

**MINUTES OF THE BISLEY-WITH-LYPIATT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD
ON WEDNESDAY 3rd August 2005 at BISLEY WI VILLAGE HALL**

Mr N S Rogers		Chairman
Ms L Greene	}	
Mr P Thorp	}	Bisley Ward
Mrs L Hemming	}	
Mrs O M Turner	}	Eastcombe Ward
Mrs J Russell	}	
Mr R Bryant	}	
Mr R N Budgeon	}	Oakridge Ward
Mr A E Davis	}	
Mr N M MacLeod		Clerk

No members of the public were present.

- 05.08 1. **Apologies for Absence**
Mr T G Carter (illness) and Mr R K Brooks, Mr P Dawes, County Cllr J Nash & District Cllr D Le Fleming (summer holidays).
- 05.08 2. **Public Participation**
There was no public participation at the meeting.
- 05.08 3. **Declaration of Interests**
Ms L Greene as Chair of the Frith Youth Centre and Ms L Greene and Mr R Budgeon as interested parties to the Private Members Ballot on Climate Change and Management of Energy.
- 05.08 4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**
The draft minutes of the meeting held on 3rd July 2005 having been circulated were approved and the chairman signed the minute book.
- 05.08 5. **Matters Arising**
a) **Acceptance of Office and Allocation of Responsibilities**
The new Members to the Bisley-with-Lypiatt Ward of the Parish Council – Mrs L Hemming and Mr P Thorp - were welcomed to the Meeting and duly signed the Register of Acceptance of Office. Ms Greene, as Ward Chairman, advised that Mrs Hemming would assume responsibility as Playing Fields Warden and Snow Warden and Mr Thorp would assume responsibility on the Planning Sub-Committee.

b) **Dr Crouch's Road**

Mrs Russell reported that a successful meeting had been held to discuss the on-going traffic problem in Dr Crouch's Road and was attended by all four Ward Councillors. Also in attendance was County Councillor Joan Nash. It was agreed to provide an 18-inch footway along the school frontage. In due course this would be a raised footway but at present it was delineated by a painted line. A 'zig-zag' effect was incorporated which should assist in encouraging drivers to reduce speed in this area.

Local residents raised the issue of providing mirrors to assist traffic exiting the lanes and there was also discussion about re-routing buses from the road and dialogue on this issue was on-going with Stagecoach. Parking of cars on the road outside the school was also a concern and it was suggested that perhaps the adjacent public house car park could be utilised for drop-off of pupils.

c) **Van Der Breen Street**

Mrs Hemming reported that she had now collected the documents associated with the issue of the turning circle in Van Der Breen Street.

It was agreed that Mrs Hemming, Ms Greene and Mr Budgeon should meet to progress this matter. There was a need to clarify with residents what their requirements were in relation to the size of the turning circle - ie Do they wish to pursue re-instatement of the original larger circle or accept the smaller one as it has now become.

It had also been reported by a resident that the present lack of turning space and the parking of vehicles in the turning circle by the contractors working for Mr Taper was causing additional inconvenience. As a result, traffic was now using the farm track and turning in the field or using it as a parking area.

It was agreed that Mrs Hemming and Ms Greene would prepare a draft letter for the Chairman to send to Mr Taper requesting that the problem with contractor vehicles be addressed.

d) **RoSPA Report – Playground Inspections**

Ms Greene advised the meeting that the Spring Seat in the Windyridge play area in Bisley had been removed temporarily for safety reasons. The spare parts and special fitting tool had now been and that repair would be carried out upon the return of the contractor from holiday. Ms Green also mentioned that the fencing around the area was almost complete and that the workmanship was of a very good standard.

Mrs Turner advised that repair to the slide at Eastcombe was more difficult than at first envisaged and would need professional repair. The Chairman stated that as a matter of Parish Policy we should now only employ qualified tradesmen to carry out work on play area equipment.

e) **Public Telephone Box at Eastcombe**

The Clerk advised that a reply had yet to be received from BT in respect of our representation to retain the current cash pay-phone at Eastcombe.

Mr Davis suggested that the Parish Council take measures to have all three of the older-style red telephone boxes in Bisley, Oakridge and Eastcombe 'Listed'. He said that these boxes were attractive traditional features in the villages and that their retention was important. However, it was envisaged that 'Listing' might be accompanied by the placement of additional cleaning and maintenance responsibilities and costs on the Parish.

It was proposed by Mr Davis and seconded by Ms Greene that the Parish explore the process involved in 'Listing' the telephone boxes. The Clerk was asked to check past correspondence with BT relating to Parish responsibilities in respect of these boxes and to determine what responsibilities and costs would accrue to the Parish.

f) **Winter Pre-Salting – Stancombe Lane**

The Clerk advised the meeting that a positive response had been received from GCC to the request that Stancombe Lane be included in the County Council Winter Pre-Salting Schedule. The Clerk also advised that this measure had received the specific support of County Cllr Joan Nash. A specific letter of confirmation was now awaited.

05.08 6. **District Council Matters**

No District Council matters were raised at the meeting.

05.08 7. **County Council Matters**

In a written report submitted to the meeting County Cllr Joan Nash provided an update on the Local Transport Plan and the outlined the issues presented to an Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 20th July 2005. Endorsement of the Plan was now required in order to secure Government funding.

County Cllr Nash also advised that GCC is the only Authority to bid successfully for Extra Care Sheltered Housing from the Department of Health.

The meeting was advised that the current Policy for Vulnerable Pupils would ensure that no one school would be expected to take more than three such pupils in any Academic Year so that these more demanding pupils are spread amongst schools. Additionally, County Cllr Nash informed the meeting that 23 extra Children's Centres must be provided in the County by 2008, including rural areas.

Finally, County Cllr Nash confirmed that monies from the Stroud District Council bid for 'second homes' had now been received, totalling £75,000.

05.08 8 **Matters for Discussion**

a) **Appointment and Notification of Snow Wardens**

The Chairman said that we had received correspondence from GCC asking that the Parish update lists for Snow Wardens and Snow Plough Operators.

Each Ward was to provide the Clerk with confirmation of these appointments for onward notification to GCC.

b) **Areas of Common Land in the Parish**

Mr Bryant advised the meeting that an enquiry to the Land Registry had shown the portion of Common Land at Lyday Close to be unregistered. It was still believed that the Parish had taken action to register areas of Common Land in around 1998 and the Clerk was asked to research this in more detail to establish what happened to the application and to resubmit if not actioned.

c) **Stroud North Link Bus Services**

Details of the North Link Bus Services had been circulated to Parish Councillors and Mrs O Turner advised that although Eastcombe did not appear on the published list of services, she had been assured by Shire Hall that Eastcombe would be included in the routing.

It was noted that special low fares were available in August and it was suggested that publicity for this be passed to Parish Magazines and Post Offices.

d) **Safety Fence at Thomas Keble School**

The Chairman said that a letter had been received from Thomas Keble School detailing the plans for work on the Security Fence. The School planned to phase-in this project over 2-3 years, with the initial phase fencing-off the School Field from the Bussage Estate. The portion of fencing bordering the Parish Field would not be undertaken until 2006/2007, or possibly the following year. The Chairman advised that the School was now seeking payment of the £500.00 offered by the Parish as a contribution towards the project as it affected the Parish Field. Since this work was now likely to take place in 2006/2007 or even later it was agreed unanimously that the Parish would withhold payment of this contribution until the commencement of work on the fence bordering the Parish Field.

The Clerk was tasked with writing to the School to convey this information.

e) **Update on Parish Plan**

Mr R Budgeon said that the next meeting of the Parish Plan Committee would be held on the second week of September 2005. By this time all members would have had the opportunity to consider proposals and matters for inclusion in the Plan and thereafter substantial progress could be made.

f) **Consideration of a Dedicated Parish Council Office**

At the PC Meeting held on 3rd July 2005 the Chairman had asked Wards to consider the merits and/or demerits of introducing a Dedicated Parish Council Office in premises which would be readily accessible to both Councillors and to members of the Parish Public. Ms Greene reported that the Bisley Ward generally favoured the concept and particularly the increased access this would give to the function of Local Government and to the dissemination of information around the Parish.

Mrs J W Russell said that the Eastcombe Ward was generally not in favour of the concept, both on the basis of increased cost to the Parish and part-time manning and also on the premise that such office could well be sited in Bisley and would thus offer little increased benefit to Eastcombe parishioners.

Mr R Bryant reported that Oakridge Ward had mixed views on the proposal and shared some of the reservations expressed by Eastcombe.

In summarising, the Chairman thanked the Wards for their inputs and added that he considered the proposal still worthy of further exploration as a longer-term concept. Mr P Thorp volunteered to carry out a very broad outline feasibility study into the concept, including possible sources of funding. This study would also include consideration of maintaining the status quo.

It was proposed by Ms L Greene and seconded by Mr R Budgeon that Mr P Thorp should proceed with the feasibility study and that there should be a tri-Ward meeting to discuss the concept in more detail. This was opposed by Mr Bryant who advocated the formation of a Committee comprising one person from each Ward.

g) **Bisley Gift**

The Chairman read to the Meeting a copy of a letter written by Mr M Flint – a former Parish Councillor - in response to the anonymous letter published in the Bisley News concerning the expenditure of monies received in the 'Bisley Gift'. The Parish Council Members unanimously supported the information imparted by Mr Flint.

h) **Private Members Bill – Climate Change/Management of Energy**

It was agreed that Members would discuss this issue at Ward Meetings and present their responses at the next PC Meeting on 7th September 2005.

i) **Chairman's Allowance**

In the absence of the Chairman it was agreed to increase the Annual Chair Allowance to £450.00 to defray out of pocket expenses.

Receipts July 2005

	£
Bank Interest	£66.35
SDC Rural Grant	£1000.00
Bisley Allotment Rents	£150.00
Total	£1216.35

Payments – August 2005

	£	VAT	Total
S137 Payments as per July 2005 Minutes	£2585.00		£2585.00
Graduate Gardeners – Oakridge Cemetery	£112.50	£19.69	£132.19
SMP – Bisley Play Area	£24.00	£4.20	£28.20
BT – Phone Bill	£29.76	£5.20	£34.96
BT – New Connection Charge	£108.62	£19.00	£127.62
Severn Trent Water – Oakridge Allotments	£12.79		£12.79
Severn Trent Water – Eastcombe Allotments	£48.74		£48.74
E F Pike – Audit Fee	£60.00		£60.00
T W Hawkins – Contract Mowing	£630.00	£110.25	£740.25
Bisley W I – Hire of Hall	£14.00		£14.00
W Bryant – Strimming & Painting at Oakridge	£80.16		£80.16
William Davis – Wall Repair Eastcombe	£108.47		£108.47
T Howes – July Salary	£242.81		£242.81
N MacLeod – July Salary	£336.59		£336.59
Inland Revenue – Tax & NI	£199.40		£199.40
I Trueman – Mowing & Strimming - Eastcombe	£58.00		£58.00
Totals	£4650.84	£158.34	£4809.18

Petty Cash Payments – July 2005	£30.00
Cash Balance as at 31 st July 2005	£32,401.13

Bisley Gift Balance – 31 st July 2005	£4,057.49
Bisley Lock Up Balance – 31 st July 2005	£1,964.90

05.08 10 **Planning**

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

Planning Applications – July 2005

S.05/1330/FUL – Bisley Farm Court – Removal of render to expose coursed stonework.

S.05/1411/FUL – The Brow, Fidges Lane, Eastcombe – Demolition and rebuild of front porch.

S.05/1459/COU & S.05/1462/LBC – Jaynes Court, School Road, Bisley – Conversion of barn to domestic use and minor alterations to existing cottage.

S.05/1488/FUL – Beechcroft, Wells Road, Eastcombe – Erection of a conservatory.

S.05/1469/AGR – Lypiatt Park, Old Bisley Road – Erection of storage barns.

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

05.08 11 **Correspondence**

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

Correspondence – List for August Meeting

Gloucestershire Police Authority - Annual Reports

Meningitis Trust Five Valleys Walk – 25 Sep 05

Charity Commission - Quarterly Newsletter

Stroud District Council - July Newsletter

Gloucestershire Education Directorate - End of Academic Year Update

Stroud North Link - Door to Door Bus Service

The Countryside Agency - Map of Registered Common Land

a) Bisley

Ms L Greene advised the meeting of damage to a tree at Stancombe Green following grass 'strimming' by GCC contractors. The matter had been notified to GCC who undertook to remind the contractors of the need to exercise care. Ms Greene said that it was too early to determine whether lasting damage had been inflicted and that the health of the tree would be monitored.

Ms Greene reported that the fencing round the Windyridge play area was almost complete and only fitment of the gates was outstanding.

Ms Greene advised the meeting that the Community Composting Scheme was progressing and that advertisements had been placed on Notice Boards seeking a Manager for the Scheme.

Mrs L Hemmings reported that there was a problem with drainage at the playing fields car park which would need further investigation.

Mr P Thorp updated the meeting on the investigation into the grass fire that had occurred at Evans Field last month. Mr Thorp said that the possible cause was being investigated by the Pump Commander and that they would meet on 5th August 2005 to discuss the outcome.

b) Eastcombe

Mrs J Russell reported that branches and leaves of trees and bushes were over-growing and encroaching on roads and pavements. This was causing potential hazard to drivers and pedestrians because lines of sight were becoming restricted. It was agreed that the Clerk would raise the matter with GCC Roads Department to determine what responsibilities, if any, they had for this issue. If none, it would become necessary for the Ward to ask residents to cut-back offending trees and shrubs, possibly by circulating a 'round robin' letter publicising the hazard.

Mrs Russell also reported that there had been instances of grit bins being overturned and emptied of their contents.

This problem would need to be monitored as the colder weather approached.

Mrs Russell advised the meeting that a local Handyman – Mr Holbrow – would be engaged on a trial basis to carry-out work in the Ward.

c) Oakridge

Mr R Bryant reported that some vehicles were causing a nuisance and damage to the road from Oakridge to Far Oakridge. This involved drivers putting oil on the road and then accelerating violently and spinning to produce tyre-burn and smoke. One or two of the offending vehicles had been identified and it was intended to raise this issue with the Police.

Mr Bryant also advised of a problem to a footpath at the Back of Ollis. The adjacent garden ends with a Cotswold Stone retaining wall. Large sycamore trees are causing stress to this wall and should one of these trees fall it could land on top of the nearby house. The Clerk was asked to raise the matter with GCC Highways/Footpaths Department with the recommendation that the sycamore trees be felled. Mr A Davis advised the meeting of the need to enclose the Parish-owned Burial Ground at Oakridge to provide both privacy and protection. Graduate Gardeners had been asked to submit a quotation for traditional hedging around the Burial Ground. The estimated cost for providing a double-row, 6-variety hedge was £2370.00 plus VAT. Graduate Gardeners had advised that hedge-planting should be carried out in the Autumn and Mr Davis asked that funding from Parish Reserves be earmarked for this project. This request was agreed unanimously, subject to Mr Davis obtaining 2 further quotations for the project, in order to comply with financial policy which required 3 independent estimates for the work.

05.08 13 **Date and Place of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 7th September 2005 at Bisley WI Village Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 22.00 hours.