

**MINUTES OF THE BISLEY-WITH-LYPIATT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD
ON WEDNESDAY 9th JANUARY 2008 at OAKRIDGE VILLAGE HALL**

Mr R S Bryant		Chairman
Ms L Greene	}	
Mrs L Hemming	}	Bisley Ward
Mrs C Nash	}	
	}	
Mrs J Russell	}	Eastcombe Ward
Mr R K Brooks	}	
	}	
Mr R N Budgeon	}	
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

08.01 1. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor P Thorp, Councillor C James and District Councillor P Carrick.

08.01 2. **Public Participation**

There was no participation by the public.

08.01 3. **Declaration of Interests**

Mr P Dawes declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 8(a) – Oakridge Recreation Ground Play Equipment Request and Mr R Bryant declared an interest in a payment at Agenda Item 9.

08.01 4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 5th December 2007 having been circulated were approved and the chairman signed the minute book.

08.01 5. **Matters Arising**

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

Councillors were asked to consider the draft 'Further Education' Questionnaire which would be used to gauge interest amongst parishioners in this topic. Mr P Dawes said that Mr C James – an expert in educational matters - had offered some suggestions on the format and wording of the questionnaire. It was agreed that Mr James would be asked to use his expertise to produce the final draft. It was agreed that the proposed questionnaire and covering letter were too lengthy to include in Parish Newsletters. Publicity would thus be confined to advising parishioners of progress and when the questionnaire would be available through Village Shops. Mr Dawes had prepared a draft letter to be sent to local schools asking them to confirm their travel plan arrangements for pupils, with the aim of minimising the use of cars. Finally, Mr Dawes said that for the next month the Steering Group would continue with the batch of actions currently allocated.

Mr Dawes then provided councillors with a copy of the 'skeleton' draft of the Village Design Statement. He said that the public consultation element was crucial and that a response by councillors to the draft would be welcomed as soon as possible. Ms L Greene said that an application for funding for Art Work in support of the project had been prepared. Ms L Greene added that it was now almost a year since papers on Energy Conservation and Waste Disposal had been produced. It was agreed that these would be updated with a view to including this information on the Parish Website.

b) **Eastcombe Ward Councillor Vacancy**

The Clerk advised that there had been no applicants for the vacant councillor position in Eastcombe Ward. Stroud District Council had thus authorised the Parish to fill the vacancy by co-option as soon as possible.

c) **Report from SDC Meeting with Town and Parish Councils**

The Chairman outlined the primary issues briefed by SDC at their December Meeting with Town and Parish Councils. The session was host by David Hagg, Chief Executive, summarised the problems arising from the summer floods and the system put in place by SDC to deal with the emergency. Mr Hagg stated that many lessons had been learned which would stand District in good stead for future emergencies. Effective communication with parishes was particularly highlighted. The New Code of Conduct was covered in some detail and the requirement of full registration by all councillors was emphasised. Much of the meeting was used by SDC to display 'Satisfaction Charts' in an attempt to display that in most areas there was improved satisfaction with the work carried out by the Council since the last survey was conducted. However, it became evident from questions that this data was drawn from a very small number of residents and businesses in the District and that a sceptic would view the statistics as unrepresentative and meaningless.

d) **Stroud Night Bus Service**

Councillors were briefed on the latest situation concerning the re-introduction of the Stroud Night Bus Service to rural villages. Previously, this service had provided welcome transport to the villages of Eastcombe and Bisley. Under the re-introduced service, coaches no longer enter Bisley village, but stop at Stancombe. This change was of little value to Bisley residents. The Parish was informed that the use of larger coaches with cameras rendered the vehicles unable to negotiate the narrow streets of the village. The Parish has written to SDC to confirm a route which the coaches could negotiate and this route would not only service Bisley, but would also be able to serve Oakridge which has not hitherto benefitted from the Night Bus. Should SDC be unwilling to test the route proposed by the Parish then the service to this area is likely to prove commercially unviable and this would certainly lead the Council to re-consider its undertaking to provide financial support to the maintenance of the service.

e) **Parish Standing Orders Review Sub-Committee**

The Chairman asked for volunteers to carry forward the work required to review and re-issue parish Standing Orders. It was agreed that this Working Group would comprise The Chairman, Mr A E Davis, Mr P Thorp and the Clerk.

08.01 6. **District Council Matters**

In the absence of District Councillor P Carrick no specific District matters were discussed.

08.01 7. **County Council Matters**

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

1) **Council Tax** – County Council had circulated a consultation leaflet which offered 3 options for percentage Council Tax increases which were depended upon the readiness of council tax payers to contribute towards flood prevention and drainage work. The percentage increases ranged from 3.8% which would provide no additional flood prevention or drainage work to 6.9% which would provide a ‘fighting fund’ of £4.5M to investigate and begin protective projects plus an additional £25M to fund major investment in flood prevention and drainage work. The Clerk said he had placed copies of the leaflet on all parish notice boards. Responses were required by 16th January 2008. The Chairman pointed out that this subject was included under ‘Matters for Discussion’ on the agenda. The meeting agreed that it would be opportune to discuss it at this stage.

Ms L Greene pointed out that the leaflet gave no information of what flood prevention and drainage work would be carried out and where. Mr A E Davis said that as far as this parish was concerned, the most important item was flood protection of the Mythe Water Pumping Station and the Electricity Sub-Station which served a large part of the County. In general, councillors formed the view that without more precise information it was unlikely that council tax payers would welcome a 6.9% increase. The meeting decided that councillors would not provide a collective Parish response and that any councillor was welcome to respond on a personal basis.

Councillor Nash said that following this consultation the Budget for 2008/09 would be finalised in Cabinet on 8th February and approved by Council on 20th February.

2) Adult Social Care – Gloucestershire County Council Services had been awarded a two-star rating by the Commission for Social Care on a three-star care.

3) Damage to Highways Network – The County Council bid to Government for additional funding for damage to the highways network. £160K had been diverted from other schemes to fund drain clearance and some repairs. Work to repair the landslide on the A46 at Salmon Springs was well advanced and scheduled for completion in February 2008.

4) Rubbish to Landfill – Latest statistics for the show that 40% of rubbish is being re-cycled and this percentage will place the County on-course to meet European targets. However, from April 2008, Landfill Tax rises from £24.00 to £32.00 per tonne, which will add a further £1.6M to landfill costs for the FY 2008/2009.

5) Gloucestershire Charter – Currently 122 Parish Councils had signed-up to the Gloucestershire Charter – 46% of all Parishes.

6) Education – Gloucestershire Primary School children have performed above the national averages in English, Mathematics and Science in Tables published in December 2007.

7) Post Office Review Programme – Announcements for Gloucestershire are expected to be published on 5th February 2008. This will be followed by a 6-week formal consultation period. The Royal Mail response to this consultation is expected in June, with closures by the end of the summer 2008. Government has allocated funds for 2,500 closures (1 in 6 of existing Post Offices) GCC Officers have been in contact with Royal Mail, Gloucestershire First, and GRCC in reviewing the distribution of Post Offices and their catchment areas, attending consultation meetings and looking at support for retailers who may be affected.

Matters for Discussion**a) Oakridge Recreation Ground Play Equipment**

Councillors had been provided with details of the request put forward by the 'Acorns' Play Group to provide a toddlers swing and slide at the Oakridge Recreation Ground. The equipment currently provided does not cater adequately for this age group. Objections had been received from residents bordering the Recreation Ground who were concerned that this equipment would increase traffic and noise in the area. During discussion it was suggested that the perceived problems would be reduced if the play equipment was sited close to the Village Hall, in which the 'Acorns' Group met. However, it was pointed out that that equipment in this position would impede on the ground used for other village events such as the Annual Fete. It would also create a situation whereby parents could have difficulty in supervising children of different ages in separated locations. The meeting agreed that there was a good case for the play equipment to be installed. Ms L Greene proposed that the 'Acorns' Play Group be given 'in principle' approval to provide the equipment, subject to an on-site visit by play equipment suppliers and suitable plans being drawn-up for the 'siting' of the equipment. This proposal was seconded by Mr R Budgeon and approved by Councillors. The Clerk was asked to notify 'Acorns' of the decision.

b) County Highways – Snow Warden and Plough Operator Information

County Highways Department had finally provided copies of the Snow Warden and Plough Operator Information to Parishes – a matter of days before the first heavy snowfall of the winter! The document contained several inaccuracies and out-of-date Snow Warden Information. The Chairman pointed out that the limited times suggested in the document for delivering snow condition reports were of no assistance whatsoever as they would result in up to 136 Parishes trying to deliver data during a 45-minute 'window' and snowfalls did not occur in a particular timeframe. The Chairman thanked Snow Wardens and Plough Operators for their efforts during the recent brief, but heavy fall and said we were clearly ready to respond to any future falls during the winter. He added that County Highways had expressed appreciation of the work carried out to open-up roads.

c) Stroud District Local Strategic Partnership Consultation Document

Copies of this lengthy consultation document had been circulated to all Councillors. Ms L Greene volunteered to co-ordinate the Parish response to the document and Councillors were asked to send their inputs to Ms Greene by 31st January 2008.

- d) **‘Protecting Your Community Conference – 25th January 2008.**
This all-day Conference to be held at the Holiday Inn, Barnwood, follows the Flood Emergency of July 2007 and will address issues of working with people in communities to devise closer networks and resilience in times of need. It was agreed that, if possible, the Parish would be represented at the Conference and the Clerk said he would try to attend if no other volunteers were available.

08.01 9 **Finance**

Receipts December 2007

Bank Interest £143.27

Total Receipts **£143.27**

Payments – January 2008 **£** **VAT** **Total**

Toshiba UK – Office Copier	14.55	2.55	17.10
N Power – Electricity Bisley Pavilion	119.33	5.97	125.30
Frith Youth Centre – S137 Payment	500.00		500.00
Bisley WI Village Hall Hire	15.00		15.00
N MacLeod			
– Refund of Xmas PC Purchases	21.21		21.21
ST Water – Eastcombe Allotments	24.93		24.93
ST Water – Oakridge Allotments	14.18		14.18
ST Water – Bisley Allotments	82.47		82.47
N MacLeod – Clerk Salary Dec 07	694.24		694.24
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax/NI	337.85		337.85
T Bryant – Handyman Oakridge	76.44		76.44
P Lorenzen			
– Maintenance Oakridge Ward	245.00	42.88	287.88
Totals	£1,900.20	£8.52	£1,908.72

Petty Cash Payments – December 2007 **£20.00**

Cash Balance as at 31 December 2007 **£28,390.30**

Bisley Gift Balance as at 31 December 2007 **£2,427.49**

Bisley Lock-up Balance as at 31 December 2007 **£2,084.37**

Westbury Gift Balance as at 31 December 2007 **£10,000.00**

Parish Office Reserve as at 31 December 2007 **£10,000.00**

08.01 10 **Planning**

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

S.07/2457/FUL – Gilly Flower Cottage, Far Oakridge – Erection of extension and replacement garage – **Support/Comment** – We feel that although the extension significantly increases the size of the dwelling it complies with all the HN16 policy points. The extension is in keeping with the original building and will give the appearance of an evolved dwelling. We feel that the proposal fits in with policies BE5 and BE6.

S.07/2475/LBC – Jaynes Court, School Road, Bisley – Internal alterations to main staircase – **Support/Comment** – Support is subject to a supportive assessment from a Conservation Officer.

S.07/2311/TPO – West Wing, St Elizabeths, Middle Hill, Eastcombe – Work to conifer hedge, lime trees and a ‘Blue Lawson’ cypress – **Comment only** – The long conifer hedge currently provides privacy to/from the second floor windows of the neighbouring property which is close to the hedge. Lowering the current height by one metre would have an impact on the privacy of both properties. The large Lime is the last of a row of mature lime trees most of which are on the property of East Wing, St Elizabeths. These trees are a significant landscape feature for this part of the village. Severe pruning of the nature described would significantly alter the appearance of this tree and would probably result in the tree not surviving. There have been large, mature (Beech) trees in the village which have been subject to severe pruning of this type before and despite assurances from the tree surgeons, the work has resulted in the trees dying.

S.07/2548/FUL – Througham Manor, Througham, Bisley – Extension comprising garden room, changing-room and basement stores – **Support**.

S.07/2562/FUL – 1 Througham Court Cottages, Througham, Bisley – **Support/Comment** – Extension should be cut into the ground to reduce visual impact and it should be ensured that materials used are consistent with the original cottage, as per design statement.

S.07/2685/FUL- Highridge, Oakridge Lynch – Extensions and alterations to dwelling and garage (replacement dwelling) – **Support/Comment** – The materials and design will enhance the appearance of this dwelling; there is very little increase in size although the accommodation will be much improved. This is a well-considered design of the buildings that were previously the village shop which has now been relocated across the road. The application complies with BE1, BE6, H16, H17 and BE17 does not apply. We therefore support this application.

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

- 08.01 11 **Correspondence**
The following correspondence has been received during the last month and was on the table for inspection.

Stadia Sports International	Sports & Athletic Equipment 2008
Commission for Rural Communities	Community Empowerment Awards
NALC	Journal for January 2008
SLCC	The Clerk Magazine January 2008
Clerks and Councils Direct	January 2008 Magazine

- 08.01 12 **Ward Matters**

a) **Bisley**

Bisley Ward reported the following matters:

Windyridge – Action was now in hand to progress the recommendations received at the meeting with Windyridge residents. Road safety was a primary issue.

Pavilion – A list of architects had been drawn up for consultation and engagement on a feasibility study for improvements to the pavilion at the King George V Playing Field.

Floodlights – An enquiry had been received from the soccer team which uses the King George V Playing Field for the provision of floodlights for evening training sessions. Following discussion, the meeting decided that such an installation – even a portable one – had implications for residents in the vicinity and that it should not be taken forward at this time.

Pavilion Heater – Repair to the water heater in the pavilion should be completed shortly.

Overcourt Appeal – The appeal by the owner of Overcourt concerning solar panels was in process and responses were required by 18th February 2008. Ms L Greene said she would draft a response for submission by the Parish Council.

b) **Eastcombe**

Eastcombe Ward asked the Clerk to progress the repair to the dry stone wall at the Recreation Ground as soon as possible.

c) **Oakridge**

Oakridge Ward requested that the Clerk contact the Wayleaves Survey Team to establish when Electrical Network alterations scheduled for early 2008 were going to be carried out. The Clerk was also asked to 'chase-up' County Highways for payment of the 50% contribution offered towards the cost of repair of Sammels Hill Footpath.

- 08.01 13 **Date and Place of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 6th February 2008 at Bisley WI Village Hall commencing at 7.30 pm.

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