

**MINUTES OF THE BISLEY-WITH-LYPIATT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD
ON WEDNESDAY 4th October 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 R N Budgeon	}	
Mr A E Davis	}	Oakridge Ward
Mr P Dawes	}	
Mr N M MacLeod		Clerk

In attendance: County Councillor J Nash

One member of the public was present.

06.10 1. **Apologies for Absence**

An apology was received from District Councillor P Carrick (Holiday).

06.10 2. **Presentation on County Highways by Andrew Turner**

The Chairman welcomed Andrew Turner, Area Manager Central, Gloucestershire Highways to the meeting to give an update briefing on the first six months of the re-organised Highways Department in partnership with the new contractors, W S Atkins.

Mr Turner said he welcomed the opportunity to address the meeting and proceeded to describe the re-organisation and integration of highways maintenance operations, which was still on-going. A Depot Review would reduce the number of depots from 5 to 3. The Southern Area Depot at Stroudwater Depot would close and move to Barnwood before a new Central Division at Shepherd Road in Gloucester opens in July 2007 housing the former Southern, Gloucester and Cheltenham Divisions. He said that this would assist in the efficient delivery of all services under a 'single roof' drawing on existing staff from the previous separated divisions. Mr Turner said that the contract with W S Atkins was unique, in that it was 'performance-based'. This would require the contractor to deliver high-quality service in order to achieve the performance criteria contained in the contract.

Future contact with the Department would be exclusively through the Corporate Contact Centre. Mr Turner added that whilst there were at present some problems resulting from staff shortages, these should be.

resolved when additional staff become available from the closing depots. Concern was expressed by councillors that a Central Division which included Cheltenham and Gloucester would leave rural areas poorly placed in terms of 'prioritisation' of funds and resources. Mr Turner assured councillors that this would not be the case.

Mr R K Brooks and Mr A E Davis raised queries about Snow Clearance Operations under the new contract, given that in 2005 the Parish had been denied authorisation to activate snow ploughs during a particularly heavy snowfall. Mr Turner said he was aware of last year's problems and advised that in future a more flexible approach would be adopted by Highways Division whereby the better knowledge of people on the spot would be given greater credence. He also said that in future years it was hoped to do away with 'area boundaries' when considering snow clearance and to model 'climatic domains' for clearance operations so that conditions in different areas could be more accurately assessed, for example on the Cotswold Plateau.

Ms L Greene asked Mr Turner to provide the criteria required for provision of pavements and Mr R Budgeon asked for greater consultation with the Parish when determining which roads should receive priority resurfacing. Mr Turner agreed both points.

Mr Turner closed by emphasising that in future, prioritisation of work would cross divisional boundaries and that maintenance would be assessed on a county-wide basis, with intervention as necessary to ensure that rural areas received their 'fair slice of the cake'.

The Chairman thanked Mr Turner for attending the meeting and stressed the importance of active consultation on road maintenance matters. Mr Turner offered to return to a Parish Meeting in a few months' time to give a further update on the re-organisation of Gloucestershire County Highways.

06.10 3. **Public Participation**

Parishioner Sue Corder attended the meeting to witness proceedings.

06.10 4. **Declaration of Interests**

Mr R Bryant – Payment of bill; Ms L Greene – Frith Youth Club; Mr M Hopkins – Post Offices.

06.10 5. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 6th Spetember 2006 having been circulated were approved and the chairman signed the minute book.

06.10 6. **Matters Arising**

a) **Parish Plan**

Mr P Dawes asked Wards to continue updating him directly with progress reports on actions taken on Parish Plan issues. He had circulated a copy of the Oakridge Ward response to 'Health Service' matters and asked for comments from councillors. Mr A E Davis suggested that telephone numbers for A & E Departments be included, together with details of NHS Dentists. He also recommended that the details of Surgeries in adjoining parishes

be included. Ms L Greene said that the availability of Acupuncture services at Frithwood Surgery should be detailed and Mr P Thorp recommended that this Health Service Information List should be publicised on Parish Notice Boards. Mr Dawes said he would consider the recommendations put forward by councillors and prepare a revised list for circulation.

Ms L Greene advised that there had been some difficulties in getting timely responses from schools on the issue of Free Bus Transport and that replies would be hastened. Bisley Bluecoat School had observed that there were inadequate 'stops' to serve the needs of pupils and that there were no 'waiting areas' for children. Ms Greene also wished to record that the information canvassed from residents on this issue did not necessarily reflect the views of school staffs and parents. Mr A E Davis said that the Parish does not need to be committed to following through an action contained in the Parish Plan if subsequent more detailed evidence does not justify it.

Mr R K Brooks said that Eastcombe Ward had not been able to make much progress on the subject of the 'Annual Events Calendar' but would be able to move ahead during October now that Mrs S Bradley was available to participate.

Mr P Dawes recommended that for the coming month Oakridge Ward should look at 'Practical Support for Local Businesses' and that Bisley Ward should examine 'Transport', including publicity of information to parishioners of the various modes of transport available to them.

Finally, Mr S Trinder briefed the meeting on his attendance at the Community Plans Forum held on 27th September 2006 and distributed a written summary to councillors. He said that the frequency of this meetings would be increased to 3-monthly and that he hoped future meetings could contain less presentation and more opportunity for dialogue. Mr R Budgeon enquired if anything had been said about the Local Plan which would become the Local Development Framework and the Chairman asked Mr Trinder to input a correction to the inaccurate statement made by SDC concerning the Parish's 'Village Design Statement'.

b) **Village Post Offices**

The Chairman said that he welcomed the visit to the Parish by David Drew MP to discuss the future sustainability of Village Post Offices/Shops resulting from the substantial operational changes which had either been implemented already or were proposed or rumoured. Mr A E Davis said he was most impressed by how well-informed Mr Drew was on the subject and that this had enabled the councillors and postmasters present to have a most meaningful discussion. The Clerk was to distribute a 'Summary of Discussions' to all present, which would hopefully stimulate ideas and proposals in preparation for the next meeting with Mr Drew on Wednesday 15th November 2006.

Parish Councillors agreed that the visit had been most useful and provided much 'food for thought'. Mr P Dawes said that it would be helpful to have greater dialogue with local businesses and to offer support where possible. Mr R Budgeon seconded this view and added that support should also be forthcoming at County and District level. Mr M Hopkins said that there could be significant benefit in local businesses communicating more with each other and examining ways in which they could get 'best value' by, for example gaining increased discount from 'pooled' orders. Mr A E Davis said he was encouraged to note that the Rural Subsidy Scheme may continue beyond 2008. Ms L Greene commented that the plans put forward by the Post Office in Eastcombe to increase the range of services provided from the business were a very welcome example of 'rural renaissance', when faced with difficult circumstances. Mr R Budgeon agreed and said that although the views of Postmasters at the meeting were varied, most saw the need to address new initiatives to replace lost or reduced post office services.

c) **Footpaths Maintenance and Inclusion of Parish Footpaths on Definitive Map**

County Councillor J Nash said that following a question raised at the last PC Meeting she had determined that parishes could raise money through precept for 'snickett' paths which did not fall under normal County maintenance procedures. However, Councillor Nash said that the position of liability and responsibility needed to be examined if contractors other than those provided by County Highways were used. The Clerk produced a map showing footpaths already defined and numbered from which it was clear that some paths and 'snicketts' were not included. The Clerk said that he would provide each Ward with a copy of the most up-to-date map so that Wards could determine defined footpaths and initiate measures to have hitherto 'undefined' paths included on the map.

06.10 7. **District Council Matters**

With District Councillor P Carrick on holiday, no District Council matters were presented to the meeting.

06.10 8. **County Council Matters**

County Councillor J Nash briefed the meeting on the following issues:

1. **Parents Choices for Secondary Schools in September 2007.**

Applications for places at Secondary School can now be submitted 'on-line'. The system will be available 24/7 until 20th October 2006. The traditional paper forms are still available but early indications were that the new system was proving popular, with applications being submitted at a faster rate than previously. The determination of places would be notified to pupils/parents on 1st March 2007.

2. **Home Care for the Elderly.**

Councillor Nash said she was pleased to report that more older people were choosing to remain in their own homes rather than move to residential care. However, the County was currently experiencing a shortage of Carers and the County Council is now helping independent providers in a recruitment drive to meet present and future demand. Local Press, TV & Radio were also assisting with this initiative. An 'out of hours social care scheme' is operating across the County. The Care Co-ordinator is based at Ambulance Hub between 5.30pm and 11.00pm and GPs or District Nurses or Ambulance Crews can arrange emergency home care, intermediate care or short-term residential care for patients instead of admission to hospital. This had prevented 70 unnecessary hospital admissions during the past 6 months.

06.10 9. **Matters for Discussion**

a) **Consultation on the SDC Environment Green Paper**

Ms L Greene, Mr A E Davis & Mr R Budgeon had produced a 'draft' document for circulation to Parish Councillors in response to consultation invited on the SDC Environment Green Paper. The Chairman congratulated the 'group' on producing a very detailed and comprehensive paper. Mr R Budgeon said some 'fine tuning' was still needed before the final document was produced and a further meeting would be convened to carry out this work. Mr A E Davis recommended that the document should be accompanied by a covering letter under the Chairman's signature which emphasised that the 'Wish List' of measures contained in the Green Paper must be taken seriously by the District Council and backed with appropriate funding. He added that if in due course parishes became involved in further work on the actions contained in the Green Paper the parishes should also receive some additional funding.

b) **Development of the Cotswold Canals Area.**

Mr A E Davis said SDC wished to canvass the views of parishes in order to produce a design framework for development of the Cotswold Canals. A response was required by 31st October 2006 which gave little opportunity for active consultation with parishioners. He added that we must face the fact that there will be restoration of the full length of the canal to complete the West to East. Mr Davis said the Parish must decide on the 'thrust' of its response to this consultation. He recommended that whilst we should support the restoration project and any associated Industrial Heritage component, we should resist measures which seized on the restoration to generate additional development along the canal area. Mr Davis said it was important that we register a strong interest in this restoration so that we are kept fully informed on all associated planning matters. Finally, Mr Davis recommended that councillors should walk the stretch of canal within the parish in order to form a clearer picture for the parish response. This was agreed by the meeting with a proposed date of 21st October 2006 at 10.00am starting at Bakers Mill. Mr Davis said he would provide councillors with further details on the walk.

06.10 10.

Finance

S137 – Applications for Grants

A bid was received from St Mary of the Angels Catholic Church for financial assistance towards the purchase and installation of a gate to prevent dogs entering and fouling the church grounds. The total cost would be in the region of £100.00, for which the church sought a 50% contribution. The Parish Council considered this to be a very worthy bid for assistance and agreed to grant a sum not exceeding £100.00 for this gate, which would be paid for by the parish. This grant was proposed by Mr A E Davis and seconded by Mr M Hopkins and carried unanimously.

A further bid for assistance from All Saints Church, Bisley was referred back to the Bisley Ward for consideration and discussion at the November Meeting.

Receipts September 2006

Bank Interest	£75.90
Allotment Rents – Eastcombe/Bisley	15.00

Total Receipts **£90.90**

The following invoices were approved for payment:

<u>Payments – October 2006</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>VAT</u>	<u>Total</u>
S137 Payments as authorised in Minutes of Meeting Of 06/09/06	2,200.00		2,200.00
T W Hawkins – Contract Mowing	667.80	116.87	784.67
Consortium – Stationery	22.25	3.89	26.14
Equi-Catch Co – Gate at Oakridge	59.89	9.17	69.06
Glasdon – Dog bin keys Bisley	58.40	10.22	68.62
NPower – Bisley Pavilion	22.17	1.11	23.28
Toshiba – Office Printer Rent	12.63	2.21	14.84
P H Berry – Grass – Oakridge	20.00		20.00
D Holbrow – Grass – Eastcombe	70.00		70.00
N MacLeod – Salary	1,495.61		1,495.61
Revenue & Customs	894.78		894.78
T Bryant – Handyman Oakridge	36.00		36.00
Unipar – Repair to Speed Sign	207.05	36.24	243.29
Totals	£5,766.58	£179.71	£5,946.29

Petty Cash Payments – September 2006 **£66.72**

Cash Balance as at 30th September 2006 **£24,352.44**

Bisley Gift Balance as at 30th September 2006 **£2,427.49**

Bisley Lock-up Balance as at 30th September 2006 **£2,012.24**

Westbury Gift Balance as at 30th September 2006 **£10,000.00**

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

Planning Applications – September 2006

S.06/2108/FUL & S.06/2109/LBC – Frampton Place, Oakridge – Alterations and extensions – **Support/Comment** – We support this application because we accept that buildings must change to suit the current use and user, as they always have throughout our history. The materials chosen to link the very different styles of the two buildings are well chosen as a link but still separate the styles.

S.06/2156/FUL – Brown Cottage, Eastcombe – Renewal of permission S.01/1520 for erection of two-storey extension – **No Observations.**

S.06/2148/FUL – Rose Cottage, Tunley – Erection of a conservatory – **Support.**

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

- 06 12. **Correspondence**

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

Correspondence – List for October 2006

GAPTC	Annual Report and Agenda for AGM to be held in Tewkesbury on Saturday 14 th October 2006.
GRCC	Rural Regeneration Newsletter September 2006
GRCC	Gloucestershire History Magazine 2006
SDC	Civic Timetable 2006/2007
Countryside Agency	Focus Magazine Autumn 2006
Cotswold Conservation Board	Newsletter Autumn/Winter
DEFRA	Rural Services Review Reviewing Standards 2006.
National Association of Local Councils	September 2006 Magazine.

06.10 13. **Ward Matters**

a) **Bisley**

Ms L Greene advised the meeting that she and Mr P Thorp would attend the 'Night Bus' Meeting in Painswick on Tuesday 17th October 2006. Ms Greene asked the Clerk to speak with the Trees Department at SDC concerning any preservation orders which might exist on the trees in the garden at Hillcroft in Bisley.

b) **Eastcombe**

Mrs J Russell asked if the local Community Police could be invited to come to a Parish Council Meeting in the near future. This was agreed and the Clerk was asked to make the necessary arrangements.

c) **Oakridge**

Oakridge Ward had no specific points to raise which had not been covered elsewhere on the agenda.

0610 14 **Date and Place of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 1st November 2006 at Bisley WI Village Hall.

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