Randwick and Westrip Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting of the council held at Cashes Green School at 7.15 pm on Thursday August 21st 2025.

Present
Councillors

Rob Davies	*Barry Chapman*
Elisabeth Newman	*Alun Davies*
Jo Boldero	*Petronella Tyson*

1/8/25 ***Apologies:*** *Cllrs Mike Woods and Nick Lythgoe: reasons approved by the council.*

2/8/25 ***Public forum:*** *There were twelve parishioners present and District Cllr Jon Edmunds.*
Several parishioners spoke about the Randwick Conservation Area Appraisal commissioned by the parish council and the Management Plan that had been drawn up by the planning authority, Stroud District Council. The parishioners properties were being considered for 'Article 4 directions', which the planning authority, Stroud District Council, was considering making, which would withdraw specific permitted development rights from 16 households within the conservation area.
Parishioners who spoke objected to the proposed Article 4 directions and considered that there had been insufficient consultation and insufficient information explaining why their properties had been designated.
The chairman commented on the consultation that had taken place since 2022 and the reasons for commissioning the appraisal. The Appraisal and Management plan had been accepted by the planning authority as supplementary planning advice.

Following the discussion the council agreed to write to SDC summarising the parishioners' objections and asking SDC reconsider and delay decisions about the Article 4 directions.

District Councillor Jon Edmunds would also inform the planning department of the parishioners' objections and ask that confirmation of the directions should be deferred.

3/8/25 ***Declarations of interest in items on this agenda****: None.*

4/8/25 ***Minutes:*** *The minutes of the parish council meeting held on July the 17th were approved and signed by the chairman.*

5/8/25 ***Co-option:*** *There had been no applicants.*

6/8/25 ***Report from the Officer of the Council:*** *Cllrs noted the contents of the clerk's report. The Parish Handyman had had to remove rubbish dumped at Finn's Way and had noticed that fires had been lit there.*
Action: *The clerk to contact the SDC community officers for assistance.*

The National Joint Council for Local Government Services had agreed rates of pay for 2025/26. Cllrs approved the new rates.

7/8/25 ***Correspondence****: Cllrs noted the correspondence listed in the clerk's report.*

8/8/25 ***Questions from councillors:*** *The Chairman asked whether there was any information about progress in drawing up a new lease for Randwick Playing Fields between the council and RVH&PFC. The council had had no consultation to date. The clerk understood that the delay had been due to difficulties in getting a response from Fields in Trust which held a deed of dedication over the Playing Fields.*
Action: *The clerk to contact Fields in Trust again and ask the solicitor who had been advising the council and RVH&PFC for an update on the matter.*

9/8/25 ***District and County Councillors' reports****: District Cllr Edmunds had sent a written report.*
10/8/25 ***Planning:***
a) Planning applications:

S.25/1382/DISCON - 2 The Knoll The Stocks Randwick GL6 6JA - Discharge of condition 6, 7, 8 (construction method statement) from S.24/0606/FUL – no comment.

Noted: *Permission - S.25/0734/HHOLD - Kent Cottage , Far Westrip - Erection of a two-storey front extension*

b) Community Speedwatch: *Cllr Alun Davies would circulate a potential date for training in October.*

c) Safer Cycling Routes: *Cllr Tyson proposed that the council should consider safer cycling routes between local villages and Stroud. Cllr Tyson would contact GCC Highways for further information.*
Action. *The clerk to find out which officer Cllr Tyson could contact at GCC.*

11/8/25 ***Finance****:*
a) Bank reconciliation: *Cllrs considered the bank reconciliation for July. Closing balance including reserves was £32694.*

b) Request for funding – Randwick Wap: *Randwick Wap committee had been applying to the Charity Commission for the Wap to be registered as a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) and had requested financial support from the parish council towards the costs of a solicitor to make the application. The Chair of the Wap explained that a recent application, made with the guidance of the GRCC (Gloucestershire Rural Communities Council) was not acceptable to The Charity Commission. A specialist solicitor had agreed to redo the application to completion of CIO status at a cost of up to £5000.*
Cllrs discussed the request and the Wap's sources of income and queried why the solicitor could not be more precise about fees. Cllrs agreed that it could not make any commitment to support the Wap without a more specific cost.

12/8/25 ***Environment:***
a) Overflow parking area at Randwick Playing Field: *An appointment had been made for a visit by a salesman from the suppliers to advise the council.*

b) Tree at Randwick Playing Field: *The Chairman of RVH&PFC had suggested that the Rhus tree on the junction of The Lane and Chapel Fields was becoming unwieldy and needed cutting down before it blew over and blocked the road or damaged a vehicle.*
The council had asked the SDC Arboriculture Officer whether reducing the tree would be suitable for the species as an alternative to felling it.
The officer's advice was that the species spread through root suckers and that whilst it could be cut back, the species tended to grow back rapidly and more vigorously. Reducing the tree to ground level would also encourage further new shoots.
Resolved: *The clerk to apply for permission to have the tree cut down and the stump removed.*

13/8/25 ***IT policy:*** *Cllrs approved and adopted the policy based on the NALC model.*

14/8/25 ***Items delegated to the Clerk and items for the next agenda:*** *As above*

15/8/25 ***Orders for payment:***

London Hearts	*Defibrillator*
Arrest the Pest Ltd	*Investigate wasps' nest*
HSBC	*Bank charges to July 29th*
C Curtis	*August monthly contract payment*
B Parsons	*August salary less tax due in 2nd quarter*
O2	*Mobile phone 12Aug – 11 Sept*

16/8/25 Next meeting: Thursday September 18th at Randwick Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.