

**MINUTES OF THE BISLEY-WITH-LYPIATT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD
ON WEDNESDAY 2nd August 2006 at BISLEY WI VILLAGE HALL**

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

In attendance: County Councillor J Nash
District Councillor P Carrick

06.08 1. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Mrs R Roberts (holiday) and Mr R K Brooks (business).

06.08 2. **Public Participation**

Mrs Margaret Measures, a Bisley Ward parishioner attended the meeting and was welcomed by the Chairman. Mrs Measures said she had a number of issues she wished to draw to the attention of the Parish Council for resolution if possible. These concerned access to the 'dog bin' in the Wells area which was becoming difficult because of overgrown vegetation and branches, drains and soakaways on the road leading down to the Wells from Jaynes Court and the generally untidy condition of Teeds Rise.

Ms L Greene said that Ward councillors were putting considerable effort into reducing the problem caused by dog fouling in the village with the installation of new dog bins and signs warning dog owners, together with letters to all residents in areas of the village where the problem was most acute. Ms Greene said that the handyman would attend to overgrowth around existing bins.

As to the drainage problems, Mr P Thorp said that he had just carried out a widespread survey of drains in the village to insure that they were all clearly identifiable and would be included in the drains clearing programme carried out periodically by Gloucestershire County Highways. Mr Thorp added that the requirement for additional drainage and soakaway from the hill leading down from Jaynes Court was under examination and a possible solution was a concrete channel to move the water across the road to a more effective soakaway

Mrs L Hemming said that the present untidiness of Teeds Rise was currently being addressed by Bisley Ward in consultation with a local resident who had Woodlands Trust experience. Restoration of the area was quite a large job which would involve clear identification of trees previously planted and costly clearing work by the Ward handyman. Mrs Hemming assured Mrs Measures that this issue was under close attention and the Chairman asked Bisley Ward councillors to keep Mrs Measures informed of progress on all of the issues she had raised. He then thanked Mrs Measures for taking the time to attend the meeting to present her concerns

06.08 3. **Declaration of Interests**

Ms L Greene – Frith Youth Club; the Chairman on Agenda Item 8(g) – Chairman’s Allowance

06.08 4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The draft minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 5th July 2006 having been circulated were approved and the chairman signed the minute book.

06.08 5. **Matters Arising**

a) **Parish Plan**

Mr P Dawes said that the Oakridge update on progress with the Action Plan had been circulated to the Bisley and Eastcombe Wards and he requested that they in turn provide their inputs for incorporation in the Master Progress Spreadsheet.

b) **Roads Safety Measures – Eastcombe and Bisley**

Mr M Hopkins confirmed that Stroud District Council had now obtained ‘Twenty is Plenty’ speed control notices for strategic placement in Dr Crouch’s Road and that these would be erected in time for the new school term. Mr Hopkins also mentioned that some drain clearance had been carried out in the Ward and roads marked for attention. Mr P Thorp said that a composite draft submission to Gloucestershire Highways Department had now been produced for consideration and that a further meeting with Highways Representatives would follow in due course to discuss the issues involved.

c) **Consultation on Changes to Mental Health Services**

A letter publicising an extension to the consultation period had been circulated to councillors. The Chairman said that this extension seemed of little value given that, no alternative solutions to the original proposals were offered despite the feedback already provided to the County Council.

Mr A Davis said the position on funding had now become thoroughly confused. During a recent visit to the area, the Patricia Hodge – Health Secretary – had stated that it was purely current and not historic deficits which Health Trusts were required to clear and that Trusts had mis-interpreted Government policy. This statement did not seem to reconcile with the proposed funding for the County in the current year. The Chairman asked the Clerk to consult with Mr Davis and to write to the Gloucestershire Partnership NHS Trust to point out this apparent ‘confusion’ and to seek clarification on the issue.

d) **Proposed Development at Lypiatt Park**

Ms L Greene said that the presentation given by Mr Kingdom of Pangolin Editions at the July PC Meeting concerning the proposed development of Lypiatt Park had been most useful and generally well-received. However, Ms Greene said the main concern about the proposals focused on the increase in traffic that would inevitably result and its impact on roads both in and around the Parish.

Mr S Trinder said that the provision of additional public transport to service this attraction would be important and that it would need to be integrated with the arrival and departure of trains/buses etc from the nearest large towns. Mr Trinder also said that there were as yet no details available of the buildings to be developed in support of the activity and that plans for these would need to ensure that they were sustainably and fitted in with the environment of the Park and local environment. Mr R Budgeon said that proposals for buildings would need to be discussed by the developers with Stroud District Council and asked that the Clerk be alert to such application as and when it arrived. Mr J Russell said it might prove worthwhile to ask Pangolin Editions to provide the Parish Council with an update as to where they had now reached in the application process. Mr P Dawes said that it was also important to keep residents of the Parish informed about the proposals.

The Chairman summarised the main points raised and asked Ms Greene to produce a draft letter to send to Pangolin Editions. This letter should highlight the concerns of the Parish Council about transport and road issues and seek forecasts of the numbers of visitors expected to visit the sculpture park and how these numbers would be spread out during a calendar year.

06.08 6. **District Council Matters**

District Councillor P Carrick reported to the meeting on the following matters:

1. Her visit to Gloucestershire Highways Department at Stroudwater Interchange which had proved enlightening. Staffs at the Department had indicated that after some initial 'teething problems' with the new organisation and contractor, the system was now working more effectively and productively.
2. Mrs Carrick said that she had been pleased to note that various residual tasks at the Windyridge development had been addressed, including the removal of signpost poles. She also mentioned the overgrown nature of the yet to be developed plot behind the bungalows and the Clerk confirmed that Persimmon Homes had written to confirm that they would tidy-up this area and attend to the surrounding fence.
3. Stgroud District Council had developed a 50-point plan to increase energy efficiency in houses, offices and builders, including renewables, and to increase the recycling target by one third.
4. Mrs Carrick confirmed that dog bins would be emptied by District Council Refuse Department.
5. She advised that she planned to hold 'Surgeries' in the Parish.

06.08 7. **County Council Matters**

County Councillor J Nash announced that the Gloucestershire Records Office, which houses the Gloucestershire County Council Archives Service, is celebrating its 70th 'birthday' and is changing its name to 'Gloucestershire Archives'. This would now include the 'Gloucestershire Collection' previously held at Gloucester Library. The air-conditioned strong-rooms hold over 8 million documents dating from the 12th Century, including local newspapers from 1722, Census Returns and Electoral Lists dating from 1832.

County Councillor Nash also mentioned the Government's Energy Review published in July contained many proposals including the possible construction of a 'Severn Barrage' at a cost of £14 Billion. It was envisaged that electricity generated from the tidal flow through this barrage could satisfy 5% of the UK's current demand by 2020. However, it was equally recognised that the impact of such a construction on the Severn Estuary environment would be considerable.

Finally, County Councillor Nash said she was very pleased to note that Andrew Turner from Gloucestershire Highways had agreed to meet with the Parish Council in October.

In questions to County Councillor Nash, Mr A Davis said he had noted that Jaci Harris from Public Rights of Way had been in the Parish to discuss a footpath issue at Througham. Oakridge and Eastcombe Wards had been trying to arrange a meeting with Jaci Harris for some time. County Councillor Nash said she would raise this with Jaci Harris and ask her to revisit the Parish.

Matters for Discussion**a) Roads Maintenance**

The Chairman advised the meeting of the productive meeting held in the Parish with representatives from Gloucestershire County Highways Department. This had involved a one-hour discussion session in the Bisley Village Hall, followed by a 'tour' of some of the poorest road maintenance examples in each of the Wards.

The Chairman said that from the reaction of the visitors, it was clear that they did not consider that the Parish had been well-served in past road-surfacing programmes and they undertook to address some of the worst-affected areas through a new system of 'Jet Patching'. Details of the roads to be included for consideration in the coming year had now been received, together with a list of roads maintenance projects in the Parish which were now in the 'Forward Programme'.

In summary the Chairman said that together with other initiatives already in progress, there were positive indications that the Parish could look forward to a more pro-active programme of roads maintenance in the future and that the Parish would continue to press for action on outstanding and pressing issues. The Chairman also expressed his thanks to County Councillor Joan Nash for the considerable assistance she had given to highlighting the Parish's road maintenance concerns.

Finally, the Chairman raised the matter of the 'Roads Maintenance' questionnaire circulated to parishes by the Liberal Democrat Group at Gloucestershire County Council. This called for 'feedback' on the performance of the new contract in partnership with WS Atkins. County Councillor J Nash expressed her concern about this 'political' approach by the LibDems and stressed her apolitical stance in all her dealings with parishes. The Chairman agreed that the Parish Council would not complete this questionnaire but would write a letter of response effectively stating that we were satisfied with the progress we were making under the new organisation and were more than content with the considerable assistance we received from our County Councillor. The Clerk was asked to produce a letter to this effect for clearance by councillors, with a copy to County Councillor Nash.

b) Verge Maintenance – Trees

The Clerk said that following an enquiry to the Environment Directorate, he had been advised that no further verge maintenance involving the felling of trees was planned for the Parish in the coming year. This information was at variance with maps provided by County Highways which showed stretches of road in Waterlane and Througham where such maintenance work would be carried out. Whilst the Clerk was to resolve this conflicting information, Wards were asked to walk the route of the proposed Highways maintenance and to identify trees that should not be felled or damaged.

- c) **Speed warning Sign**
Stroud Area Crime and Disorder Partnership had written to the Parish asking for a contribution of £200.00 towards the purchase cost of an Interactive Speed Sign, with annual maintenance costs of £30.00. This sign would be available for use by parishes throughout the Stroud District. Since the Parish already shared ownership of a similar sign with Painswick Parish, the Chairman asked the Clerk to write a letter declining the Partnership's request. Mr P Thorp then advised the meeting that during the next 2 weeks radar speed checks would be carried out in Bisley Ward as part of the initiative to improve road safety in Bisley. Operators would wear distinctive clothing. Mr A Davis suggested that that local residents' be made aware of the campaign.
- d) **Registration of Parish Land**
Mr A Davis sought clarification concerning the registration of parish land called for by the Land Registry. Following attendance at a recent seminar to discuss this issue, Mr S Trinder confirmed that the Land Registry's focus was on land clearly owned by parishes but not registered, as opposed to green spaces for which parishes wished to claim ownership. The Clerk was asked to search Parish Archives to determine if any deeds or titles were held and in particular for areas of land such as recreation grounds.
- e) **Stroud Cluster Group**
The Clerk said that the next meeting of the Stroud Cluster Group would be held at Stroud Police Station on 19th October 2006. Former councillor Mr T G Carter had been the Parish representative at this Group. The Chairman asked for a volunteer to fill this vacant role which Mr M Hopkins said he would fill. The Clerk was asked to pass minutes of past Cluster Group Meetings to Mr Hopkins.
- f) **S137 Grants 2006/07**
Councillors were asked to consider a proposed list of Grants to organisations, together with additional requests from Eastcombe Scout and Guide Group and All Saints Church, Bisley, which had been received since last year's grants had been made. Councillors asked for time to discuss these bids in Ward and the Chairman said that the subject would be carried forward to the September PC Meeting.
- g) **Chairman's Allowance 2006/07**
In the absence of the Chairman, councillors discussed the Annual Allowance given to the Chairman to help defray expenses necessarily incurred on Parish business. This allowance had been previously set at £450.00. It was agreed that workload and costs had risen significantly since the last review and it was proposed by Mr A Davis, seconded by Ms L Greene that this year's allowance should be set at £550.00. This proposal was carried unanimously.

h) **Approval of Annual Accounts**

The Clerk had circulated copies of the Annual Accounts for the Parish which had been audited by the Parish Internal Auditor Mr Ernest Pike. The Accounts were also displayed on Parish Notice Boards as required by statute. There being no questions, the Chairman asked councillors to approve the Accounts which was carried unanimously.

06.08 9 **Finance**

Receipts July 2006

Bank Interest £70.51

Total Receipts £70.51

Payments – August 2006	£	VAT	Total
E F Pike – Internal Audit	60.00		60.00
Bisley WI Village Hall Hire	45.00		45.00
ST Water – Oakridge Allotments	24.82		24.82
JSM Signs – Bisley Open Spaces	90.00	15.75	105.75
D Holbrow – E’combe Handyman	266.90	2.09	268.99
ST Water – Oakridge Cricket Gd	18.00		18.00
N Power – King George V P/Fds	11.98	.60	12.58
Consortium – Printer Ink	65.70	11.49	77.19
N MacLeod – Salary	511.78		511.78
Revenue & Customs – Tax/NI	221.19		221.19
D Holbrow –E’combe Handyman	145.21	1.79	147.00
D Wiltshire – Bisley Pavilion	31.50		31.50
Totals	£1,492.08	£31.72	£1,523.80

Petty Cash Payments – July 2006 £72.98

Cash Balance as at 31st July 2006 £29,167.57

Bisley Gift Balance as at 31st July 2006 £2,427.49

Bisley Lock-up Balance as at 31st July 2006 £2,004.96

Westbury Gift Balance as at 31st July 2006 £10,000.00

- 06.08 10 **Planning**
The following applications have been received during the past month and the Council's responses indicated where received:

Planning Applications – July 2006

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

S.06/1518/FUL – Fourwinds, Middle Hill, Eastcombe – Erection of single-storey side extension and demolition of detached garage. – **No Observations.**

S.06/1445/FUL – Brown Cottage, Eastcombe – **No Observations**
All planning decisions where indicated were ratified by the whole meeting.

- 06.08 11 **Correspondence**
The following correspondence has been received during the last month and was on the table for inspection.

GAPTC Newsletter	Summer 2006 Update
The Countryside and Community National Common Land Seminar Research Unit	14/15 September 2006
Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association	Summer 2006 Newsletter
The Countryside Agency	'Delivering a New Urban Fringe' Publication
Countryside Focus	Summer 2006 Issue
Stroud District Council	Affordable Housing News
Cotswold Conservation Board	Annual Review 2005/2006
Local Councils Update	July 2006 Issue

- 06.08 12 **Ward Matters**
- a) **Bisley**
Bisley Ward had no matters to raise that had not already been addressed.
 - b) **Eastcombe**
Eastcombe Ward similarly had no issues to raise.

c) **Oakridge**

Mr A Davis said that the Ward intended to include an article about the future of Village Post Offices in the 'What's On' magazine. He added that there was a question over the position with Rural Funding of post offices beyond 2008 and said we should draw this matter to the attention of David Drew MP so that he would be prepared to cover this issue when he met with the Parish in November.

The Chairman asked that Mr Davis and Mr Hopkins liaise over this matter with the aim to include the question of Rural Funding in the invitation letter to David Drew.

06.08 13 **Date and Place of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 6th September 2006 at 7.30pm at Bisley WI Village Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2215 hours.