

MINUTES OF THE BISLEY-WITH-LYPIATT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 3rd APRIL 2008 AT EASTCOMBE VILLAGE HALL

Present:	Mr R S Bryant	Chairman
	Ms L Greene	} Bisley Ward
	Mrs L Hemming	
	Mr P Thorp	
	Mr R K Brooks	} Eastcombe Ward
	Mr C James	
	Mr D B Hunt	
	Mr A E Davis	} Oakridge Ward
	Mr R N Budgeon	
	Mr P Dawes	
	Mr N M MacLeod	Clerk

Seven members of the public were present

- 08.04 1. **Apologies for Absence**
Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs C Nash.
- 08.04 2. **Public Participation**
Seven members of the public remained after the Annual Parish Meeting and the Chairman thanked them for their participation.
- 08.04 3. **Declaration of Interests**
No declarations of interest were notified.
- 08.04 4. **Minutes of Previous Meetings**
The final draft minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 6th February 2008 having been circulated were approved, subject to one amendment at Serial 08.03 (9) where payment of £447.00 to J Patel for cricket coaching equipment was added to the list. The Chairman then signed the Minute Book.
- 08.04 5. **Matters Arising**
- (a) **Parish Plan/Village Design Statement** – Mr P Dawes provided the meeting with an update on progress with the Village Design Statement. Offers of support for the project were now being received from parishioners and there had also been volunteers to participate in the related Arts Project. In Newsletters, parishioners had been requested to submit photographs of

buildings and features within Wards and these had started to arrive. Consultation Meetings with parishioners had been advertised and would take place on 24th April at Eastcombe Village Hall; 6th May at Oakridge Village Hall and 21st May at Bisley Village Hall. The start time for each meeting would be 7.30pm and refreshments would be served. The date of the meeting at Miserden had yet to be decided. Parish Councillors were encouraged to attend these meetings.

On the Parish Plan, Mr Dawes said that no new actions had been initiated because emphasis was directed towards the Village Design Statement. The main action at present was to sound out parishioners about their wishes to have Adult Education Classes in the Parish. Mr C James produced a copy of a Questionnaire he had compiled and drew comparison between this version and the one previously circulated to councillors. He held the view that the original questionnaire would not produce the required results and he expressed frustration at what he considered to be a lack of effective communication between councillors over this issue. Mr A E Davis disputed this point and said that the purpose of the Questionnaire was to find out what activities parishioners may wish to participate in and then approach Stroud College to determine what they could provide. It was not up to the Parish Council to organise courses, which he felt was the inference from Mr James' Questionnaire. Mr Davis added that Oakridge Ward had already placed copies of the original Questionnaire in the Village Shop with an accompanying letter and that initial responses were encouraging.

Ms L Greene said that she favoured Mr James' version of the Questionnaire and indicated that it would be used by the Bisley Ward.

It was agreed that Wards would be left to decide which version of the Questionnaire to use.

(b) Parish Office Funding – Allocation from Reserves

The Clerk briefed councillors on the general financial position of Parish funds. Last financial year, the Parish had allocated the sum of £10,000.00 from reserve funds to a specific Parish Office Fund. The Clerk considered that a further £5000.00 could be allocated to this fund, whilst maintaining adequate, unallocated reserve funds to meet normal parish commitments. Mr A E Davis enquired if it would be affordable to increase this amount to £7,500.00. Other councillors said that they would prefer to leave the amount at £5,000.00 for the time being and the Clerk added that it might be possible to make further allocation later in this financial year. Mr R K Brooks proposed and Mr RN Budgeon seconded the allocation of £5,000.00 at this time. This was passed unanimously.

There was also general agreement amongst councillors that the provision of dedicated Parish Office facilities should remain the priority project. Mr C James asked if Portacabin facilities had been considered and was advised that a more permanent structure was favoured.

(c) Parish Green Spaces

The Clerk advised the meeting that he would produce a list of all Title Deeds held by the Parish in respect of play areas, allotments and other 'green spaces'. Mr A E Davis highlighted the importance of this issue, following the recent sale of the Methodist Chapel in Oakridge, where ownership of a portion of land in front of the Chapel was in dispute.

(d) Stroud Night Bus

Ms L Greene said that there now appeared little prospect of the Stroud Night Bus providing a proper service to Bisley. Cam and Dursley had also lost their Night Bus service and had examined the possibility of obtaining an alternative provider. However, it was unlikely that Bisley could benefit from this alternative. Ms Greene added that the significant rise in fuel costs was also affecting the viability of services outside of the normal schedules.

(e) Parish Energy Policy Paper

Mr R N Budgeon said that his draft Parish Energy Policy Paper had been circulated to councillors and he welcomed suggestions and comments on the paper in good time for it to be discussed more fully at the PC Meeting on 7th May. Mr Budgeon asked that comments are sent to him directly.

08.04 6. **District Council Matters**

District Councillor P Carrick briefed the meeting on the following issues:

Watercourse Wardens – SDC was working with Parish and Town Councils to introduce a Scheme of Watercourse Wardens. These Wardens would monitor watercourses in their locality and identify potential problems such as blockages, fallen trees, overgrowth of vegetation etc. The aim would be to maintain watercourses in good condition to deal with water dispersal and to prevent flooding where possible.

Highway and Street Cleanliness – Work was underway at SDC to improve the levels of street cleanliness in Stroud and surrounding parishes. This would involve cleaning campaigns and encouragement to the public to exercise greater care in the disposal of litter. Some confusion arose between this information and a letter sent by SDC to Parish Councils which specified the response times for street cleaning under the Government's 'Code

of Practice for Refuse and Litter'. The Clerk was asked to seek clarification of the consultation letter and maps sent out by SDC. Access to Council Services – SDC had initiated a process to improve the ability for residents to gain access to the Council Offices at Ebley Mill.

Fuel Poverty – SDC had undertaken a series of visits to residents and especially the elderly who were having difficulty in meeting the increased costs of home heating. Fuel Poverty occurred when the costs of keeping a home warm exceeded 10% of a resident's net disposable income.

08.04 7. **County Council Matters**

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

Council Websites – Gloucestershire County Council Website was one of only 5 Council sites out of 467 nationally to be categorised as 'Excellent'.

Community Meals Service – This service currently delivers circa 180,000 hot meals to homes, Day Centres, Adult Opportunity Centres and Luncheon Clubs each year. The present contract for this service expires in 2009 and a new tender will require suppliers to provide a consistent and high-quality service and to offer greater choice for users.

Gloucestershire Care Homes – The £50M project to replace the current 16 Care Homes with 11 new Care Homes will begin this month. The first new Home will be built at Brockworth.

Children in Care – Much effort was being put into the education of children in care to ensure that their educational achievements attain the standards achieved by all children.

Highways Estimates – The Annual Highways Estimates Meeting had taken place and a list of schemes within Bisley-with-Lypiatt Parish was provided.

Primary Schools – The allocation of Primary School places was notified to parents on 2nd April and those who failed to be allocated 'first choice' have been advised of reconsideration procedures. Bisley Blue Coat School had received an excellent OFSTED Report which was warmly welcomed by councillors.

08.04 8 **Matters for Discussion**

a) Annual Audit of Parish Accounts

The Clerk advised that the Annual Audit of the Parish had been brought forward by some 3 months compared with previous years. This was not expected and would require a great deal of work during the remainder of April prior to submission of the accounts to the Internal Auditor – Mr E

Pike – at the beginning of May and to the External Auditors – Moore Stephens Chartered Accountants by 2nd June.

b) **SDC Street Cleaning Consultation**

This topic had already been covered during the District Councillor's Report at Serial 08.04 (6) and the Chairman said no further discussion was necessary.

c) **Planning Meeting with SDC – 'Little Close' Safety Measures**

Ms L Greene and Mr P Thorp said that the meeting to discuss traffic calming measures in conjunction with the 'Little Close' development had resulted in some progress being made. Representatives from Gloucestershire Highways and the Developers had also attended. During discussions, the Developer had offered to fund a 'road narrowing' together with a length of footway to slow down traffic approaching the exit from 'Little Close'. The provision of further footway to link-up with Bearsfield would also be examined by Gloucestershire Highways, subject to the availability of Council Funds and a contribution from Parish Funds. It was agreed that the Developer would design and obtain costings for the road narrowing and initial length of footway for audit by County Highways.

d) **Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council**

The Chairman reminded councillors that the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council would be held at Bisley WI Village Hall on Wednesday 7th May 2008. Wards were asked to consider the appointment of councillors to specific Ward responsibilities and to provide details to this meeting.

08.04 9 **Finance**

Receipts March 2008

Bank Interest	£106.41
Grant for Footpath Repair Oakridge	£497.50

Total Receipts **£603.91**

Payments – April 2008	£	VAT	Total
Hailey Wood Sawmill – Bench Oakridge	£120.00	£21.00	£141.00
Severn Trent Water – Bisley Pavilion	£143.83		£143.83
Stadia Sports – Basketball Net Bisley	£742.50	£129.94	£872.44
Allianz Insurance – Annual Parish Premium	£2,107.20		£2,107.20
Mark Townsend – Wall Repair Eastcombe	£850.00		£850.00
Richard Keating – VDS Arts Project	£1,300.00		£1,300.00
The Consortium – VDS Presentation Aids	£140.05	£24.51	£164.56
N Power – Electricity Bisley Pavilion	£124.04	£6.20	£130.24
Bisley WI Village Hall – Hire Fees for Year	£240.00		£240.00
Toshiba – Office Copier Charges	£9.09	£1.59	£10.68
N MacLeod – Clerk’s Salary March 2008	£694.24		£694.24
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax/NI	£337.85		£337.85
Bisley WI Village Hall – S137 Payment	£250.00		£250.00
Ian Trueman – Maintenance Bisley	£275.00		£275.00
The Wine Society – Gift to Retiring Councillor	£75.74	£13.26	£89.00
T Howes – Work on Green Spaces	£30.00		£30.00
NALC – Annual Subscription	£13.50		£13.50
Totals	£7,453.04	£196.50	£7,649.54

Petty Cash Payments – March 2008 **£29.98**

Cash Balance as at 31 March 2008 **£23,717.09**

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

Bisley Lock-up Balance as at 31 March 2008 **£2,099.93**

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

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

Community Tennis Court Fund as at 31 March 2008 **£2,500.00**

08.04 10 Planning

The following Planning Applications have been received during the past month and the Planning Sub-Committees' responses are recorded.

Bisley Ward

S.08/0087/FUL – Trussalls, Van Der Breen Street, Bisley – Alterations and extension to existing private dwelling house – **Support**.

S.08/0266/FUL – Greystones, Stroud Road, Bisley – All-weather riding area – **Comment Only** – Ensure fencing as proposed is carried out (white tape is a visual intrusion in the AONB landscape). The Parish Council would prefer fencing is planted with indigenous hedging to enhance bio-diversity and wildlife.

S.08/181/FUL – Lilac Cottage, Wells Road, Bisley – Pre-fabricated garden studio – **Support**.

Eastcombe Ward

S.07/2180/FUL – The Studio, Dr Crouch's Road, Eastcombe – Erection of new dwelling and garage (replacement dwelling). Variations to previous application S.07/2180/FUL – **No Observations**.

S.08/0490/FUL – 11 Brockley Acres, Eastcombe – Erection of a conservatory to the rear – **Comment Only** – The Design and Access Statement has a number of errors. The correct information is as follows:

AONB – Yes

Conservation Area – No

Shops – Eastcombe

Dentist – Chalford Hill

Post Office – Eastcombe

Schools - Eastcombe

Oakridge Ward

S.08/0315/FUL – Oak Cottage, Oakridge Lynch – Erection of extension and alterations to dwelling. Re-submission following refusal of S.07/2626/FUL – **Support/Comment** – The proposed playroom replaces the existing garden room and although visually very different we see no reason to object to it. The house extension is obviously an addition to the original building design but if this was a conservatory we would see no reason to object to it. This extension is considerably better constructed than a conservatory and will be a lot more energy (carbon) efficient. On balance we support this application. A point of interest – Oakridge Lynch is not connected to the main sewer system therefore it will have a septic tank or treatment plant.

S.08/0322/LBC & S.08/0334/FUL – Rookwoods, Waterlane, Oakridge – Two-storey gabled extension – **Support/Comment** – We support this application – it appears to follow the style and quality of the existing building. We support the design not being subservient to the original building. This will make the extension become part of the building instead of ‘tacked-on’.

S.08/0379/FUL – Lyday Close, Oakridge Lynch – Erection of two dwellings and undertake hard and soft landscaping of application site area – **Object** – Too high and dominating viewed from the lane past Pigeon House. We also have concern about the south access for the extra traffic. Is the visibility good enough?

S.08/0402/FUL – Partridge House, Oakridge Lynch – Erection of double garage with office accommodation over – **Support** – We would suggest that working space is in line with the environmental policies to reduce travelling and regenerate rural areas. Therefore, we support this application. We would suggest a condition that the use be limited to ancillary to the main house, Partridge House.

S.08/0448/FUL – Fysie, Oakridge Lynch – Alterations to Fysie and erection of a new dwelling – **Object** – We object on the grounds of:

The height of the re-designed Fysie is too high – BE1, BE3, HN8 and HN16 not complied with.

The design is not ‘in keeping’ with the houses in that line – BE1, BE3, HN8, and HN16.

The access and splay of the new dwelling is not sufficient.

Our criticism is with the re-design of Fysie, not the new dwelling. We prefer the new building turned in line with the street as in this application and we prefer the subservient addition to the design which keeps the roofline down. Fysie is not an ‘exemplar’ design and we would prefer it to remain a lower profile than end up a higher-profile, compromised design. There is no element of the Fysie design that complies with BE3.

08.04 11 **Correspondence**

Cotswold Wardens
Cotswold AONB
CPRE

GAPTC
PMI

2008 Newsletter
Spring/Summer Newsletter
‘Bledisloe Cup’ Competition
2008
March 2008 Newsletter
Project Manager Magazine April
2008

08.04 12 **Ward Matters**

a) **Bisley**

Ms L Greene advised that Bisley Ward had no specific points to raise.

b) **Eastcombe**

Mr R K Brooks advised that Eastcombe Ward had no specific points to raise.

c) **Oakridge**

Mr A E Davis advised the meeting of some research work he had received which had previously delineated an area of Oakridge Ward as 'Commons'. Further work could be carried out to determine the up-to-date situation.

08.04 13 **Date and Place of Next Meeting**

The Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council will be held at Bisley WI Village Hall on Wednesday 7th May 2008 commencing at 7.30 pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.35 hours.