already been sent this from County Highways there are several roads that are to be resurfaced throughout our area, commencing 1st April 2024 through to September 2024.

These are as follows.

Valley Road from Station Street junction through to Hastings Road junction.

Forest Vale Road from Valley Road roundabout through to Foxes Bridge Road junction.

Station Terrace from Beechdean through to Station Street.

Beechdean from Station Terrace through to Cedardean.

Parragate from Station Terrace Through to Cedardean.

We have also raised the issue with the Police at the Forest of Dean Road Safety Group, with regard the growing practice of parking vehicles on pavements.

If you see potholes please report them on the Highways app ( Fix My Streets ) this facility is open to members of the public, or just e-mail myself [graham.morgan2@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:graham.morgan2@gloucestershire.gov.uk) I will put your request through.

Very Best Wishes Graham Morgan County Councillor Cinderford & Ruspidge.