

**MINUTES OF THE BISLEY-WITH-LYPIATT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD
ON WEDNESDAY 1st March 2006 at BISLEY WI VILLAGE HALL**

Mr R S Bryant		Chairman
Mrs L Hemming	}	Bisley Ward
Mr P Thorp	}	
Mr T G Carter	}	Eastcombe Ward
Mrs O M Turner	}	
Mrs J Russell	}	
Mr R N Budgeon	}	Oakridge Ward
Mr A E Davis	}	
Mr P Dawes	}	
Mr N M MacLeod		Clerk

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

One member of the public was present

06.03 1. **Apologies for Absence**

Ms L Greene and Mr R K Brooks - business commitments out of Parish.

06.03 2. **Public Participation**

Mrs P Carrick attended the meeting and complimented the Eastcombe Ward on the excellent appearance and usage of their allotments. She also mentioned that she had seen rubbish falling off vehicles collecting for recycling. Mrs Carrick recommended that a net should cover the rear of the vehicles. The Clerk was asked to report this problem to District Council.

06.03 3. **Declaration of Interests**

There were no declarations of interests.

06.03 4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 1st February 2006 having been circulated were approved with one alteration at Serial 06.02 Paragraph 7 - Delete 'District Councillor Le Fleming' and insert 'The Chairman'. The Chairman then signed on each page in the minute book.

06.03 5. **Matters Arising**

a) **Parish Plan**

Mr P Dawes reported that the final stages of production of the joint Bisley-with Lypiatt and Miserden Parish Plan were proceeding satisfactorily and publication remained on-target for the beginning of May 2006. Mr Dawes added that Councillors would be able to comment on the final document before publication. The Chairman asked how issues raised in the Plan were to be carried forward. Mr Dawes said that the document was not a Parish Council Plan. The role of the Parish Council would act as 'Facilitators' for implementation of issues which were essentially put forward and/or supported by parishioners. Mr A E Davis said that he did not see the document to be a 'Plan', simply a list of issues to be addressed. Mr Dawes replied that the 'Village Design Statement', which would follow, would be the document which carried more weight with District Council, since it would include specific planning issues. Mr Davis suggested that issues could be divided into two categories – Short-term items which could be monitored by the Parish Council and bigger items which could be passed to Higher Authority to monitor. District Councillor Le Fleming concluded the discussion by saying that in developing future policies, Stroud District Council would take due note of the contents of both the Parish Plan and Village Design Statement.

b) **Street Cleaning**

The Chairman referred to an e-mail received from SDC offering support to the Parish in terms of clothing, equipment and collection of waste. However, it was apparent that street cleaning outside of urban areas was the responsibility of the parishes. It was thus agreed that Wards would use their own initiatives to deal with litter clearance.

c) **Stroud District Gun Club**

District Councillor Le Fleming provided the meeting with a copy of a letter served on the Gun Club advising of their breach of Noise Regulations and requiring compliance with the regulations, by enforcement action, if necessary. Advice would be given to the Club to assist in the reduction of noise pollution. Mrs Carrick said that noise measurements seemed to be taken at the same place and asked District Councillor to determine if soundings from around the area of the Gun Club had been included in the survey.

d) **Snow Clearance**

The Chairman advised the meeting that a further letter had been received from County Highways Department concerning the use of snow-ploughs in the Parish. Little progress had been made in satisfying the issues raised by the Parish but he saw little benefit in pursuing the matter further at this time.

e) **Registration of Parish Land**

Mr T G Carter said that Eastcombe Ward had carried out identification of 'parcels' of land believed to belong to the Parish. The Clerk would submit details to Gloucestershire Land Registry for checking. Mrs L Hemming said that Bisley Ward had yet to identify similar land holdings.

06.03 6. **District Council Matters**

District Councillor Le Fleming reported on the following matters:

- a. Following the recent SDC Meeting the final increases in rates set for Council Tax for 2006/07 were County 3.49%; Police 4.95%; SDC 2.5% and Parishes 6.77%. This represented an overall increase in Council Tax bills of 3.66%.
- b. The adoption of the County-wide Renewable Energy Action Plan and proposals for an SDC Climate Change Action Plan by autumn 2006. Mr R N Budgeon asked about the practical contents of the Action Plan. Whilst he accepted that SDC had adopted the Plan it appeared that the Planning Department had not. District Councillor Le Fleming said that SDC would welcome any inputs the PC might have on this matter.
- c. SDC response to proposals for the SW Region NHS re-organisation.

06.03 7. **County Council Matters**

County Councillor Joan Nash updated the meeting on the following matters:

- a. The County Budget Meeting on 22nd February 2006 set the increase of the County part of the Council Tax charge at 3.5%. The Police increase was 4.9%.
- b. There had been publicity concerning a cut in contract funding to Shelter. The County Council is only responsible for the housing needs of children leaving the care of the Council and this responsibility has been taken by two officers within the Council. An extension of the contract has been granted for 6 months while Shelter makes arrangements with the Housing Authorities for funding, if deemed necessary.
- c. The final proposals for the Local Transport Plan have to be submitted to the Department of Transport by 31st March 2006. The Lorry Management Strategy aimed at improving safety and quality of communities will include wide restrictions starting with AONBs.
- d. Speed Camera Partnerships are coming to the end of their agreements and bids will be made for extended funding. Sadly 54 road deaths occurred in the County in 2005 and strategies involving education for improved road safety are being devised.
- e. The Review of Primary Schools continues with decisions due in June 2006.
- f. Trading Standards have been involved in dealing with a number of 'Telephone Scams', including prize offers and home employment opportunities in exchange for a start-up fee. The Public are being warned to be wary of such offers.
- g. Cabinet have discussed the response to the Draft Regional Spatial Strategy, setting out housing numbers for the County for the next 20 years. Further consultation on the Draft will take place later in the year.
- h. In response to the proposal to introduce further speed restrictions in Eastcombe, particularly in Dr Crouch's Road, County Councillor Nash said she favoured signs to slow traffic significantly at busy school times.

06.03 8 **Matters for Discussion**

- a) **Tree-felling on Road Verges – Stroud to Stancombe**
The Chairman summarised the position regarding the tree-felling which GCC Highways Department had initiated on the road verges between Stroud and Stancombe. The lack of prior notice or consultation on this matter was considered unacceptable, notwithstanding the rights or wrongs of the work being carried out. County Councillor Nash apologised for the lack of receipt of a letter by Bisley but added that the work was part of a County-wide project on which several rural environment agencies had been consulted. She added that it had not been the intention of GCC to seek consultation with Parishes on this issue. She said that wide grass verges were traditional to the Cotswold landscape and the work involved the removal of self-seeded trees, many of which had damaged dry stone walls. The piles of chippings left after felling would be spread as the last stage of the work. The Chairman said he had been advised that the cutting of grass would not take place before 15th July to allow wild-flower seeding and the grass could be extremely long by then. Mr R N Budgeon asked why cutting had taken place so far back from the road in some places. This had left exposed gaps in several farmers' walls and the removal of the effective barrier. Mrs L Hemming asked if restoration of walls could form part of the verge restoration programme. The meeting considered it unlikely that this would fall within the remit of County Highways. Mrs J Russell said that despite the unfavourable publicity appearing in the local press, she had received several comments of approval of the work carried out and the improvements to lines of sight and general tidiness which had resulted. The Chairman drew the discussion to a close by saying that our grievance at the lack of consultation had been 'taken on board' by County Highways and the Clerk was asked to pursue what action could be taken to restore walls and to ensure that chippings were removed or spread as thinly as possible.
- b) **Parish Elections – 4th May 2006**
The Clerk briefed the meeting on the Programme of Events leading up to the Parish Elections on 4th May 2006. Application Forms to Councillors were distributed and the deadline date for submission of noon on 3rd April 2006 was duly noted. Notices would be placed on all Parish Notice Boards and the Clerk said he was readily available to give application forms to any prospective new candidates and to provide guidance as necessary.
- c) **Planning Open Day at SDC**
The Planning Open Day at SDC was attended by Mr R Brooks who was unable to attend this meeting. The Chairman asked the Clerk to place this subject on the agenda for the meeting on 12th April 2006, when Mr Brooks would be able to report on the Open Day.

d) **Limestone Grassland**

A request has been received by the Parish Council from Marion Conisby-Smith to support her grazing of Gloucester Cattle in the Parish with resultant production of Gloucester Cheese. At present, cheese is produced at Wick Court, Arlingham. It is now proposed to also produce cheese at France Lynch, from cattle grazed in fields in the locality. Details had been circulated to Councillors and there was full support for the proposal which it was hoped would attract funding support from Stroud District Council and Cotswold AONB. The Clerk was asked to write to Mrs Conisby-Smith giving the support of the Parish Council for her plans.

e) **Garden Assistance Scheme**

Information had been received by the Parish Council of the Gardening Assistance Scheme for older or disabled people living in the Stroud area. Gardeners prepared to offer assistance to these parishioners were also requested to contact the Scheme Organiser at 'Care and Repair (Stroud) Ltd' on telephone number 01453-753471. The Chairman asked Wards to give publicity to the Scheme and advertisements for Parish Notice Boards were distributed by the Clerk.

Receipts February 2006

Bank Interest	£69.44
Cotswold Conservation	£1,580.61
Allotment Rent - Bisley	£10.00
Use of Bisley Pavilion	£25.00
OVHT – Planning	£132.50
Total Receipts	£1817.55

Payments – March 2006	£	VAT	Total
Graduate Gardeners (O)	285.00	49.88	334.88
BT Phones - Office	119.37	20.88	140.25
GAPTC – Training Fee	55.00		55.00
Pipex – Website	29.00	5.08	34.08
Glasdon – Dog Bin (B)	232.75	40.73	273.48
Colors – Maintenance (B)	120.00		120.00
Eastcombe – Pavilion Cleaning	480.00		480.00
Sign Design – Plaques (B)	295.00	52.00	347.00
Severn Trent Water (O)	9.72		9.72
Severn Trent water (O)	31.83		31.83
Severn Trent Water (B)	21.93		21.93
Severn Trent Water (E)	24.74		24.74
N MacLeod – Stationery Purchase	20.37	3.57	23.94
N MacLeod – Salary Feb 06	497.40		497.40
Inland Revenue – Tax/NI	214.01		214.01
Severn Trent Water (B)	67.34		67.34
Totals	£2503.46	£172.14	£2675.60

Petty Cash Payments – February 2006	£67.07
Cash Balance as at 28 February 2006	£29,176.46
Bisley Gift Balance as at 28 February 2006	£2,427.49
Bisley Lock-up Balance as at 28 February	£1988.56
Westbury Gift Balance as at 28 February 2006	£10,000.00

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Planning

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

Planning Applications – February 2006

S.06/0307/FUL – Lynch Cottage, Oakridge Lynch – Renewal of permission S.01/17 for erection of extension – **Support.**

S.06/0170/FUL – Thomas Keble School, Eastcombe – Part-retrospective application for the erection of security fence – **Support.**

S.06/0348/FUL – The Village Hall, Oakridge – Erection of single-storey extension – **Support/Comment** – This proposal will give the Hall the ability to be more flexible in its use. We note that the exit doors are fire doors and should open outwards. The groundwork to the north of the building should not be such to exclude any future parking development. The Parish Council is applying for the development as part of its remit to support local facilities.

S.06/0393/FUL – Orchard Cottage, Eastcombe – Two-storey extension to replace existing single-storey.

S.06/0454/FUL – Vatch Lane Saw Mill, Vatch Lane, Bussage - Demolition of former Saw Mill and erection of Manufacturing Unit.

All planning decisions where indicated were ratified by the whole meeting.

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Correspondence

The following correspondence has been received during the last month and was on the table for inspection.

Correspondence – List for March 2006 Meeting

Highway Maintenance and Traffic Management	Parish Council Newsletter 2006
Countryside Focus	Issue 39 – Winter Edition
NALC Local Council Review	March 2006 Issue
Stroud District Agricultural Forum	Invitation to attend Forum on 14 th March 2006 in Stroud
Stroud and District CVS	February Newsletter

06.03 12 **Ward Matters**

a) **Bisley**

Mrs L Hemming reported that a meeting had been held to discuss the renovation of the gardens at the Methodist Church. A specification of work had been drawn up and tenders sought from three independent contractors. This work would be lengthy and expensive and may have to be done in stages. The Methodist Church Committee hoped that the Parish Council would be able to provide some funding towards the cost and this could be considered once estimates had been received.

Mrs Hemming said that a letter had been received from Mr Bellamy, the owner of the land beyond the end of Van der Breen Street, indicating that he did not wish at this time to pursue the Parish Council's invitation to assist with a vehicle turning circle. A letter had been sent to Mr Taper to advise him of the present situation.

Mrs Hemming advised that work to replace the toilets at the Bisley Pavilion was underway together with some maintenance to the exterior of the building. These costs would be met from the 2005/6 precept for the Ward.

Finally, Mrs Hemming advised that a request had been sent to the Trustees of the Ancient Parish of Bisley requesting permission to re-align the entranceway to the Bisley Allotments from the Stroud Road.

b) **Eastcombe**

Mr T G Carter asked the Clerk to seek estimates for the repair of the damaged dry stone wall at the bottom end of the Recreation Ground.

c) **Oakridge**

Mr P Dawes asked the Clerk for up-date information on the re-instatement of the 'Roll-up' ride at the Playing Fields. The Clerk said that Proludic were arranging to concrete-in the new post in conjunction with similar work at Windyridge in Bisley. This procedure would prove the most cost-effective for the PC.

Mr R N Budgeon briefed the meeting on his attendance at the Energy Conference held at Stroud Old Town Hall. There had been strong representation at the event which was to inform Government Consultation on energy matters. Talks and workshops were included in the programme. Mr Budgeon asked the Clerk to find out what feedback delegates would receive from the Conference.

06.03 13 **Date and Place of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 12th April 2006 at Oakridge Village Hall. The Annual Parish Meeting would commence at 7.00pm, followed by the normal Parish Council Meeting. Parishioners would be encouraged to attend and publicity would be given on Notice Boards and Parish Newsletters.

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