

**MINUTES OF THE BISLEY-WITH-LYPIATT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD
ON WEDNESDAY 4th JULY 2007 at BISLEY WI VILLAGE HALL**

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

County Councillor J Nash and one member of the public was present.

07.07 1. **Apologies for Absence**

The Chairman opened the meeting by announcing that Mr S Trinder had tendered his resignation from the Parish Council for personal reasons. Councillors were sorry to learn of his departure and wished to place on record their appreciation for all his work during his period in office. Apologies were also received from Parish Councillors P Dawes, R Peyton, C James and L Hemming and District Councillor P Carrick.

07.07 2. **Public Participation**

The Chairman welcomed Mr John Cowen to the meeting. Mr Cowen wished to advise the Parish Council of difficulties he was experiencing in connection with the installation of solar panels at his property – Overcourt House in Bisley. Overcourt House is Grade II Listed, and solar panels had been installed on the roof some 6 years ago. Stroud District Council had refused a retrospective planning application for the work and were now seeking to take enforcement action, with particular emphasis placed on their assessment that these panels were 'visually intrusive'. Mr Cowen disputed this claim and said he considered that there was no clarity of policy or consistency of decision applied by the District Council to the installation of energy-saving devices.

The Chairman said that whilst the Council fully understood the points raised by Mr Cowen it was not in a position to 'champion his cause'. The Council had supported the retrospective application and recourse to appeal or judicial review was available to an applicant.

It was agreed that Mr Cowen would speak with District Councillor P Carrick to gain further direction on the options available to him. The Parish Council would also write to SDC to seek clarification of policy on this matter.

07.07 3. **Declaration of Interests**

Mr R N Budgeon declared an interest in Planning Application S.07/1226/FUL – See 07.07(10) – and in payment of an invoice for maintenance work in Bisley.

Mr R S Bryant declared an interest in payment of an invoice for maintenance work at Oakridge.

07.07 4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 6th June 2007 having been circulated were approved and the chairman signed the minute book.

07.07 5. **Matters Arising**

a) **Parish Plan/Village Design Statement**

With short-term actions under the Parish Plan now complete, the first of the medium-term actions – Schools Transport Plans – was underway. Mr P Thorp had produced a draft letter for inclusion in Village Newsletters as per Item B (Education & Schools) of the Parish Plan. Oakridge Ward stated that they did not wish to do this in isolation of the School Travel Plan. Also they needed to know exactly what GCC was asking the School to provide. When all this was to hand consideration could be given as to what should be included in the 'What's On' Newsletter under the Parish heading. County Councillor Nash said that Oakridge School was considering the possibility of introducing 'walking buses' in the village, whereby children join a properly-supervised pedestrian 'train' which follows a set route to the school. For pupils travelling a longer distance, a system of car-sharing was being investigated. Ms L Greene said that Bisley Bluecoat School was well-advanced in the production of its plan. It was agreed that it would also be important to determine the input provided in these plans by Gloucestershire County Council. Ms L Greene added it would be useful to establish the scope for cycle travel for school journeys. Ms L Greene expressed concern that the recently-issued Government White Paper on Planning indicated that Public Consultation on important planning issues would become more limited. This could affect consultation on Parish Plan matters and it was agreed that Ms Greene, Mr Budgeon and Mr Brooks would prepare a letter to SDC to seek clarification.

b) **Rural and Community Investment Scheme Bids**

Ms L Greene advised that Bisley Ward was considering a bid to the Scheme for financial assistance towards the cost of a 'feasibility study' for work on the Pavilion Project at King George V Playing Fields. Oakridge and Eastcombe Wards confirmed that they had no requirements at this time.

c) **Bisley News Magazine**

The Clerk advised that a letter had been received from the Editor of the Bisley News - Mrs Susan Vesey – to express appreciation for the generous S137 Payment of £150.00 made to the Magazine. Mrs L Greene said that Bisley Ward would continue to keep in close contact with the Editor to ensure that financial recovery remained on course.

d) **Neighbourhood Warden Scheme**

The Clerk had circulated information which showed the geographic spread of the Scheme in Stroud District. It had been determined that 'warden-sharing' had enabled several parishes to afford the cost of part-time warden service. Copies of reports submitted to parishes by wardens illustrated that there could be significant benefit to this parish from engaging the services of a warden. Mrs J Russell proposed that the Community Safety Department at SDC should be invited to give a presentation to the Parish Council on the costs and benefits of the Scheme. The proposal was seconded by Mr A E Davis and carried unanimously. The Clerk was asked to arrange for this presentation to take place at the start of the Parish Council Meeting on 5th September 2007.

e) **Freight Management Study**

Mr P Thorp reported that he had not been able to gain any detailed 'feedback' on the Freight Management Survey currently underway between Naunton and Andoversford. However some information was available on the Gloucestershire Highways website about surveys being carried out in 15 market towns in the area. The Chairman said that the Naunton/Andoversford trial was not particularly representative of the problems faced in this parish since it was being conducted on a route with superior and much wider roads. The Chairman added that the main problem was with signage, whereby neither '7.5 tons' and 'long vehicle' did not limit nor clearly define the overall size of a vehicle.

Mr Thorp said that the importance of freight management in the Cotswold region had been emphasised by yet another incident in Bisley involving an articulated vehicle servicing Somerfield Stores. This vehicle had entered the village and demolished a wall in George Street as it attempted to extract itself from the village. The matter had received considerable press publicity and a letter had been sent by the Parish Council to Gloucestershire Highways Department to again seek action to eliminate this recurring problem. A response was awaited. County Councillor J Nash said that following analysis of the surveys currently underway there would be proper consultation on issues such as signage, routing and weight restriction of vehicles.

Parish Office Update

- f) The Chairman reminded Councillors that the outcome of the bid to National Lottery for funding for a Parish Office was expected in August. In anticipation of a positive response, the Clerk was asked to obtain further detailed estimates of cost from additional building contractors.

Village Post Offices

- g) The Clerk advised the meeting that the survey to determine possible closure of Post Offices in the area would be conducted in March 2008.

07.07 6. **District Council Matters**

In the absence of District Councillor P Carrick, Mr R K Brooks asked if her attention could be drawn to the apparent anomaly whereby digital maps of the local area showed street names which did not appear on the ground. Mr Brooks cited 'The Leys' and 'Middle Hill Road' as examples of this in Eastcombe. It was confirmed that SDC was responsible for road naming and the Clerk was asked to write to Councillor Carrick to seek an explanation for the anomaly.

07.07 7. **County Council Matters**

County Councillor J Nash reported to the meeting on the following issues:
County Council Performance Assessment – The County Council will have a Comprehensive Performance Assessment in October 2007 when all Departments will be inspected and a final Overall Grade will be given to the Council. At present the Council is assessed at Grade Three Star (Room for Improvement) and it is hoped to better this grading.

Energy White Paper – The Government was waiting for the Sustainable Development Commission to publish its review of tidal technologies around the UK in September 2007. It will then decide on the future, if any, of the proposed Severn Barrage. The Government was carrying out additional consultation on whether or not to allow the Public Sector to invest in building new nuclear power stations, as many of the current stations were coming to the end of their commission.

Vehicle Activated Signs – the collection of data should be completed this month and discussion about a programme of schemes will be held with Cabinet Member Stan Waddington. At present the County has 216 Vehicle Activated Signs, with 76 of these located in the urban areas of Cheltenham & Gloucester.

07.07 8. **Matters for Discussion**

a) **SDC Planning Meeting Report**

Mr R K Brooks said that, in general, this had proved a useful meeting. However, too much time was given over to questions from the floor with the result that the meeting ran significantly over the allotted time. The presentation by the Council Solicitor had been relevant, in the main, to those who had planning authority and was thus of lesser value to parishes. Of particular interest were the 6 Policy Tests which should be applied when considering a planning application. There was also an issue concerning the timescale of submission of planning comment by the Parish to SDC. The Clerk was asked to check the procedure for submission used by neighbouring parishes.

b) **New Mandatory Code of Conduct**

Copies of the New Mandatory Code of Conduct had been circulated to councillors for consideration. Following brief discussion it was proposed by Mr A E Davis that the Parish Council should accept the new Code in full with effect 1st September 2007. The proposal was seconded by Mrs J Russell and carried unanimously by the meeting.

- c) **County Highways – Update Report**
The Chairman briefed councillors on the monthly meeting held with Mr A Boyes from Gloucestershire Highways. Mr Boyes had indicated that there was likely to be a further re-organisation of Maintenance Supervisors within the County which could result in him being assigned to a different area from Bisley. Mr Boyes was asked to ensure that the Parish was given a full list of the programmed work to be carried out during the current FY. The Chairman said that the poor state of maintenance of many roads in the Parish had been re-stated and, in particular, the poor quality of repair for routine items such as pot-hole filling. Mr R K Brooks supported this point by advising that a tarmac repair in Eastcombe on the Old Hill down to Bismore had simply had tar and grit placed in hole without any subsequent ‘tamping down’. The Chairman summarised by saying that the Parish would continue to place pressure on County Highways to produce acceptable results.
- d) **Motion on Parish Policy for Sustainability**
The draft Parish Policy for Sustainability drawn up by Ms L Greene of Bisley Ward had been circulated to all councillors. Comments and amendments had been submitted by Oakridge and Eastcombe Ward. Following discussion, it was proposed by Eastcombe Ward that the version submitted by Oakridge Ward should be adopted by the Council as a ‘framework’ on which to develop more detailed policies in the future. The version agreed states:
‘Bisley-with-Lypiatt Parish Council will encourage sustainability and sustainable lifestyles within the Parish. The Parish Council will consider the impact on the environment and climate change in all its work and decisions’.
It was further agreed that this policy should be publicised on the parish website, including the rationale for the policy and the more detailed policy actions. It was agreed that these actions should include reference to the parish relationship with contractors and their sustainability policies.
- e) **E-mail Protocol**
The Chairman highlighted the work load generated by the large number of E-mails that circulated between councillors in the Parish. All councillors were requested, where possible, to minimise the circulation of e-mails and restrict distribution to those who ‘need to know’.
- f) **S137 Payments**
The Chairman advised councillors that payments by the Parish under Section 137 of the Local Government Act would be considered shortly. The Clerk was asked to provide councillors with a copy of the policy guidance issued last year for such payments.

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Finance**Receipts June 2007**

Bank Interest	£112.10
Allotment Rents	£23.00
Grant for Walling	£1440.00

Total Receipts**£1,575.10****Payments – July 2007**

	£	VAT	Total
T W Hawkins – Grass Cutting	687.83	120.37	808.20
Toshiba – Office Copier	17.91	3.13	21.04
T Bryant – Maintenance	153.00		153.00
JNC Fire Inspection – Pavilions	25.26		25.26
NPower – Electricity Bisley Pavilion	90.39	4.52	94.91
Cheltenham Insurance – Eastcombe Pavilion	619.01		619.01
P Hayward-Berry – Maintenance Oakridge – Apr 07	20.00		20.00
B J Leisure – Play Area Oakridge	2,315.60	405.23	2,720.83
Chalford PC – Grass Eastcombe	10.00		10.00
Auro UK – Maintenance Bisley	29.38	5.14	34.52
ST Water – Allotments Oakridge	9.63		9.63
ST Water – Allotments Eastcombe	35.59		35.59
ST Water – Allotments Bisley	85.96		85.96
CPRE – Annual Subscription	30.00		30.00
P Hayward-Berry – Maintenance Oakridge – May 07	20.00		20.00
N MacLeod – Salary June 07	675.40		675.40
Revenue & Customs – Tax/NI	334.15		334.15
Ian Trueman – Maintenance Bisley & Eastcombe	434.50		434.50
Denis Brown – Gate Repair Oakridge	9.27	1.62	10.89
Bisley News – S137 Payment	150.00		150.00
Totals	£5,752.88	£540.01	£6,292.89

Petty Cash Payments – June 2007**£68.42****Cash Balance as at 30 June 2007****£23,864.93****Bisley Gift Balance as at 30 June 2007****£2,427.49****Bisley Lock-up Balance as at 30 June 2007****£2,051.46****Westbury Gift Balance as at 30 June 2007****£10,000.00****Parish Office Reserve as at 30 June 2007****£10,000.00**

07.07 10 **Planning**

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

S.07/0943/FUL – 'Fysie', Far Oakridge – Further revision of plans for erection of dwelling and alterations to existing dwelling 'Fysie' – **Support** - We would like to support the revised plan Drawing Number 11/17/01 Revision 'C' with three dormer windows. We would like clarification as to why the main living room cannot have a west-facing window when it is not in direct line of sight to the new dwelling. This would considerably improve the design from the inside and would avoid what will appear from the west to be a towering blank wall, particularly as the ground slopes away.

S.07/0985/FUL – The Laurels, Brockley Acres, Eastcombe – Erection of a garden shed – **No Observations**.

S.07/1091/COU – The Hayloft, Hill House Farm, Tunley, Sapperton - Conversion of existing stable building to ancillary residential accommodation – **Support**.

S.07/1193/FUL – 52 Stonecote Ridge, Bussage – Conversion of one garage into accommodation – **No Observations**.

S.07/1226/FUL – Iles Green Cottage, Far Oakridge – Resubmission following S.07/0448/FUL – Erection of an extension, alterations, renovation and installation of a wind turbine – **Object** – The application, in general, is for a very worthwhile and well-designed renovation and revitalisation of a period cottage that makes a positive contribution to the character of the hamlet of Far Oakridge. However, the following points need to be addressed before the application can be supported:

1. The height of the proposed wind turbine has now been revised. It is intended to be 9 metres to the centre of the rotor, instead of 11.5 metres, or 15 metres as stated in the original application. Whilst the height reduction is welcomed and there is a supporting illustration of the limited visual impact of the turbine from the south, it is considered there will still be conflict with Policy BE21 of the Stroud District Local Plan should this installation be permitted viz:

- There will be an adverse visual impact on the Cotswold AONB when viewed from the north, with the wind turbine being in a direct line of sight of Far Oakridge properties.

- There is inadequate information supplied on the possible environmental effects, particularly the potential noise level. Although there is a claim of lower noise resulting from the omission of a gearbox, no footprint of overall noise under different running conditions (wind direction for example) has been provided.

- The concern of residents that approval of this application would set a precedent needs to be evaluated in the application.

2. There is no further objection to the south-facing roof panels for heating water and generating electricity as it is accepted that they will not be intrusive when looking towards the house from the Golden Valley.

The concerns expressed over the previously declared intention of making the cottage available as an ecological showpiece have been met. This idea has been deleted in the resubmission and this is also welcomed. Given this deletion, it is recommended that a condition should be placed on the development which precludes making the cottage available as an ecological showpiece.

Finally, Mr R N Budgeon, Parish Councillor, declared an interest and has taken no part in the discussion or decision process.

S.07/1039/OUT – Land at Highlands, Back Lane, Bisley – Outline planning permission for the erection of a single-storey dwelling – **Comments Only** – We do not believe outline planning applications are appropriate as they may create a precedence for full planning permission BEFORE detailed plans exist and therefore there is scope for any applicant to submit a different application and argue its validity based upon the approval of the outline planning permission. That aside, the application matches other dwellings in Back Lane in that all the rest along that side of the road have made access to the rear gardens and built dwellings.

We would strongly urge the Planning Department to insist on a full planning application.

S.07/1270/VAR – Keenelip, Oakridge Lynch – Variation of Condition 4 of S.06/1339/FUL – remove obscure glass from first-floor window – **No Observations.**

S.07/1091/COU – The Hayloft, Hill House Farm, Tunley, Sapperton – Conversion of existing stable building to ancillary residential accommodation – **Support.**

S.07/1305/FUL – Bakers Paddock, Oakridge Lynch – Erection of single-storey extension and adjustment to windows and external doors – **Support/Comment** – This proposal will not really be seen from outside the site but will improve the look and amenities of the dwelling for the occupants.

All the above planning decisions were ratified unanimously by councillors.

07.07 11 **Correspondence**

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

CPRE	Countryside Voice Summer 2007
Clerks & Councils Direct	Magazine July 2007
Urbanscape	Urban Furniture and Equipment
Stadia Sports	Equipment Catalogue 2007
NALC	Magazine – July 2007
Glosfire	Magazine Spring 2007

07.07 12 **Ward Matters**

a) **Bisley**

Bisley Ward had no issues to raise that were not covered elsewhere in the meeting.

b) **Eastcombe**

Eastcombe Ward had no issues to raise that were not covered elsewhere in the meeting.

c) **Oakridge**

Mr A E Davis advised the meeting that a submission to the National Lottery 'Awards for All' was being submitted for the installation of a tennis court at Oakridge Recreation Ground. The project had received excellent support from residents and Oakridge School and Professional Tennis Player/Coach in particular. In order to support the application it was necessary to declare a contribution of funds from the Parish Council. Mr Davis requested that the Parish Council earmark the sum of £2300.00 for this purpose and this was agreed unanimously by the meeting.

07.07 13 **Date and Place of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 1st August 2007 at Bisley WI Village Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2140hours.