

**MINUTES OF THE BISLEY-WITH-LYPIATT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 2nd JULY 2008 AT BISLEY WI VILLAGE HALL**

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

One member of the public was present.

08.07 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs C Nash and District Councillor Mrs P Carrick.

08.07 2. Declaration of Interests

Mrs L Hemming declared an interest in a two cheque payments at Serial 08.07 -11.

08.07 3. Resignation of Mr C James – Eastcombe Ward

The Chairman advised the meeting that a letter of resignation from the Parish Council had been received from Mr C James of Eastcombe Ward. The Chairman read the letter to the meeting and councillors expressed their regret at Mr James' departure. It was agreed that a letter would be sent to thank him for all his work and especially his contribution to improvements at the Eastcombe Recreation Ground. Mr James would continue to have an interest in Eastcombe Ward matters through his chairmanship of the Pavilion Committee.

08.07 4. Presentation by The National Offender Management Service

The Chairman gave a warm welcome to Mr John Goaley from the Community Placement Team at HM Prison, Leyhill. Mr Goaley gave a most interesting presentation on the resettlement scheme of the prison, which included supervised work parties of up to 8 prisoners, who carried out a variety of tasks in local communities. HMP Leyhill is a Category 'D' low-security establishment, where

importance is placed on preparing selected prisoners for re-integration to the community on completion of their sentences. The work parties are well-equipped to carry out a range of tasks including path clearance, painting, dry stone walling and other general maintenance. The service was already popular in other towns and parishes and the cost for a carefully-supervised work party of eight was £125.00 per day, with a lesser cost if the party was smaller. Insurance of the Scheme was covered by Crown Insurances.

Councillors expressed considerable interest in the Scheme and identified a number of tasks which could be carried out by work parties. The Chairman suggested that information on the Scheme could be publicised in Parish Magazines. Councillors were asked to discuss the Scheme in Wards and to notify potential work projects to the Clerk.

08.07 5. **Public Participation**

The Chairman welcomed Mr R Utley of Bisley Ward to the meeting. Mr Utley asked why the Minutes of Ward Meetings were not published on the parish website whereas those of monthly PC Meetings were. He was advised that the meetings of Ward Councillors were held in private homes and that whilst these may involve taking decisions on relatively minor day-to-day issues arising within the Ward, they were primarily a means of preparing for the full monthly PC Meeting which was open to the public.

Following an earlier letter to the 'Bisley News' by Mrs Utley concerning the proposal by the Parish Council to build a Parish Office, Mr Utley sought clarification on how the Council had addressed 'best value' in arriving at the proposal. He asked what measures the Council had taken to examine all the alternative options for the provision of office premises and if so, was the pavilion option the most cost-effective solution? Additionally, he asked what steps the Council had taken to evaluate the lifetime costs of the proposal.

Mr Utley was advised that the present arrangements whereby the Clerk operated from his private home presented difficulties for councillors, parishioners and the Clerk. Examples of these difficulties were illustrated and the benefits that would accrue from the availability of 'dedicated' office premises were discussed. Mr Utley was assured that given the constraints within the parish in siting an office, a 'bolt-on' to the Bisley Pavilion presented a cost-effective solution and that costs arose whether the office was situated in the Clerk's house or elsewhere. Mr Utley was also

advised that the increasing workload placed on Parish Councils by Government and other bodies had led several neighbouring parishes to seek 'dedicated' premises and that visits to these had confirmed the benefits of a fully accessible and appropriately-sized Parish Office.

The Chairman thanked Mr Utley for presenting his concerns to the meeting.

08.07 6. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The draft minutes of the previous meeting held on 4th June 2008 having been circulated to all councillors were approved and the Chairman signed the Minute Book.

08.07 7. **Matters Arising**

(a) **Conduct of Parish Business**

The Chairman confirmed that his ideas for the more effective discharge of parish business would be discussed at the August PC Meeting.

(b) **'Action:Vision:Action' Meeting**

It was confirmed that as a result of other commitments, the Parish had not been represented at this meeting held on 27th June in Stroud.

(c) **The 'Oakridge Hole'**

Oakridge Ward confirmed that the underground 'cavern which had suddenly appeared at the allotments area had now been made safe. This had involved 'collapsing' the ground surface above the cavern and creating a hollow with graded sides. This hollow will be filled in due course.

08.07 8. **District Council Matters**

District Councillor Mrs P Carrick provided the meeting with a written report on the following issues:

Cotswold Canals – SDC had been awarded a Lottery Grant of circa £12M towards the costs of canal restoration. A project Manager would be appointed in due course.

Household Waste Collection and Re-cycling – Councillor Carrick will continue to press for a household waste collection and re-cycling scheme to be introduced in this Parish, following the success of the Kings Stanley trial.

Ambulance Service – As a member of the Ambulance Service Scrutiny Team at SDC, Councillor Carrick asked to be informed of any concerns affecting the service provided locally, especially delays in establishing contact and late arrival of the ambulance.

08.07 9. **County Council Matters**

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

Gloucestershire Flooding Conference 2008 – Following the floods of 2007, a Conference will be held on 14th July 2008 to discuss ‘Future Resilience’ and to launch the ‘Local Government National Flood Forum’. The Chairman confirmed that he would attend this conference.

Bus Contract Price Rises – The increases in the price of diesel fuel had led to a significant rise in the cost of providing contract bus services. Many contracts were let on a five-year basis and tenders for new contracts show a 50% increase on the cost levels of 5 years’ ago. The resulting financial pressures may result in services becoming less well used, with the risk of reduced services or even withdrawal of some services.

Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service – The Service had ordered two new rescue hovercraft for delivery later this summer.

Regional Spatial Strategy – Government response to the Regional Spatial Strategy is due in mid-July. A new element of the Strategy is the requirement for Districts to identify appropriate sites to accommodate ‘Travellers’. The requirement for Stroud District is 20 residential pitches and 10 transit pitches. This policy to address the shortage of traveller sites will also be accompanied by a stricter enforcement regime for unauthorised encampments.

PE in Schools – A conference had been held at Oxstalls Sports Campus of the University of Gloucestershire to examine means of increasing the range and levels of physical activities available to school pupils.

County Archaeology Service – A Lottery Grant of £49,400.00 had been received by the County to provide and co-ordinate a programme to engage the community in heritage projects.

08.07 10 **Matters for Discussion**

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

The Chairman of the VDS Working Group asked Wards to finalise the collection of Adult Education Questionnaires arising from the Parish Plan. Oakridge Ward indicated that between 10 & 15 questionnaires had been returned. Bisley and Eastcombe Wards indicated that their returns were significantly lower.

On the VDS, the last of the first round of public meetings had been held at Miserden. It had been well attended and comments from all four public meetings would now be collated by Steering Group members and policies for inclusion in the Design Statement would be prepared. There will be further Public Consultation later in the year.

b) Parish Office/Bisley Pavilion

The meeting was shown revised architect's plans for the Parish Office and the Pavilion. These had provided for a larger office space but concerns remained that the facility still did not meet the specification required. Whilst the kitchen area seemed to be restricted, it was pointed out that the 'L' shape also provided for a servery. Concern was expressed that the timescale in which office facilities would be available was quite long, whereas the requirement was more pressing. It was suggested that a 'portacabin' in the car park could provide a viable interim solution and it was agreed that this would be examined to determine size, costs, planning requirements, siting etc. A further plan would be sought from the architect to increase the office space and it was proposed that the Pavilion Steering Group should meet before the next PC Meeting to discuss requirements and plans in greater detail.

c) 'Little Close', Bisley – Footpath Scheme Proposal

Bisley Ward reported on the latest discussions with Gloucestershire Highways and the Developer of 'Little Close' to provide the road safety measures which formed part of the planning approval for the development. The meeting was advised that the scheme proposed would involve the creation of a restricted-width pavement from 'Little Close' to link-up with the Bearsfield pavement. A traffic-flow/speed restriction would also be created by a build-out at the head of the pavement adjacent to the development. Various proposals for the division of the total cost of the works (£11,125.00 VAT exclusive) were under discussion and the option favoured by Bisley Ward was as follows: Developer £3,500.00, Gloucestershire Highways £5,337.50 and Bisley Parish £2,287.50. Bisley Ward agreed to contribute £500.00 of annual precept to the Parish share of cost and requested that the balance of £1,787.50 be met from Reserve Funds.

It was confirmed that a condition of the planning approval required that the safety measures be completed before occupation of the first house in the development. It was thus important that agreement was reached as soon as possible. It was also suggested that the Developer should make a greater contribution to the total cost. Bisley Ward advised that the contribution offered was in line with the original agreement and that a further £500.00 over the original offer of £3,000.00 had already been offered. It was pointed out that the provision of this pavement was important to not only the residents of 'Little Close', but also to the residents of Windyridge.

It was proposed by Mr P Dawes and seconded by Mr R K Brooks that a contribution of £1,787.50 be earmarked from Reserve Funds towards the Parish share of cost. The proposal was carried unanimously.

d) County Highways – Change of Stakeholder Manager

The Chairman advised the meeting that Martyn Midgely, Gloucestershire Highways Stakeholder Manager for this area, would move on promotion. This was disappointing news because significant progress on Highways matters had been achieved under Mr Midgley's stewardship. A replacement Stakeholder Manager would take over in the late summer and Mr Midgley had provided a comprehensive brief on projects within the Parish to ensure that continuity and impetus were not lost. The Chairman said that he had written to Mr Midgley to thank him for his excellent work over the past 8 months.

e) **Proposed Removal of BT Telephone Box – Oakridge Lynch**

Councillors received details of the proposed removal of the red telephone box situated in the centre of Oakridge Lynch. Whilst it was accepted that this facility was little used by residents, it was nevertheless recognised as a historic landmark in the village. Although not a listed structure it was considered that the box was worth preserving and it was also pointed out that in an emergency such as the 2007 floods, mobile networks became quickly overloaded and access to a BT telephone box could prove important.

It was agreed that the Clerk would write to SDC and BT to seek clarification of the proposals and to ask if it was possible to have 'redundant' telephone boxes transferred into the ownership of parishes and on what terms. It was also necessary to determine what steps would be taken to dig-out the pathway leading to the box and re-instate the grass verge if the box is removed.

08.07 11 **Finance**

Receipts June 2008

Bank Interest	£164.53
Allotment Rents	£56.00
Grant for Tennis Court	£500.00
Total Receipts	£720.53

Payments – July 2008	£	VAT	Total
CPRE – Annual Subscription	28.00		28.00
Glasdon UK Ltd – Dog-bin, Bisley	255.55	44.72	300.27
Toshiba UK – Photocopier Usage	17.99	3.15	21.14
Bisley WI Village Hall – VDS Hire	14.00		14.00
Oakridge Village Hall – VDS Hire	18.60		18.60
ST Water – Oakridge Allotments	19.20		19.20
ST Water – Eastcombe Allotments	21.49		21.49
N Power – Bisley Pavilion	31.99	1.60	33.59
Ian Trueman – Grass-Cutting, Eastcombe	36.00		36.00
N M MacLeod – Salary June 2008	715.40		715.40
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax/NI	314.52		314.52
ST Water – Bisley Allotments	92.77		92.77
James Blair – Gates Burial Ground, Oakridge	130.00		130.00
D Holbrook – Grass Cutting – Eastcombe	205.82	2.46	208.28
T W Hawkins – Contract Grass-Cutting	720.00	126.00	846.00
L Hemming – Equipment for Pavilion	114.07	17.72	131.79
G Hemming – Pavilion Cleaning, Bisley	40.00		40.00
Totals	£2,775.40	£195.65	£2,971.05

Petty Cash Payments – June 2008 £77.03

Cash Balance as at 30 June 2008	£28,519.14
Bisley Gift Balance as at 30 June 2008	£1,427.49
Bisley Lock-up Balance as at 30 June 2008	£2,113.69
Westbury Gift Balance as at 30 June 2008	£10,000.00
Parish Office Reserve as at 30 June 2008	£16,250.00
Community Tennis Court Fund as at 30 June 2008	£13,000.00

08.07 12 Planning

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

Bisley Ward

S.08/1131/LBC – Barn, Lower Nashend, Bisley – Conversion of barn to dwelling – **Comment Only** – The proposed design appears to maintain the simplicity and character of the original Listed Barn that we feel is desirable. In line with the Parish Council’s Sustainability Policy, if the conversion is approved, the wood and other building materials should be sourced from creditable sustainable and as local as possible sources, as would have been the case with the original listed building.

Oakridge Ward

S.08/1173/FUL – Hillcroft, Oakridge Lynch – Erection of a new dwelling house and garage – **Object** – We object to this application for the following reasons:

1. This application is higher than the one that achieved permission on appeal. That proposal was reduced to achieve that result. It fails to comply with HN8, BE1, BE2, BE3 and BE6.
2. The privacy of the dwellings immediately below will be compromised, failing to comply with HN8 and HN15.
3. The appearance and massing of the design (especially now the garage is removed from the lower level) visually looks like a four-storey dwelling without even a ‘chalet-style’ roof. Taking the measurements from the plans the height from the ground floor to the ridge is 13 metres. This fails to meet HN8, BE1, BE2, BE3 and BE6.
4. The dwelling does not comply with HN8 because it does not contribute to a mix of housing sizes. We are gradually losing all the smaller housing units in the community and this proposal does not contribute to alleviating this position.
5. We are concerned about any development on this difficult site affecting and damaging the access roads and the path to the north, particularly in view of the difficult ground conditions for supporting a building of this size. We would like this to be raised as an issue with the applicant.

S.08/1216/FUL – Well Close, Oakridge Lynch – Two-storey extension – **Support** – This is a big extension on a house that is already quite large but it is not highly visible. The size of the plot leaves enough garden for the site not to be over-developed. We see no reason to refuse this application as it complies with HN16.

S.08/1146/FUL – Treetops, Oakridge Lynch – Re-submission following refusal of S.08/0565/FUL for the erection of an extension at first-floor level – **Support**.

08.07 13 **Correspondence**

SDC	Standards Committee Vacancy Notification
CPRE	'Fieldwork' Magazine – June 2008-07-02
Cotswold Conservation Board	Minutes of Board Meeting – 26/06/08
SLCC	July 2008 Journal
Urbanscape	Brochure covering Notice Boards, Grit Bins, Benches etc
CPRE	'Countryside Voice' Magazine – Summer 08

08.07 14 **Ward Matters**

a) **Eastcombe**

Eastcombe Ward asked that County Highways restrict the cutting of grass on verges to the main road through the village only. The Ward would look after 'strimming' on minor roads in the village.

The Clerk was tasked with recovering the 'Speed Sign' from Painswick Parish for use in Eastcombe.

The wooden notice board situated in Stonecote Ridge was being refurbished at a cost of £150.00.

b) **Bisley**

Bisley Ward reported that a child had been knocked-down by a vehicle in Cheltenham Road. The Ward would continue to press for the provision of a pavement. There was also a recommendation that the 20 mph speed limit be extended from Manor Street to beyond the junction with Windyridge.

c) **Oakridge**

Oakridge Ward advised that the fund-raising programme for the Community Tennis Court was now complete and it was hoped to commence work in the coming months. It was also confirmed that the Coach who would assist with running the facility was qualified and authorized to teach school children. This would provide significant benefit to youngsters in the parish.

08.07 15 **Date and Place of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at Bisley WI Village Hall on Wednesday 6th August 2008 commencing at 7.30 pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.30 hours.