

**MINUTES OF THE BISLEY-WITH-LYPIATT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD
ON WEDNESDAY 6th SEPTEMBER 2006 at BISLEY WI VILLAGE HALL**

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

In attendance: County Councillor J Nash

No members of the public were present

- 06.09 1 **Apologies for Absence**
. Apologies for absence were received from Mr P Thorp (Holiday), Mrs L Hemming (Late return from business commitment) and District Councillor P Carrick (Written input provided to meeting).
- 06.09 2 **Public Participation**
. There was no participation by the public.
- 06.09 3 **Declaration of Interests**
. Mr R S Bryant (Payment of invoice), Ms L Greene (Frith Youth Club) and Mr M Hopkins (Village Post Offices).
- 06.09 4 **Minutes of Previous Meeting**
. The draft minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 2nd August 2006 having been circulated were approved and the Chairman signed the minute book.

06.09 5 **Matters Arising**

a) **Parish Plan**

Mr P Dawes reiterated his request that Wards pass to him progress reports on actions taken, so that they may be incorporated in the Master Spreadsheet. He then highlighted the need to address the 12 actions which were allocated to Council rather than Ward responsibility. These needed to be carried out by January 2007 and he thus recommended that 3 actions per month were dealt with during the next 4 months. The specific topics identified for the coming month were:

1. 'Readily accessible Health Services for all'.
2. 'Free bus transport for all children'.
3. 'Co-ordinate the production of an annual events calendar for the Parish'.

Mr Dawes asked that each Ward should address one topic each. It was agreed that Oakridge Ward would take the lead on Health Service action; Eastcombe Ward the Annual Events Calendar action; Bisley Ward the Free Bus Transport action. Councillor Nash said that the Free Bus budget was likely to be vulnerable in the next round of County Council budget cuts.

b) **Road Safety Measure – Eastcombe & Bisley**

Mr M Hopkins confirmed that following the on-site visit by Gloucestershire Highways, speed warning signs reading '20 is plenty' had now been received at Eastcombe and four signs had been placed on posts on the approaches to Eastcombe Primary School in Dr Crouch's Road. Mr Hopkins said he had two signs surplus which Bisley Ward said they would be happy to make use of. Ms L Greene confirmed that the detailed Safety Report compiled by Bisley Ward and the Bisley Action Group had been sent to Gloucestershire Highways. It would take a few weeks for the contents to be studied at County Highways, following which a further meeting would be held to discuss the various issues.

c) **Village Post Offices**

Mr M Hopkins advised the meeting that he had been approached by GRCC on behalf of Severn Sound Radio to give an interview about the future of village post offices from a postmaster's perspective.

Mr A E Davis suggested that it might be more appropriate for Severn Sound to approach the postmistress at Oakridge on this matter, because her plans for relocation of the post office in the village could depend significantly on the future policy for support of rural post offices.

David Drew MP had agreed to a meeting with the Parish to discuss the future of rural post offices. It was agreed by the meeting that the Clerk should now try to agree for this visit to be held in October. The Clerk was also asked to write a letter to David Drew setting out an Agenda of Topics we would wish to be covered.

It was agreed that invitations to this meeting would be extended to Postmasters/Postmistresses in this Parish and neighbouring Parishes and that up to 2 councillors from adjoining parishes should also be invited. The Clerk was asked to extend these invitations when a date for the meeting had been set.

d) **Maintenance of Parish Footpaths**

Mr A E Davis thanked County Councillor J Nash for arranging the visit by Jaci Harris from Footpaths and Public Rights of Way at Gloucestershire County Council to the Wards of Eastcombe and Oakridge to examine the poor condition of footpaths in these Wards. As far as Eastcombe Ward was concerned Mrs J Russell said the visit had been most productive and that Jaci Harris would write to the Parish on her return from holiday with proposals for the remedial work required. The Clerk was asked to contact Jaci Harris if an early response was not received. Mr A E Davis said that he had not found Jaci Harris' visit particularly helpful. Both of the footpaths examined were considered to be 'low priority' for resurfacing maintenance, notwithstanding the Ward assessment of their relatively poor condition. From discussions on site, it had become evident that the total annual budget set for footpath maintenance in the South Gloucestershire area was circa £17,500.00, which was wholly inadequate to meet the requirements of Parishes. Mr Davis then informed the meeting that under the provisions of the 'Gloucestershire Charter', Parishes could elect to carry out some maintenance functions previously provided exclusively by the County Council and that footpath maintenance could perhaps be considered under this delegation which could attract subvention funding from County, with a Precept contribution from the Parish. The Chairman asked County Councillor Nash to investigate this possibility and instructed the Clerk to include the maintenance of footpaths on the next PC Agenda.

e) **Development of Lypiatt Park**

Bisley Ward had drafted a letter to Pangolin Editions indicating that whilst the concept for the proposed development of an outdoor Sculpture Exhibition at Lypiatt Park had received favourable consideration by the Parish Council, there remained significant concerns about the impact of the proposal on roads and communications infrastructure in the surrounding area. Minor alterations to the draft letter were suggested and Mr S Trinder was asked by the Chairman to incorporate these suggestions and to circulate the revised letter to councillors for final comment before it was dispatched by the Clerk.

06.09 6 **District Council Matters**

In her absence, District Councillor P Carrick had provided councillors with a written brief on topics she wished to submit to the meeting.

Canal Project – Initial consultation on the production of two planning documents – The Cotswold Canals Design Framework and the Stroud Industrial Heritage Conservation Area Statement - was about to get underway and would last about seven months. Details of Websites publicising this issue were given and the Clerk distributed copies of the initial publicity provided by Stroud District Council. Councillors expressed concern that the restoration of the Canal Corridor could result in extensive ‘ribbon development’ and the Clerk was asked to contact Stroud District Council to determine if there were any proposals for developments in this area and particularly from Brimscombe eastwards.

Renewable Energy – Councillor Carrick advised that the Housing Management Forum had decided that the £60,000 of savings generated from the Painting Partnership should be directed towards ‘pilot schemes’ to investigate renewable sources for heating in domestic properties.

Environment Green Paper – The Clerk had issued to councillors a copy of the Draft Environment Green Paper produced by Stroud District Council. Councillor Carrick’s written brief expanded on some of the main issues contained in the ‘draft’ and said that the views of Parish and Town Councils were of great importance in developing an Environment Strategy to underpin the work of District Council over the next 20 years. Ms L Greene said that she had produced a draft response which would be developed and circulated to Wards for discussion.

Recycling – Councillor Carrick advised the meeting that she would continue to press for the establishment of a trial Cardboard Bank and further investigation into increasing the scale of recycling of household plastic waste.

06.09 7 **County Council Matters**

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

Care Homes – Plans were in hand to build nine new homes to replace an equivalent number which were in need of modernisation. These would provide an additional 121 care places and the scheme would take five to seven years to complete, with the first new home available in about two years.

Care of People with Physical Disability – Following an inspection by the Commission for Social Care an action plan has been developed to build on the services offered by the GCC and Health and Voluntary Services.

Budget 2007/08 - Work was underway to determine budgetary requirements for 2007/08 and to assess the impact on Council Tax bills. Public consultation will be an important ingredient of this work and will include workshops, street surveys and a random phone survey.

Council Tax on Second Homes – Stroud District Council had received £77,000 from this levy and District Councillors will be advised of how this money is to be spent – support of Parish Plans was a possible option.

Education – Rednock School - Plans for the new Rednock School were being drawn up and the whole project was about to get underway. The total cost would be circa £30M, mostly funded by a Government Grant. However, other major schemes could be delayed as a result of a Government freeze on interest-free borrowing by County Councils.

06.09 8 **Matters for Discussion**

a) **S137 Payments 2006/07**

Following consideration by councillors of the proposed S137 Payments for 2006/07 the following measures were agreed:

1. The Clerk would provide a written brief to councillors on the specific terms and authority for the payment of monies to groups and organisations.
2. That payment of S137 Grants should not be considered as an 'annual entitlement' by any group or organisation.
3. That some payments, hitherto regarded as S137 Grants, should be included under the precept for subscriptions.

Bisley Ward had yet to discuss specific bids for support in the current year and decisions on these would be brought forward to the October PC Meeting. In the meantime the following S137 Grants were approved unanimously:

Bisley Newsletter	£100.00
Eastcombe Newsletter	£100.00
Oakridge Newsletter	£100.00
CAB Stroud	£75.00
Stroud Area Victim Support	£30.00
Stroud District Volunteer Bureau	£50.00
Cotswold Care Hospice	£150.00
WRVS	£50.00
County Air Ambulance	£100.00
Oakridge Methodist Church	£100.00
Bisley PCC	£500.00
St Bartholomew's Church	<u>£800.00</u>
Total	<u>£2155.00</u>

Additionally, the following payments were agreed as subscriptions:

Gloucester Rural Community	£25.00
Gloucester Playing Fields	£25.00
CPRE	£25.00
Cotswold Canals Trust	<u>£20.00</u>
Total	<u>£95.00</u>

b) **Consultation on the Environment**

A Draft Green Paper produced by Stroud District Council was distributed to councillors as a consultation document in advance of the production of an Environment Strategy setting out District Council priorities for the next 20 years. The final document would be produced in March 2007. The participation of parishes in determining this strategy is invited and comments from parishes need to be submitted before 17th November 2006.

The Chairman asked councillors to review the Green Paper in preparation for further discussion at the October PC Meeting, following which a response to SDC would be compiled.

- c) **Parish Community Plans Forum**
The Chairman reminded councillors of the Parish Community Plans Forum to be held at Kings Stanley Village Hall on Wednesday 27th September 2006 at 7.00pm. Ms L Greene and Mr S Trinder confirmed that they would attend. Reservation Forms for any other councillors wishing to attend were available from the Clerk.
- d) **Restoration of Bisley War Memorial**
Ms L Greene advised the meeting that work to restore the War Memorial at Bisley would commence soon. Initial work would involve a light clean of the Memorial and a test to determine if the existing inscription of letters could be 're-engraved', in order to preserve the appearance of this important monument. Tidying of the surrounding gravelled area and ivy on the back wall would also be carried out and it was hoped, if possible to have initial work completed before Remembrance Sunday in November.
- e) **Review of Clerks's Working Hours and Remuneration**
Under the NALC/SLCC Agreement reached in 2004, parishes were asked to review the job descriptions of their clerks to determine the point on the Spinal Pay Column at which their clerk should be remunerated. The Clerk left the meeting whilst the Chairman briefed councillors on this matter.
Upon return, the Clerk was advised that this review had determined that the size of the job in the Bisley-with-Lypiatt Parish merited the setting of remuneration at Spinal Pay Column Point 26, back-dated to 1st April 2006. In order to assess the appropriate number of hours of work, the Clerk was asked to produce a 'breakdown' of current tasks and time allocated to these.
The Clerk thanked the Council for their consideration in this matter

06.09 9 **Finance**

Receipts August 2006

Bank Interest	£70.55
Allotment Rents – Oakridge	12.00
Arts Grant – Village Design Statement	300.00

Total Receipts **£382.55**

Payments – September 2006

	<u>£</u>	<u>VAT</u>	<u>Total</u>
Ian Trueman – Grass Eastcombe	51.00		51.00
BT – Office Telephone	81.15	14.20	95.35
T W Hawkins – Contract Grass	1,335.60	233.74	1,569.34
Dennis Brown – Gate Oakridge	94.70	16.57	111.27
Graduate Gardeners – Oakridge	236.75	41.43	278.18
P Hayward-Berry – Grass O’Ridge	40.00		40.00
D Hoskin – Allotments Bisley	210.00		210.00
T Dennis – Chapel Bisley	84.00		84.00
A Banyard – Pavilion Bisley	110.00		110.00
N M MacLeod - Salary August	511.78		511.78
Revenue & Customs – Tax/NI	221.19		221.19
T W Bryant – Maintenance O’ridge	68.00		68.00
R S Bryant – Chair Allowance	550.00		550.00
Colors Maintenance – Bisley	222.00		222.00
Totals	£3,816.17	£305.94	£4,122.11

Petty Cash Payments – August 2006 **£51.77**

Cash Balance as at 31st August 2006 **£28,455.37**

Bisley Gift Balance as at 31st August 2006 **£2,427.49**

Bisley Lock-up Balance as at 31st August 2006 **£2,008.40**

Westbury Gift Balance as at 31st August 2006 **£10,000.00**

06.09 10 **Planning**

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

Planning Applications – August 2006

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

S.06/1699/FUL – Fennells Farm, Bisley Road – Erection of stables and riding arena – **Support/Comment** – The applicant has assured us that the area will be adequately screened by new tree planting.

S.06/1701/FUL – 3 Rose Hill, Bisley – Extensions and alterations – **Comment only** – Our only concern is that the size of the development is within planning guidelines.

S.06/1767/FUL – Oak Cottage, Oakridge Lynch – Replacement of existing garden room with garden annexe and WC – **Comment only** – This annexe should only be used as ancilliary to the main house. The existing garden room has a natural stone tile roof. The proposed roof is bigger and of slate and it will dominate the foreground. The reuse of natural slate would reduce the impact of the roof considerably.

S.06/1925/FUL and S.06/1927/LBC – The Old Mansion, Far Wells Road, Bisley – External and internal alterations – **Support/Comment** – The alterations appear to be in-keeping with and an enhancement to this significant property.

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

06.09 11 **Correspondence**

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

Correspondence – List for September 2006

Gloucestershire Market Towns Forum 2006	Forum Network Meeting Invitation – 21 st September
Volunteer Centre (Stroud District)	Newsletter – August 2006
Campaign to Protect Rural England September	Fieldwork Magazine –
Society of Local Council Clerks	September 2006 Journal

06.09 12 **Ward Matters**

a) **Bisley**

Bisley Ward had no issues to raise that had not been covered elsewhere in the agenda.

b) **Eastcombe**

Mr R K Brooks asked the Clerk to obtain the portable Speed Sign from Painswick Parish for use in Eastcombe.

Mrs R Roberts asked the Clerk to progress the action plan for repairs to the Play Area as highlighted in the RoSPA Inspection Report.

c) **Oakridge**

Mr P Dawes briefed the meeting on the quotation he had received for refurbishment of the play surfaces at Oakridge Recreation Ground. The cost of the work required is £2,315.60 for which the Ward had allocated precept funds. Mr Dawes said that since the Company quoting – B J Leisure Installations Limited – had laid the original surface it was considered important that they also carry out the remedial work. This was agreed by the meeting.

The Chairman said he had received an invitation from the Oakridge Village Hall Trust to attend the formal opening of the extension to the Village Hall which would be carried out by David Drew MP on Friday 29th September. All councillors were welcome to attend this event, which would include drinks and a buffet meal.

Mr R Budgeon said that spoil from the badger sett on Cheltenham Road was a continuing problem for traffic. The Clerk was asked to contact County Highways to arrange for the spoil to be removed.

06.09 13 **Date and Place of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 4th October 2006 at Bisley WI Village Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2200 hours.