

**MINUTES OF THE BISLEY-WITH-LYPIATT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD
ON WEDNESDAY 6th FEBRUARY 2008 at BISLEY WI VILLAGE HALL**

Mrs J Russell		Chairwoman
Ms L Greene	}	
Mrs L Hemming	}	Bisley Ward
Mr P Thorp	}	
Mrs C Nash	}	
Mr R K Brooksl	}	Eastcombe Ward
	}	
Mr R N Budgeon	}	
Mr A E Davis	}	Oakridge Ward
Mr N M MacLeod		Clerk

One member of the public was present

08.02 1. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillors R Bryant, P Dawes and C James who was attending an Eastcombe Pavilion Committee Meeting. Apologies were also received from County Councillor J Nash and District Councillor P Carrick.

08.02 2. **Public Participation**

The Chairwoman welcomed Mr Derek Hunt to the meeting as a prospective Councillor for the vacancy which had arisen in the Eastcombe Ward.

08.02 3. **Declaration of Interests**

Mrs L Hemming declared an interest in a refund payment listed at Item 08.02 (9).

08.02 4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 9th January 2008 having been circulated were approved and the chairwoman signed the minute book.

08.02 5. **Matters Arising**

- a) **Parish Plan/VDS** – The meeting was advised that Mr C James was progressing with the review of the questionnaire covering Further Education opportunities in the Parish. Other medium-term actions under the Parish Plan were moving forward as planned and comprehensive details of the Bisley Blue Coat School Travel Plan had been received, together with a response from Oakridge School confirming that its Travel Plan had been lodged with County Council. Responses from Eastcombe Schools were still awaited.
- b) **Stroud District Local Strategic Partnership Consultation**
Ms L Greene had prepared a draft Parish response to this document. Councillors were asked to notify any further inputs as soon as possible. The Clerk was asked to send a copy of the final, amended version to all Councillors.
- c) **Tree Maintenance – Waterlane**
In his absence, the Chairman Mr R S Bryant asked that the meeting be informed of the tree maintenance work carried out at Waterlane. It had now been agreed to ‘thin’ some of the excessive growth in consultation with local residents. This work would be carried out immediately in advance of the road re-surfacing work which would commence on 15th February. Thereafter, local residents would be asked to notify of any further work needed and in particular any requirement for the removal of trees to improve access to daylight.
- d) **Zero Waste Policy**
Ms L Greene had produced an updated version of her ‘Zero Waste Policy’ Paper which was passed to Councillors. Ms Greene advised that at present the County Council expended £6M on waste landfill and that this sum was increasing by £1.5M per annum. Mr R N Budgeon said that when the recyclable content of the waste was removed, the portion that remained would be very small and would basically be of petro-chemical origin (plastics) and therefore could be incinerated rather than land-filled. This incinerator (or incinerators) would be small and should be linked to heat energy production and if possible electrical energy. Heat would be relatively easy to link to a local main. Ms L Greene advised that County Council would be holding a ‘Zero Waste Week’ to challenge Districts/Parishes to recognise the benefits of such a policy.
Mr A E Davis said that advice about the disposal of energy-saving light-bulbs should not be included in Parish Newsletters because advice on such a technical issue needs to have technical approval. Mr R K Brooks said that this was an increasing problem for householders and that District Council should be persuaded to provide for disposal through re-cycling collections or strategically placed collection bins. Mr A E Davis recommended that District Council be asked to produce a statement giving advice on this growing issue, for inclusion in the Parish’s ‘Zero Waste’ policy document.

e) **Post Office Closure Programme**

The Clerk advised the meeting that no closure of Post Offices had been recommended for the Parish but that final decisions would not be taken until after the consultation period in the County had been concluded.

f) **Parish Standing Orders**

A meeting to review revised Standing Orders for the Parish had still to be arranged. The Clerk was asked to canvas the Review Sub-Committee to determine a convenient date for the meeting.

08.02 6. **District Council Matters**

In the absence of District Councillor Carrick no District-related matters were discussed.

08.02 7. **County Council Matters**

County Councillor J Nash submitted the following written brief to the Parish Meeting.

1. Education – Gloucestershire pupils achieved above-average results in GCSE Exams in 2007, with 54.4% achieving at least A*-C grades including English and Maths against a national average of 46.7%.
2. Autistic Spectrum Disorder – County Council in partnership with the National Autistic Society have appointed a new Co-ordinator for a two-year action programme. This will explore employer-awareness, the need for a Resource Centre and would address training needs and related issues.
3. Regional Spatial Strategy – The Secretary of State's response to the Panel Report following the examination in Public is expected after the May elections. The County Council will make a formal response to any proposed modifications. There will be a 12-week consultation period before the final version is issued towards the end of autumn 2008. When published, this document will form the basis for Local Development Frameworks and Strategic Planning across the Region.
4. A46 Road Repairs – After a 6-month closure for substantial repair following July 2007 flooding, the A46 at Salmon Springs will re-open in the next 2 weeks.
5. Road Accident Statistics – A total of 40 people were killed on Gloucestershire roads (including motorways) during 2007. This figure is slightly lower than the average since the Year 2000, but includes a worrying number of young drivers and passengers.
6. Adult Care – The Intermediate Care Team has been working successfully with the Community Mental Health Team and the Primary Care Trust to help older people with mental problems to stay in their own homes. This has prevented 213 older people from hospital admission over the past 3 years.
7. Council Tax 2008/09 – The Consultation Period with the Public over 'options' for Council Tax increase for FY 2008/09 has been completed. The results will be reported to Cabinet before a final decision on the level of increase is determined.

Matters for Discussion**a) Planning Procedures for the Parish Council**

The Chairwoman asked Mr R N Budgeon to outline the content of the letter sent by the Parish Council to SDC seeking clarification of planning procedures to be adopted by the Parish. The letter had sought clearance for the implementation of revision to the current method of processing of applications. This would remove the present procedure whereby ratification of the decisions of Ward Planning Sub-Committees was sought at Parish Council Meetings. The letter had also sought clarification as to why decisions can be taken at SDC without the opportunity for public access and involvement, whereas access for the public was a requirement in Parishes.

In order to prepare for the revised procedure it would be necessary to provide each Ward with formal Planning Sub-Committee Powers to deal with applications and to report directly to SDC. Mr R K Brooks proposed that this action be taken without delay and this proposal was seconded by Ms L Greene. The proposal was put to the vote and carried unanimously. The revised procedures would be incorporated into the the revision of Parish Standing Orders.

b) Pothole Reporting/Road Maintenance

The Clerk reported that the number of potholes on roads in the Parish had increased significantly over recent months. This was due in part to seasonal weather conditions but was primarily the result of overstretch at County Highways as they sought to overcome the very significant damage caused elsewhere as a result of the floods last summer. Nonetheless, it was important from a roads safety point of view that potholes are reported expeditiously so that repairs continue to be carried out. It is possible through the Parish Website to provide linkage to the County Highways Pothole Reporting Department. It was agreed that members of the public should be encouraged to report potholes directly to County Highways because it was not possible for the Parish Council to routinely carry out road inspections. It was agreed that publicity on this linkage would be included in Parish Magazines.

- c) **Co-ordination of Parish Bids for Grants and Finance**
 Recent events had highlighted the need for central co-ordination of applications for grants and finance for projects in the Parish in order to ensure that there was no duplication of effort and so that priorities for funding are agreed before applications are made. Mr A E Davis said that whilst he was content to provide funding advice to each of the Wards, the decision as to which projects should receive priority was a matter for the full Parish Council. Wards should thus raise any intention to seek funding support for any particular project under Finance on the agenda, before any application is made. There was general agreement in discussion that funding for a Parish Office was a top priority and that this may result in funding for other projects being delayed. It was agreed that Wards would review their funding requirements for important projects so that this issue could be addressed at the next Parish Council Meeting. Funding for the Parish Office would also be discussed at this meeting. Mr A E Davis added that for many years, inadequate provision had been made for the maintenance/refurbishment of Parish Assets such as pavilions and that this had led directly to the current problems with adequate funding. It was agreed that this issue should also be addressed in setting future precepts.
- d) **RoSPA Annual Inspections**
 The Clerk reported that the Annual RoSPA Inspection of Play Areas would be carried out in April 2008. It was agreed that the Clerk would determine the precise date of the inspections so that Playing Field Wardens could make arrangements to be present.
- e) **Gloucestershire Chartered Parish Meeting – 28 February 2008**
 It was agreed that the Clerk would attend the Meeting of Gloucestershire Chartered Parishes on 28th February and report to the next Parish Council Meeting.
- f) **Appointment of External Auditor**
 The Parish had been notified that Moore Stephens Chartered Accountants had been re-engaged to carry out the External Audit of the Parish for the FY 2008/09. Councillors recorded no objections to this re-appointment.
- g) **Street Naming and Numbering**
 Stroud District Council had asked Parishes for a response to future plans for Street Naming and Numbering in the District. Councillors agreed that the proposals would have little impact on addresses in this Parish. Mr R K Brooks said that he occasionally received planning applications from SDC which bore an incorrect street naming and Ms L Greene said that that the house numbering system in Windyridge, Bisley, resulted in deliveries of mail and goods to the wrong addresses. It was agreed that the Clerk would bring these issues to the attention of SDC for resolution.
- h) **Emergency Planning Meeting at SDC – 11th February 2008**
 As Emergency Planning Co-ordinator for the Parish, Mr P Thorp said that he would attend this meeting and report to the Parish Council.

08.02 9 **Finance**

Receipts January 2008

Bank Interest	£138.57
Grant for Community Tennis Court Fund	£500.00
Allotment Rent – Eastcombe	£5.00

Total Receipts **£643.57**

Payments – February 2008	£	VAT	Total
ST Water – Oakridge Pavilion	56.86		56.86
OVHT – Village Hall Hire	31.10		31.10
Graduate Gardeners – Oakridge Burial Ground	320.45	56.08	376.53
N MacLeod – Refund of Stationery Purchase	37.43	6.55	43.98
N MacLeod – January 2008 Salary	694.24		694.24
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax/NI	337.85		337.85
W Restall – Bisley Pavilion	60.00		60.00
County Intruder Alarms – Bisley Pavilion	288.05		288.05
L Hemming - Refund Bisley Pavilion Costs	30.00		30.00
T Bryant – Maintenance Oakridge	39.49		39.49
Totals	£1,895.47	£62.63	£1,958.10

Petty Cash Payments – January 2008 **£47.71**

Cash Balance as at 31 January 2008 **£26,304.56**

Bisley Gift Balance as at 31 January 2008 **£2,427.49**

Bisley Lock-up Balance as at 31 January 2008 **£2,090.01**

Westbury Gift Balance as at 31 January 2008 **£10,000.00**

Parish Office Reserve as at 31 January 2008 **£10,000.00**

Community Tennis Court Fund **£500.00**

08.02 10 Planning

The following applications have been received during the past month and the Delegated Ward Sub-Committees' decisions/comments are detailed below:

S.07/2617/FUL – Hilltop, Middle Hill, Eastcombe - Single-storey extension – **No Observations**

S.07/2602/OUT – Barn, Holloway Road, Bisley – Erection of dwelling. – **Object** – Objections are raised because:

1. The application falls outside the village boundary contrary to Policy HN10.
2. The application will adversely affect the visual impact, quality and setting of the Conservation Area (P11 Conservation Area No 6).
3. The application is for development in open countryside and adversely affects the AONB.
4. The application includes 3 car spaces where there is poor access and it will add danger to an already dangerous road.

S.07/2180/FUL – The Studio, Dr Crouch's Road, Eastcombe – Erection of new dwelling and garage (replacement dwelling) – **No additional comments to those previously registered.**

S.07/2561/LBC – Througham Manor, Througham, Bisley – Erection of an extension and internal alterations – **No Observations.**

The following applications were presented to the full Parish Council for discussion and decision as detailed below:

S.07/2770/FUL/S.072762/FUL – Cricketty Mill, Lower Nashend, Bisley – Erection of an extension, installation of 2 dormer windows, chimney stack and french doors and restoration of mullioned window to full length –

Support/Comment – Support is based on an assessment that the somewhat eccentric qualities of the proposed extension will not create harm in a non-listed building that lies outside the Conservation Area and indeed the individual nature of the proposed plans will, in time, add interest the site overall. It is also believed that there will be no negative impact on the adjacent well-used public footpath as the extension is sunk into the bank. Support is subject to:

1. An environmental assessment for bio-diversity/potentially affected species.
2. Policy NE7 assessment of potentially affected water courses.
3. Use of appropriate technologies as far as possible in the new-build so as to mitigate against climate change and fossil fuel energy use (PPS22).

S.08/0800/COU – Barn, Lower Nashend, Bisley – Conversion of barn to dwelling – **Comments Only** – Evidence that Policies BE16 and 17 have been fulfilled suggest that there is no reason to refuse. However, if change of use is recommended a thorough environmental audit of the barn is requested to see if any protected species such as barn owls or

bats may be affected. We have concerns about an increase of traffic in the lane and we require a check of the approved distance to the neighbouring Grade II Listed property (should be 50 metres). If change of use is approved we require any renovation to include appropriate renewable technologies and water harvesting to enhance sustainability and mitigate against climate change (PPS22).

08.02 11 **Correspondence**

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

Gloucestershire Rural Community Council	January 2008 Newsletter
Gloucestershire County Council	Minerals and Waste Core Strategies Consultation
Care & Repair (Stroud) Ltd	Gardening Assistance Scheme 2008
Gloucestershire Playing Field Association	Annual Report
Gloucestershire Playing Field Association	Winter Newsletter
Allotments Regeneration Initiative	Winter Newsletter
Communities and Local Government	Consultation Document on Orders and Regulations
The Consortium	Sustainability in the School Environment

08.02 12 **Ward Matters**

a) **Bisley**

Ms L Greene reported the following:

Overcourt Planning Appeal – Ms Greene circulated a ‘draft’ response from the Parish Council to the Planning Appeal concerning the installation of solar panels at Overcourt. Ms Greene asked for comments to be notified to her as soon as possible so as to meet the deadline date for submission of the response.

Bisley Night Bus – No worthwhile progress had been made towards re-instating the Night Bus Route through Bisley. Ms Greene recommended that an on-site meeting with ‘Stagecoach’ should be held to discuss the problem.

Bisley Pavilion – The Pavilion Refurbishment Steering Committee had selected three architects to produce portfolios of work from which one architect had been selected to carry out a feasibility study. The cost of this work would be met from Bisley Gift funds and Ward Precept.

Chair of Parish Council – Ms Greene said that should a vacancy for the appointment of Chair of the Parish Council arise, Bisley Ward would wish to nominate Mr P Thorp as a candidate.

- b) **Eastcombe**
Mr R K Brooks asked for an update on progress with re-building the damaged wall and removal of tree cuttings on the Recreation Ground. The Clerk advised that the wall would be rebuilt during March by M Townsend Ltd at a cost of £850.00 and SDC had yet to confirm when they would be able to provide a shredder for the tree cuttings.
- c) **Oakridge**
Mr A E Davis said that he had received a quotation of £4000.00 to carry out further wall restoration at Oakridge Recreation Ground. Since this was a continuation of previous work it was felt important that the same contractor should be employed. The meeting approved this expenditure from the Oakridge Ward Precept for 2008/09.

08.02 13 **Date and Place of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 5th March 2008 at Bisley WI Village Hall.

Finally, from the Chair Mrs J Russell announced that this would be her last Parish Council Meeting as she would be tendering her resignation as a Parish Councillor of the Eastcombe Ward, after some 35 years' of service. Councillors expressed their great sadness at this news and said that she would be sorely missed. Mrs Russell was invited to return to the next Parish Council Meeting so that she could be wished an appropriate farewell from the work of the Council and Ward.