

**MINUTES OF THE BISLEY-WITH-LYPIATT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD
ON WEDNESDAY 5th DECEMBER 2007 at BISLEY WI VILLAGE HALL**

Mr R S Bryant		Chairman
Ms L Greene	}	
Mrs L Hemming	}	Bisley Ward
Mr P Thorp	}	
Mrs C Nash	}	
Mrs J Russell	}	
Mr R K Brooks	}	Eastcombe Ward
Mr C James	}	
	}	
Mr R N Budgeon	}	Oakridge Ward
Mr P Dawes	}	
Mr N M MacLeod		Clerk

In attendance: District Councillor P Carrick

There were no members of the public present

07.12 1. **Apologies for Absence**

Mr A E Davis (Holiday abroad) and County Councillor J Nash (Attending Public Meeting in Painswick).

07.12 2. **Public Participation**

There was no participation by the Public at the meeting.

07.12 3. **Declaration of Interests**

Mr P Dawes declared a personal interest in Item 8(d) of the agenda – Play Equipment at Oakridge Recreation Ground.

07.12 4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The draft minutes of the meeting had been circulated to councillors. The following amendments had been notified to the Clerk and were incorporated in the final version issued at the meeting:

Para 07.11 2 – correction of typo to word ‘resignation’ on line 1.

Para 07.11.6(d) – ‘The purchase and issue of mobile generators to village halls was also suggested’ was inserted as a penultimate sentence.

Subject to these amendments, the Minutes were approved and the Chairman signed the Minute Book.

07.12 5. **Matters Arising**

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

Mr P Dawes gave an update on progress on Parish Plan implementation actions. A draft Questionnaire had been produced concerning Further Education Classes in the community. This was to be circulated to councillors by the Clerk and final agreement on the content and format would be decided at the January 2008 meeting. Mr Dawes said he would also write to local Schools to determine progress on the production of Schools' Travel Plans. Ms L Greene said that some action would be needed to research and cost the provision of Artistic Activities. She added that – interestingly – Bisley-with-Lypiatt Parish had placed this item as low priority, whilst Misserden Parish had placed the subject high on their list. In view of this, Ms Greene said that she would speak with the new Clerk at Misserden and suggest that Misserden Parish take the lead in moving this topic forward.

As to the Village Design Statement, Mr P Dawes said that progress was on course and that a further meeting had been arranged for 12th December. This meeting would also decide on the action required to keep Stroud District Council up-to-date on progress.

b) **County Highways – Road Improvements**

The Chairman briefed councillors on the very welcome road-surface improvements carried out in the Parish. Significant repair work had been effected in Farm Lane and the Tunley area (Oakridge Ward) and to Calfway Lane (Bisley Ward). Further improvements were scheduled and the Chairman said that the Parish would continue to apply pressure to ensure that these were implemented. Additionally, the meeting was advised that 'grips' had been cleared to a good standard and Mr R K Brooks said that he was grateful for the assistance given in replacing old grit bins.

The Chairman said the the Clerk had written a letter of appreciation to Mr John Roberts at County Highways.

c) **Parish Green Spaces**

The Chairman advised that the Clerk had met with Mrs Teresa Howes to brief her on the work required to register green spaces in the Parish. Mrs Howes had agreed to carry out an initial 20 hours work and to report her findings. It was agreed by the meeting that she would be remunerated at a fee of £10.00 per hour for this work. Following Mrs Howes' initial report, the Parish Council would discuss the further action required. It was agreed that work would be concentrated at the outset on green spaces in Oakridge Ward which the Land Registry had previously confirmed were unregistered.

d) **Auditor's Report – FY 2006/2007**

The Clerk presented councillors with a copy of the External Auditor's Report for the Financial Year 2006/2007, including comments arising from the Intermediate Audit of the Parish. The issues raised in the Report were discussed and it was agreed that all observations arising would be addressed by the Parish as a matter of priority, and particularly matters falling under the heading of 'Risk Assessment'.

e) **SDC Meeting with Parish and Town Councils – 11 December 2007**

It was agreed that the Chairman and Clerk would attend this meeting at Ebley Mill and report to the January 2008 Parish Council Meeting.

f) **Eastcombe Ward Vacancy**

The Clerk advised the meeting that the Councillor Vacancy in Eastcombe Ward had been notified to SDC and that a Notice publicising the vacancy had been displayed on all Parish Noticeboards. The closing date for applications was 17th December, following which SDC would advise whether an Election needed to be called or whether the vacancy could be filled by co-option.

07.12 6. **District Council Matters**

District Councillor P Carrick reported the following issues to the meeting:

- a) Councillors' 'Surgery' – A successful 'Surgery' had been held in conjunction with County Councillor J Nash at Oakridge Village Hall. Nine members of the public attended and the main issues presented were roads' surfaces, speeding, planning and low-flying aircraft. These matters would be followed-up with the appropriate authorities.
- b) Parking Enforcement – Councillor Carrick outlined the new 'Parking Regime' in Stroud District and in particular the 'teething problems of the new ticket machines. Free parking over the Christmas period was being offered and further refinement of the system was planned for the New Year. Ms L Greene expressed concern that £80K had been spent on parking ticket machines without any prior consultation with outlying parishes.
- c) Stanleys Area Waste Trial – This trial of household waste disposal was proving popular with the community and initial results had been most promising.
- d) Canal Restoration – SDC were leading the re-generation of Brimscombe Port whilst British Waterways were continuing to focus on the restoration of the canal itself. A Big Lottery Fund competition run by ITV and entitled 'People's Millions' called for votes from the public for worthy restoration causes. The Brimscombe Port project was very well supported by ITV West viewers and gained second place in the competition, resulting in a Grant of £80,000.00 towards the development of safe public access routes to the site.
- e) Warm and Well-being' – Councillor Carrick said that leaflets under this scheme had been distributed to communities. Ms L Greene asked Councillor Carrick to find out information at SDC about the distribution of free energy-saving light-bulbs to households in the District. Mr R K Brooks asked Councillor Carrick to find out the make of energy-saving bulbs being distributed.

07.12 7. **County Council Matters**

Although not present at the meeting, County Councillor had submitted a written report which was circulated to councillors. The following information was included in the report:

- a) Gloucestershire Flood Guide – A booklet has been produced by the County Council and copies will shortly be distributed to all 260,000 households in the County.
- b) A46 Landslip at Salmon Springs – Work on-site had now started and it was hoped that the road would be re-opened to traffic in February 2008.
- c) Migrant Workers in Gloucestershire – A report commissioned by Chief Officers recommends that that local authorities should take a key role in the development and co-ordination of activities across the voluntary and private sectors to tackle such issues as housing, education and care and health of migrant workers in the County and also to determine the economic benefits that these workers bring to the local economy.
- d) County Council Office Accommodation – Consultants had been engaged to review the Council accommodation structure which currently involved 35 separate locations, with the aim of delivering greater service efficiency in a cost-effective way.
- e) Adult Care – The County Council in partnership with the Primary Care Trust has secured £2.6M as part of a project to support Care Homes in the County.
- f) Crime Statistics – Overall crime figures for the County had reduced by 8.1%. However, this statistic disguised increases in criminal damage, sexual offences and violence against the person.

07.12 8 **Matters for Discussion**

a) **Parish Precept 2008/2009**

The Clerk had circulated details of the proposed Precept for 2008/09. The total of £50,870.00 represented a 7.5% increase over the current financial year, most of which arose from the inclusion of £2,500.00 to be earmarked specifically towards the provision of Parish Office premises. It was agreed that an additional sum of up to £5000.00 would be set aside from Parish Reserve Funds at the end of the Current Financial Year. Mr R Budgeon proposed agreement to the recommended precept of £50,870.00. This was seconded by Ms L Greene and carried unanimously.

b) **Report from the Planning Meeting with SDC on 3rd December 2007**

Mr R Budgeon advised the meeting that Ward Planning Sub-Committee Chairs had held a very useful meeting with Head of Planning at SDC and the Planning Officer responsible for this Parish. The meeting had been structured on an informal basis to facilitate an exchange of views on the apparent inconsistencies and confusion that had arisen out of planning decisions in recent months. These discussions had helped to clarify a number of issues and particularly the differing viewpoints adopted by both parties. The key point to come out of the meeting was the importance for planning officers to have a good working knowledge of properties and landscape within the three villages in the Parish and the relative distinctiveness of each village. Reassurance was received from SDC that in future more notice would be taken of the Parish input to the planning process and that Officers involved in decisions would pay more regular visits to the Parish. The Clerk was asked to send a letter of appreciation to Phil Skill, Head of Planning at SDC.

c) **Parish Standing Orders Review**

The Chairman thanked the Clerk for producing draft amendments to Parish Standing Orders. He said that these would provide a useful backdrop to more detailed work in the New Year. It was agreed that a Working Group would be formed to carry this work forward during the early months of 2008.

d) **Play Equipment – Oakridge Recreation Ground**

Councillors were provided with correspondence relating to the request received from the Acorns Play Group to provide equipment for ‘toddlers’ at the Recreation Ground. The equipment would be purchased by Acorns and then donated to the Parish Council. Some objections from residents bordering the area had been received. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the Acorns Play Group asking that they produce detailed proposals by the beginning of January so that the matter could be discussed at the January 2008 PC Meeting at which it was hoped a decision would be made.

e) **Stroud Night Bus**

Councillors were provided with details of the proposals to maintain a Night Bus Service beyond the current financial year. After suspension of the service it would restart later in December and funds were available to keep the service running until 31st March 2008. The Night Bus Steering Group had written to all Parishes in the District to seek some financial support for the service for the FY 2008/09. The assessment of contribution by parishes was based on the numbers of 15-24 year-olds in each parish, this age group being the primary users of the facility. The sum requested from this Parish amounted to £358.00. Councillors agreed that it was important to maintain this service if possible, since it was of particular value to the youth in the community. Mr R K Brooks proposed that the sum of £358.00 be earmarked from S137 Funds for this project. The proposal was seconded by Ms L Greene and was carried unanimously. Mr Brooks added that better publicity for the service was needed if it was to be viable into the longer term.

f) **January Parish Council Meeting – Motion Proposed by Bisley Ward**

Bisley Ward submitted a Motion to the meeting suggesting that for one month of the year the Parish Council does not hold a monthly meeting. It was maintained that this used to happen in the past and that it afforded councillors a welcome break from a demanding routine. Much discussion ensued during which it became evident that some routine matters such as planning applications and payment of bills could not be 'placed on hold' and that the current workload placed on busy parishes did not permit such respite. It was accepted that, at certain times of the year, councillors may wish – individually – to take a 'break from parish work (family and school holidays being an example). The majority of councillors felt that the present system of holding a Council Meeting every month should be maintained, in order that an unacceptable 'backlog' of work did not accrue. The Motion was not carried.

07.12 9 **Finance**

Receipts November 2007

Bank Interest	£151.75
Allotment Rents - Eastcombe	£215.00
Walling Grant - Eastcombe	£397.28

Total Receipts **£764.03**

Payments – December 2007	£	VAT	Total
BT – Office Telephone	87.29	14.48	101.77
Nimbus Conservation – War Memorial Bisley	900.00	157.50	1,057.50
JSM Signs – Dog Sign for Bisley	15.00	2.63	17.63
N MacLeod – Refund of Staples Stationery	59.54	10.42	69.96
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax/NI	363.75		363.75
N MacLeod - Clerk Salary November 2007	826.12		826.12
Ian Trueman – Maintenance Bisley	75.00		75.00
Moore Stephens – Audit Fee	400.00	70.00	470.00
Totals	£2,726.70	£255.03	£2,981.73

Petty Cash Payments – November 2007 **£36.31**

Cash Balance as at 30 November 2007 **£31,368.76**

Bisley Gift Balance as at 30 November 2007 **£2,427.49**

Bisley Lock-up Balance as at 30 November 2007 **£2,078.82**

Westbury Gift Balance as at 30 November 2007 **£10,000.00**

Parish Office Reserve as at 30 November 2007 **£10,000.00**

S137 Request – Frith Youth Club

Mr R K Brooks advised the meeting that a letter had been received from the Frith Youth Club requesting a donation from the Parish Council towards the insurance costs at the Club. This valued facility had received support in past years and councillors were strongly in favour of assisting towards these administrative costs. Mr R K Brooks proposed that an S137 Grant of £500.00 be made to the Frith Youth Club by the Parish. This proposal was seconded by Ms L Greene and carried unanimously.

07.12 10 **Planning**

The following Planning Applications have been received during the past month and the Parish Council response has been annotated, where applicable.

S.07/2181/CAC – The Studio, Dr Crouch’s Road, Eastcombe – Demolition of existing dwelling house – **Comment Only** – We have no comments on the application itself, but please note that the address given on the application is incorrect. The existing dwelling is on The Street and not on Dr Crouch’s Road.

S.07/2180/FUL – TheStudio, Dr Crouch’s Road, Eastcombe – Erection of new dwelling and garage (replacement dwelling) – **Comment Only** – The design and materials of the proposed dwelling are appropriate for this part of the AONB and the Eastcombe Conservation Area. In particular, we welcome the clear specification that the walls should have proper quoin stone.

S.07/2193/FUL/S.07/2182/FUL – Througham Farm, Througham, The Camp – Erection of temporary farm workers dwelling and erection of agricultural livestock buildings – **Support/Comment** – The comments attached to these applications are detailed and lengthy and were available for inspection at the meeting. They may also be viewed at the Parish Office by prior appointment.

S.07/2286/FUL – Lyday Close, Oakridge Lynch – Part demolition of 4 garages/stores and erection of 3 cottages with garages (incorporating parts of existing retaining walls and ornamental hard landscape features – **Support/Comment** – The comments attached to this application were detailed and lengthy and were available for inspection at the meeting. They may also be viewed at the parish office by prior appointment.

S.07/2363/LBC – Norwich Cottage, Holloway Road, Bisley – Replacement of 4 existing roof lights at rear of property – **Support**.

S.07/2323/OHL – High Voltage Lines, Far Wells Road, Bisley – Erection of an overhead power line – **Comment Only** – We are concerned about the visual impact of overhead electricity lines both in the AONB and Conservation Area of the village. We would like to see alternatives to overhead power lines.

S.07/2309/FUL – The Old Mansion, Far Wells Road, Bisley – Conversion of garage and garden store into a residential annexe and single garage – **Support**.

S.07/2419/LA – Bisley Blue Coat School, Bisley – Retention of Elliott Classrooms – **Support**.

S.07/2420/LA – Bisley Blue Coat School, Bisley – Construction of Hall, Classrooms and Ancilliary Accommodation to replace temporary accommodation (renewal of permission) – **Support**.

All planning decisions were ratified by the meeting.

07.12 11 **Correspondence**

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

Cotswold Conservation Board	'Cotswold Lion Magazine Winter 2007
Local Councils Update	December 2007 Issue
Gloucestershire Environmental Trust	10-Year Review
Stroud District Council	Statement of Community Involvement

07.12 12 **Ward Matters**

a) **Bisley**

The Clerk was asked to arrange for County Highways to refill the grit bin in Holloway Road. A larger dog-bin was required at the Copsegrove site. The meeting was also advised that a new water heater was required at the pavilion at King George V Playing Field which may have some impact on the Bisley Ward precept expenditure.

b) **Eastcombe**

Eastcombe Ward asked the Clerk to arrange with contractors to rebuild the portion of the wall at the Recreation Ground damaged by vandals.

c) **Oakridge**

Oakridge Ward had no specific points to raise which were not covered elsewhere in the meeting.

07.12 13 **Date and Place of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 9th January 2008 at Oakridge Village Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.50 hours.