

**MINUTES OF THE BISLEY-WITH-LYPIATT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD
ON WEDNESDAY 11th January 2006 at BISLEY WI VILLAGE HALL**

Mr N S Rogers	Chairman
Ms L Greene	} Bisley Ward
Mr P Thorp	
Mr T G Carter	} Eastcombe Ward
Mrs J Russell	
Mr R K Brooks	
Mr R Bryant	} Oakridge Ward
Mr A E Davis	
Mr P Dawes	
Mr R N Budgeon	
Mr N M MacLeod	Clerk

In attendance: District Councillor D Le Fleming
County Councillor J Nash

One member of the public – Mrs P Carrick – was present.

06.01 1. **Apologies for Absence**

Mrs L Hemming and Mrs O M Turner were unable to attend.

06.01 2. **Public Participation**

Mrs P Carrick attended but did not participate in the meeting.

06.01 3. **Declaration of Interests**

Mr R N Budgeon in respect of an invoice payment.

06.01 4. **Election of Chairman to the Parish Council**

Following the resignation of the Chairman – Mr N S Rogers – the meeting was required to elect a new Chairman to occupy the Chair until the Parish Council Elections on 4th May 2006. All Ward Chairmen expressed sincere appreciation for the excellent work carried out by Mr Rogers during his service on the Parish Council and particularly his efforts towards the Parish achieving Quality Parish Status. Mr Rogers was presented with a gift to mark his retirement from the Parish Council.

Ms L Greene then proposed and Mr P Thorp seconded the nomination of Mr P Dawes as Chairman. Mr Dawes thanked them for this vote of confidence but declined candidature because of pressure of other duties. Mr A E Davis then proposed and Mr T G Carter seconded the nomination of Mr R S Bryant as Chairman. Mr Bryant said he was prepared to fill the post until the elections in May 2006. The proposal was agreed unanimously and Mr Bryant moved to occupy the Chair.

- 06.01 5. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**
The draft minutes of the meeting held on 7th December 2005 having been circulated were approved and the Chairman signed the minute book.
- 06.01 6. **Matters Arising**
- a) **Parish Plan**
Mr P Dawes said that a Parish Plan Action Group meeting would be held on 16th January 2006 to review progress. There would be a focus on expenditure to ensure that deadlines set by SWAN were met and analysis of questionnaires returned by parishioners was on-going. Progress Reports would be published in the next issue of Ward Newsletters and it was planned that publication of the final document would be completed by 30th April. Mr Dawes added that he had received information about a further grant of up to £1000.00 from the Local Strategic Planning Group that might be available to the Parish in conjunction with the Plan and that this funding could possibly be applied to producing a Village Design Statement. It was agreed that we should seek this further funding.
- b) **Parish Snow Clearance Operations**
The Chairman advised the meeting that a letter had been received from GCC Highways Department in response to our complaint about their poor response to snow-clearance operations on the night of 27 November 2005. Copies of the letter had been passed to Parish Snow Wardens and there was unanimous agreement that the response did not address our specific concerns.
Whilst councillors were pleased to note that County Highways would address the deficiencies in their 'out of hours' response cell, it was also clear that there was little if no recognition that Snow Wardens in the Parish were best-placed to report on 'actual' events and circumstances on the ground, particularly in fast-changing conditions. Mr Brooks said that too much attention had been paid by County Highways to 'gritting' the road, which because of the heavy snow was a fruitless exercise.
The Chairman summarised the points raised and asked the Clerk to send a further letter to County Highways highlighting our on-going concerns. County Councillor Joan Nash said she would monitor progress on this topic and particularly payment to the snow-plough operator – Patrick Lorenzen – who had worked unstintingly on the night of 27 November.
- c) **Gloucestershire Police Re-structuring**
The Chairman confirmed that the Parish had written to Gloucestershire County Police Headquarters giving full support to the maintenance of an independent County Police Authority. Copies of the parish letter had also been sent to GCC and to David Drew MP.

d) **Parish Precept 2006/2007**

The Clerk confirmed that the bid for the Parish Precept for FY 2006/2007 had been passed to Stroud District Council as required. The precept total of £39,040.00 was made-up of bids from Bisley, Eastcombe and Oakridge in the sums of £5,500.00, £4000.00 and £7,790.00, respectively, together with an Administration bid of £22,200.00. This precept represented a 12.04% increase over the past 2 years and resulted mainly from the increase in the Clerk's working hours and on-going provision for wall repairs in the Parish.

06.01 7. **District Council Matters**

District Councillor Daniel Le Fleming reported to the meeting as follows:

- a. Planning and Development – The Local Plan recently lodged had not been queried by ODPM or GOSW, so is now in place and operative unless any application for change is made to the High Court by 1 February 2006.
- b. SDC Scheme of Delegation – This Scheme had been reviewed in the light of comments received, following which there will be a further period of consultation which will include Parish Councils.
- c. Budget and Council Tax – The Administration's proposals (to be considered by Council on 19th January 2006) are for an increase of 2.5%, as for the last two years. This will allow not only for inflation but for some improvement to services including additional Neighbourhood Wardens, regeneration projects and improvements in services to the elderly.
- d. Parish Energy action Plans – Parishes are being encouraged to prepare and submit Local Energy Action Plans to include proposals for the efficient use of energy and the development of renewable projects. A meeting on this Scheme is to be held at Ebley Mill on 25th February 2006.

06.01 8. **County Council Matters**

County Councillor Joan Nash reported to the meeting as follows:

- a. Education – The first proposals for the Area Reviews of Primary Schools will be made on 1 February 2006 by the Cabinet. Thereafter, there will be time for public consultation. The final decision was taken on 10 February 2006 to keep open Special Schools, giving parents with children with special needs the choice of inclusion in either ‘Mainstream’ or Special Schools. County Councillor Nash also advised that yet again the contribution per pupil from Government for education was below the national average. She said that this makes it more important for the Council to examine ways of reducing the 4000+ surplus places that exist in the Primary Sector.
- b. Social Services – Non-residential services fairer charging policy has been adopted by the Cabinet, following the greater rise in costs of services than the charges to service users. This will result in increased charges for Domiciliary Care, Day Care and Foot Care for those who can afford to pay (Capital savings limit over £20,500.00, with a weekly ceiling of £200.00 so that users do not feel forced into Residential Care.
- c. Transport – The Government has funded £17.5M (an increase of 5%) from April 2006 for the next 5 years to improve transport and road maintenance in the County. The focus of spending will be highway maintenance and road safety.

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Matters for Discussion

a) **Councillor Vacancy – Bisley Ward**

Following the resignation of Mr N S Rogers a Councillor vacancy had arisen in the Bisley Ward. Having taken advice from SDC Election Services and GAPTIC it was decided unanimously to apply the 6-month rule and leave this position vacant until the full Council Elections in May 2006.

b) **Report from SDC Town and Parish Forum**

Ms L Greene, Mr R N Budgeon and Mrs O M Turner had attended the Town and Parish Forum at SDC on 7 December 2005, chaired by Mr David Hagg, Chief Executive SDC. Ms L Greene informed the meeting of the key points raised in the presentations and discussions, as follows:

SDC confirmed that Parish Plans had status with regard to planning and was legally important in informing planning decisions. SDC officers worked strictly to Planning Guidance and Town/Parish Councils were expected to do the same. On the plus side, Bisley-with-Lypiatt PC was listed as a Council where there were relatively few Planning 'Call-ins'. Mr R N Budgeon observed that SDC Planning Department had received a sum of £350,000 to £400,000 for meeting 80% Planning Targets. He queried why this money could not be spent on employing some additional planning staff, in order to improve efficiency. Ms Greene said that a significant number of Town/Parish Councils expressed concern at the lack of adequate consultation and communication by SDC on important issues and it was felt by delegates that SDC did not give sufficient weight to the Town/Parish Councillors' important voluntary contribution and commitment to work in their communities. SDC had referred delegates at the Forum to the SDC website for timetables, changes, up-dates on Planning and other issues which delegates regarded as a very 'hit or miss' means of communication, unless Town/Parish Councils spent a great deal of time monitoring this website. Ms Greene expressed concern about an apparent lack of clarity on the programme to carry forward the SDC Local Development Framework and the opportunity for comment by Town/Parish Councils.

Following issues raised at the Forum, Ms Greene recommended that Parish/Town Councils should form their own independent Forum to strengthen the relationship between these authorities and SDC. Minchinhampton Town Council is organising a meeting to discuss this issue and Ms Greene wished that Bisley-with-Lypiatt PC be involved with this initiative. This was agreed and the Clerk was asked to write to Minchinhampton for details of the meeting. Ms Greene also advised that the Parish Plan Steering Group include an Action Note in the Plan to undertake a Design Statement to ensure that the Plan has validity in planning terms and supplementary planning status. She added that this would require an intervention by the Parish Council to request this Action Note.

Given the present lack of detail about the programme and timetable for the Local Development Framework it was recommended that the Clerk monitor the SDC website for up-date information. Ms Greene further recommended that the Parish agree a flexible and responsive structure through which the PC can respond to LDF issues.

It was further recommended that the Clerk obtain a copy of the Canal Regeneration Plan/Strategy because canal improvements will have an impact on the Parish.

Finally, Ms Greene said that SDC would host a Planning Training Day for Parish Councillors in February and the Clerk was asked to write to SDC to obtain details of the event so that PC Councillors could attend.

c) **School Governor – Eastcombe Primary School**

A letter had been received from Eastcombe Primary School requesting that the Parish appoint a School Governor. Mr T G Carter said that the search for a suitable candidate to fill this vacancy was on-going.

d) **Unification of Gloucestershire Registration District**

Councillors had been issued with a copy of a letter from Gloucestershire County Council outlining forthcoming changes to the Registration Services in the County. Councillors did not consider that the changes would make any significant difference to the functioning of the present Registration Office other than it would now be designated a 'Outstation' to the centralised facility in Cheltenham. Mr R N Budgeon observed that this would possibly result in increased charges and the movement of records to the central offices.

e) **Street Cleaning in the Stroud District**

Councillors were passed a letter from SDC which asked parishes to comment on the acceptability of street cleaning standards in their parish. From the discussion that followed it was evident that the emphasis of important issues varied somewhat between Parish Wards.

The Chairman thus asked Councillors to let the Clerk have details of important issues in order that the Clerk can prepare a full response to SDC before the 31 January 2006 deadline.

06.01 10 **Finance**

Receipts December 2005

Bank Interest	£86.47
Allotment Rents	£195.00
SDC Refund	£135.00

Total £416.47

Payments – January 2006

£	VAT	Total
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N MacLeod – Dec Salary	£497.40		£497.40
Inland Revenue – Tax/NI	£214.01		£214.01
N Power – King George V Field (B)	£56.06	£2.80	£58.86
Cotswold Estates – Hedging (O)	£1263.30	£221.08	£1484.38
Severn Trent Water (O)	£19.45		£19.45
Severn Trent Water (OVH)	£64.82		£64.82
Severn Trent Water (B)	£40.41		£40.41
Colors Maintenance (B)	£60.00		£60.00
Printco – Parish Plan	£210.00		£210.00
SDC Refuse Dept (E)	£19.50		£19.50
Denis Brown Timber (O)	£118.94	£20.81	£139.75
Holbrook Garage – Parish Plan	£8.99		£8.99
Bisley WI Village Hall (B)	£14.00		£14.00
Severn Trent Water (E)	£24.70		£24.70
Robert Cole – Walling Oakridge	£3540.00	£619.50	£4159.50
Totals	£6,151.58	£8,64.19	£7,015.77

Petty Cash Payments – December 2005 £27.05

Cash Balance as at 31 December 2005 £35,564.29

Bisley Gift Balance as at 31 December 2005 £2,427.49

Bisley Lock-up Balance as at 31 December 2005 £1,981.82

Westbury Gift Balance as at 31 December 2005 £10,000.00

06.01 11 **Planning Applications – December 2005**

The following applications have been received during the past month and the Council's responses indicated where received:

S.05/2364/FUL – 2 Swedale, Limekiln Lane, Waterlane – Alterations to existing building, construction of conservatory & garage and demolition of outbuildings – **Support.**

S.05/2363/FUL – 2 Swedale, Limekiln Lane, Waterlane – 2-storey extension to main house with dormer windows to front extension – **Support.**

S.05/2369/OUT – Hillcroft, Oakridge Lynch – Revised outline Planning application for new-build property – **Object** – We object to this proposal on the following grounds:

1. Because of its position on site and the proposed size of the building its visual appearance will make it dominate the surrounding cottages. Viewed from the South it will look like a 5-storey building.
2. We are concerned about the new access to the new building causing loss of amenity to the existing building.
3. Considering the difficult site we think the proposal attempts to achieve too much without accepting the limitation that the hillside will have on the finished dwelling. A smaller building would achieve better integration perhaps if placed in a different position on the site.
4. Bearing in mind the possible energy problems in future years and Government guidance, we think the windows should be bigger. It seems a shame to compromise the quality of inside life for minor exterior visual appearance.
5. The local opinion is very strongly against this proposal. During construction access will be difficult. It is likely that the footpath to the North-East of the site will be used; this footpath will also be used by Clair Cottage construction. We recognise that this will happen but provision should be made to manage this and reinstate the footpath to its original condition.

S.05/2462/FUL – Calice, Bournes Green – Erection of extension at upper-floor level – **Support.**

S.05/2463/FUL – Clair Cottage, Oakridge – Erection of new extension and new dormer window – **Support.**

06.01 12 **Correspondence December 2005**

Correspondence – List for January 2006 Meeting

Gloucestershire County Council	Revised Village Night Link Bus Schedule
Charity Commission	Winter Update Magazine
Stroud District Council	Newsletter December 2005
Letter from David Drew MP	Requesting Support for Standish Hospital
Cotswold Care Hospice Future Appeal	Invitation to 'Building for the

06.01 13 **Ward Matters**

a) **Eastcombe**

Mr T G Carter said that in recent weeks significant damage had been inflicted on the drystone wall by the entrance to the recreation Ground. Ward Councillors were anxious to repair this damage as soon as possible using monies allocated to wall repairs in the current financial year. The Clerk was asked to obtain three estimates for this repair as it was almost certain to cost in excess of £500.00.

Mrs J W Russell said that she had received an enquiry from the Secretary of the Royal British Legion about progress with the refurbishment of the Bisley War Memorial. The Clerk was asked to investigate obtaining a grant towards the cost of this work and to liaise with the Royal British Legion on the work to be carried out.

b) **Bisley**

Bisley Councillors had no issues to raise at the meeting.

c) **Oakridge**

Mr R S Bryant said that in accordance with the Chairman's direction at the last PC Meeting, he wished to notify the PC of the expected overspend of Precept by the Oakridge Ward in the current financial year for the reasons previously minuted. This overspend would be in the region of £750.00 and it was agreed by the meeting to fund the overspend from Reserve Funds.

Mr A E Davis asked the Clerk to confirm that grant income received by the Parish would be applied to the Ward for which the grant applied and would not be subsumed into general funds. The Clerk confirmed that the Ward would benefit.

Mr A E Davis asked the Clerk to inform County Highways Division of the dangerous mud conditions on the road from Oakridge to Waterlane by an entrance to Battledown Farm. Although a 'Slow' sign is displayed this is not enough because the volume of mud on the surface rendered it very slippery and dangerous to road users. Mr R S Bryant asked the Clerk to speak with Ebley Bus Service to enquire why the bus to Oakridge fails to stop for passengers waiting at Oakridge School.

Mr A E Davis asked the Clerk to write to SDC concerning the noise levels emanating from the Stroud Gun Club Shoot in Limekiln Lane. SDC had taken sound readings showing the noise levels were excessive. SDC should be asked to confirm their findings and intentions in respect of this issue.

06.01 14 **Date and Place of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 1st February 2006 at 7.30 pm at Bisley WI Village Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2200 hours.