

**MINUTES of the MEETING of RUSPIDGE and SOUDLEY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**held in the Ruspidge Hall on the 9th June, 2015**

*(These Minutes are subject to approval at the next Council Meeting)*

Parish Councillors Present:

J. Stanford, Chairman  
Cllrs. Mrs. B. Hedges,  
S. Phelps, C. Hawkins & Bob Rhodes.

The Clerk - Mrs. Helen Hook.

County Councillors Present:

R. Leppington & G. Morgan.

District Councillors Present:

B. O'Neill & D. Hawthorne.

Public:

5 members of the public were present.

<b><u>Standing Declarations of Interest</u></b>	<b><u>Dispensation</u></b>
(a) Dean Heritage Museum Trust - Insignificant personal interest by Cllr. Phelps.	Granted to Cllr. Hawkins for matters relating to Soudley Village Hall - for use only if Cllr. Hawkins is required to make up the quorum numbers.  The dispensation expires 4 <sup>th</sup> September, 2015.
(b) Soudley Village Hall Committee - Insignificant personal interest by Cllr. Hawkins and Cllr. Stanford.	
(c) Great Oaks Hospice - Insignificant personal interest by Cllr. Hawkins.	

**Public Participation**

1. Speeding, Buckshaft Road - Mr. Hardcastle reiterated the points made in his emails which had been forwarded to all councillors. He also requested that the council arrange for Brian Watkins of Highways to contact PCSO Sue Pritchard regarding the speeding data and possible traffic calming. The council agreed to do this, on this occasion, but do not intend to become a communications gateway between the people of Ruspidge, the Police and Highways.
2. Cutting of Hedges, Buckshaft Road - The Clerk advised Mr. Hardcastle that letters will be sent to the usual properties next month.
3. Japanese Knotweed - Council were advised that the aggressive weed is growing outside 158 Ruspidge Road. The FODDC has been notified but allegedly appeared unconcerned. The Clerk will write to the FODDC asking what actions they intend to implement.
4. Fires, Buckshaft Road - Council received a complaint regarding acrid smoke from fires lit during the day by the new residents of No. 43 Buckshaft Road. Cllr. Phelps believed that the occupiers were burning unwanted items following their move and that the fires would no longer be a problem.
5. Buckshaft Road Parking - Vehicles parked opposite No. 45 Buckshaft Road are restricting the access and egress to the off road driveway and blocking the pavement which is on a dangerous bend. The Clerk will write to Two Rivers Housing requesting a letter be sent to the tenants in that area bringing attention to the problem and the safety issues. The local PCSO will also be contacted.

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6. **MINUTES** - The Minutes of the Council meeting held on the 12th May, 2015 were **ACCEPTED** as a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

- 6.1 **MATTERS ARISING** from the Minutes.

Soudley Notice Board - Members' were advised that the perspex screen has been renewed. Council **AGREED** that both Soudley and Ruspidge notice boards should be revitalised with a coat of preservative.

Highways meeting - Update from the Clerk's meeting with Brian Watkins of Highways:

- Works are due to start on the raised kerbing by the Football Field entrance.
- Railway Road - resurfacing scheduled for late June. The drainage problem will be sorted beforehand.
- Buckshaft Road Pavement - Highways are happy for the parish to quote for the clearing of the verge and will compare it against a quote from Amey. Highways are willing to contribute to the work and Cllr. Morgan will fund the remainder from his County Council Allowance. Highways can supply shovels and hi-viz vests.

Four Casual Vacancies - The Clerk advised that, to date, seven persons have applied including the two applicants who applied 3 years ago. They have all been invited to the July meeting.

## 6.2 **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT**

Cllr. O'Neill

- ♦ All new and old councillors have received training.
  - ♦ CCTV - There are 8 which will be available soon.
- The footage is monitored by a tablet and training will be given.
- ♦ 'Forest Fighting Fit' - the first session saw 30 participants.

Cllr. Leppington congratulated Cllr. O'Neill on his past contributions to and organisation of the Licensing Committee.

Cllr. Hawthorne had nothing to report.

## 6.3 **COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

Cllr. Leppington congratulated Cllr. Morgan on becoming the Chairman of Gloucestershire County Council.

- ♦ GCC have Caterlink contract.
- ♦ Foster Care Fortnight - issued posters for notice boards.
- ♦ Forest of Dean Task Force - improving access to the Forest which can be isolated. To include road links with the A48 and railway link, Lydney.
- ♦ Lydney Railway Station - additional car parking space.  
Network Rail have withdrawn.

Cllr. Morgan.

- ♦ Cllr. Morgan read his Annual Parish Meeting Report which is attached as an appendix to these minutes.
- ♦ 3rd Severn Crossing (hovercraft or bridge) Life Plan - need to start now ready for future generations.
- ♦ G.C.C. staff reductions.
- ♦ Gloucestershire Fire Service.
- ♦ Road Safety Partnership have not yet met.
- ♦ Highway Allocation - Cllr. Morgan has £22,500.

6.4 The Chairman moved a resolution to alter the order of business bringing forward the Soudley and Blakeney Gateway.

6.5 Soudley and Blakeney Gateway - The parish council will be represented at the committee's meeting on the 16th June. Council **RESOLVED** that upon receipt of a Management & Maintenance Plan it would then match funding as per Awre Parish Council. It was also noted that access to maintain the route is limited, requiring equipment to be carried.

6.6 **PLANNING** – Completed Schedule attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.

## **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

6.7 Following report by the Treasurer the Council **APPROVED** the accounts presented for payment totalling £3810.77, this figure being inclusive of the expenditure recorded under confidential business.

- 6.8 Grant Requests - Under Section 137 of the LGA 1972 the Council considered the following:  
 a) St. John's Church - APPROVED £200.      b) Magna Carta Celebrations - DECLINED.
- 6.9 Grants to Ruspidge Welfare Trust (RWT) - Council were advised of the RWT funds and **RESOLVED** that it needs to consider fully any grants given to the RWT just as it would with other organisations. Council will review its Grant Policy when it has a full council (August meeting) and will consider conditions to implement when approving a grant.
- 6.10 Business Debit/Credit Card - Council **DETERMINED** that the Clerk should have a card for business use when purchasing items and equipment on line for the Council. The Clerk will ask GAPTC for advice and also investigate online payments of salary and PAYE/NI.
- 6.11 Play Area Annual Inspection Reports - Members' had received the reports for the three play areas. The Clerk advised that a quote from Greenfields for surface repairs to Ruspidge and Woodland View play areas had been accepted after consultation with the Chairman. The additional points for concern raised by Greenfields will be checked by Cllr. Phelps.
- 6.12 Football Field - The Chairman briefed all members' on the meeting held with interested persons/clubs on the 19th May, 2015. These minutes being **APPROVED** and signed by the Chairman. Council noted that the centre of the pitch is good but the two goal areas are still waterlogged. A site visit with Sportfields is to be arranged before the end of June.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

- 6.13 The Council **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** the following correspondence:
- a. FODDC - Code of Conduct 6th July.
  - b. Mr. Hardcastle - Police stats for speeding in Buckshaft Road (fwded).
- 6.14 **Next Meeting** - The next meeting of the Council is to be held in the **Soudley Hall** at 7.00pm **Tuesday, 14th July, 2015.**  
**The agenda deadline is Monday, 6th July, 2015.**
- 6.15 **Exclusion of the Press and the Public** - The Council **RESOLVED** that in view of the confidential nature of the remaining business the press and the public should be excluded from the meeting in accordance with Standing Order (2013) No. 55.

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

# Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council

GREEN

**Planning Schedule** for the meeting on 9th June, 2015

Planning Reference  
Site Address & Detail

Parish  
Comment

THERE WERE NO APPLICATIONS TO DISCUSS.

## **Decisions notified by the Planning Authority**

Planning Reference  
Site Address & Detail

Parish      District  
Comment    Decision

P0517/15/FUL  
**4 Fir View Road, Ruspidge, Cinderford, Gloucestershire.**  
Proposed extension to first floor (rear) balcony.

No obj.      PERMIT

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