

**MINUTES OF THE BISLEY-WITH-LYPIATT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2009 AT OAKRIDGE VILLAGE HALL**

<b>Present:</b>	Mr P Thorp		Chairman
	Ms L Greene	}	Bisley Ward
	Mr R K Brooks	}	
	Mr D Hunt	}	Eastcombe Ward
	Mrs L Petch	}	
	Mrs V Nairn	}	
	Mr A E Davis	}	
	Mr P Dawes	}	Oakridge Ward
	Mr N M MacLeod		Clerk

One member of the public was present.

09.2 1. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Parish Councillors Mr R N Budgeon and Mr N Holliday; County Councillor Mrs J Nash and District Councillor Mrs P Carrick.

09.2 2. **Public Participation**

Mr R Utley thanked the Chairman for notifying him personally of the change of date of the meeting resulting from the recent heavy snow conditions. Mr Utley had no further points.

09.2 3. **Declaration of Interests**

No interests were declared by Councillors.

09.2 4. **Chairman's Comments**

The Chairman expressed gratitude on behalf of the Parish Council and parishioners for the excellent work carried out by the Snow Plough Operators. Mr Martin Williams, Mr Patrick Lorenzen and Mr Ashley Dickinson had been up and operational in the early hours of the morning on 3 separate days and their superb efforts did much to ensure that most traffic was able to use the roads in the Parish and beyond. The Clerk was asked to write letters of appreciation to all concerned.

The central co-ordination of the snow clearance work also worked well and it was particularly beneficial to have a well-manned County Highways Control Centre active throughout the period.

09.2 5. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2008 having been circulated to all councillors were approved with one minor alteration. In the penultimate line of Item 09.1 8 the word 'School' was deleted. Chairman signed and initialled the Minute Book.

09.2 6. **Matters Arising**

(a) Gritting of the Approach Road to Oakridge Village School

Despite repeated attempts by the Parish Council to persuade County Highways to include the section of road from the junction with Bisley Road to the School in the Primary Gritting Route, this remained unresolved. During the recent snow and ice conditions, this short stretch of road became extremely hazardous and resulted in a number of falls by pupils and parents. Moreover, the danger was exacerbated by sliding vehicles.

Whilst County Highways had agreed to provide gritting on a pre-notice basis, every effort would be expended to ensure that this stretch of road was included in the Primary Route before the onset of next winter.

The Chairman of Oakridge Ward said the Headmistress of the School and the Chair of the Oakridge School Association would write to the Parish Council to express their extreme concerns about this matter. The Clerk was asked to forward copies of these letters to County Highways and to re-iterate the concerns of the parish Council.

Finally, the meeting recorded that the depletion of the contents of all grit bins in the Parish meant that localised, self-help gritting could not be carried out, thus adding to the problem.

b) School Bus Tender

In view of the recurring problems with the current School Bus Contract serving the Parish, Councillors agreed that it was vital that our concerns be placed with Gloucestershire County Council before the new contract for the service was agreed. County Councillor Mrs J Nash had agreed to raise this issue at County Headquarters to ensure that the views of the Parish were included in the selection process.

09.2 7. **District Council Matters**

In the absence of District Councillor Mrs P Carrick, no District issues were discussed

09.2 8. **County Council Matters**

County Councillor Mrs J Nash submitted the following written report to the meeting:

'Zero Waste' Challenge – The 'Zero Waste' Challenge in the County sought to encourage residents to reduce the amount of waste put out for collection and to encourage re-cycling and re-use of materials. Over 1000 individuals, households, schools and local community groups signed up and it will be interesting to see the results of returned questionnaires. Bisley was the 'flagship' village for the initiative. Reducing the amount of waste to landfill remains paramount, with escalating costs of £32.00 per tonne now, rising to £48.00 per tonne by 2010 and to £150.00 per tonne over a pre-agreed allowance by 2020.

Waste Management Facilities – The County Council has been awarded £92M of PFI Credits from Central Government, with the condition that the County should own a site for Waste Management for use by any company which may bid for the contract. Land has been purchased by the County at Javelin Park, Hardwicke as a possible site for the facility. Final decisions on the sites and type of facilities will not be made until 2011.

Higher Education Student Finance – County Council will no longer have responsibility for administration of student finance for courses, with effect September 2009. Whilst existing students will continue to be administered by County, future students will be dealt with by a new centralised body – Student Finance England'.

Investors in People Standard – Gloucestershire County Council continues to meet the 'Investors in People' Standard. Assessment was carried out through interviews with 230 Council staff. The 'One Council' accreditation was also successful.

Regional Spatial Strategy – A further delay to publication of the Regional Spatial Strategy is expected because there were some 35,000 responses to the consultation process. The Regional Assembly now expects publication in the summer of this year.

Kemble to Swindon Railway Line – A meeting between three Gloucestershire MPs and the Government's Transport Minister had resulted in support for the up-grading of Kembe to Swindon Line. Network Rail appeared able to proceed with the Project immediately after the Cotswold Line 'Re-doubling' project is completed. This should mean a start on the work in 2010, with completion in 2011.

Severn Tidal Power – Gloucestershire County Chief Executive met with the Secretary of State for climate Change. Of the five options considered for harnessing tidal power, the Cardiff to Weston Barrage appeared to be the most favoured. This would produce

5% of UK electricity as opposed to 1% for the other options. Studies on this development are underway and even if a go-ahead was given, the barrage would not be operational before 2022.

Council Tax – A decision on a proposed increase in Council tax of 2.9% would be reached at the end of February.

09.2 9 **Matters for Discussion**

a) **Minutes of Parish Council Meetings**

Although there was no mandatory requirement to do so, Councillors were keen to ensure that, whenever possible, the final draft Minutes of Parish Council meetings would be available on the parish website in advance of the subsequent Meeting at which they would be formally approved and signed. The Clerk proposed that he prepare the initial draft Minutes by the end of the week following the Meeting and circulate these to Councillors, who would have seven days in which to respond with suggested amendments. Upon incorporation of amendments, the Clerk would re-issue the Minutes, with a copy then placed on the website. This proposal was agreed by the Meeting and the Clerk was instructed to action this accordingly.

b) **Bisley Ward Elections – 19 February 2009**

The Chairman briefed the meeting on the forthcoming mid-term elections called for by parishioners of Bisley Ward. Details of the election procedures had been issued to all on the Electoral Roll by Stroud District Council. There would be a 'contest' for election, with four candidates nominated to fill the two vacancies in the Ward. The Parish Council would thus be required to meet the costs of the elections - estimated at £2,000.00 – from Parish Funds.

c) **Parish Standing Orders**

Councillors had been issued with new 'draft' Standing Orders. Comments and suggestions had been received from some Councillors and the Working Group would meet to consider these in advance of the March Parish Council Meeting. In the meantime, any further suggestions or recommendations were to be submitted to the Clerk as soon as possible.

d) **Report on Bisley 'Zero Waste Week'**

The Chairman of Bisley Ward provided Councillors with a comprehensive brief on the activities that had taken place during the 'Zero Waste Week' in Bisley. The event had been a noteworthy success and had received wide coverage in the local Press and even nationally, in 'The Times'. Most of the workshops, seminars and supporting activities had been well attended. The event had been funded by grants from support organisations and a great deal of 'feedback' had been received from the community. This would be collated and passed to the County Organisers, so that the full impact

of the 'Zero Waste Challenge' County-wide could be assessed. Finally, tribute was paid to the very many individuals who had contributed to the success of the event and to those who had attended.

e) **Village Design Statement (VDS) Update Report**

The Chairman of the VDS Working Group advised the meeting that work to produce the revised 'draft' document was taking longer than expected, but should be completed by the end of the month. A further revision of the Cottenham Parish VDS had given the Group a better template from which to work and the smartness and terminology of the 'draft' had been improved as a result.

The 'draft' would be re-submitted to SDC for further consideration, before presenting it to the residents of the Parish for consultation and comment. As yet, there was no target date for final completion of the document.

f) **Aston Down - 'Change of Use' Appeal**

The Chairman of Oakridge Ward briefed Councillors on the forthcoming Appeal to be held at SDC on 3-6 March 2009 in connection with the 'Change of Use' of land and operational development at Aston Down. The Parish Council had responded to the original planning application submitted in 2005 in which it opposed the development on the grounds of light pollution, increased vehicle flow and noise levels. The Clerk was asked to contact the Parishes of Minchinhampton, Rodborough and Chalford to determine what submissions they intended to place before the Appeal, before considering what action would be taken by this Parish.

09.2 10 **Finance**

**Receipts January 2009**

Bank Interest	£5.44
VAT Refund	£1,966.26
Donation to Tennis Court Fund	£125.00
Allotments Rent	£19.00
Donation to Play Equipment _Oakridge	£575.00
Burial Fee – Oakridge	£100.00
Foundation for Sport/Arts – Tennis Court	£3,000.00

**Total Receipts** **£5,790.70**

**The following payments were approved by the Parish Council**

	<b>£</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>Total</b>
The Consortium – Stationery	46.30	6.96	53.26
Cheltenham Garden Machinery – Strimmer for Oakridge	340.50	51.07	391.57
N Power – Electricity Bisley Pavilion	100.95	5.05	106.00
Keith Angus Architect – Planning Application for Bisley Pavilion	105.75		105.75
Clerk Salary January 2008	731.70		731.70
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax/NI	324.67		324.67
Chalford Parish Council- Grass Cut	10.00		10.00
A Bailey & Sons – Tennis Court	10,825.64	1,623.84	12,449.48
BCCS – Children’s Allotment – Bisley	150.00		150.00
Timberline – Play Equipment Deposit	575.00		575.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£13,210.51</b>	<b>£1,686.92</b>	<b>£14,897.43</b>

**Petty Cash Payments – January 2009** **£71.20**

**Cash Balance as at 31 January 2009** **£32,982.77**

**Bisley Lock-up Balance as at 31 January 2009** **£2,136.63**

**Westbury Gift Balance as at 31 January 2009** **£10,000.00**

**Parish Office Reserve as at 31 January 2009** **£17,500.00**

**Community Tennis Court Fund as at 31 January 2009** **£3,300.00**

**Bisley Pavilion Reserve as at 31 January 2009** **£3,300.00**

## 09.2 11 **Planning**

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

### **Eastcombe Ward**

**S.08/2510/FUL** – Land adjacent to Hawkridge, Fidges Lane, Eastcombe – Erection of one dwelling (Revised Scheme) – **No Observations**.

**S.08/2503/FUL** – Land adjacent to Little Pepworth, Eastcombe – Erection of one dwelling (Revised Scheme) – **No Observations**.

## 09.2 12 **Correspondence**

The following correspondence received during the past month was available for inspection by Councillors:

GAPTC	January 2009 'Update'
Mineral & Waste Newsletter	Winter 2008/09 Review
Gloucestershire County Council	Invitation to a Thanksgiving Service To celebrate the contribution of Volunteers of Gloucestershire
Carers Gloucestershire	'Caring Matters' January 2009
Clerks & Councils Direct	January 2009 Magazine
Project Manager	February 2009 Magazine

## 09.2 13 **Ward Matters**

### a) **Bisley Ward**

**Pavilion** – The planning application submitted to SDC for the refurbishment of the Bisley Pavilion had been approved. A Public Meeting to consult with parishioners on the proposals was planned for next month.

Basketball Installation – During the next month a basketball post and net will be installed at the Recreation Ground together with a hard-surface area in front of the post.

Bus Shelter – Final clearance of utility services was awaited before the bus shelter could be installed. It was planned to have this facility in situ before the end on March in order to comply with the terms of the grant awarded by GCC.

Stancombe Junction – Residents in the Stancombe area had expressed growing concern about a number of road safety issues, including the frequent inability to use the lay-by at the post box because of vehicle parking, damage to verges by vehicles unable to use the lay-by and speeding. These issues would be raised with Gloucestershire Highways for action.

Grants for the Arts – Concern was expressed about the likely cuts in funding for the Stroud Valleys Arts Festival. It was believed that this could impact adversely on local industry and the artist fraternity.

#### **b) Eastcombe Ward**

Play Equipment Bid – The bid submitted under the ‘Play Builder 2009’ grant-funding scheme for new play equipment at the Eastcombe Recreation Ground had been ‘short-listed’ by SDC and passed to GCC for consideration and, hopefully, selection.

Dry Stone Walls – The Chairman of Eastcombe Ward said that an estimate of £2,850.00 had been received to carry out extensive repair and ‘patching’ to the walls at the Recreation Ground and Allotments area. This was £850.00 more than was contained in the Ward precept for such repairs. The Clerk stated that a similar underspend in the Administration precept could be directed to meet this shortfall. It was agreed, that a delay in carrying out this work would result in a greater cost ‘downstream’. The Chairs of Oakridge and Bisley Wards proposed and seconded the transfer of £850.00 to the Eastcombe Ward precept and this was carried unanimously.

Street Naming – The Chairman of Eastcombe Ward reported that whilst SDC had now erected a street sign for ‘Wells Road’ in the village, the situation concerning a sign for ‘The Street’ remained unresolved. The Clerk was requested to speak further on this matter with SDC.

#### **c) Oakridge Ward**

Footpath at Tunley – Residents in the area of the Old Chapel at Tunley had been consulted concerning the formal recording of a footpath which had long been used, although not formally designated. Whilst there were no objections to formal recording of the footpath, residents would prefer that this was done without ‘advertising’ the footpath with ‘finger-posts’. The Clerk was asked to write to the County Footpaths Officer at GCC to determine if this could be sanctioned.



09.2 14 **Date and Place of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at Bisley Village Hall on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2009 at 7.30 pm.

09.2 15 **Date and Place of the Annual Parish Meeting**

In order that the end of year accounts could be prepared as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009, it was agreed that the date of the Annual Parish Meeting would be moved from the first to the second Wednesday of April, the 8<sup>th</sup>. It would be held at Bisley WI Village Hall, commencing at 7.00 pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.45 hours.