

**MINUTES OF THE BISLEY-WITH-LYPIATT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD
ON WEDNESDAY 6th DECEMBER 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	}	Eastcombe Ward
Mr R K Brooks	}	
Mr R N Budgeon	}	Oakridge Ward
Mr N M MacLeod		Clerk

In attendance: County Councillor J Nash
District Councillor P Carrick

No members of the public were present

06.12 1. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Mrs R Roberts (Holiday); Mr A E Davis (Holiday) and Mr P Dawes (Professional commitment).

06.12 2. **Presentation by Cotswold and Stroud Division Police Community Support Officers**

The Chairman welcomed Police Community Support Officers Karen Mark and Colin Drewett to the meeting to give a briefing on their work within the local community. Support Officer Mark said that her Unit was based at the Bussage Police Station, Tanglewood Way Bussage. The meeting was advised that the Officers covered a wide area with patrols in some 6 parishes. Primary duties embraced safety, crime reduction and prevention, security surveys, disputes, criminal damage and motoring issues including parking and accidents. The Officers said that they were also closely involved with other organisations within the community including schools and youth groups. Intelligence gathering from members of the public was an important part of the work and parishioners were very much encouraged to report incidents or suspicions to the Crimestoppers Reporting Centre – Telephone Number 0800 555 111 or to the Gloucestershire Police Contact Centre on 0845 090 1234. These telephones are manned 24/7 and callers could be assured of confidentiality when reporting issues.

In response to a question by Mr R K Brooks, Support Officer Mark confirmed that there was liaison with the regular Mobile Police Unit in the area. Support Officer Mark also give an brief summary of offences which had been reported in the parish during the past month and said she would liaise with the Clerk to provide a monthly incident report for the parish.

Following further general discussion, The Chairman thanked Support Officers Mark and Drewett for their important presentation on issues affecting the Parish and said that the Council would wish to ensure that regular liaison was established with the Police Community Support Organisation.

06.12 3. **Declaration of Interests**

Ms L Greene – Frith Youth Club and Mr R S Bryant – Bill payment.

06.12 4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The draft minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 1st November 2006 having been circulated were approved and the chairman signed the minute book.

06.12 5. **Matters Arising**

a) **Parish Plan**

Wards confirmed that the majority of short-term actions so far allocated under the Parish Plan had been completed and that any outstanding matters would be carried out before the January 2007 Parish Council Meeting.

Mr R K Brooks said that the new 'What's On' diary of local events was now 'up' on the parish website and would be run in conjunction with Village Newsletters.

b) **Village Design Statement**

The Chairman advised the meeting that there seemed to be some confusion between SDC and the Parish over the timing for production of the Village Design Statement (VDS). The Clerk advised that the programme for this initiative was clear in the Application Form submitted to SDC to gain grant funding for the VDS. Whilst there had been some unavoidable delay in starting the VDS project, the target completion of August 2008 remained in place. The Chairman asked the Clerk to write to SDC to clarify the matter.

c) **Footpaths**

The Clerk circulated a letter from GCC advising that a survey of footpaths in the Parish was to be carried out in February 2007. This survey would effectively cover all footpaths, including those which may not yet be designated in the official Footpaths and Rights of Way Map. GCC had indicated that before their survey it would be helpful if the Parish could carry out an inspection of footpaths and prepare details of any issues which it would particularly wish to draw to the attention of GCC. The Chairman asked Wards to arrange for these inspections to be carried out before the end of January 2007.

Mr R K Brooks confirmed that very good work had been carried out to improve the safety of a footpath in Eastcombe known locally as 'Death Slide'. However, it was considered that a few more steps on the hillside would be beneficial and Mrs J Russell said the handrail was a bit too high for young children to use. The Clerk was asked to raise these points with GCC Footpaths Department.

d) **Cotswold Canals**

The Chairman referred to a set of Minutes received from a meeting of the Western Canals Consultative Group held on 18th October 2006. The Parish Council had been unaware of the existence of this Group and following some investigative work by the Clerk it was discovered that this forum had been sitting since early 2002. The next meeting of the Consultative Group was to be held on 24th January 2007 and the Chairman said that the Parish Council would wish to be involved at this and future meetings. It was agreed that representation at the next Group Meeting would be decided following the return from holiday of Mr A E Davis.

The Chairman also advised that the Parish still awaited a 'hard copy' of 'Project Atlas' produced by British Waterways but that meantime the Clerk had obtained an extract of the document from their website.

06.12 6. **District Council Matters**

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

Health – District Council had commissioned the independent Kings Fund to report on the possible establishment of a 'Social Enterprise Trust', involving employees, patients and the community in the planning and provision of local services as an alternative to NHS proposals.

Canals – Work was now underway on sites at Ebley, Cainscross, Dudbridge and Brimscombe. This involved mainly tree-thinning and undergrowth clearance in preparation for digging work to get underway in the New Year. Boat trips into the Sapperton Tunnel were also being considered, following agreement between English Nature and the Cotswold Canals Trust. Concern about the Colony of Bats in the tunnel had been discussed and staffs would receive special training to ensure that the colony was not disturbed. It had been proposed that boats would enter the tunnel from the Coates Tunnel House Inn end. Ms L Greene expressed concern about the protection of the colony of bats and asked for assurance that this matter would receive detailed attention.

SDC Environment Green Paper – SDC had been pleased with the publicity given to this initiative and welcomed the many responses received. Further information on the development of this Paper will be included at the SDC Meeting with Parish and Town Councils on 14th December 2006.

Cardboard Bank - A meeting has been arranged with Carlos Novoth from SDC to discuss the positioning of a 'Cardboard Bank' in the Parish. An agenda for the meeting would be prepared by SDC and the meeting is to be held on 20th December 2007 at 7.00pm in the Butcher's Arms, Oakridge. Ms L Greene said that she would attend the meeting.

Surgery – Councillor Carrick announced that she, together with County Councillor Nash, would hold a 'Surgery' in the Parish early in the New Year. This would be held on a Saturday and details would be publicised

on Parish Notice Boards, and in Shops and Village Newsletters. Mr R K Brook said that he would wish to be notified of arrangements for Surgeries so that they can be published on the Parish Website.

Stroud Town Centre Improvements – A 24-Point Action Plan for 2007/08 sets out to make the Town Centre more attractive to shoppers. Car parking, links to the Canal, new Toilets, Floodlighting and methods to reduce litter are some of the issues under examination. Mr R Budgeon commented that increased lighting was in direct conflict with proposals contained in The Environment Green Paper to reduce Street-Lighting where practicable.

06.12 7. **County Council Matters**

County Councillor reported to the Meeting on the following matters:

Local Government Re-Organisation – The County Council had decided not to bid for Unitary Authority status under the re-organisation of Local Government. The main issue for the Council was providing value for Council Tax payers in the County and determining savings within the current structures of the Council.

Rural Estate – The Council wished to emphasise that there were no proposals to sell-off the entire Rural Estate owned by the Council. It had been decided to set up a panel of cross-party membership together with representation from Tenants of Council property to consider the future of any farm that became vacant and to report to Cabinet before any decision was made.

Trading Standards – Successful prosecutions of companies had taken place as a result of carrying excessive loads on public roads. Parishes are encouraged to report to Trading Standards any instances of suspected overloading as the Authorities are very aware of the damage caused by such vehicles in villages and on rural roads.

Employee Numbers – The number of Full-time Equivalent Employees of the County Council had been reduced from 4768 to 4691 during the period April to November 2006.

Adult Education – The Learning and Skills Council had changed funding priorities, resulting in a 10% reduction in Adult Education Classes. Priority would be given to 16-19 year-old applicants and consideration will need to be given to either increase fees or shorten the duration of classes.

Rednock School – A model of the proposed new school will be on view at Dursley Library during December. Comments are invited on the planning of this £30M project which will be wholly funded by a Government grant.

Matters for Discussiona) **Parish Precept 2007/2008**

Details of the proposed Ward and Administration precepts for 2007/2008 had been circulated to all councillors for consideration and comment. Increase in the Clerk's salary under the guidelines published by the National Association of Local Council Clerks and maintenance of parish assets have necessitated a significant increase in the parish precept for the year, notwithstanding that economies have been found in the cost of grass-cutting and telephone. It was proposed by Ms L Greene and seconded by Mr S Trinder that the Parish Precept be set at a total of £47,320.00 for 2007/2008 and this was agreed unanimously.

b) **Parish Office**

Following the decision made at the November 2006 Meeting to set aside £10,000.00 from Reserve Funds towards the cost of providing a 'dedicated' Parish Council Office, the Chairman said it would now be necessary to form a Steering Group to consider all aspects of this initiative. Councillors were asked to consider this project in Wards and be prepared to discuss in the agenda of the January 2007 Parish Council Meeting. The Chairman, Mr R K Brooks, Mr R Budgeon, Mr P Thorp and the Clerk agreed to participate as members of the Steering Group.

c) **Registration of Parish Land – 'Green Spaces'**

The Clerk had now received details from each Ward of the 'Green Space' land which required formal Land Registration and £500.00 had been included in the precept for 2007/2008 towards meeting the costs of this requirement. The meeting agreed that the Clerk should now liaise closely with the Land Registry to commence the processes necessary to achieve this registration and the Clerk said that he would arrange to meet with the Land Registry during January 2007.

d) **Section 137 Payments**

The Chairman and Councillors expressed their appreciation to Mrs R Roberts for producing a 'template' document to be used by applicants bidding for assistance from the Parish Council Under Section 137 of the Local Government Act. It was considered that there would be instances where further financial information was required from applicants and the Clerk was asked to make provision for this in the application form.

e) **Mandatory Code of Conduct**

The Clerk said that SDC would be holding a Councillor Training Session on the requirements of the Code of Conduct at Ebley Mill on 16th January 2007. It was agreed that the Clerk, Mr S Trinder and Mrs L Hemming would attend the training. The Clerk was asked to book places and co-ordinate the travel arrangements.

- f) **Quality Parish Status**
The Clerk advised that he would attend a Training Meeting to be held at the Gloucestershire Training Partnership on Thursday 21st December 2006. Included in the training was guidance on parishes obtaining Quality Parish status which was of importance to the Parish. The Clerk also advised that the Training Partnership would be prepared to attend a Parish Council Meeting to provide further guidance. The Council decided to issue an invitation for early in 2007.
- g) **Fund-Raising**
The Clerk had produced a 'pack-up' containing many of the main sources of funding for projects in the Parish. The Chairman encouraged Wards to examine the contents of the pack to determine if there were any sources of funding for which applications could be made to assist with the costs of projects. The Chairman added that Mr A E Davis was the recognised fund-raising expert on the Council and he encouraged Councillors to seek his advice on funding for projects.

Receipts November 2006

Bank Interest £96.86

Total Receipts **£96.86**

Payments – December 2006	£	VAT	Total
Mark Townsend – Walls Oakridge	300.00		300.00
BT – Office Telephone	92.49	16.18	108.67
Charity of Ancient Parish of Bisley	50.00		50.00
SDC – Election Costs	330.00		330.00
Oakridge VHT – Hall Hire	15.30		15.30
Glasdon UK – Bin Lid	6.53	1.14	7.67
The Consortium – Printer Ink	25.90	4.53	30.43
SLCC Subscription	108.00		108.00
Bisley All Saints Church – S137	1,000.00		1,000.00
N MacLeod – November Salary	675.40		675.40
Revenue & Customs – Tax/NI	334.15		334.15
Severn Trent Water – Allotments	30.16		30.16
Colors Maintenance – Bisley	110.00		110.00
R Bryant – Maintenance O’Ridge	36.00		36.00
Totals	£3,113.93	£21.85	£3,135.78

Petty Cash Payments – November 2006 **£59.17****Cash Balance as at 30 November 2006** **£34,124.05****Bisley Gift Balance as at 30 November 2006** **£2,427.49****Bisley Lock-up Balance as at 30 November 2006** **£2,015.96****Westbury Gift Balance as at 30 November 2006** **£10,000.00**

06.12 10 **Planning**

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

S.06/2505/FUL – Land at Kirklands, Calfway Lane, Bisley – Erection of single-storey dwelling **Support**.

S.06/2514/FUL – Little Close, Stroud Road, Bisley – Erection of replacement dwelling – **Support/Comment** – Position of existing dwelling is odd and pushed up to one side.

S.06/2606/FUL – 2 Swedale, Limekiln Lane, Waterlane – Erection of 2-storey extension – **Support**.

S.06/2625/FUL & S.06/2626/LBC – Frampton Place, Oakridge Lynch – Resubmission of application for internal and external alterations to cottage – **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 history. The materials chosen for the link in the original proposal do connect the very different styles of the two buildings well. This alteration does not affect the integrity of the original buildings.

We think the SDC approach to 'preservation' is inconsistent with the way buildings have evolved over different historical periods to meet the needs of the current inhabitants. In view of the current Climate Change implications, Listed Buildings will have to change to make the majority of them able to have continued use and be loved and maintained into the future.

This would not necessarily be our view with ancient monuments or higher grade listed buildings, or perhaps even if a particular significant part of this building was being changed. In the case of this application nothing seriously irreversible is being proposed.

S.06/2745/COU – Oakridge Lynch Post Office and Stores, Oakridge Lynch – Change of use from Post Office and Stores to Annexed Accommodation – **Support/Comment** – This application must be viewed in conjunction with the approval for the change of use of the house opposite – Cherry Oaks – to a Post Office and Stores – **S.06/2262/COU**. This annex is too small for a Village Shop and Post Office and annexed accommodation is the only immediate option.

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

- 06.12 11 **Correspondence**
.Correspondence – List for November 2006
The following correspondence has been received during the last month and was on the table for inspection:

Gloucestershire County Council	Consultation Proposal Document on Homes for Older People
Campaign to Protect Rural England	Countryside Voice Magazine – Autumn 2006
Volunteer and Community Action Stroud District	Annual Report 2005/2006
Cotswold Care Hospice	News Link Magazine Autumn 2006
Environment and Development in Gloucestershire	‘The Edge’ Magazine – Issue 43
Stroud & District Citizens Advice	Annual Report 2005/2006

06.12 12 **Ward Matters**

- a) **Bisley**
Mrs L Hemming distributed a summary document covering the proposed refurbishment of the Pavilion at King George V Playing Fields. Mr P Thorp advised that he and other Ward representatives, including the Roads Safety Action Group would be meeting with GCC Highways Department on 15th December 2006 to discuss the road safety proposals submitted by the Parish. Mr S Trinder mentioned the difficulty in accessing some documents on the Parish Website. It was agreed that he and Mr R K Brook would examine this problem.
- b) **Eastcombe**
Mrs J Russell reported that the Parish Notice Board outside the Post Office in Eastcombe had been damaged in recent high winds and that repair was being organised by the Ward. Mr R K Brooks said that he intended to report adverse weather and particularly snow conditions/blocked roads etc on the Parish Website. Mr Brooks queried where responsibility lay for the grit bins in Nash End. This was confirmed as falling to Bisley Ward.
- c) **Oakridge**
Mr R Budgeon said that it would be appropriate for the Parish to produce a paper on Energy-related issues and invited councillors to assist in the preparation of the Paper. Ms L Greene and Mr S Trinder said they would be happy to participate. Subject to be placed on Agenda for next meeting.

- 06.12 13 **Date and Place of Next Meeting**
The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 10th January 2007 at Bisley WI Village Hall.

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