

# Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council

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## MINUTES of the MEETING

held on the Tuesday 14th March, 2023

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

### Parish Councillors Present:

Cllrs. Tony Matthews. Chairman,  
Norman Snell, Gwyn Roberts,  
Carole Roberts, William Acland.  
Helen Medcraft, Jo Smith.

### County Councillors Present:

Cllr. Graham Morgan.

### District Councillors Present:

Cllr. Nicky Packer, Bernie O'Neill.

**The Clerk** – Roland Dowding.

### Public Present:

Adrian Peacey, Francis Phillips, David Sutton,  
Vanessa Thomas, Brian Barnard.

### Apologies:

Cllrs. 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.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**Vanessa Thomas.** Nominated as spokesperson and spoke on behalf of the residents in attendance regarding the current lack of public transport and problems booking the Robin service. She informed Council, residents have had difficulty in booking the Robin bus service, both via the telephone and online. Vanessa Thomas also highlighted how difficult it is now for working individuals without a consistent local bus service and how it is adding extra hours to their daily commute to and from work.

Cllr. Morgan explained talks are being held in an attempt to amend a current Willets Cinderford bus service to accommodate Ruspidge & Soudley. The Clerk (Roland Dowding) will contact Stage Coach and make a formal invite to attend a Parish Council meeting to further discuss the matter.

## **RUSPIDGE WELFARE TRUST**

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.

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

3.2. No declaration of personal or prejudicial interest declared.

3.3. **MINUTES** - the minutes of the council meeting held on the **14th of February, 2023** 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 attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.*

3.6. **COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

*Reports attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.*

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

**FINANCIAL MATTERS**

3.8. Following report by the Treasurer the council **APPROVED** the accounts presented for **March** payment totalling **£2,353.84**, this figure being inclusive of confidential expenditure.

3.9. **YELLOW SCHOOL LINES BUCKSHAFT** – Cllr Acland will contact the Highways Authority to request an inspection of the condition of the yellow lines on Buckshaft Rd outside St Whites School. The Police will also be contacted requesting a higher police presence in the area, to enforce parking regulations and educate motorists.

3.10. **WOODLAND VIEW PLAY AREA** - Members agreed a public consultation is advised to decide the future of **Woodland View Play Area**. This will take place via a mail shot and Facebook. The Clerk is requested to investigate ownership of the Land **Woodland View Play Area** is sited on.

3.11. **SNEYD WOOD RD 20mph SPEED LIMIT REQUEST** - Members voted unanimously for the 20mph speed limit.

3.12. **RAILWAY RD 20mph SPEED LIMIT REQUEST** - Members voted unanimously for the 20mph speed limit.

3.13. **CORRESPONDENCE** The council **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** the following correspondence: The Parish Councillors accepted all relevant correspondence has been forwarded via email to all members.

3.14. **Next Meeting** - the next meeting of the council is to be held in the **Soudley Village Hall** at 7.00pm **Tuesday, 11th April 2023**. The agenda deadline is **Monday, 3rd April, 2023**.

3.15. **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 8.00 p.m.

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

# APPENDIX

## Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council

### Planning Schedule for the March, 2023 meeting.

**P0098/23/FUL**

St Whites Primary School , Sneyd Wood Road, Cinderford, Gloucestershire. Erection of a first floor extension with associated works.

**Parish comment.**

**No Objection**

**P0021/23/DISCON**

Former St Whites Primary School, St Whites Road, Cinderford, Gloucestershire. Discharge of Condition 3 (surface and foul water drainage scheme) and Condition 4 (hard and soft landscaping scheme) relating to planning permission P2073/21/FUL

**No Objection**

### Decisions notified by the Planning Authority

	<b><u>Parish Comment</u></b>	<b><u>District Decision</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
<p><b>P1774/22/FUL</b> 74 Ruspidge Road, Ruspidge, Gloucestershire, GL14 3AE. Erection of a first floor extension with associated Insulation, landscaping, parking and works. Removal of chimney breast and chimneys. (part-retrospective)</p>	<b>No Obj</b>	<b>Consent</b>	<b>09/03/2023</b>

# District Councillor Reports.

## Nicky Packer.

*Report to Ruspidge and Soudley Parish Council – March 2023*

### **SOSC meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> March**

1. Jennifer Grubb of Welsh Water made a presentation and answered questions. Welsh Water are a not-for-profit company and seem to be making largescale improvements to their infrastructure. She explained how and why wastewater is discharged into rivers and how it is monitored.

Severn Trent and the Environment Agency were invited but didn't attend.

The Welsh Water presentation can be found on this link:

<https://meetings.fdean.gov.uk/documents/s32169/Welsh%20Water%20Presentation.pdf>

2. There wasn't a Forestry England update as Kevin Stannard was unable to attend.
3. The Forest Economic Partnership (FEP) gave an update. The District Council provide secretariat support and some funding to the FEP, but due to staff shortages, only the Education and Skills sub group and the 'Inspiring our Forest' project group are meeting at present.

The 'Inspiring the Forest' project 'aims to raise career aspirations amongst young people, their parents and their teachers across the Forest of Dean; and also to raise awareness of the eclectic mix of businesses in the area and of the types of jobs available and increase awareness of the skills required for jobs locally at all levels from apprentices to senior managers.' They held a very successful event with 700 Year 9 students visiting an exhibition where they could engage with local businesses. They plan future events to be larger.

<https://meetings.fdean.gov.uk/documents/s32176/F.608%20Forest%20Economic%20Partnership%20Update.pdf>

4. A De-carbonisation Update was given by the Council's Climate Change Specialist.

<https://meetings.fdean.gov.uk/documents/s32180/E.176%20Decarbonisation%20Strategic%20Overview%20and%20Scrutiny%20Committee%20March%202023%20Climate%20Partner.pdf>

### **SOSC meeting 7<sup>th</sup> March**

The Cinderford Northern Quarter Scrutiny Inquiry report was presented to the committee. This will now be presented to the Cabinet.

<https://meetings.fdean.gov.uk/documents/g4344/Public%20reports%20pack%2007th-Mar-2023%2018.00%20Strategic%20Overview%20and%20Scrutiny%20Committee.pdf?T=10>

*Nicky Packer 8.3.23*

## **New Voter ID law**

A new law requires residents to show photographic ID to vote in person at a polling station. Please see: <https://news.fdean.gov.uk/news/forest-of-dean-district-residents-will-need-photo-id-to-vote-at-local-elections-on-4-may>

Accepted forms of ID are a passport, a drivers' licence and some concessionary travel passes, such as an older person's bus pass. Voters will be able to use expired ID if they are still recognisable from the photo and the name on the ID is the same as appears on the Electoral Register.

Anyone without acceptable ID can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate> or by completing a paper form which is available from the Council. The deadline for applying for a Voter Authority Certificate for the next local elections is 5pm on Tuesday 25 April 2023.

Postal voting is not affected.

## **Cllr. Graham Morgan**

### *Report to Ruspidge and Soudley Parish Council – March 2023*

The biggest issue facing the Cinderford & Ruspidge County Council Ward is the loss of the No 24 bus route through Ruspidge leaving the Village isolated regarding public transport. I have a meeting arranged for the 14th March at Shire Hall with Cabinet member for transport Cllr Philip Robinson and the officer responsible Tom Main.

In Cinderford I am hoping to meet up with Dave Holland on Thursday 16th March with regard the positions for Cameras in Cinderford.

In the Budget amendments that were passed at the Budget meeting, was an amendment from my group that was successful for £80,000 the equivalent of £1500 for each division for grit bins, this can be used to obtain additional bins to those supplied by Highways at strategic locations and those supplied by Parish Councils.

We also moved a successful amendment for £43,000 to fund a proposed reduction in the application fee for Disabled Marked Bays from £80 down to £40 (costing £3,000) to support demand pressures and to take other measures to enhance accessibility for disabled residents.

In the Forest we at the Forest of Dean Road Safety Group are going to push again for a 40mph speed limit in the Central Forest wooded area, like those that have been implemented in the New Forest, Dartmoor and Cannock Chase in the 1990s.

The County Council Environment Scrutiny Committee commissioned the Forest of Dean Area Speed Limit Task Group that produced a report Dated March 11th 2009 but although it had wide spread support, at that time it did not receive support from the MP Mark Harper and the Police so did not get any further with the then Cabinet at Shire Hall.

It is the intention at Forest of Dean Road Safety Group to ask Town & Parish Councils to write in to the District Council Community Safety Partnership to ask for a fresh look into such proposals because we still have the same issues 14 years after this report was rejected.

Very Best Wishes Graham.

# County Councillor Reports.

## Beki Hoyland

### Report to Parish Councils, March 2023.

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

**Cinderford road, between Blakeney and Soudley, will be closed for Gigaglear works between 28<sup>th</sup> March and 2<sup>nd</sup> June in various stages and places.** Access for residents is usually maintained. I will stay in touch with Streetworks who are responsible for the logistics of road closing so do let me know the issues that occur. I will also make sure that Nicky Packer, our District Councillor, is aware so that any waste collection issues can be raised.

Gigaclear are also due to be working on Blakeney Hill during March and April.

3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> April roads around Awre will be closed for Gigaclear work

Clarks Lane, Blakeney will be closed on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May for bridge inspection

Various works along the A48 on traffic control, the latest date I could spot for the end was mid March.

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

## GCC Budget for more detail follow these links but a few highlights are below

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/2115043/budget-book-2022-23-draft-v2.pdf>

### Budgeted Net Expenditure 2022/23

Services	2021/22 Original Net Expenditure £'000	2021/22 Other Agreed transfers between services-Traded services £'000	2021/22 Removal of one off 20-21 budget amendments £'000	2021/22 Permanent Virements £'000	2021/22 Base Budget £'000	2022/23 Pay & Price Inflation Costs £'000	2022/23 Cost Increases £'000	2022/23 Cost Reductions £'000	2022/23 Other Agreed Transfer between Services £'000	2022/23 BCF Funding £'000	2022/23 Grant Funding £'000	2022/23 BUDGETED NET EXPENDITURE £'000
Adults Children and Families					155,609							
Economy Environment & Infrastructure Community	156,533	126,570		(609)	125,480		12,378				(149)	164,097
Safety Corporate Resources	75,888	20,009	(315)	103	75,136	1,006	1,451	12,976	(3,986)	(205)	1	82,795
Prevention & Wellbeing	34,591	35,566	-	(482)	19,997	497	479	11,334	(1,337)	(73)	-	39,615
Technical and Countywide	33,851		(450)	(1,060)	36,877	67	43	1,629	(1,200)	(1)	149	36,593
			(470)	(13)	34,643			3,170				
			(647)		33,191			4,560				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>483,008</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(2,075)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>480,933</b>							

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 has started work this month and will work across the council to ensure that biodiversity is given the priority needed if we are to maintain and grow whilst developing land in all the ways demanded by our society.

During the budget council meeting on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> Feb there were several amendments put forward by all groups as follows and were all accepted and passed.

- £150,000 to trial an E-Bike hire scheme
- £90,000 to provide secure bike hangers for public use across Gloucestershire
- £100,000 to fund footpath resurfacing

- £150,000 to accelerate the delivery of Traffic Regulation Orders and reduce the current backlog
- 100,000 to enable the actions in the Restoring Our Rivers Task Group

Recommendations for the 2023-24 financial year for the councillor stipend were agreed. I voted for it as it was the same increase as for council staff and below inflation. I think if we want to be represented by a wider demographic the work needs to be recognised financially. (I work about three days a week as a County Councillor and it is hard to find other employment around the commitments)

1. To increase the Basic Allowance from £10,750 to £11,395.
2. To increase the Special Responsibility Allowances by broadly 6% in line with the recommendation for the Basic Allowance.

Dear Community Partner

### Industrial action and NHS services

#### Monday 13 March (7am) to Thursday 16 March (7am) - British Medical Association (Junior Doctors)

We are writing to update you ahead of the nationwide 72-hour industrial action by Junior Doctors next week.

Whilst the NHS locally is making plans to keep essential services available, the strike will pose substantial challenges, particularly in our hospitals. The highest priority will be to care for those in most immediate and urgent need and safeguard patient care.

We are urging local people to only access A&E in Gloucester or call 999 if their condition is life threatening or very serious.

Cheltenham General Hospital's Emergency Department (A&E) will become a nurse led Minor Injury and Illness Unit for the duration of the strike enabling available emergency care staff to come together at Gloucester to keep services safe.

To support preparation, this change will come into effect from **Sunday 12 March (8pm)** until **Thursday 16 March (8am)**. It will operate as an MIU 24 hours a day throughout this period.

Patients who have a planned hospital operation, outpatient clinic or procedure between **Monday (13<sup>th</sup>)** and **Thursday (16<sup>th</sup>)** should attend hospital as usual unless they hear from their NHS Trust to advise otherwise. However, given the need to ensure safe staffing arrangements in emergency care and other critical services many appointments will need to be rearranged.

There will be no disruption to patient visiting arrangements on these days. However, we are asking relatives and carers to do everything they can to work with our staff to get their loved ones home from hospital as quickly and as safely as possible, with additional support, if necessary, from local NHS community services or adult social care teams.

### Getting healthcare advice

Many parts of the NHS - hospitals, community services and GP practices - are likely to feel the impact of the industrial action - either directly or indirectly - so local people are being urged to use services responsibly.

If people have an urgent care need, but are not sure which service to use, they are asked to visit

111.nhs.uk in the first instance or call 111 for advice. The 111 phone service can book people into local NHS services if required, but is likely to see an increase in calls.

111 online and the local ASAP Glos NHS website and App can provide information on the services provided by community pharmacies, GP surgeries, including the Gloucester Health Access Centre, Community Minor Injury and Illness Units and A&E.

A number of Community Hospital Minor Injury and Illness Units across the county will be open on the days - 8am to 8pm and Cheltenham MIIU will be open 24 hours a day throughout this period of industrial action. People are likely to be seen more quickly on arrival if they book an appointment by calling the local MIIU line: 0300 421 7777 or 111.

People can get the latest on the day service updates and advice through local NHS social media channels and websites.

Further public information about the industrial action, including FAQs, has been published by NHS England and can be found [here](#).

**Waste** <https://www.gloucestershirerecycles.com/waste-wizard/>

Gloucestershire Recycles have launched their latest 'Recycle Your Electricals' campaign. The campaign aims to encourage more people to reuse and recycle their electricals rather than throwing them away.

Electricals are rich in precious metals and are very valuable, but these resources are lost when electricals aren't properly recycled. Discarded or hoarded household electricals cost the UK economy £370 million per year of lost valuable raw materials such as gold, copper, aluminium and steel.

The creation of new electrical items has a high carbon footprint so reusing and recycling electricals is important to help reduce the impact of climate change.

## **Children and Families Scrutiny Committee**

**Too little "Early Help" results in large numbers of children and families in need of high level intervention. (currently 850+ children in care)**

**Gloucestershire has done well where they have been able to bring early help in again. The restructuring of Social services will build early help back into the system and provide more universal and continuity of social care for families.**

SEND - Green Paper on SEND has not gone through but the framework in it is already being implemented with several LAs having been inspected on it since January, GCC is expecting their's any time now. Chris Spencer, head of Children's services, said to expect a "written statement of action," which is a poor result. There are currently 130 children identified as needing a special school place with non available. There are different waves of funding to bid for capital allocation, the last wave was unsuccessful leaving GCC with a need to find an alternative strategy to fund more places.

**Travone House** - verbal update

Child death last year was an 18year old male. No police charges will be brought. Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board are also investigating but no report yet.

IPC report on the model is late but should be delivered in May.

Sufficiency Strategy. - verbal report



We don't have enough good quality provision for our young people. It is in the private sector which makes 22% returns on investment (compared with investments in Tesco at 6%). There is a strong case to make that the market has not delivered and we as GCC need to intervene and provide our own.

## **ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND COMMUNITIES Scrutiny Committee**

### Preparations for the Care Quality Commission CQC Assurance of Adult Social Care

Ofsted type assessment of ASC operations, integrated commissioning, public health, corporate support across HR, data and performance, IT, digital, communications, plus NHS (some responsibilities delegated). These are the GCC responsibilities under the Care Act

### MOTION 908 VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS (VAWG)

Long and detailed debate as discussed, including white ribbon, station poster and language (violent and everyday)

Community meals - not stopping them, struggling to get anyone to do it

## **Children and Young People's Healthier Lifestyles (Weight Management) Service Contract Award**

Commissioners have completed the tender process for a countywide children and young people's healthier lifestyles (weight management) service. The contract was awarded to BZ Bodies Ltd in February 2023, and the new service will be launched on 1 st May 2023. There will be an initial contact term on four years and 11 months, until 31st March 2028, with an option for a three-year extension. BZ Bodies is a specialised behavioural science and children's weight management provider, with a strong track record of delivering innovative lifestyle programmes for children and young people. BZ Bodies have been working with us since 2019 to develop and test a local weight management model for 7–11 year-olds and their families in Gloucester City and the Forest of Dean. Our next steps are to build on this experience to extend the offer across the county, 2 and introduce an offer for teenagers, and for under 7s (working closely with the developing 'family hubs' model). The Service will foster a culture of building on individual and community strengths, enabling people to help themselves where they can, but with options for a range of digital and face-to-face support that is proportionate to a child or family's needs. It will work closely with more specialised weight management support, which is being developed within the county as part of our participation in NHS England's Childhood Obesity Integration Programme. Over time this will deliver an end-to-end integrated care pathway to support the range of children and young people's weight management needs. The Service will adopt a community development approach, aiming to enable communities to play an increasing role in future delivery. To this end, we aim to reduce the annual contract value from Year 3 so we can invest a portion of the budget in community provision, focusing on neighbourhoods at higher risk of poorer health and communities facing barriers to accessing support.

## **Environment Scrutiny Committee.**

Discussion on road surface materials. Biodiversity is to be come a local issue so GCC will be writing a report on this. Cllr Chris McFarling was clear that by the time the report was written (due in 2025, actions from which are likely to be unfunded, it is too little too late and that Natural England already had the expertise and should be expected to do the work.

Climate change team is down 2 and hope they recruit soon. There is a move to get representation from the Gloucestershire Youth Climate Action Group onto Environment Scrutiny.

The Bus improvement Task Group and the Rural Estates Task Group will be meeting over the next month. I am on both and will report back.

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

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/your-community/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.