

MINUTES of the MEETING of RUSPIDGE and SOUDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

held in the Soudley Hall on the 8th September, 2015

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

Parish Councillors Present:

S. Phelps, Vice Chairman
Cllrs. Mrs. B. Hedges,
C. Hawkins, B. Rhodes, B. Acland,
C. Richardson, T. Matthews & N. Bowes.

County Councillor Present:

R. Leppington.

District Councillor Present:

No ward cllr present.

The Clerk - Mrs. Helen Hook.

Apologies:

Cllrs. J. Stanford, G. Morgan & B. O'Neill.

Public:

No members of the public were present.

Standing Declarations of Interest

- (a) Dean Heritage Museum Trust - Insignificant personal interest by Cllr. Phelps.
- (b) Soudley Village Hall Committee - Insignificant personal interest by Cllrs. Hawkins & Stanford.
- (c) Great Oaks Hospice - Insignificant personal interest by Cllr. Hawkins.
- (d) Ruspidge Memorial Hall - Insignificant personal interest by Cllr. Bowes.

The Vice Chairman presided over the meeting in the absence of the chairman.

9. **MINUTES** - The Minutes of the Council meeting held on the 11th August, 2015 were **ACCEPTED** as a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

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

Buckshaft Road, Parking - Two Rivers Housing advised that it is only responsible for two properties in this area and did not feel it appropriate to write, but an officer has spoken to the tenants about the concerns. Council **DETERMINED** that notices be placed on the offending vehicles and the problem be raised on the facebook page and website. The Street Warden will also be asked to monitor the situation.

Hudson Lane, Bollards - Highways are not aware of any proposals to install bollards on Hudson Lane. Any such proposal would be subject to a Traffic Regulation Order and require extensive consultation with the residents.

Dog Fouling, Coombe Drive - The Street Warden is monitoring the situation and is liaising with the warden of the sheltered housing.

Armed Forces Covenant - The majority of the Parish Council supported the covenant, however, Cllrs. Phelps, Rhodes and Matthews wished to record that they do not unconditionally support the Armed Forces in all their activities but would support anybody returning injured and/or damaged.

Football Field Update - The groundsman, Paul Gibson, advised that there is a marked improvement and the pitch can be played on. The infilling of the goal areas is ongoing and small areas of sanding within the pitch will be carried out. But due to the softness of the ground the main sanding is to be carried out next Summer, if it is still felt necessary.

S.106 Ruspidge Memorial Hall, Dry Rot - The Head of Planning has advised that the dry rot works do not meet the criteria to be funded from the S.106 agreement. The clerk is to reply stating the council's disappointment and indicating that the loss of the hall would impact on new developments, eg., loss of the playgroup.

Leylandii Trees, Ruspidge Industrial Estate - The owner of the site is willing to cut down the trees if the majority of the residents concerned are in agreement. However, he did make the point that residents will then see the warehouses. If residents preferred he would cut the trees to a more reasonable height. The cut trees will be left on site for a natural habitat.

Highways unpaid invoices - Council were advised that the invoices for grass cutting, hedge letters and cleaning of road signs (£700) have still not been paid by GCC Highways. Cllr. Leppington volunteered to investigate further.

9.2 **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT**

by Cllr. Leppington in the absence of a ward representative.

- ◆ Proposals for 2020 - collaborating with other councils.
- ◆ Public consultation - waste service.
- ◆ Fracking - Cllr. Leppington advised he would oppose.

9.3 **COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

- ◆ Street Lights, new contractor - replace with LED lights over 12 years, saving £22 million.
- ◆ F.O.D. Road Safety Group - take forward proposal to exempt the Statutory Forest to 40 mph outside villages.
- ◆ Cap of Core Costs delayed to April 2020.
- ◆ Devolution Bid sent to Treasury.

Council advised that the road markings in Soudley have still not been done. Cllr. Leppington voiced his disappointment.

The Clerk advised that Highways have not paid the invoices for grass cutting, road signs cleaning and hedge admin letters. Cllr. Leppington will investigate.

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

FINANCIAL MATTERS

9.5 Following report by the Treasurer the Council **APPROVED** the accounts presented for payment totalling £4,151.60, this figure being inclusive of the expenditure recorded under confidential business.

9.6 Ruspidge Early Learners - Council discussed at length the groups request for a loan but determined it would need to see a business plan before making any decision. Cllrs. Bowes and Rhodes volunteered to meet with the group's chairman, treasurer and secretary to help with the preparation of a plan. The group will also be asked if they have reported the situation to the Charity Commission.

9.7 S.106, Ruspidge - Council discussed the addition of a nest swing to Ruspidge Recreation Ground. The project was **APPROVED** unanimously and will be funded from S.106 available from the Edmunds Way development.

9.8 Defibrillator - Council were advised that the District Council will grant £500 towards the purchase of a defibrillator. Council **APPROVED** the purchase up to a maximum of £1,800. Members' voted unanimously in favour of the unit being installed outside the White Horse Pub, Soudley. The landlord has been approached and has agreed, in principle.

9.9 Cllrs. Hedges and Richardson will attend the District Council meeting on 28th September, and report back with further information.

9.10 There is a defibrillator at the Community Day Centre, Coombe Drive, Ruspidge, which has been installed by Two Rivers Housing. The unit was installed in conjunction with the

Gloucestershire Ambulance Service. Persons making an emergency call will be directed to the site and given the code to open the box.

- 9.11 Grant Policy - A working group of Cllrs. Acland, Matthews, Richardson & Rhodes will consider a draft to be compiled by the latter. The policy will be reviewed at a later date. The policy and an application form will be put on the website and included in the *Viewpoint*.

Cllr. Richardson declared an interest in the following item.

- 9.12 Speeding within the parish - A query was raised as to how much power/responsibility does the parish council have regarding road safety. Members' were advised that the Highways Agency is responsible for operating, maintaining and improving all motorways and major trunk roads in England. Local authorities are responsible for local roads that are not motorways or major trunk roads. Highway engineers are responsible for these roads' design, repair, markings and speed limits.
- 9.13 Cllr. Richardson briefed members' on the Speed Group's progress to date. Council discussed the use of wheelie bin speed signs, speed indication devices and speed guns. Council **APPROVED** the purchase of a speed gun for random spot checks within the parish, to be used by council members only. Further consideration will be given to the other options.

CORRESPONDENCE

- 9.14 The Council **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** the following correspondence:
- a. Cllr. Morgan - Cinderford Rail Halt (fwded).
 - b. Mr. S. Williams - Speeding (fwded).
 - c. FODDC - Allocations Plan - Draft (fwded).
- 9.15 **Next Meeting** - The next meeting of the Council is to be held in the **Ruspidge Hall** at 7.00pm **Tuesday, 13th October, 2015.**
The agenda deadline is Monday, 5th October, 2015.
- 9.16 **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 8th September, 2015

Planning Reference
Site Address & Detail

Parish
Comment

P1211/15/FUL
166 Ruspidge Road, Ruspidge, Cinderford, Gloucestershire.
Two storey side extension.

No obj.

P1282/15/FUL
Bridge Cottage, Lower Soudley, Cinderford, Gloucestershire.
Erection of a conservatory to the front of property.

No obj.

Decisions notified by the Planning Authority

Planning Reference
Site Address & Detail

Parish
Comment

District
Decision

P1018/15/FUL
Foxes Old Row, Two Bridges, Blakeney, Gloucestershire.
Proposed detached double garage.

No obj.

PERMIT

P1001/15/FUL
67 Ruspidge Road, Ruspidge, Cinderford, Gloucestershire.
Erection of a two storey side extension (Demolition of existing garage and workshop).
Renewal of Consent.

No obj.

PERMIT

Signed: Dated: