

Ruspidge Welfare Trust

Management Committee

Minutes of the Extraordinary Committee Meeting held in Ruspidge Memorial Hall,

7.00 pm on Wednesday 26th November 2025

Present: Tony Matthews, Paul Firth, Denis Bagwell-Johnston, Nicky Packer, Priya Shukla.

Chair – Mr. Tony Matthews.

Minutes - Clerk of Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council (R&SPC) Mr. Roland Dowding.

Public present: Edward Sheppard, Lee Hemming, Sid Phelps.

Public present and matters discussed – Edward Sheppard. Mr. Sheppard enquires about the possibility of Cinderford Town Youth FC using the pitch in Ruspidge. Mr. Sheppard stated that if they were to use the grounds, they would need access to toilet facilities. The Chairman, Mr. Matthews explained that this would involve keeping the cabins open in Ruspidge and the future of the cabins is to be discussed under the agenda later in the meeting. Keeping the toilet facilities open at this point cannot be guaranteed. Mr. Sheppard enquired about the cost of hiring the pitch without the cabins and toilet facilities. The trustees present debated this and agreed a fee of £15.00 per use. Mr. Sheppard stated the club would be interested in hiring the facilities from March 2026 onwards. Further discussions will be held with Mr. Sheppard, and he is to be invited to the next RWT meeting, proposed for January.

Lee Hemming. Ellwood Youth FC – Mr. Hemming also enquired as to using the pitch and facilities on a long-term basis. The Chairman, Mr. Matthews explained that the RWT would only consider a resident club, if they were to be a proven serious venture, take responsibility for the maintenance of the cabins and work with the RWT trust to secure funding for the long-term maintenance of the cabins. Mr. Hemming stated that the club's support would be able to provide on a voluntary basis some of the skills required to refurbish and maintain the cabins. The Club would be interested in taking a residency in March at the cabins. Mr. Hemming and colleagues would also like to see the facilities. Further discussions will be held with Mr. Hemming, and the club's representatives are to be invited to the next RWT meeting, proposed for January.

Note – Mr. Dowding enquired as to the possibility of both clubs working together to use the facilities. Mr. Sheppard & Mr. Hemming acknowledged the possibility, noting the logistics of who would take on responsibility for line marking, etc. Possibly something to be discussed at a later date.

- 11.1. Apologies for absence:-** Helen Medcraft, Norman Snell, William Acland.
- 11.2.** Acceptance of the minutes of the trustee meeting and AGM held on the 28th of May 2025. The Chairman, Mr. Tony Matthews duly signed the minutes.
- 11.3.** Matters arising from the May minutes. No matters arising.
- 11.4.** Acceptance of the minutes of the extraordinary trustee meeting held on the 8th of July 2025. The Chairman, Mr. Tony Matthews duly signed the minutes.
- 11.5.** Matters arising from the July minutes. No matters arising.

11.6. Financial Matters – Mr. Roland Dowding had forwarded copies of the RWT finances to the members prior to the meeting. The members accepted this and had no questions. A copy of the latest financial report is attached as an appendix to these minutes.

11.7. Cinderford Town Ladies Club (CTLFC) - Invited representatives of CTLFC, discuss & debate Ruspidge Football Ground & the Cabins with RWT members. Mr. Dowding informed the trustees present that the RWT received NO reply to the invites and NO replies to recent emails sent out to the club. Also, the club had not been using the grounds within the frequency's agreed, as discussed with the club back in June. NO representatives from CTLFC were in attendance at the meeting.

Considering this, the Trustee's deliberated the agreement made with CTLFC and decided that any agreement made by the liaisons with CTLFC was unfortunately unviable. By unanimous vote, the trustees present stated that the agreement would cease with immediate effect and asked that Mr. Dowding write to CTLFC to inform them of this decision and instruct CTLFC to vacate the premises within 14 days and return the keys to the Parish Council offices.

11.8. Ruspidge Football Ground & Cabins – Members and public the present discuss the future of the football ground, and particularly the cabins. At this point, there were no members of public remaining at the meeting. NO members of the public aside from representatives of the afore mentioned football clubs and Cllr. Sid Phelps had attended the meeting.

Although, the members were impressed by the presentations made by the representatives of the two clubs present, it was decided unanimously that it would be prudent to save further expenditure, both the water and electricity to the cabins are to be turned off at the earliest convenience. Should a suitable future arrangement be reached with the interested parties then facilities of water and electricity can be reconnected at that time.

11.9. Engagement with public membership and involvement in the RWT - Mr. Dowding informed the members present that notices had been posted on council notice boards and on Facebook through the year asking for volunteers from the public to get involved in the trust. Unfortunately, no public had expressed any interest.

11.10. Trustee, Nicky Packer requested action to have a tree originating on trust land that is overhanging the Ruspidge Memorial Hall's shed and the neighbouring house's garden reduced in size. After debating the matter, the members present voted unanimously to have the tree removed. Mr. Dowding will arrange this using the services of Mr. Wes Brown. It is requested either a trustee or a member of the Ruspidge Memorial Hall committee be present when the tree is being cut down.

11.11. Ruspidge Memorial Hall (RMH), National Lottery Grant Request – Trustee, Nicky Packer requested a hedgerow be planted the park side of the RWT western 'boundary fence', to support the grant obtained by the RMH. The trustee's present support this request provided it does not incur costs to the RWT. Nicky Packer suggested that volunteers can be found via the RMH to attend to the planting. The members present approved this suggestion.

11.12. Trustee's debate remodelling of the RWT Charity structure.
The members present debated a proposal to have the trust divided into two separate organisations. One as the RWT, being the recreational ground, the other being a new organisation for the football ground and cabins only. This proposal was voted on and turned down by the members present, preferring both areas to remain as part of the RWT.
The members present agreed that renewing and amending the trust's constitution is necessary. Particularly as the trust in its current form is an unlimited charity. Trustee, Nicky Packer

suggested that a new Ltd charity be set up and the old RWT assets transferred across to the new organisation. Once this is attended to, the old RWT can be closed. Nicky Packer agreed to work along with Roland Dowding to attend to this task. The members also agreed that a solicitor will be required for any conveyancing required. Mr. Dowding suggested using the Parish Councils current solicitor, Drew Property Law. The members present approved this suggestion.

- 11.13.** Trustee's debate, public consultation regarding change of RWT assets. As there were no members of the public present this debate is deferred.
- 11.14. Any other business.** There was no other business.
- 11.15. Next Meeting** - the next meeting of the **RWT Trustees & AGM** will be held in the **Ruspidge Memorial Hall at 7.00 p.m. Wednesday, 27th May 2026**. (Confirmation of booking pending).

The meeting ended at 08:30 p.m.

Signed Date

Appendix

Expenditure May – October 2025

May	3. SC	4.25	Lloyds Bank Service Charge
	4. DD	44.01	EDF Energy
June	5. SC	4.25	Lloyds Bank Service Charge
	6. DD	39.42	EDF Energy
July	7. BAC's	24.37	Water Plus
	8. SC	4.25	Lloyds Bank Service Charge
	9. DD	49.83	EDF Energy
August	10. SC	4.25	Lloyds Bank Service Charge
	11. DD	42.86	EDF Energy
September	12. SC	4.25	Lloyds Bank Service Charge
	13. BAC's	24.50	Water Plus
	14. DD	48.43	EDF Energy
October	15. DD	43.89	EDF Energy
	16. SC	4.25	Lloyds Bank Service Charge

Income May – October 2025

<u>Month</u>	<u>LLOYDS</u>	<u>COIF</u>	<u>COIF</u>	<u>Narrative</u>
	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Interest/1T</u>	<u>Interest/2T</u>	
May	0.88	5.53	100.43	
June	0.73			
July	0.62		60.00	Ruspidge F/G CLFC
August	0.72	5.53	100.43	30.00 Ruspidge F/G CLFC
September	0.65			
October	0.57		60.00	Ruspidge F/G CLFC