

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

Mr R S Bryant		Chairman
Ms L Greene	}	
Mrs L Hemming	}	Bisley Ward
Mr P Thorp	}	
Mr S Trinder		
Mrs J Russell	}	
Mr R K Brooks	}	Eastcombe Ward
Mrs R Roberts	}	
Mr M Hopkins	}	
Mr A E Davis	}	Oakridge Ward
Mr R N Budgeon	}	
Mr N M MacLeod		Clerk

In attendance: County Councillor J Nash
District Councillor P Carrick

One member of the public was present

06.11 1. **Apologies for Absence**

Mr P Dawes – Unexpected business commitment.

06.11 2. **Public Participation**

Mrs M Measures – a parishioner from the Bisley Ward - was welcomed to the meeting. Mrs Measures asked councillors to recall her last attendance at a Parish Council Meeting in August 2006 when she had voiced her concerns on a number of issues including the very untidy condition of Teeds Rise, drainage in the Jaynes Court/Back Lane area. Mrs Measures said that there did not appear to have been much progress in attending to these issues and requested an update on the present position.

Ms L Greene said that so far it had only been possible to carry out minor tidying work, primarily because there were difficulties in identifying and labelling the important and valuable trees planted on the site. Ms Greene said that the services of a local tree consultant from the Woodlands Trust had been used but that it was necessary to obtain, if possible, a map/plan of where specific trees were planted. A number of sources for obtaining these plans were suggested. Ms Greene then asked if it would be possible for a local group of enthusiasts to take over management of this area because of the special nature of the planting. Ms Greene said Bisley Ward would wish to press ahead with clearance of the top area of the Rise, including the installation of a bench, but leave the sloping area to natural growth.

Mrs L Hemming confirmed that much discussion had taken place about the

on-going maintenance of Teeds Rise and that it was hoped to put produce proposals and plans involving other interested parties. Mr R Budgeon observed that without volunteer assistance Teeds Rise would present budgetary and financial implications for Bisley Ward.

On the question of drainage, Mr P Thorp said that there was a plan to install a culvert to channel rainwater and that an engineering survey to produce the best solution was imminent. Mrs Measures suggested that the problem would be reduced by the installation of a drain at the top of the hill adjacent to the entrance to Jaynes Court. It was agreed by the meeting that this proposal would be discussed with County Highways at a meeting on 13th November 2006.

The Chairman summarised the points raised by Mrs Measures and said that the Council would keep her advised of the actions proposed to deal with her concerns. Mrs Measures said that she looked forward to her concerns being resolved.

06.11 3. **Declaration of Interests**

Mr R S Bryant – Cheque payment; Ms L Greene – Frith Youth Club; Mr M Hopkins – Village Post Offices.

06.11 4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 4th October 2006 having been circulated were approved and the chairman signed the minute book.

06.11 5. **Matters Arising**

a) **Parish Plan**

Mr P Dawes had circulated a further document showing the progress on the actions required to carry forward items contained in the Parish Plan. In a covering note Mr Dawes acknowledged that councillors had recently been involved in a number of lengthy consultations on other issues and that he now considered it prudent to allow a period for Wards to catch-up on outstanding actions before taking on further tasks. He thus proposed to that all outstanding issues should be completed before the Parish Council Meeting in January 2007. This was agreed by councillors.

Mr M Hopkins said that Mr Dawes document did not include all the actions now taken by the Eastcombe Ward and that these had now been notified for inclusion.

b) **Village Post Offices**

The Chairman advised councillors that following discussions with David Drew MP it had been decided to postpone the meeting arranged for 15th November 2006 to discuss the Future for Village Post Offices. A major Government announcement on this subject is to be made in December 2006 and it was felt appropriate to re-schedule the meeting until after this announcement. The Clerk would advise all attendees at the previous meeting of this decision.

Mr R Budgeon said that the Parish should publish a copy of the Record of Discussions of the meeting held on 3rd October 2006 on the Parish Website. This would enable parishioners and other interested parties to have access to the points raised and discussed at the meeting. Mr Budgeon added that, in general, the Parish Council should make wider use of the website and the local Press to communicate with parishioners and recommended that copies of the responses given by the Parish Council to the consultations generated by Stroud District Council on the Future Development of Cotswold Canals and the Environment should be publicised on the website - this was agreed unanimously. It was also agreed that usage of the website would be discussed under the Agenda for the January 2007 Parish Council Meeting.

c) **Footpaths**

The Clerk handed councillors copies of maps he had obtained from Gloucestershire County Council covering each of the three Wards and Public Footpaths and Rights of Way within the Parish. It was agreed that these maps would be extremely useful and the Clerk was asked to obtain further copies so that each councillor had a copy. Mr R K Brooks said that there was confusion in the numbering system used for footpaths, for example, does a footpath become re-numbered on the other side when it crosses a road? He added that it was important to adopt the simplest system of numbering, so that footpaths could be readily identified.

d) **Consultation on the Environment – Response to SDC Green Paper**

Copies of the Parish Council's 'draft' response to the SDC Green Paper had been circulated to all councillors for comment, before release. Mr R K Brooks suggested said that reference to the sea-level rise by 2020 was a 'quote' from the SDC Website and that attribution to this source should be contained in a footnote to the response document. Mrs L Hemming suggested that the terminology in one or two instances may not be readily understood by the general public if published on the website, for example 'exemplar ownership'. Release of the document in final form was proposed by Mr A E Davis, seconded by Mr M Hopkins and passed unanimously. A copy would be added to the Parish website and the Clerk was asked to distribute copies to surrounding parishes.

The Chairman thanked all concerned for their hard work in producing such a comprehensive and impressive document.

e) **Development of Cotswold Canals Area – Parish Response**

The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council response to SDC had been submitted by the deadline date of 31st October 2006 and councillors expressed their support of the document. The additional notes and photographs mentioned in the document would be forwarded to SDC as soon as possible. It was agreed that a copy of the response would be publicised on the website and the Clerk was asked to forward copies to Sapperton and Chalford Parish Councils. Mr A E Davis said that in preparing the Parish response he had been advised by SDC that a document - 'Project Atlas' - dealing with the detailed plan for the Golden Valley section of the canal development was not in the public domain. Mr Davis added that he had heard 'unofficially' of plans by British Waterways to acquire Bakers Mill for conversion to a Public House, with the adjacent lake being turned into a Marina and that some property within the Parish boundary could become the subject of compulsory purchase. The Chairman asked Mr Davis to prepare a letter to SDC seeking clarification on these matters.

06.11 6. **District Council Matters**

District Councillor P Carrick said that the past month had been extremely busy at District Council with so many on-going studies and initiatives. She briefed the meeting on the following issues:

Health – She said that the Council had commissioned the independent Kings Fund to report on the possibility of establishing a 'Social Enterprise Trust', involving employees, patients and the community in the planning and provision of local services as an alternative to NHS proposals.

Canals – The Canals Survey was producing good response from consultees. A new bridge over the canal would incorporate 'bat bricks' with small entry holes leading to a purpose-built 'bat roost' behind.

Webcast – Many meetings at SDC such as Cabinet, Scrutiny, Council and Environment were now 'webcast' and can be viewed 'live' by interested parties.

'First-time' Property Buyers – Councillor Carrick reported that SDC had now launched a new 'Home-buy' Scheme which will assist certain first-time buyers to purchase a property with interest-free loans to cover a portion of the cost.

Cardboard Bank – Councillor Carrick said she had received a very positive response from parishioners for the installation of a 'Cardboard-Bank' in the Parish. She said she planned to hold a meeting with a provider of this facility and invited the Parish Council to attend. In discussion, parish councillors said they were not aware of any strong demand for such a facility and the Chairman said that he would prefer for the matter to be discussed in more detail by Wards before the Parish Council attended any meetings concerning provision and location.

06.11 7. **County Council Matters**

County Councillor reported to the meeting on the following matters:

Budget Consultation – Councillor Nash said that independent consultants had been engaged by the County Council to consult with the public on important issues, with the aim of informing Cabinet of public opinion prior to forming Budget recommendations in Spring 2007.

Looked-after Children – She reported that children in care in the Gloucestershire area were achieving well above average educational standards, but that overall achievement still fell significantly short of that gained by children who were not in the care environment.

Regional Spatial Strategy – New forecasts had indicated that an additional 5000 homes per annum would require to be built in the South-West to satisfy need, with a further 7,500 to 10,000 of these to be built in Gloucestershire area over the next 20 years. This represented a 15% increase on previous forecasts and Local Authorities have been asked to report early in the New Year on the implications and impact of this revision.

Decriminalising Parking (Civil Parking Enforcement) – Discussions were taking place between Police, County and District Councils to produce a draft Service Agreement between them.

Waste – Councillor Nash said that the strategy for the ‘In-Vessel’ Composting of kitchen and garden waste is an important consideration for the County Council. Fines for Landfill restrictions were high at £150.00 per tonne. A site at Javelin Park, Hardwicke is subject to a planning enquiry but it should be possible to use this site if the principle of purchase is agreed by Cabinet. Ms L Greene asked Councillor Nash for details of the size of site the Council was proposing and observed that Public Houses/Restaurants for example could deal with their own waste.

Street Lights - The meeting was advised that Road Lighting is likely to cost the Council £1.7M in the coming year. Consequently, initiatives to save on electricity costs such as turning off some lighting in the early hours of the morning were being discussed. Communities would be consulted to determine if any were interested in ‘piloting’ such a scheme.

Rural Estate – County Council Smallholdings – Councillor Nash advised that despite press reports, it is not the intention of the Council to ‘sell-off the Estate’. Cabinet recommends that the Estate be managed as part of the property portfolio. Current tenants’ leases would not be affected by this proposal and their needs would continue to be respected by the Council as landlord. Mr R Budgeon said that a Radio Countryside Interview had said that some areas of the Estate could be sold. Councillor Nash said that the most viable use of land would be the best determinant for the future, for example the combining of smallholdings into more economically usable packages, with subsequent sale of the farmhouse. In sum, she said that the Council must now become a more responsible landlord.

Care Homes – Councillor Nash briefed the meeting on the proposed changes to the provision of Residential Care Homes in the County which would involve consultation with residents, staff, families and partner organisations.

Matters for Discussion**a) Parish Precept 2007/2008**

Following Ward Meetings, Oakridge and Eastcombe Wards provided provisional figures for their precept requirement for FY 2007/08. Bisley Ward notified a number of major projects which they would wish to fund during the next few years and would circulate details of their specific requirement for 2007/08 as soon as possible. A lengthy discussion followed on the funding of major projects, including the acquisition of premises for a dedicated Parish Office. This would necessitate considerable cost over the coming period and it was proposed by Ms L Greene that a sum of £10,000.00 be earmarked from Reserve Funds towards the eventual cost. There was not unanimous support across Wards for a Parish Office and the earmarking of funds. The Chairman thus placed the proposal by Ms L Greene, seconded by Mr A E Davis that £10,000.00 be earmarked from Reserve Funds towards the cost of a Parish Office to a vote by councillors. The motion was carried by seven votes in favour, two against and one abstention. The Chairman advised the meeting that a final decision on the Bisley-with-Lypiatt Parish Precept for 2007/08 would be made at the next meeting on 6th December 2006.

b) County Highways – Report from Seminar held on 30 Oct 2006

The Chairman advised the meeting that both he and the Clerk had attended this seminar held at Shire Hall, Gloucester. He then outlined the main topics contained in the agenda and particularly highlighted the further re-organisation of Depots which looked likely to result in the maintenance of and indeed expansion of the Stroudwater Depot servicing this Parish, despite previous indications that it was to be closed. It was believed that a final decision would be forthcoming in December.

The Chairman said that he was particularly pleased to advise the meeting that under 'Village Impact Schemes' a sum of circa £100K had been provisionally allocated in the current FY for road improvements in Oakridge. He said that a list of projects would be drawn up and that the Parish would have the opportunity to consider which of these, up to the funding total, they would wish to be carried out.

The Chairman then advised of a 'Heavy Goods Vehicle Strategy' which was under consideration for implementation in the coming year. This strategy was aimed at reducing the transit of heavy vehicles in AONBs and on roads unsuitable for such traffic. The area under consideration would be bounded by the A40 to the east of Gloucester, the M5, the A419 and the A 417. This would place the whole Parish within the restricted zone. The Clerk was asked to write to County Highways requesting further information on this strategy.

- c) **Gas Pipe Replacement in Bisley**
Mr P Thorp briefed the meeting on the gas pipe replacement to be carried out in Bisley Village, commencing early January 2007. He said that detailed discussions had been held with the contractors – Wales & West Utilities – and that every possible effort was being made to minimise the inconvenience and disruption to residents as the work over a likely 3-month period was carried out.
- d) **Lypiatt Park Development Traffic Management**
Ms L Greene advised that a reply to the Parish letter to Pangolin Editions had been received concerning the Traffic Management of vehicles and visitors to the proposed Sculpture Park development at Lypiatt Park. In their letter, Pangolin Editions advised that they had engaged planning consultants Evans, Jones and Partners of Cheltenham to undertake a detailed traffic feasibility study and that the concerns of the Parish had been notified to them. Pangolin Editions will convene a meeting at Lypiatt Park when the results of this study are available.
- e) **SDC Meeting with Town & Parish Councils – 14th December 2006**
The Chairman said that an invitation had been received from SDC to a meeting in the Council Chamber on Thursday 14th December 2006 at 7.00pm. Ms L Greene and Mr R Budgeon said they would wish to represent the Parish at this meeting. In the meantime, the Clerk was asked to obtain a copy of the minutes of a similar meeting held in December 2005.
- f) **Stroud District Employment and Land Study**
The Chairman said he had received a letter from GVA Grimley – International Property Advisers – engaged by SDC to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the provision of employment sites and premises in the District. This would include an assessment of future employment land demand and the extent to which existing supply will meet these needs. As a substantial employer in the Parish, Mr R Budgeon was asked to liaise with other major employers and to prepare a draft response for consideration.

06.11 9

Finance

Receipts October 2006

Bank Interest	£75.20
Allotment Rents – Eastcombe	£190.00
Precept – SDC	£19,520.00
Pavilion/Pitch Hire – Bisley	£275.00

Total Receipts £20,060.02

Payments – November 2006	£	VAT	Total
Glasdon UK Ltd – Bin - Oakridge	60.82	10.64	71.46
Glos Playing Fields Association	50.00		50.00
Moore Stephens – Audit Fee	350.00	61.25	411.25
T Bryant – Handyman Oakridge	54.00		54.00
Bisley WI Village Hall Hire	30.00		30.00
SDC – Bin Emptying – Bisley	58.56	10.25	68.81
Thomas Keble School (S137)	500.00		500.00
ST Water – OVHT	34.99		34.99
ST Water – Bisley Allotments	27.53		27.53
ST Water – Eastcombe Allotments	19.98		19.98
ST Water – Oakridge Allotments	17.78		17.78
N MacLeod – Salary Oct 06	675.40		675.40
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax/NI	334.15		334.15
M Hopkins – Strimmer	50.00		50.00
Totals	£2,263.21	£82.14	£2,345.35

Petty Cash Payments – October 2006 £74.82

Cash Balance as at 31 October 2006	£36,250.57
Bisley Gift Balance as at 31 October 2006	£2,427.49
Bisley Lock-up Balance as at 31 October 2006	£2,015.96
Westbury Gift Balance as at 31 October 2006	£10,000.00

06.11 10 **Planning**

Planning Applications – October 2006

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

S.06/2257/FUL – Woodland Cottage, Middle Lypiatt, Bisley – Erection of conservatory – **Support.**

S.06/2243/FUL and S.06/2248/LBC – Jaynes Court, School Road, Bisley – Changes to existing garden structures and erection of 1-metre dry stone retaining wall, dry stone walls and lowering of level of parking area and drive – **Support/Comment** – Whilst we appreciate that the Planning Officer will rightly validate this application against planning regulations we would like to point out how impressed we were with the care and detail in the planning application. It is encouraging to see an important building like this improved in this way.

S.06/2272/FUL – Bramley, Oakridge Lynch – Erection of conservatory – **Support.**

S.06/2286/FUL – Badger Cottage, Oakridge Lynch – Erection of a conservatory – **Support.**

S.06/2262/COU – Cherry Oakes, Oakridge Lynch – Conversion of partial ground floor of dwelling into Post Office/Shop – **Support/Comment** – We strongly support this application because the Post Office/Shop needs to develop to be viable and this is the opportunity it needs. If the officer's view differs from ours we would like the opportunity to discuss this with the Planning Department.

S.06/2376/FUL – Jasmine Cottage, Oakridge Lynch – Erection of new porch/lobby – **Support/Comment** – This lobby and porch will make a significant difference to the quality of living in the house and no significant difference to the appearance of the building.

S.06/2395/FUL – Land adjacent to Little Pepworth, Fidges Lane, Eastcombe – Erection of one dwelling – **No Observations.**

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

06.11 11 **Correspondence**

Correspondence – List for November 2006

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

Gloucestershire County Council	Consultation Proposal Document on Homes for Older People
Campaign to Protect Rural England	Countryside Voice Magazine – Autumn 2006
Volunteer and Community Action Stroud District	Annual Report 2005/2006
Cotswold Care Hospice 2006	News Link Magazine – Autumn
Environment and Development in Gloucestershire	‘The Edge’ Magazine – Issue 43
Stroud & District Citizens Advice Bureau	Annual Report 2005/2006

06.11 12 **Ward Matters**

a) **Bisley**

Further to Item 06/10 (10) of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th October 2006, Ms L Greene again outlined the S137 Bid from All Saints Church, Bisley for assistance towards the construction of toilet facilities within the Church, incorporating access for the disabled. Detailed accounts had been provided by the Church and the assistance requested was for the sum of £1000.00 towards the overall cost of £25,000.00. This request received strong support from councillors and Mr P Thorp proposed and Mrs J Russell seconded the proposal for payment of £1000.00 under S137 to this worthy cause – carried unanimously. Mr P Thorp said that a request for support from BATS, the Bisley Amateur Dramatics Group, had also been received to assist with the acquisition of sound equipment for performances. It was agreed that the sum of £600.00 would be granted to BATS, for which allowance was available in the current Bisley Ward Precept. Ms L Greene added that BATS would be asked that acknowledgement of this assistance should appear in the ‘Credits’ for performances.

b) **Eastcombe**

Mrs J Russell said that the Ward was now anxious to proceed with vital repairs to the dry stone wall surrounding the Recreation Ground. On-going monitoring would be carried out by the Ward of other areas of the wall likely to require repair in the near future. Prior to these repairs, It was requested that the Clerk contact County Highways to attend to the overgrowth of shrubs and small trees on the road-side verge of the wall to prevent further deterioration of the structure.

Mrs Russell also reported that a replacement 'Strimmer' was needed for the maintenance of grassed areas in the Ward and that suitable equipment would be purchased from Mr M Hopkins for the sum of £50.00.

Mr R K Brooks said that during events at Thomas Keble School such as 'Open Days', car parking is often dangerous with vehicles parked right up to the crossroads on nearby roads, with a resulting loss of visibility to drivers and therefore the risk of accidents. It was suggested that the School should ask the Police to provide 'cones' or other means to prevent such parking. The Chairman said that he intended to have an informal meeting with the Headmaster of the School in the near future and would raise this issue with him.

c) **Oakridge**

Oakridge Ward had no specific items to raise that had not been not addressed elsewhere in the proceedings.

06.11 13 **Resignation from the Council**

Mr M Hopkins said it was with the greatest regret that he must tender his resignation from the Parish Council with immediate effect. He advised that ill-health had required him to sell his thriving business and that he and his family would be moving to live Spain at an early date. The Chairman, supported by all other councillors expressed their sadness at losing Mr Hopkins from the Council, thanked him sincerely for his excellent work during the past 6 months and expressed every good wish to he and his family in their new life in Spain.

06.11 14 **Date and Place of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 6th December 2006 at Bisley WI Village Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2300 hours.