

**MINUTES OF THE BISLEY-WITH-LYPIATT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD
ON WEDNESDAY 7th MARCH 2007 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
Mr R Peyton	}	
	}	
Mr A E Davis	}	Oakridge Ward
Mr P Dawes	}	
Mr N M MacLeod		Clerk

In attendance: County Councillor J Nash

No members of the public were present

07.03 1. **Apologies for Absence**

Mr C James – Eastcombe Ward; Mr R Budgeon Oakridge Ward and District Councillor P Carrick.

07.03 2. **Public Participation**

There was no public participation at the meeting.

07.03 3. **Declaration of Interests**

Mr R Bryant – Payment of an invoice.

07.03 4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 7th February 2007 having been circulated were approved and the chairman signed the minute book.

07.03 5. **Matters Arising**

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

The meeting was advised that the short-term actions contained in the Parish Plan Overview Table were almost complete and Bisley Ward confirmed that it would meet the deadline date of 31st March 2007 for outstanding tasks. Medium-term actions would be considered next. Work on the Village Design Statement was progressing but there was difficulty in finding a comparable Design Statement upon which to consider the most suitable format and content to work towards. The meeting was advised that Upton-St Leonards had recently completed its Statement and the Clerk was asked to obtain a copy.

b) **Parish Council Office**

Mr P Thorp reported that he had attended a meeting of the Bisley WI Village Hall Committee and had presented the Parish Council's outline proposal to site a Parish Office within the Village Hall grounds. Mr Thorp said that, as anticipated there had been a mixed reaction to the proposal and that a building separated from the Village Hall would be unlikely to gain support. It was agreed that the Parish Office Steering Group would present a revised proposal in which the Parish Office would form an extension to the Village Hall and be constructed in a style which was in harmony with the materials and architecture of the existing building.

Mr A Davis advised that there was a prospect of gaining Lottery Funding towards the cost of the building but that an application would need to be submitted by 30th April 2007 at the very latest. It was agreed that the Steering Group would endeavour to make an application within this timescale.

In the meantime it was agreed that the Council would continue to explore any other options available for siting a Parish Office, although the Village Hall in Bisley remained the preferred location.

c) **Village Post Offices/Shops**

A draft response letter to the Department of Trade and Industry's (DTI) Consultation Document had been prepared by the Clerk and circulated to councillors. Mr P Dawes had prepared answers to the direct questions posed by the DTI. A copy of the submission sent to DTI by Gloucestershire Rural Community Council in which the Parish had participated had also been considered.

It was proposed by Ms L Greene and seconded by Mrs J Russell that the draft letter and questionnaire answers be accepted and submitted to the DTI as the official response from the Parish Council. This was agreed unanimously and a copy of this correspondence would be available for viewing by parishioners on the parish website. Mr R K Brooks mentioned that councillors and parishioners could register independent responses to the DTI Consultation through the website and encouraged them to do so.

Finally, it was agreed that the Clerk would circulate copies of the PC response to all those who participated, local MPs, GRCC and the Press.

d) **Ratification of New Standing Order**

At the Parish Council Meeting held on 7th February 2007 (Item 07.02(10) refers), councillors had been asked to consider a revised Standing Order detailing the procedures to be used when a Planning Application had been received from a serving Parish Councillor. Under the provisions of Parish Standing Orders, Part 4, Paragraph 24, this proposed revision was now brought forward for ratification. Mr S Trinder proposed that the revised Standing Order be accepted without alteration and the proposal was seconded by Mr A E Davis. The motion was agreed unanimously by the meeting.

e) **Report from Town and Parish Forum**

Mr P Thorp said that he and the Clerk had attended the Town and Parish Forum held by Gloucestershire County Council at Shire Hall on 6th March 2007. Mr Thorp advised that the emphasis of the meeting had been on increasing communication and rapport with towns and parishes. A series of short presentations had been given covering Disposal of and Re-investment in Property, Highways Maintenance and Increased Provision of Educational and Care Services in the Community. Mr Thorp outlined the main points arising from these presentations. A question posed to County Highways had revealed that much yet needed to be done to achieve an efficient and effective Centralised Reporting System. Assurance had been given that increased staffing levels and training would produce the desired result.

07.03 6. **District Council Matters**

In the absence of District Councillor Carrick no District Council issues were presented to or discussed at the meeting.

07.03 7. **County Council Matters**

County Councillor J Nash reported to the meeting the following issues:

1. Communication – An electronic version of the County Council News Sheet will be launched in March 2007 on the Council website.
2. Street Light Pilot Scheme – The scheme to save energy by the turning off some street lights in the small hours is to be tested in Uley and Cam.
3. Waste – The Great Gloucestershire Debate on Waste produced 1700 replies from the public. As a result of the consultation a Report will be submitted to County/District Joint Waste Board in order to obtain an agreed, joint strategy for submission to the Secretary of State.
4. Care Homes – Following consultation by the County Council in partnership with The Order of St John, strong support was shown for the changes proposed for new and improvements to existing Care Homes.
5. School Meals – A significant increase in the numbers of children eating school meals in the County had been achieved.
6. Budget – At the County Budget Meeting held in February an increase rate of 3.4% for 2007/08 was agreed, with the County proportion of Council Tax bills being 89%. The remaining 11% of the bills were attributable to District and Parish Council levies

07.03 8 **Matters for Discussion**

- a) **Charitable Status – King George V Playing Field, Bisley**
Letter had been received from The Charities Commission and The Playing Fields Association concerning the current charitable status of the King George V Playing Field. In common with other playing fields awarded this status it was believed that the facility at Bisley did not satisfy full the requirements necessary to retain charitable status. It was decided that the Clerk would discuss this matter further with the organisations involved before the Council decided if the retention of charitable status was in the best interests of the Parish.
- b) **Property Register and Green Space Registration**
The Clerk had recovered a number of Title Deeds and correspondence relating to the ownership of land by the Parish. It was agreed that the Clerk would prepare a detailed Schedule of the documents held. This Schedule could then be used to Land Register holdings where Titles were already held and to identify the areas of land to which ownership would be claimed and subsequently registered with Land Registry in Gloucester.
- c) **Stroud District Council – Local Development Framework**
The Clerk advised the meeting that the SDC Local Development Framework document was now available to councillors on the SDC website. This document was over 100 pages in length and it was agreed that only one copy would be downloaded and passed to the Village Design Statement Steering Group for reference purposes.
- d) **Mobile Cinemas in Village Halls**
Councillors considered an offer from a Video Company to provide a Rural Cinema facility in Village Halls as part of a Rural Regeneration initiative. This would be conducted as a ‘trial’ in the first instance and if successful, could be provided on a monthly basis thereafter. Councillors considered that this was not really a matter for Parish Council decision and asked the Clerk to pass the points of contact at Village Halls to the Video Company.
- e) **Cotswold Freight Management Study**
The Chairman said he welcomed the news that a study of HGV movements in Gloucestershire would be conducted by Gloucestershire County Council in conjunction with Atkins Transport Planning. This study would focus particularly on the movement of heavy and/or large vehicles within the Cotswold AONB leading to the introduction of ‘Lorry Management Zones’ for both local and transit traffic. Consultation with parishes would be conducted by a series of workshops, the first of which would be held in Painswick Town Hall on 5th April 2007. It was agreed that this workshop would be attended by Mr P Thorp. Mr R Budgeon and Mr A E Davis also expressed interest in attending.

f) **Annual Parish Meeting**

The Annual Parish is to be held on 4th April 2007 and by rotation will be hosted by Eastcombe Ward, subject to the availability of the Village Hall or Scout Hut. The Chairman announced that he would be unavailable for this meeting and it was agreed that Mr A E Davis would deputise for him. The Chairman asked that Ward Chairmen prepare brief summaries of events occurring within their Wards during the past 12 months and an overview of future plans. The Annual Meeting would be followed by the April Parish Council Meeting. Post-meeting it was discovered that neither of the Eastcombe premises would be available on 4th April and the meeting will now take place in Bisley Village Hall commencing at 7.00pm under the Chairmanship of Ms L Greene.

07.03 9 **Finance**

Receipts February 2007

Bank Interest £98.94

Total Receipts £98.94

Payments – March 2007

	<u>£</u>	<u>VAT</u>	<u>Total</u>
Colors Maintenance – Bisley	80.00		80.00
Cotswold Estates – Burial Ground (O)	95.00	16.63	111.63
BT – Parish Office Telephone	100.01	15.75	115.76
W Pankhurst – Gates Oakridge	70.00		70.00
Bisley WI – Village Hall Hire	30.00		30.00
Pipex Communications Domain Name	29.00	5.08	34.08
Consortium – Stationery	55.75	9.75	65.50
N MacLeod – Clerk Salary Feb 2007	675.40		675.40
Revenue & Customs – Tax/NI	334.15		334.15
Eastcombe Pavilion Fund – Insurance	480.00		480.00
Stroud Farm Supplies – Fencing (B)	195.00	34.12	229.12
Allianz Cornhill – Insurance	2036.56		2036.56
Patrick Lorenzen – Maintenance (O)	798.00	139.65	937.65
T Bryant – Maintenance (O)	117.99		117.99
Revo Landscapes – Walls Eastcombe	1000.00		1000.00
Totals	£6,096.86	£220.98	£6,317.84

Petty Cash Payments – February 2007 £55.57

Cash Balance as at 28 February 2007 £19,536.65

Bisley Gift Balance as at 28 February 2007 £2,427.49

Bisley Lock-up Balance as at 28 February 2007 £2,032.89

Westbury Gift Balance as at 28 February 2007 £10,000.00

Parish Office Reserve as at 28 February 2007 £10,000.00

07.03 10 **Planning**

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

S.07/0121/FUL – Thomas Keble School, Eastcombe – Erection of a security fence and security gate to school sites and erection/replacement of fence adjoining tennis courts – **Support/No Observations.**

S.07/0167/FUL – Ivy Cottage, Cheltenham Road, Bisley – New garden room to rear of property – **Support.**

S.07/0161/FUL – 1&2 Swedales, Limekiln Lane, Waterlane, Oakridge – 2 Swedales – Retrospective planning application for erection of shed. 1&2 Swedales – Change of external cladding from vertical to horizontal timber boarding – **Support.**

S.07/0206/FUL – The Frith, Far Oakridge – Extension of kitchen and creation of porch access – **Support/Comment** – We think the design is good and particularly like the way the roof lantern reflects the Arts and Crafts workshop roof at the end of the main building.

S.07/0215/FUL/S.07/0216/COU – Two-storey and single-storey extension comprising annexe, conservatories, garage and store/Change of use of a section of agricultural land to residential land – **Object/Comments** – The comments are detailed and contain photographs of the proposed development. These can be viewed at the Parish Office by prior appointment.

S.07/0264/FUL/S.07/0268/LBC – Eversley, Van Der Breen Street, Bisley – Alterations to stone gate pier and erection of replacement glasshouse – **Support/Comment** – We commend the use of a timber-frame construction with minimal visual impact.

All planning decisions were ratified by the meeting.

07.03 11 **Correspondence**

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

Highway Maintenance and Traffic Management	Parish Council Newsletter 2006
Countryside Focus	Issue 39 – Winter Edition
NALC Local Council Review	March 2006 Issue
Stroud District Agricultural Forum	Invitation to attend Forum
Stroud and District CVS	February Newsletter

07.03 12 **Ward Matters**

a) **Bisley**

Ms L Greene said that she wished to record appreciation for the excellent work carried out by Mr S Trinder in respect of the Planning Application for work at Scrubs Bottom submitted to the Ward for comment. Ms Greene added that in future the guidance of a professional consultant might be necessary to deal with complicated applications requiring considerable cross-referencing of Planning Policy. Mr S Trinder said he was pleased to announce that the Enforcement Notice for the removal of the security grill at the George Stores had been withdrawn. Mrs Lyn Hemming reported that the inaugural meeting of the Bisley Pavilion Steering Group would take place on 8th March 2007 at the pavilion at which it was hoped a good number of residents and interested parties would attend. Mrs Hemming also advised that a 50% Grant had been approved towards the cost of restoring the War Memorial. Mr P Thorp said that a litter-gathering operation would be carried out in the Ward on 10th March 2007, for which volunteers would be welcome.

b) **Eastcombe**

Mrs J Russell reported on the recent committee meeting of the Trustees of the Ancient Parish of Bisley which had dealt mainly with the distribution of funds to worthy causes. Mrs Russell and Mr R K Brooks expressed concern about a restricted byeway (formerly a RUPP) running from Bismore to Ferris Court. As a restricted byeway, use by motor vehicles is prohibited, although this route had in the past served as an emergency exit for vehicles. The Natural England Rural Communities Act (CERN) created exceptions to restricted rights of way which now left the classification of Bismore to Ferris Court unclear. The Clerk was asked to investigate the situation concerning use of this route for emergency exit purposes. Finally, Mrs Russell said she was pleased to report that the parish notice board at Eastcombe Stores had been repaired.

c) **Oakridge**

Mr A E Davis said that he had received guidance from a local stone mason as to the type of stone, style and size of burial ground headstones which should be placed on graves in the parish so as to blend in with local surroundings. Favoured stone included Portland Stone, Nebresina Stone (also known as Roman Stone), York Stone, Forest of Dean Stone, Celtic Limestone, unpolished light-grey granite and most types of limestone including hard Cotswold Stone. Styles of headstone should normally be upright with or without bases, books and bases, flat tablets or sloping tablets. Normally kerb stones covering the complete grave should not be permitted. Recommended size should not exceed 36" high x 30" wide x 4" thick.

Mr Davis also advises that a historic stone style at the entrance to Oakridge Village had been damaged. He said he would be submitting an application to Cotswold AONB which provided grants of up to 50% for work on items of 'local distinctiveness'. Mr Davis encouraged Wards to check to see if they had any structures of similar 'local distinctiveness' which could benefit from grant assistance. Finally, Mr Davis mentioned that the Canal Restoration and Conservation Management Plan covered an area which extended as far as Sapperton Tunnel. The Clerk was requested to obtain a copy of this document.

07.03 13 **Date and Place of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place at 7.30pm on Wednesday 4th April 2007 at Bisley WI Village Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2145 hours.