

**MINUTES OF THE BISLEY-WITH-LYPIATT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD
ON WEDNESDAY 7th DECEMBER 2005 at BISLEY WI VILLAGE HALL**

Mr N S Rogers		Chairman
Mrs L Hemming	}	Bisley Ward
Mr P Thorp	}	
Mr T G Carter	}	Eastcombe Ward
Mrs J Russell	}	
Mr R Bryant	}	Oakridge Ward
Mr A E Davis	}	
Mr P Dawes	}	
Mr N M MacLeod		Clerk

In attendance: District Councillor D Le Fleming

05.12 1. **Apologies for Absence**

Ms L Greene, Mr R Budgeon & Mrs O Turner attending Town and Parish Forum in Stroud; Mr R Brooks; and County Councillor J Nash.

05.12 2. **Public Participation**

There were no members of the public present.

05.12 3. **Declaration of Interests**

Mr R Bryant in respect of an invoice payment.

05.12 4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 2nd November 2005 having been circulated were approved and the chairman signed the minute book.

05.12 5. **Matters Arising**

a) **Van der Breen Street**

Mrs L Hemming reported that a meeting had been held between Ward Councillors and Mr J Roberts, Divisional Manager at Gloucestershire County Highways Department, to discuss the options available to provide a vehicle turning circle at the end of Van der Breen Street. It was agreed 'in principle' that, subject to permission from the landowner, a turning circle could be created in the field at the end of the street. Mr Roberts advised that the cost of surfacing of the circle could be met from Highways Funds and Mrs Hemming said that it was likely that Bisley Ward would need to fund clearance of the site and possibly fencing. A letter had been sent to the landowner and discussions should begin shortly.

b) **Parish Plan**

Mr P Dawes advised that the draft Action Plan had been printed for distribution to all households in the Parish. Responses were required by 16th December 2005 and thereafter the detailed Parish Plan could be produced. Mr R Bryant said it was most important that the Final Draft was circulated to all Parish Councillors for perusal and comment before it was sent for publication. This was agreed by the meeting and the Chairman added that given the politically-neutral stance adopted by the PC, it was important that the final document reflected this position.

c) **Proposed Scheme of Delegation – Planning**

The Chairman said that discussion on this matter should be delayed until the next PC meeting because the issue would undoubtedly be raised by Parishes attending the Town and Parish Forum chaired by the Chief Executive of SDC. District Councillor Le Fleming said that some amendments to the proposals were to be discussed at SDC and the Chairman asked District Councillor Le Fleming to determine if further consultation with Parishes would be part of the amendment process. PC Councillors attending the Forum were asked to produce a summary of matters discussed at the Forum for presentation to the next PC.

d) **Grit Bins**

Mrs L Hemming said that County Highways had yet to replenish the Grit Bins following the recent wintry weather. The Chairman asked the Clerk to check with County Highways when this would be carried out.

05.12 6. **District Council Matters**

District Councillor Daniel Le Fleming reported to the meeting on the changes proposed to the Council's Private sector Housing Renewable Policy involving some alteration of priorities. This would be particularly relevant to grants for repairs to houses in the private sector rental market. He advised on the imminent finalisation of Budget proposals for FY 2006/2007, in the light of the recently announced Government Support Grant for FY 2005/2006. District Councillor Le Fleming concluded by advising of SDC proposals to sign-up to the Gloucestershire Renewable Energy Action Plan (In partnership with County and other Districts), and of an SDC proposal to prepare a Climate Change Action Plan for the District by Autumn 2006.

05.12 7. **County Council Matters**

In her absence, County Councillor Joan Nash had provided Councillors with a written brief on County Council issues:

It was anticipated that Budget Funding for FY 2006/2007 – at around 3% - will fall short of requirements and is unlikely to cover salary increases and inflation. Figures for Education had yet to be released.

Recommendations from the Panels reviewing Primary Schools are beginning to be announced. There will be concern amongst staff, parents and pupils to some of the recommendations, which involve closing or reducing the size of schools. The Cabinet meets in February 2006 to make proposals which then go out for consultation.

A £20.2M grant from Government to build a new secondary school will be spent at Rednock, Dursley.

Councillor Nash advised that Oakridge School had just received a very good Ofsted Report.

The County bid for PFI had been successful and would provide 3 new Community Fire Stations in the County, one in Cheltenham and two in Gloucester. A 'Life Skills Centre' would also be funded to give advice on safety issues such as fire, home, road and drink and drugs.

The Contract to provide Domiciliary Care in the County had been awarded to The Brandon Trust.

The Highways Contract had been awarded to W S Atkins.

Recycling in the County at 31.5% was ahead of the National Target of 30%.

05.12 8. **Matters for Discussion**

a) **Gloucestershire Police – Re-Structuring Proposal**

The Chairman referred to correspondence received from several organisations concerning the proposals to re-structure Police Forces throughout England and Wales into larger Regional Forces. This would involve amalgamation and integration of County –based Constabularies, with Gloucestershire Constabulary subsumed into a Region covering the South-West as far as Cornwall. Concern was expressed by several Councillors that such re-organisation would inevitably lead to dilution of resources in terms of manpower and equipment and that the very positive and important values of policing and controlling close to the population could be diminished.

The Chairman said it was quite clear from the Petition Lists placed in Parish shops that there was widespread support for the status quo to be maintained and he asked the Clerk to draft a letter to HQ Gloucestershire Constabulary giving support to their case to remain independent.

b) **Parish Snow Plan**

The Chairman asked Mr R S Bryant to brief the meeting on the problems resulting from the recent heavy snow-fall in the Parish. Mr Bryant outlined the difficulties faced by traffic as snow gathered and the approaches made to County Highways to authorise use of the snow-ploughs on stand-by in the Parish. Mr Bryant said that it was quite clear that the 'out of hours' response cell of County Highways had little knowledge of how to activate or authorise the use of snow-ploughs and that all his best efforts had failed.

The Parish Snow-plan had worked well and one of the snow-plough operators – Patrick Lorenzen – had given valuable, unpaid support to drivers and vehicles in the Toadsmoor area.

Mr Bryant said that a letter had been sent immediately to the Divisional Manager at County Highways to complain about the unacceptable lack of response by his Department to our requests to use snow-ploughs in the very situation for which their use was intended. A reply to this letter was awaited and discussion had also taken place to ensure that Mr Lorenzen received payment for the duties he had carried out, albeit unauthorised.

The Chairman asked that a letter be sent to Mr Lorenzen on behalf of the PC thanking him for his valuable work in difficult conditions.

c) **Trustees of the Ancient Parish of Bisley – Report by Mrs J W Russell**

Mrs Russell advised that she had attended the AGM as a Trustee of the Ancient Parish of Bisley held on 19th November 2005. The meeting had warmly welcomed the Reverend Simon Richards in his post as the new Vicar of Bisley. On financial matters, Mrs Russell said the Trustees had agreed to continue with the current investment policy for Trust Funds and had decided that, in future, charitable expenditure should await bids from the genuinely needy, rather than to make repetitive gifts to other worthy causes.

Finally, Mrs Russell said the Trustees had expressed concern that the Bisley Community Composting Scheme might grow into a business larger than was originally intended. The Chairman said that this would be kept under review but foresaw no reason to believe that the Scheme would seek to provide anything more than was necessary to satisfy Parish requirements.

d) **Bisley Community Composting Scheme**

The Clerk advised that Ms L Greene had presented a bid from the Bisley Community Composting Scheme for further support of £1100.00 to meet the start-up costs of the Scheme in advance of receipt of the £1700.00 Rural Grant awarded. This grant would be paid upon receipt of invoices and other costs involved in preparing the site for operation. The Chairman emphasised that this Scheme was intended to operate on a self-financing basis and that no further support would be given. Mr R S Bryant proposed that the payment of £1100.00 be made, subject to recovery from the grant when received. The proposal was seconded by Mrs L Hemming and carried unanimously.

e) **Elections Precepts**

The Chairman asked the Clerk to give details of the letter received from SDC advising of the costs involved in the Parish Elections to be held on Thursday 4th May 2006. Should the election of Councillors be uncontested the cost would be £110.00 for each Ward. Contested elections in Wards would cost £810.83 (Bisley), £724.09 (Eastcombe) and £735.36 (Oakridge). The Chairman said that the worst-case cost scenario was unlikely to arise and he thus proposed that costs arising from elections should be met from existing reserves. This was agreed unanimously.

g) **Parish Precept FY 2006/2007**

The Clerk distributed the Precept bids to Councillors for final ratification. These were as follows: Admin - £22,200.00; Bisley Ward - £5,500.00; Eastcombe Ward - £4000.00; Oakridge Ward - £7,790.00, giving a total of £39,490.00. It was agreed that these bids fairly represented the funding requirement for FY 2006/2007. Mr R S Bryant proposed that the total of £39,490.00 be submitted to SDC, seconded by Mrs J W Russell, passed unanimously.

Receipts November 2005

Bank Interest £81.75

Total £81.75 £

Payments – December 2005	£	VAT	Total
T W Bryant – Maintenance Oakridge	175.46	1.93	177.39
Oakridge Village Hall Hire	10.00		10.00
British Telecom – Office Phone	98.16	17.17	115.33
J R Waste Ltd			
– Skip Hire Eastcombe	58.72	10.28	69.00
Gardeners – Allotments Eastcombe	120.00	21.00	141.00
Glasdon UK Ltd – Dog Bins Bisley	454.14	79.47	533.61
N M MacLeod – Refund of			
Computer Security Renewal	28.00	5.88	33.88
Consortium – Stationery	8.55	1.50	10.05
N M MacLeod – Salary	497.40		497.40
Inland Revenue – Tax/NI	214.01		214.01
Bisley Community Composting			
Scheme	1100.00		1100.00
Petty Cash	50.00		50.00
EIS – Photocopy costs	11.08	1.94	13.02
Holbrook Garage – Franking for PP	76.85		76.85
Keith Amos – Crosses for Oakridge	60.00		60.00
Colors – Fencing at Bisley			
– from Bisley Gift	1630.00		1630.00
Totals	4,592.37	139.17	4,731.54

Petty Cash Payments – November 2005 £47.40

Cash Balance as at 30th November 2005 £48,227.16Bisley Gift Balance – 30th November 2005 £4057.49Bisley Lock Up Balance – 30th November 2005 £1978.57**Total £54,310.62**

05.12 10 **Planning**

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

Planning Applications – November 2005

S.05/1796/REM – Hillcroft, Oakridge Lynch – Revisions to design of new-build detached house – **Comment Only** – We feel that the architect has made a good effort to reduce the visual aspect of the building making it more acceptable but we still think the building has too many rooms and attempts to offer too much considering the difficult plot. Bearing in mind the possible energy problems in future years and Government guidance we think the windows should be bigger. It seems a shame to compromise the quality of inside life for minor exterior visual appearance.

S.05/2090/CPL – Solomon's Court, Bournes Green – Alterations to barn and workshop – **Support.**

S.05/2060/FUL – Woodview Cottage, Wells Road, Eastcombe – Replacement of existing garage with new garage – **No Observations.**

S.05/2123/FUL – St Francis, Oakridge Lynch – Construction of elevated deck in garden – **Support.**

S.05/2127/AGR – Hay Hedge Farm, Hay Hedge lane, Bisley – Erection of barn – **No Observations.**

S.05/2117/FUL – Well Cottage, Water Lane, Oakridge – Alterations to roof – **Support.**

S.05/2097/AGR – Denmans House, Througham – Erection of agricultural storage building – **No Observations.**

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

05.12 11 **Correspondence**

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

Correspondence – List for December 2005 Meeting

Christmas Cards	From David Drew MP and Teresa Howes
Campaign to Protect Rural England	Fieldwork Magazine
Consortium Magazine Sustainability	The Eden Project and
Futurebuilders England	Investing in Rural Voluntary and Community Organisations
Gloucestershire Rural Community Council	Gloucestershire History 2005 Rural Regeneration
GCC	'Grass Routes' – Public Rights of Way & Conservation Magazine
Gloucestershire Rural Housing Association	Annual Report
Cotswold Care Hospice	Newslink – Autumn/Winter 2005
Stroud & District CVS	November Newsletter
The Standards Board for England	Town & Parish Standards
GCC Brochure	Artists and Craftspeople

05.12 12 **Ward Matters**

a) **Bisley**

Mr P Thorp said he had attended a meeting in Painswick Town Hall which provided an up-date on the North Link bus service. He said that usage of the facility was being closely monitored and that, overall, this had exceeded expectations and was more cost-effective than anticipated. A revised timetable was being issued shortly which may cease to include Bisley and Eastcombe, which had not been frequent users of the facility. It was speculated that this was because the existing regular bus service catered for the needs of these communities. The Chairman said that the North Link service had not been well advertised at the outset and Mr Thorp was asked to circulate more posters. Furthermore, the Chairman said that we should write to say that it was too early to start eliminating communities at such an early stage, particularly when the overall usage had been higher than expected.

Mrs L Hemming said that a letter had been received from Mrs Fawkes, a Windyridge resident, highlighting yet again the danger presented by the lack of a footpath on Cheltenham Road. Clerk was asked to raise this issue once more with County Highways and to reply to Mrs Fawkes giving a resume of the action taken so far by the PC on this issue. Mrs Hemming added that a meeting would be held with Windyridge residents to discuss this and other issues. Mrs Hemming asked the Clerk to hasten obtaining copies of the Methodist Church Planning Application. Mrs Hemming also mentioned that a further meeting was to be held in Miserden Village Hall to discuss the proposed plans to erect Wind Turbines in the locality.

The Chairman said that he had received further correspondence from Mr Perry concerning a lack of progress with the traffic and signposting issues arising in the narrow lane connecting Calfway with Cheltenham Road. Mr Thorp was asked to update on the current situation and to liaise with Mr Perry.

b) **Eastcombe**

Mr T G Carter asked the Clerk to write again to Mr Hamilton concerning the long-term presence of a skip on the parking area adjacent to The Old Bakehouse in The Street, Eastcombe. Mr Carter also asked the Clerk to seek further clarification from SDC about the policy for emptying dog litter bins. He said that the Ward was not prepared to invest in a dog-bin for the Recreation Ground unless there was some undertaking that it would be emptied regularly. Mr Carter said that Mr Davis was to provide a breakdown of the costs of rebuilding dry stone walls and asked the Clerk to hasten.

c) **Oakridge**

Mr R S Bryant said that work on providing a screening hedge at the Oakridge Burial Ground was about to commence. Mr A E Davis said that work to repair the dry stone wall at the Recreation Ground was all but finished and asked how the contractor's invoice would be paid, given that the grant towards cost would not be received before payment was due. It was agreed that this cost would be met from Parish funds, subject to reimbursement upon receipt of the grant. Mr Bryant said that very positive further discussions had been held on the provision of a new pavilion at the Recreation Ground. He also highlighted problems occurring at the bus shelter at the Water Lane junction in which youths had lit fires and damaged the interior. He added that if problems persisted it might be necessary to remove the wooden seat in the shelter. Mr A E Davis then asked the Clerk to hasten the new perspex timetable cover at the shelter which had also been damaged. Mr Bryant asked the Clerk to find out why prior notification had not been received from County Highways for road closure when tree-felling work was being carried out.

Mr Davis reported that a complaint had been received by the Ward following the grid-locked traffic in Bisley Village during the Guy Fawkes celebrations on 5th November. Mrs L Hemming confirmed that there was a Police presence to control the traffic flow and said that this problem would be examined and addressed for future such events. Mr Davis reported that the Oakridge Ward precept would be overspent by some £750.00 this year due mainly to the replacement of the allotment gate, play area costs and lawnmower repairs. He asked that this overspend be met from reserve funds. The Chairman asked that this issue be raised at the next PC Meeting in January 2006.

05.12 13 **Resignation of the Chairman**

At the end of the main agenda the Chairman – Mr N S Rogers - announced that with great regret he wished, for personal reasons and pressure of other commitments, to tender his resignation from the positions of Chairman of the Parish Council and Councillor to the Bisley Ward. All Councillors present expressed their sadness at the loss to the Parish Council of his wealth of local knowledge and expertise as both Councillor and Chairman. Mr R S Bryant thanked the Chairman for his outstanding commitment to the Parish Council over many years and said he hoped Mr Rogers might return to Council duties in future years. This was endorsed by all members of the Council.

Date and Place of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 11th January 2006 at 7.30 pm at Bisley WI Village Hall.

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